



Housing Retrofit Task and Finish Group

Task and Finish Group final report

Date: 25 February 2022

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All (none specific)

Contributors: Assistant Chief Executive (Scrutiny Manager)

Outline and recommendations

Following consideration of a broad range of evidence and analysis, members of the Housing Retrofit Task and Finish Group are asked to consider the attached report and agree recommendations for submission to Mayor and Cabinet.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

The subject of this Task and Finish Group was proposed by Cllr Louise Krupski.

The subject and membership of the Group were agreed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 26 May 2021.

The scope and key lines of enquiry for the review were agreed on 16 July 2021.

Between July 2021 and February 2022, the Group carried out a range of evidence gathering and engagement sessions (as detailed in the report).

1. Summary

1.1. The report attached at appendix A sets out the key findings of the Task and Finish Group.

2. Recommendations

2.1. The Task and Finish Group is asked to:

- Consider, comment on and agree the final report.
- Agree any recommendations to be made as part of the review.

3. Policy context

3.1. The Council's Corporate Strategy for 2018-2022 sets out the following priorities:

Open Lewisham - Lewisham is a welcoming place of safety for all, where we celebrate the diversity that strengthens us.

Tackling the housing crisis - Everyone has a decent home that is secure and affordable.

Giving children and young people the best start in life - Every child has access to an outstanding and inspiring education, and is given the support they need to keep them safe, well and able to achieve their full potential.

Building an inclusive local economy - Everyone can access high-quality job opportunities, with decent pay and security in our thriving and inclusive local economy.

Delivering and defending: health, social care and support - Ensuring everyone receives the health, mental health, social care and support services they need.

Making Lewisham greener - Everyone enjoys our green spaces, and benefits from a healthy environment as we work to protect and improve our local environment.

Building safer communities - Every resident feels safe and secure living here as we work together towards a borough free from the fear of crime.

3.2. Relating as it does to the issues of: safety, community, social justice, housing, health, opportunity, equality and economics - tackling the climate emergency is fundamental to the delivery of the Council's corporate strategy.

3.3. The Group should also note and take into account the four strategic themes at the heart of the Council's response to the impact of the pandemic, which support what we want for every single resident and that we know are what we need to focus on locally. These four strategic themes are: An economically sound future; a healthy and well future; a greener future; and a future we all have a part in. These are all relevant to safe, affordable, healthy housing – and in particular:

A greener future

Our next steps will be our greenest yet, continuing our efforts to preserve our climate for future generations and ensuring everyone can enjoy the place we call home. We will capture and build on the best of what we saw from the increase in walking and cycling locally, and all the other ways our environment benefited from behaviour changes over the last year. We will nurture and protect our borough so that we can continue to appreciate its benefits for generations to come.

A healthy and well future

Good health and wellbeing should be something we can all depend on, something that is equally accessible to everyone. We know this is much wider than 'medicine' and the NHS. Our health and wellbeing is also dependent on our housing, the air we breathe, our support networks and more. We will all make sure to pay as much attention and invest as much effort into improving these wider factors and taking action on inequality at every turn. Acting on the causes of health inequalities and supporting good mental health and wellbeing for everyone drives what we do.

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4. Background

- 4.1. The subject Task and Finish Group was proposed by Councillor Louise Krupski and agreed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 26 May 2021. The Group has received evidence from a range of sources and activities and has produced a report summarising its findings attached at appendix A.
- 4.2. Task and Finish Group members are being asked to review the final report and agree any recommendations they wish to make.

5. Financial implications

- 5.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Recommendations from the Task and Finish Group may have financial implications and these will need to be considered in due course.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1. The Council's Constitution provides at paragraph 6.11, Article 6 that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may from time to time appoint sub-committees, to be known as task and finish groups which will exist for a period of no less than 3 months, nor more than 12 months from the date of their creation. It further adds that 'Any task and finish group shall consist of 5 members and be established for the purpose of examining a particular issue in depth. The terms of reference of any task and finish group shall be agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which shall also appoint members to it.'

7. Equalities implications

- 7.1. The 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 may be equalities implications arising from recommendations made by the Task and Finish Group and the Council will need to give due consideration to this in their response.

8. Climate change and environmental implications

- 8.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Recommendations considered by the Task and Finish Group have climate change implications and these need to be given due consideration.

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9. Crime and disorder implications

- 9.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Matters considered by the Task and Finish Group may have crime and disorder implications and these will need to be given due consideration when any recommendations are considered.

10. Health and wellbeing implications

- 10.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Matters considered by the Task and Finish Group have health and wellbeing implications and these will need to be given due consideration when any recommendations are considered.

11. Report author and contact

- 11.1. If you have any questions about this report please contact:

Timothy.Andrew@lewisham.gov.uk (020 8314 7916)

Beate.Hellawell@lewisham.gov.uk (020 8314 2045)

Appendix A: Final report of the Housing Retrofit Task and Finish Group

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