



## Housing Select Committee

### Report title: Emergency Housing

**Date:** 6 June 2023

**Key decision:** No

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Contributors:** Nidhi Patil (Scrutiny Manager)

### Outline and recommendations

This report will be followed by a presentation by officers from the Council's housing team. The presentation will provide the Committee with an update on emergency housing including- how the Council houses people who have received a Section 21 notice and the provision of temporary and permanent accommodation out of the borough when the applicant faces a risk of violence by remaining in the borough.

The Committee is asked to:

- note and comment on the content of the presentation provided by officers from the Council's housing team.

## 1. Summary

- 1.1. This report will be followed by a presentation from officers from the Council's housing team. The presentation will provide the Committee with an update on emergency housing including- how the Council houses people who have received a Section 21 notice and the provision of temporary and permanent accommodation out of the borough when the applicant faces a risk of violence by remaining in the borough. Following the presentation, members of the Committee will have an opportunity to ask questions.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Committee is asked to note and comment on the content of the presentation provided by officers from the Council's housing team.

## 3. Policy Context

- 3.1. Receiving this update from officers will help the Committee to support the aims and objectives of the Council's Corporate Strategy, namely:
  - *Quality Housing* - to provide as many people as possible with safe, comfortable accommodation that they can be proud of and holding landlords to account.

## **4. Background**

- 4.1. This report will be followed by a presentation at the meeting which will provide the Committee with an update on emergency housing.
- 4.2. The presentation will cover the following:
  - a) Homeless applications from people who have received a Section 21 notice in the last year;
  - b) Of those people listed in (a), the number of people the Council owes a housing duty to;
  - c) At what stage the people listed in (b) were housed;
  - d) an update on the provision of temporary and permanent accommodation out of borough when the applicant faces a risk of violence if they remain in borough.

## **5. Financial implications**

- 5.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the content of this report.

## **6. Legal implications**

- 6.1. There are no direct legal implications arising from the content of this report.

## **7. Equalities implications**

- 7.1. Equality Act 2010 brought together all previous equality legislation in England, Scotland and Wales. The Act included a new public sector equality duty, replacing the separate duties relating to race, disability and gender equality. The duty came into force on 6 April 2011. It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 7.2. The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
  - eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
  - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 7.3. There are no direct equalities implications arising from the content of this report.

## **8. Climate change and environmental implications**

- 8.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from the content of this report.
- 8.2. In February 2019 Lewisham Council declared a Climate Emergency and proposed a target to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030. An action plan to achieve this target was subsequently agreed by Mayor and Cabinet (following pre-decision scrutiny by the Sustainable Development Select Committee)<sup>1</sup>. The plan incorporates all areas of the Council's work. The Committee should acknowledge and consider the climate change and environmental implications of any piece of work that it scrutinises, reviews or comments on.

---

<sup>1</sup> See <https://lewisham.gov.uk/TacklingTheClimateEmergency> for a summary of the Council's work in this area.

## **9. Crime and disorder implications**

- 9.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from the content of this report.

## **10. Health and wellbeing implications**

- 10.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from the content of this report. However, being served a Section 21 notice has a negative impact on the wellbeing of tenants and puts them in a stressful situation. Similarly, being able to access safe housing away from the risk of violence is important for the safety and wellbeing of residents at the risk of violence. Ensuring that the Council responds appropriately and swiftly in these circumstances is of great importance.

## **11. Appendices**

- 11.1. Appendix A- Presentation from Housing Officers

## **12. Report author and contact**

- 12.1. If you have any questions about this report please contact the scrutiny manager:  
Nidhi Patil, 020 8314 7620, [Nidhi.Patil@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:Nidhi.Patil@lewisham.gov.uk)