

27th March 2025

Report of the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing 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
Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny	Update on Housing Damp and Mould	11 th February 2025

Exempt Information

None.

Purpose

To notify Cabinet of the report and recommendations from the Update on Housing Damp and Mould item that was discussed at the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on the 11th February 2025

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

1. That the literature around damp and mould is reviewed to make it more accessible to people with a visual impairment

(Moved by Councillor S Doyle and seconded by Councillor C Bain)

Back Ground Information

At the meeting on the 18th September 2024 the Committee requested an update on the Councils position on Damp and Mould further to the recommendations made to Cabinet in January 2024 as part of the cross party Housing Repairs Working Group through Corporate Scrutiny:

- 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 Mold has been a previous issue at the property, or for the tenant at a previous property.
- That the Damp & Mould inspection process become part of the repairs policy.
- To ensure that vulnerable residents are prioritised when there are damp and mould issues within the home.

On the 21st January 2024 the recommendations were approved with Cabinet asking that with regards to recommendation 3 there would need to be some work around specific wording as to what would constitute priority.

It was initially agreed that the update would come to Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny in November 2024 however this was deferred until February 2025, however a meeting was held between the Chair and the Assistant Director to provide an update.

Executive Summary

On the 11th February 2025 the Assistant Director Assets and the Portfolio Holder for Housing Homelessness and Planning attend the Committee meeting to present the report to update the Committee on the Councils approach to damp and mould.

The Officer provided the Committee with an overview of the report and an update on figures.

Discussions were had around whether there were any common trends identified in terms of property types/areas; what horizon planning was being done and whether work was being done to look at green models? Clarification was sought around the stock condition survey and the Committee provided their comments on the quote within the report that; *'consideration is to be given as whether the question of health should be asked of tenants reporting damp and mould'*?

The Committee were interested in what information was available to residents around damp and mould particularly for those who do not have access to the internet? It was confirmed that there was literature available. This prompted a discuss around whether the literature was suitable for those who are visually impaired. The Officer confirmed that they were not aware if the literature was. As a result of the discussion a recommendation was moved to ask Cabinet to review the literature around damp and mould to ensure it is accessible to the visually impaired.

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 Chris Bain

Chair of Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny

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