

25th January 2024**Report of the Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee****Matters referred to Cabinet in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules**

Scrutiny Committee	Title of Matter referred	Date of Scrutiny meeting
Corporate Scrutiny	Housing Repairs Working Group Update	20th December 2023

Exempt Information

None.

Purpose

To notify Cabinet of the report and recommendations from the Housing Repairs Working Group item that was discussed at the meeting of Corporate Scrutiny on the 20th December 2023

Recommendations**Following consideration of the item the Committee agree to the following recommendations being made to Cabinet:**

1. To add additional resource to TBC repairs team; when a MLDINS code is inputted for a property a manual lookback at the history of repairs for that property be conducted to identify if this Damp and/or Mould has been a previous issue at the property, or for the tenant at a previous property.
2. That the Damp & Mould inspection process become part of the repairs policy.
3. To ensure that vulnerable residents are prioritised when there are damp and mould issues within the home.

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor C Bain)

Back Ground Information

Following an update on the housing repairs service at the meeting of Corporate Scrutiny on the 27th July 2023, the committee established a cross committee working group.

Executive Summary

The first meeting of the housing repairs working group was held on the 13th November 2023 where the focus was to be on damp and mould. The Assistant Director, assets attended the meeting to provide the working group with a summary of a report which was due to be submitted to the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Board around damp and mould inspections for October 2023.

The members of the working group asked questions around Capital Works programmes, how TBC recorded the interventions and residents' willingness to respond to recommendations from inspection? What would it take to get a property to an A ECP rating? Trickle vents on windows. How the council examines history of damp & mould and the quality of training of Equans Supervisors

The Committee requested further information from the Assistant Director but also considered some initial recommendations.

The Corporate Scrutiny committee were provided with the minutes of the meeting and an update on the 20th December 2023 where they resolved to move the two recommendations made by the working group along with a third recommendation around ensuring that vulnerable residents were prioritised when there were damp and mould issues.

Options Considered

None.

Key considerations

1. Scrutiny committees have statutory powers to make recommendations to the Executive, and the Executive (Cabinet) has a statutory duty to respond. They may also make reports and recommendations to external decision-making bodies.
2. The agenda for Executive meetings shall include a standing item entitled 'Matters Referred to the Cabinet In Accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules'. The reports of overview and scrutiny committees and sub-committees referred to the Executive shall be included at this point in the agenda (unless they have been considered in the context of the Executive's deliberations on a substantive item on the agenda) within one calendar month of the overview and scrutiny committee or sub-committee completing its report/recommendations.
3. Scrutiny recommendations are addressed to the Cabinet, as the main Executive decision-making body of the council (or, where appropriate, an external agency).
4. Cabinet is being asked to note the scrutiny report / recommendations and that an Executive Response to the scrutiny recommendations be prepared for consideration by the Cabinet within two months from receiving the report or recommendations.

5. The minutes of the meeting of the scrutiny committee provide the record of the scrutiny committee's consideration of the issue and the scrutiny recommendations made during the meeting.
6. The scrutiny committee will be notified of the Executive Response made in respect to the scrutiny recommendations and may track the implementation of the Cabinet decisions and any actions agreed. This enables the scrutiny committee to track whether their recommendations have been agreed, what actually was agreed (if different) and review any outcomes arising.

Report Author

Councillor Daniel Cook
Chair of Corporate Scrutiny

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