

5th March 2018

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 intended to update 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 (Appendix A).
- 1.3 The outcome of the 2017/18 internal audit review was reported to the Audit Committee on the 14th December 2017 (Appendix B).
- 1.4 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.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">2. Recommendation (s)2.1. That the Committee receives and notes the progress made in addressing the contents of both Audit reports.2.2 That the Committee agree that a further report on progress made on implementing the recommendations is presented to the next Committee. |
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3. Introduction and Background

- 3.1 Both Audit reviews were conducted in accordance with the 2017/18 Audit Plan as approved by the Audit & Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2 However, as part of the ongoing transformation programme, the Housing Service had already identified gaps in service provision particularly around Repairs &

Maintenance. Accordingly, an additional Audit review was specifically requested by Housing 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. **Issue, Options and Analysis of Options**

4.1 Not applicable

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 arising from this report. Current requirements for the service improvements within the Housing department, have been included in the Council's Medium term Financial Plan for 2018/19.

Legal Implications

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

Tel & Email: 01277 312680/ daniel.toohey@brentwood.gov.uk

8.2 The attached Audit report and recommendations will assist the Council in achieving positive outcomes and maintaining compliance with regulatory requirements.

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**

Appendix A: Internal Audit Report – Housing May 2017

Appendix B: Internal Audit Report – Housing November 2017

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