

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 5 NOVEMBER 2019

REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TASK AND FINISH GROUP: SOCIAL HOUSING

WARD(S) AFFECTED: *all*

Purpose/Summary of Report

To provide the basis for a discussion by the committee on shaping the terms of reference and membership of a task and finish group to better understand the issues and challenges faced by residents and housing associations and the part councillors and/or the council might play in support of both.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:
That members:**

A	Agree the membership of the task and finish group (T&FG); and
B	Propose the broad terms of reference of the T&FG with a view to holding a one-day scrutiny event in February 2020.

1.0 Background

1.1 In 2018/19, the then PAG scrutiny committee proposed to explore the quality of service provision provided by housing associations in East Herts to its tenants. This was driven in part by tenants feedback to members' about a variety of issues that concerned them.

- 1.2 The PAG was unable to undertake this scrutiny due to the weight of work at the time. In June 2019, this committee included this issue in its long list of scrutiny topics and following a priority setting scoping exercise, agreed that it met the scrutiny criteria and therefore included it in its work programme.
- 1.3 The intention is that this topic will be explored by the committee through a 1 day event to be run in February 2020. The morning session will be focussed on taking evidence from tenants representatives and the afternoon session on taking evidence from housing associations.
- 1.4 The overall aim of the scrutiny will be to establish how councillors and the council can support tenants and housing associations in improving service standards.
- 1.5 The committee needs to agree membership of the task and finish group and the key lines of enquiry.

Background Papers: none

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