

4th December 2017

Community, Health & Housing Committee

Housing Audit Report

Report of: Angela Abbott, Interim Head of Housing

Wards Affected: All

This report is: Public

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report is to inform the Community, Health & Housing Committee of the outcome of the 2016/17 and 2017/18. Audit review for Housing Services as part of the Council's approved Audit plans for 2016/17.
- 1.2 The outcome of the 2016/17 internal audit review was reported to the Audit Committee on the 27th September 2017. As set out within that audit report Officers provided responses to the recommendations and are currently developing an action plan with appropriate priorities and timescales. The action plan will be reported to a future meeting of this committee for monitoring.
- 1.3 The outcome of the 2017/18 internal audit review is due to be reported to the Audit Committee on the 17th January 2018. Officers are currently drafting management responses to this audit report. As above officers will develop an action plan which will be reported to a future meetings of this council for monitoring.

Recommendation (s)

- 2.1. **That the Committee receives and notes the contents of Audit report as attached at Appendix A.**
- 2.2 **That the Committee agree that a further report on progress made on implementing the recommendations is presented to the next Committee.**

3. Introduction and Background

- 3.1 This Audit review was conducted in accordance with the 2017/18 Audit Plan as approved by the Audit & Scrutiny Committee.

4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

- 4.1 As part of the ongoing transformation programme, the Housing Service had already identified gaps in service provision particularly around Repairs & Maintenance. An additional Audit review was specifically requested by Housing in order to assist and support in identifying gaps or service failures and to provide recommendations for improvement. These areas, primarily centred around contract management, information recording and compliance.
- 4.2 Both Audit reports will enable the Housing Service to concentrate on specific areas highlighted by both Audit reports to implement the essential service improvements as part of the ongoing transformation programme.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

- 5.1 To monitor the progress of work against the highlighted actions recommended arising from the Audit Report and management actions in response to those recommendations.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7. References to Corporate Plan

- 7.1 Good financial management, risk management and internal control underpin all priorities within the Corporate Plan.

8. Implications

Financial Implications

Name & Title: Jacqueline Van Mellaerts, Financial Services Manager & Deputy Section 151 Officer

Tel & Email: 01277 31250/jacqueline.vanmellaerts@brentwood.gov.uk

- 8.1 There are no direct financial implications within this report.

Legal Implications

Name & Title: Daniel Toohey, Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer

Tel & Email: 01277 312860/daniel.toohey@brentwood.gov.uk

8.2 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Other Implications (where significant) – i.e., Health & Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17, Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT

8.3 None

9. Background Papers

9.1 None

10. Appendices to this report

10.1 Appendix A – Internal Audit Report, May 2017

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