

3rd July 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 & Scrutiny Committee on the 27th September 2017.
- 1.3 The outcome of the 2017/18 internal audit review was reported to the Audit & Scrutiny Committee on the 14th December 2017.
- 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.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Committee receives and notes the progress made from the 5th March 2018 committee report in addressing the contents of both Audit reports.**
- 2.1 **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 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**

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 Interim Chief Finance Officer
Tel & Email: 01277 312829 jacqueline.vanmellaerts@brentwood.gov.uk

- 8.1 There are no direct financial Implications arising from this report. However any additional resources required, resulting from the audit will be monitored through budget challenge sessions with senior officers as well as usual budget monitoring processes.

Legal Implications

Name & Title: Assaf Chaudry, Governance Solicitor
Tel & Email: 01277 312500 assaf.chaudry@brentwood.gov.uk

The purpose of this report is intended to update the Committee of the outcome of the 2016/17 and 201/18 Audit review for Housing Services the recommendation that it seeks are for the purposes of noting . A further

report on progress is due to be presented to the next Committee . In the circumstances there are no legal implications arising from the recommendation within this report.

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

8.2 None

9. **Background Papers**

9.1 None

10. **Appendices to this report**

10.1 Appendix A – Audit report and management response
Appendix B – Audit report and management response

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