



## **Places Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee Annual Report 2022/2023**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This report is the annual report of the Sub-Committee, summarising the Sub-Committee's activities during its year of operation ended May 2023.

It is planned for this report to stand as a public record of achievement for the year and enable Members and others to have a record of the Committee's activities and performance.

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The areas scrutinised by the Committee are:

- Housing & Accommodation Services
- Land & Property Services
- Planning
- Building Control
- Business Services
- Inward Investment
- Asset Management
- Property Services
- Facilities Management
- Sports
- Leisure
- Arts
- Music
- Libraries
- Heritage
- Parks & Open Space
- Highways
- Parking & Traffic
- Waste & Recycling
- Climate Change
- Transport & Infrastructure
- Public Protection & Licensing
- Emergency Planning
- Technical Services

## **SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Councillor David Taylor (Chairman)  
Councillor Katherine Tumilty (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Osman Dervish  
Councillor Ray Best  
Councillor Jason Frost  
Councillor David Godwin  
Councillor Gerry O'Sullivan  
Councillor Natasha Summers  
Councillor Bryan Vincent  
Councillor Susan Ospreay  
Councillor Matt Stanton  
Councillor Brian Eagling  
Councillor Robert Benham (Chairman 2022-23)

## **REVIEW OF ACTIVITY**

During the year under review, the Sub-Committee met on four occasions and dealt with the following issues:

### **EMERGENCY PLANNING & LAUNDERS LANE**

The Sub-Committee were presented with a report that captured the Corporate Emergency Planning involvement with the long standing Launders Lane site issues. The report enabled Members to decide if they wished to undertake a more in depth scrutiny of the issues and seek other partners' perspectives and responsibilities.

Members discussed the situation, with a view to deciding that they wished to undertake further scrutiny work and it was decided that the scope they would like was to examine the issues of the report following more legal advice as well as more information on the cost and exposure/risks implications to the Council so further action could be decided thereafter.

### **HOUSING REPAIRS PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

The Sub-Committee were presented with a report that provided an update on the new Repair and Voids contract with Mears.

Members discussed the complaints and complaints statistics and it was agreed that both items be brought back to the Sub-Committee in a separate report.

It was also requested that the Housing MOT approach be brought back as a separate report to the Sub-Committee.

## **HOUSING RESIDENT SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE**

The Sub-Committee received a report that provided an update on the position of London Borough Havering Housing Services resident safety and compliance programmes against its statutory and regulatory duties.

It was explained that as agreed by Cabinet on the 16th February 2022 Places OSSC would be provided with a quarterly report on the Housing compliance performance as part of the internal governance approach and that performance was also scrutinised monthly by both the Compliance board and the Asset Management Steering Group.

Members noted that given the seriousness of resident safety all KPIs are set at 100%. After a significant programme of works the service has been able to complete most programmes and ensure the relevant evidence was in place to support this position.

## **UPDATE REPORT - COST OF LIVING CRISIS, THE AFTERMATH OF COVID 19 AND THE IMPACT ON HOUSING DEMAND**

The Sub-Committee were presented with a report that summarised what had been identified in previous briefings, on the impact COVID 19 had on homelessness demand. The report further outlined that it was imperative the Council continued to develop the service and provide as many pathways to appropriate and suitable accommodation as possible.

The Sub-Committee noted the significant pressures on Housing and its accommodation resources and were informed of the wider implications of housing and the impact on children and families.

## **PUBLIC REALM TRANSFORMATION**

The Sub-Committee were presented with a Cabinet report for pre-decision scrutiny for the Integrated Recycling, Waste Collection and Street Cleansing Contract to be awarded to the preferred bidder following a competitive tendering exercise.

The report outlined the procurement procedure and presented details of the stages conducted during the process to identify the preferred bidder for the new Integrated Recycling, Waste Collection and Street Cleansing Contract due to commence in July 2023.

Members agreed the recommendation to Cabinet to award the Integrated Recycling, Waste Collection and Street Cleansing Contract to the preferred bidder, subject to the statutory standstill period, for an initial term of eight years with the option to extend for up to a further eight years, by mutual agreement.

## **FAMILY HOMES POLICY**

At the request of Members, the Sub-Committee received a report that provided an overview of the Council's housing targets, supply and demand with a particular focus on larger family houses.

The report explored the policy requirements in relation to larger homes and how the Council was seeking to maximise their provision. The report also outlined the challenges in securing these types of homes through the planning process.

## **AN INTRODUCTION TO INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING: S106 & CIL**

The Sub-Committee received a presentation on an introduction to Infrastructure Planning: Section 106 and the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations.

The presentation outlined that the timely delivery of high-quality infrastructure was fundamental to supporting development and ensuring Havering is a great place to live, work, socialise and invest.

A summary of S106 Developer Contributions was provided, covering how its obligations were applied, what the contributions could be spent on, contributions received and what was available to spend. Details of the infrastructure Delivery Plan were also explained.

## **HOUSING RESIDENT SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE PERFORMANCE**

The Sub-Committee received an update report on the position of the Housing Services resident safety and compliance programmes against its statutory and regulatory duties.

## **DOMESTIC VEHICLE CROSSOVER POLICY**

The Sub-Committee received a report on the Domestic Vehicle Crossover Policy.

The report outlined that the implementation of a Domestic Vehicle Dropped Kerb Policy is aimed at ensuring that the Council takes a consistent approach to decision making when assessing applications for domestic vehicle crossings under the Highways Act 1980, which was mainly regarding public safety and the impact on the street environment.

Members comments were sought in shaping any further amendments to the Dropped Kerb Policy before it was finalised and an Executive Decision adopted.

## **PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY - CABINET FORWARD PLAN**

The forward plan was considered and Members highlighted the following to be added to the work programme. Some issues would be timetabled for consideration in the new municipal year.

- From Overview and Scrutiny Board, The Places Sub-Committee to be asked to scrutinise flood preparedness and the Wennington fire recovery
- Both People and Places OSSCs to be asked to review the multi-agency response to emergencies and seek assurance from other partners (Task and finish group based on this)
- Property Disposal in particular car parks
- Social value strategy - how it relates to this sub-committee
- School Street scheme (phase 3 expansion) – how it is working in current locations and possibility to deploy in other parts for the Borough
- Mercury Holdings Business Plans

## **TASK AND FINSH GROUP UPDATE**

### **1. Topic Groups**

There is currently a task and finish group reviewing Stage 1 and 2 of the School Streets Scheme. The group provided updates throughout the year on the current position of its review.

## **IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

### **Financial implications and risks:**

None – narrative report only.

### **Legal implications and risks:**

None – narrative report only.

### **Human Resources implications and risks:**

None – narrative report only.

### **Equalities implications and risks:**

While the work of the Sub-Committee can impact on all members of the community, there are no implications arising from this specific report which is a narrative of the Sub-Committee's work over the past year.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.