

Subject: Housing Committee Work Programme

Report to: Housing Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 10 February 2015

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report updates the proposed work programme for the Committee during the 2014/15 Assembly year, and asks the Committee to note correspondence received in relation to an ongoing investigation.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes its work programme.**
- 2.2 **That the Committee agrees the topics for its two remaining meetings of the Assembly year, as detailed at paragraph 4.2 below.**
- 2.3 **That the Committee notes the letter received from the Deputy Mayor for Housing, Land and Property as attached at Appendix 2.**

3. Background

- 3.1 In order for relevant preparatory work to be undertaken, Members need to agree the subject of the next project they wish to investigate.
- 3.2 Members receive a report at each Committee meeting on the progress of the projects agreed as the basis for the work programme.

Criteria for topic selection

- 3.3 The criteria for selecting topics are some, or all, of the following: That the topic

- 1) Addresses a strategic challenge relating to housing in London, with a particular emphasis on:
- developing and maintaining sustainable communities
 - reducing inequalities and offering opportunities to all Londoners;

- 2) Relates to the responsibilities and priorities of the Mayor and GLA Group;
 - 3) Provides an opportunity for the Committee to influence policy ; and
 - 4) Provides an opportunity for the Committee to add value by bringing significant new evidence or new perspectives to the debate.
- 3.4 At its meeting on the 17 June 2014, the Committee agreed the scope and terms of reference for an investigation into the demolition and refurbishment of London's social housing estates. Progress is currently being made on the final report from this investigation. As part of the call for evidence for this work, the Chair wrote to the Deputy Mayor for Housing, Land and Property. A copy of this letter can be found at **Appendix 1**.

4. Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 A response from the Deputy Mayor for Housing, Land and Property to the Chair's letter at Appendix 1 has since been received, and copy of this response is attached at **Appendix 2**. The Committee is asked to note this response.
- 4.2 The Committee has previously agreed its current topic for investigation on the affordability of home ownership in London.
- 4.3 The main business topics proposed for the year's two remaining meeting slots are:
 - Wednesday 4 March at 2.00 pm – the impact of investor buyers on London's new build market. A separate paper outlining the proposed scope for this topic is included at Agenda Item 6.
 - Tuesday 17 March at 10.00 am – affordable homes in London. Deputy Mayor for Housing, Land and Property, Richard Blakeway, will attend the Committee's last planned meeting of the year to answer questions on the number and type of affordable homes built in London between 2011 and 2015. The Committee may also wish to receive an update on the housing impacts of the Government's programme of welfare reforms in London.

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 arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report:

Appendix 1 – Letter from the Chair of the Housing Committee to the Deputy Mayor for Housing, Land and Property, 29 July 2014

Appendix 2 – Response to the Chair of the Housing Committee from the Deputy Mayor for Housing, Land and Property, 12 September 2014

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers: None
Contact Officer: Lorraine Ford, Scrutiny Manager
Telephone: 020 7983 4394
Email: scrutiny@london.gov.uk