

Subject: Housing Committee Work Programme

Report to: Housing Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 11 November 2014

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report updates the proposed work programme for the Committee during the 2014/15 Assembly year.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes its work programme.**

3. Background

- 3.1 In order for relevant preparatory work to be undertaken, Members need to agree the subject of the next project they wish to investigate later in the Assembly year.
- 3.2 Members will receive a report at each Committee meeting on the progress of the projects agreed as the basis for the work programme. Additional projects will be included in the work programme from time to time reflecting the need for the Committee to respond to tasks such as consultations or other events as necessary.

Criteria for topic selection

- 3.3 The criteria for selecting topics are some, or all, of the following: That the topic
- 1) Addresses a strategic challenge relating to housing in London, with a particular emphasis on:
 - developing and maintaining sustainable communities
 - reducing inequalities and offering opportunities to all Londoners;
 - 2) Relates to the responsibilities and priorities of the Mayor and GLA Group;
 - 3) Provides an opportunity for the Committee to influence policy ; and
 - 4) Provides an opportunity for the Committee to add value by bringing significant new evidence or new perspectives to the debate.

4. Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 The Committee has agreed its next topic for investigation: Improving the Affordability of Home Ownership. The Committee's December and January meetings will be devoted to this investigation.
- 4.2 The main business topics for two meeting slots remain to be agreed during this municipal year (Tuesday 10 February and Tuesday 17 March 2015). The dates may be used for formal Committee meetings, informal meetings, site visits or other activities. The work programme also provides for the Committee to respond to any matters that arise at short notice.
- 4.3 Other topics remaining on the Committee's long list include:
- **Affordable homes numbers** – the Committee will wish to keep the number of affordable homes built in London under review;
 - **Lettings agencies** – following up on the Committee's work last year on the private rented sector, assessing the effectiveness of different models for regulating lettings agencies and including consideration of social lettings agencies;
 - **Student housing** – looking at build quality and prices of new student accommodation in London; and
 - **Rent controls** – also following up work from the Committee's Private Rented Sector report published in 2013, considering the range of mechanisms applied in Europe and whether or how they might work in London.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report: None

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers: None
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