

## Homes Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
July	Voids – Improving Standards  <b>Corporate Priority:</b> 11	To be confirmed by Task and Finish Group	Task and Finish Group meetings	Director, Housing Management – Stephen Gabriel		<p>The Housing and Neighbourhoods O&amp;S Committee in 2022-23 agreed to review Voids – Improving Standards. A <a href="#">Terms of Reference</a> was approved in February 2023, and the <a href="#">Council's City Housing service presented</a> in March 2023. Committee members also took part in visits to City Housing void properties. The intention had been to continue into 2023-24.</p> <p>As there is now a dedicated Homes O&amp;S Committee for 2023-24, the scope of these Terms of Reference will be reviewed at the first Task and Finish Group meeting.</p>
September	Social Housing Regulation Bill  <b>Corporate Priority:</b> 11	<p>Provide information on what the Social Housing Regulation Bill means for the Council's City Housing service.</p> <p>Understand how City Housing will achieve compliance with the Social Housing Regulation Bill, and preparation for inspection from the Regulator for Social Housing in April 2024</p>	<p>Committee meeting - single item: 21 September 2023, 2pm.</p> <p>Venue: Room 6, Council House</p>	Head of Service, Strategic Enabling – Naomi Morris		<p>This Bill intends to deliver the reforms outlined in <a href="#">the Social Housing White Paper</a> and address the concerns following the Grenfell Tower fire in 2017. It will introduce a stronger and more proactive regulatory regime to improve standards and accountability for landlords for the services they provide.</p>

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		Consider how Member insight can inform and drive improved services	<b>Deadline for Papers: 12 September 2023</b>			The agenda item will also outline progress toward inspections following the Regulatory Notice in May 2023.  <b>Outcome:</b> Approved quarterly compliance meetings
September	Housing Ombudsman – Paragraph 49  <b>Corporate Priority: 11</b>	Outline the background to, and the key recommendations from, the Housing Ombudsman special report on Birmingham City Council  Provide information on the progress made towards delivering on the recommendations from the Housing Ombudsman, Paragraph 49 report.  Consider how Member insight can inform and drive improved services	Committee meeting - single item: 21 September 2023, 2pm.  Venue: Room 6, Council House  <b>Deadline for Papers: 12 September 2023</b>	Head of Service, Strategic Enabling – Naomi Morris		In January, the Housing Ombudsman published a <a href="#">special report</a> on Birmingham City Council. The report made recommendations relating to repair handling; complaint handling; record keeping and compensation policy.  <b>Outcome:</b> Approved quarterly compliance meetings
September	Scrutiny Contribution to Budget Savings and Recovery Plan	For the Committee to consider a report on current and future Budget Savings and Recovery Plans and implications for Homes Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Committee meeting - single item: 21 September 2023, 2pm.	Cllr Jayne Francis, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness	Paul Langford, Strategic Director, City Housing	It was agreed at Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July that all Scrutiny Committees will consider the implications of the Medium-Term Financial Plan at the September Committee meetings.

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			Venue: Room 6, Council House  <b>Deadline for Papers: 12 September 2023</b>			
October	Exempt Accommodation  <b>Corporate Priority:</b> 9, 10 and 11	Provide update on progress of outstanding recommendations from Exempt Accommodation inquiry.  Consider the impact of the recommendations from the Inquiry	Committee meeting - single item: 19 October 2023, 2pm.  Venue: Room 6, Council House  <b>Deadline for Papers: 10 October 2023</b>	Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness, Cllr Jayne Francis  Assistant Director, Housing Strategy and Enabling – Guy Chaundy		<a href="#">Exempt Accommodation Inquiry 2021</a>  <a href="#">Latest update to Co-ordinating O&amp;S Committee</a> (March 2023)  <b>Outcome:</b> The Committee reviewed the update on progress and agreed the Cabinet Member assessments for each of the outstanding recommendations.
October	Scrutiny of Delivery of 2023/24 Budget Savings and Update on Council's Response to Section 114 Notice and Financial Recovery Plan	Continue to scrutinise the existing 2023/24 savings.  Consider the implications of recent events on the Committee's work programme.	Committee meeting – standing item: 19 October 2023, 2pm  Venue: Room 6, Council House  <b>Deadline for Papers: 10 October 2023</b>	Interim Strategic Director, City Housing - Paul Langford	TBC	Co-ordinating O&S Committee on 15.09.23 agreed that all committees should have a standing item on the delivery of existing savings for 2023/24 particular to the remit of the Committee.

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November	Scrutiny of Delivery of 2023/24 Budget Savings and Update on Council's Response to Section 114 Notice and Financial Recovery Plan	Continue to scrutinise the existing 2023/24 savings.  Consider the implications of recent events on the Committee's work programme.	Committee meeting – standing item: 23 November 2023, 2pm  Venue: Room 6, Council House  <b>Deadline for Papers: 9 November 2023</b>	Strategic Director, City Housing - Paul Langford		
November	Regulatory Compliance  <b>Corporate Priority: 11 and 12</b>	Provide Committee members with skills and knowledge to prepare for, and engage with, the first Regulatory Compliance session in January.	Other – Training session	Head of Strategic Enabling – Naomi Morris		This is a training session to be delivered by Campbell Tickell as part of their existing work with Birmingham City Council. This session will not be livestreamed.
December	Improving Standards of Re-let properties Inquiry	Evidence gathering session – City Housing properties	Site Visit	Amelia Wiltshire, Overview and Scrutiny Manager		Terms of Reference for this Inquiry have been revised (see November Committee). The Inquiry directly responds to challenges outlined in the Regulatory Notice.  Evidence gathering programme agreed by the Task and Finish Group.
January	Regulatory Compliance  <b>Corporate Priority: 11 and 12</b>	Provide oversight, scrutiny and productive challenge to City Housing while moving towards compliance with the requirements under the Social	Committee meeting – single theme: 25 January 2024, 2pm	Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness, Cllr Jayne Francis		Following agreement in September 2023 to hold quarterly landlord compliance meetings, the cycle of meetings will commence in January 2023. This will enable Members of

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		Housing Regulation Bill and the recommendations from the Housing Ombudsman special report.	Venue: Room 6, Council House  Deadline for Papers: 10 January 2024	Strategic Director, City Housing – Paul Langford		the Committee to receive bespoke training in advance of this first session.  <b>Outcome:</b> Agreed that the Committee would continue to take a proactive role in providing oversight, scrutiny and productive challenge to the directorate whilst moving towards a position of regulatory compliance.
January	Request for Call-In: Contract Award for the Provision of Repairs and Maintenance 2024-2026	To consider whether the decision should be called in and referred back to Cabinet.	Committee meeting – single item: 25 January 2024, 2pm  Venue: Room 6, Council House	Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness – Cllr Jayne Francis  Strategic Director, City Housing – Paul Langford	Director, Asset Management – Wayne Davies	<b>Outcome:</b> The decision was not called in.
February	Review work programme in response to Governance Stabilisation Plan	To review the Committee's work programme to respond to Recommendation 5 of the Governance Review Stabilisation Action Plan	Informal Meeting: 15 February 2024  Venue: Ellen Pinsent Room, Council House	Paul Clarke, Director Programmes, Performance and Improvement		Governance Review Report available from: <a href="https://document.ashx(cmis.uk.com)">Document.ashx (cmis.uk.com)</a>
February	Affordable Housing *Item Deferred*	To provide the Committee with a more detailed understanding of the strategy for Affordable Housing.	Committee meeting – single item: 22 February 2024, 2pm	Assistant Director, Housing Development – Claire Flowers	Assistant Director, Housing Strategy &	Affordable Housing is a workstream under the proposed Improvement Recovery Plan.

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	<b>Corporate Priority:</b> 11 and 12	Consider future areas Overview and Scrutiny to explore.	Venue: Room 6, Council House  Deadline for papers: 7 February 2024		Enabling - Guy Chaundy  Head of Strategic Enabling – Naomi Morris	This item was deferred to the March meeting.
February	Exempt Accommodation  <b>Corporate Priority:</b> 9, 10 and 11	Provide update on progress of outstanding recommendations from Exempt Accommodation inquiry.  Consider the impact of the recommendations from the Inquiry	Committee meeting – single item: 22 February 2024, 2pm  Venue: Room 6, Council House  Deadline for papers: 7 February 2024	Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness, Cllr Jayne Francis  Assistant Director, Housing Strategy and Enabling – Guy Chaundy		<a href="#">Exempt Accommodation Inquiry 2021</a>  <a href="#">Previous tracking report October 2023</a>  <b>Outcome:</b> The Committee agreed the Cabinet Member assessments, with the exception of Recommendation 07 which it was agreed should be ongoing. The next tracking report to be scheduled for September 2024.
February	Improving Standards of Re-let properties Inquiry	Evidence gathering session	Informal meeting	Amelia Wiltshire, Overview and Scrutiny Manager		Terms of Reference for this Inquiry have been revised (see November Committee). The Inquiry directly responds to challenges outlined in the Regulatory Notice.  Evidence gathering programme agreed by the Task and Finish Group.

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March	Affordable Housing  <b>Corporate Priority:</b> 11 and 12	To provide the Committee with a more detailed understanding of the strategy for Affordable Housing. Consider future areas for Overview and Scrutiny to explore.	Committee meeting – single item: 14 March 2024, 2pm  Venue: Room 6, Council House  Deadline for papers: 28 February 2024	Assistant Director, Housing Development – Claire Flowers	Assistant Director, Housing Strategy & Enabling - Guy Chaundy  Head of Strategic Enabling – Naomi Morris	Affordable Housing is a workstream under the proposed Improvement Recovery Plan.
March	Improving Standards of Re-let properties Inquiry	Evidence gathering session – Other Social Housing providers	Informal meeting	Amelia Wiltshire, Overview and Scrutiny Manager		Terms of Reference for this Inquiry have been revised (see November Committee). The Inquiry directly responds to challenges outlined in the Regulatory Notice.  Evidence gathering programme agreed by the Task and Finish Group.
April	Regulatory Compliance  <b>Corporate Priority:</b> 11 and 12	Provide oversight, scrutiny and productive challenge to City Housing while moving towards compliance with the requirements under the Social Housing Regulation Bill and the recommendations from the Housing Ombudsman special report.	Committee meeting – single theme: 18 April 2024, 2pm  Venue: Room 6, Council House  Deadline for Papers: 3 April 2024	Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness, Cllr Jayne Francis  Interim Strategic Director, City Housing – Paul Langford		Following agreement in September 2023 to hold quarterly landlord compliance meetings, the cycle of meetings will commence in January 2023. This will be the second time that this item will take place.

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April	Budget Challenge and Financial Recovery  <b>CfGS Governance Review Criteria 5:</b> Equality and equity issues arising from the development of the 24/25 budget; the Emergency budget (to be identified by exception) and other priority scrutiny activity relating to the budget.	Track the progress on savings made to date.  Consider the impact of savings on policy and service delivery.  Consider how relevant services are mobilising to delivery budget savings for 24-25 and agree how the Committee will monitor these savings.	Committee meeting – single item: 18 April 2024, 2pm  Venue: Room 6, Council House  Deadline for papers: 3 April 2024	TBC	TBC	This will be specific to the remit of this Committee.  This will be a standard agenda item across all Overview and Scrutiny Committees.  The Committee has also requested a report on recovery of outstanding rent owed for Temporary Accommodation.
April	Improving Standards of Re-let properties Inquiry	Evidence gathering session – Other Social Housing providers	Informal meeting	Amelia Wiltshire, Overview and Scrutiny Manager		Terms of Reference for this Inquiry have been revised (see November Committee). The Inquiry directly responds to challenges outlined in the Regulatory Notice.  Evidence gathering programme agreed by the Task and Finish Group.

\*Outcome: This will be populated once the item/topic has been completed. It will highlight the added value and impact.



### Menu of Options for Future Consideration

The following items had been identified as potential topics for future consideration. This approach enables the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to remain flexible and respond in a timely manner to emerging issues.

This is a live work programme. New items may be added, or items removed during the course of the year. Proposed aims and objectives as well as scrutiny methodology may also be subject to change.

Item/ Topic	Proposed Aims and Objectives	Proposed Scrutiny Method	Additional Information
Birmingham Social Housing Partnership	To be confirmed	Committee meeting – single item	Requested at informal meeting on 15 February 2024.
Exempt Accommodation	Provide update on progress of outstanding recommendations from Exempt Accommodation inquiry.  Consider the impact of the recommendations from the Inquiry	Committee meeting – single item	To be scheduled for September 2024.  Last tracking report: February 2024
Customer Services – Housing Repairs	To be confirmed following July's Co-ordinating O&S Committee. Currently: Monitor the progress and impact of the recommendations from the Customers Services O&S programme	To be confirmed	Co-ordinating O&S Committee convened Task and Finish groups to identify, and monitor progress of, recommendations to improve customer services in 4 areas including Housing Repairs.  A final Task and Finish group took place on 14 June 2023, and a report presented to Co-ordinating O&S in July. It was agreed that Homes O&S Committee takes forward this work for Housing Repairs in the future.
Tenant Engagement	This will be confirmed following further discussions by the O&S Committee.	This will be confirmed following further discussions by the O&S Committee	This will be confirmed following further discussions by the O&S Committee.

**Scrutiny Method Options:**

Committee meeting - single item

Committee meeting - single theme

Task and Finish Group (outline number of meetings)

On location

Other - (describe)

**Corporate Priorities, Performance and Outcomes****Corporate Priorities 2022 – 26:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Support inclusive economic growth                          | 11 Increase affordable, safe, green housing                       |
| 2 Tackle unemployment  | 12 Tackle homelessness  |
| 3 Attract inward investment and infrastructure               | 13 Tackle health inequalities                                     |
| 4 Maximise the benefits of the Commonwealth Games            | 14 Encourage and enable physical activity and healthy living      |
| 5 Tackle poverty and inequalities                            | 15 Champion mental health   |
| 6 Empower citizens and enable citizen voice                  | 16 Improve outcomes for adults with disabilities and older people |
| 7 Promote and champion diversity, civic pride and culture    | 17 Improve street cleanliness                                     |
| 8 Support and enable all children and young people to thrive | 18 Improve air quality  |
| 9 Make the city safer  | 19 Continue on the Route to Zero                                  |
| 10 Protect and safeguard vulnerable citizens                 | 20 Be a City of Nature  |
|  | 21 Delivering a Bold Best in Class Council                        |

Information on the Corporate Priorities, Performance and City Outcomes was reported to the Homes Overview and Scrutiny Committee OSC in June 2023:

[Decision Details: Homes Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24 \(15.00 - 15.45\) \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)