1. **Purpose**

1.1 At its meeting on 22 July 2014, the Committee decided to carry out a review into communal heating systems. At its meeting on 1 October, the Committee considered a scoping report for the review and agreed terms of reference.

2. **Recommendations**

The Select Committee is asked to:

- Consider the information provided by witnesses at the meeting on 28 January 2015
- Consider the additional information provided by Brian Regan (LBL Planning Policy Manager) case studies provided by Jonathan Graham (Combined Heat and Power Association (CHPA)) and Bertie Dixon (Max Fordham LLP)

3. **Key lines of inquiry for the review**

3.1 Review question:

- How can the Council help to ensure the effective deployment of communal heating systems in the borough, where appropriate?

In order to answer this question the Committee has resolved to establish the following:

- An understanding of the issues influencing the development and deployment of heating systems in Lewisham;
- Evidence of the benefits and drawbacks of existing communal heating systems in the borough;
- The factors influencing the effective design and operation of heating systems.

This will focus on the following key areas:

- Design (including predicted costs and energy consumption contrasted with actual costs and energy consumption from case studies)
- Implementation (including problems with construction)
- Monitoring and operation (including running costs)
- Lessons that can be learnt for future developments

3.2 **Issues outside of the scope of the review:**
• Government’s carbon reduction targets;
• The Council’s climate change targets and planning policy;
• Individual householder issues.

4.  Timetable

4.1 The Committee has agreed the following outline timetable for the review:

Evidence sessions on 11 November 2014 and 17 December 2014 to include:

- Officers from two developments with communal heating schemes inside or outside of the borough.
- Officers from the GLA to update on the delivery of the London heat map project.
- Expert witnesses from the energy sector to talk about the opportunities and challenges of communal heating.
- Officers of the Council to provide information and evidence about the Council’s planning and building control responsibilities.
- Residents who live in developments with a communal heating system.

4.2 A further evidence session was added to the meeting on 28 January 2015, to include:

- An expert witness from Barratt London - Vimal Bhana, Head Of Energy
- Additional evidence provided by witnesses

5. Recommendations and final report

- The Committee may choose to consider a final report presenting all the evidence taken and agree recommendations for submission to Mayor and Cabinet.

6. Further implications

At this stage there are no specific financial, legal, environmental or equalities implications to consider. However, each will be addressed as part of the review. It should be anticipated that there will be implications arising from the Council’s obligations to carbon reduction, agreed planning policy and building regulations.

Background Papers

Housing Select Committee minutes 22/07/14  http://tinyurl.com/pmykvlz

For further information please contact Roger Raymond, Scrutiny Manager on 020 8314 9976.
How to carry out an in-depth review

1 Scoping
- Consider local & national context and identify the key issues
- Agree objectives and key lines of enquiry of the review
- Agree structure (methods of evidence gathering to be used)
- Agree timetable for review

2 Evidence Gathering
Formal meetings can consider:
- Written evidence
  - Reports
  - Key documents
  - Case studies
  - Best Practice
  - Data and analysis
- Oral evidence
  - Questioning officers of the Council, Partner agencies & expert witnesses
- Results of “Other” evidence gathering activities
  - Consultation (surveys, focus groups)
  - Site visits
  - Research

3 Agree recommendations and draft report
- All evidence and key findings presented to Committee
- Committee agrees evidence-based recommendations and draft report

Mayor and Cabinet
- Meets twice, once to consider report, once to consider response

4 Final report
- Committee agrees final report and recommendations for referral to Mayor and Cabinet

5 Response
- Committee receives Mayoral response to their final report and recommendations within 2 months

6 Monitoring and Review
- Committee monitors the implementation of the agreed recommendations
- Considers further follow-up review?