

Subject: London Assembly Response to Mayor's Draft Housing Strategy

Report to: Housing Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 25 March 2014

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report proposes that the Committee formally agree the Assembly's response to the Mayor's Draft Housing Strategy published for consultation in November 2013.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes its response to the Mayor's Draft Housing Strategy.**

3. Background

- 3.1 In November 2013 the Mayor published his draft Housing Strategy entitled *Homes for London*. The deadline for this was consultation was 17 February 2014.
- 3.2 The Housing Committee has drawn up a response on the basis of its previously published reports and recommendations.
- 3.3 At its February meeting the Committee delegated authority to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead members, to formally agree the Committee's response on behalf of the Assembly.

4. Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 The Committee has submitted its formal response which is attached at **Appendix 1**. The response has also been sent out to a range of key stakeholders.
- 4.2 The Mayor is currently reviewing his consultation draft and will propose a final Housing Strategy in the Spring. At this point the Assembly will have the formal opportunity to vote to agree or reject the Housing Strategy.

The Committee's Key Messages

- 4.3 In its response, the Committee welcomes the Mayor's recognition that a significant increase in the supply of new homes is needed, as well as some of the proposals made to realise this. However, it also voices concern that the Strategy is not ambitious enough in terms of meeting evidenced need.

- 4.4 The Committee expresses concern in particular over the number of affordable homes which the Mayor proposes to build and how this may affect our ability to sustain London's mixed communities.
- 4.5 Finally, the Committee expresses a fear that in focusing on the need to increase supply the Mayor has devoted insufficient attention to other vital aspects of housing strategy such as tackling overcrowding and homelessness

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications to the Greater London Authority arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report:

Appendix 1 – London Assembly Response to the Mayor's draft Housing Strategy

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| Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 |
| List of Background Papers: Minutes from the Housing Committee meeting on 12 February 2014. |
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