

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Siân Berry AM**

Chair

London Assembly Housing Committee

C/o [Stephanie.Griffiths@london.gov.uk](mailto:Stephanie.Griffiths@london.gov.uk)

**Our ref:** MGLA191021-5759

**Date:** 10 November 2021

Dear Siân,

Thank you for sending the Housing Committee's 2021 Affordable Housing Monitor report. The Annex to this letter provides my responses to the report's recommendations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a small '2' written below the 'h'.

**Sadiq Khan**

Mayor of London

# MAYOR OF LONDON

## Annex

### Mayor of London's response to the recommendations of the London Assembly's Housing Committee Affordable Housing Monitor report

#### Recommendation 1

For the new Affordable Homes Programme 2021-26, the Mayor should work with partners to improve reporting on the number of bedrooms in homes delivered under the programme, ensuring that all homes are accounted for in the published data. The Mayor should consider how to report on sensitive projects in a way that maintains privacy while ensuring that full data is available. The Mayor should also ensure that historical site-level and bedroom data is retained on the website, and not simply replaced when new quarterly data is published.

The Mayor wants to significantly improve reporting on the number of bedrooms delivered in the new programme, and officers are currently working on changes to reporting practice to allow this.

#### Recommendation 2

Comprehensive information on relative losses and gains of all affordable housing in London, including affordable housing not funded by the Mayor, should be published by the GLA. Where there are gaps in the data, the Mayor should work with Government to improve data collection and reporting.

The Greater London Authority (GLA) does not currently have access to comprehensive data on all losses and gains of affordable housing in London. However, the Government has recently proposed gathering more detailed data from local authorities to allow for as comprehensive as possible a picture of losses from and gains to the stock of affordable housing of each tenure in London. These changes are proposed to take effect from the financial year 2021/22.

#### Recommendation 3

The GLA's starts and completions data should clearly differentiate about what is being delivered under each Affordable Homes Programme (2016-23 or 2021-26). The Mayor should also ensure that, within the new London Planning Datahub, information on individual schemes shows, where applicable, from which Affordable Homes Programme new homes have received funding.

Officers are looking into the recommendation on Affordable Homes Programme reporting with a view to implementing it in a future affordable housing statistics release. As the Planning London Datahub relies on data from planning applications, it may not be possible for its data to show where schemes have received Affordable Homes Programme funding, but officers are investigating whether data from the two systems can be joined using the planning application reference or address information.

#### Recommendation 4

The Mayor should work to improve data on overcrowding pressures in London, and publish quarterly updates on how much funding has been allocated under each Affordable Homes Programme broken down by tenure and the number of bedrooms in each home.

The results of the 2021 Census, due to be published in 2022, will provide valuable insights into the prevalence of overcrowding across London, differences between groups and changes since 2011. Data on total expenditure by number of bedrooms is not currently collected, while data on expenditure by tenure is not available for schemes that went through the Approved Provider or Developer-led routes.

# MAYOR OF LONDON

## **Recommendation 5**

The Mayor should collate and publish data on the number of existing and planned homes specifically earmarked for key workers.

Officers are working with the Government to improve the collection of data on shared ownership purchases through the CORE dataset, including on the occupations of purchasers, which would allow for a clear and consistent picture of access to be attained.