

Report for: Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 15th March 2021

Title: Scrutiny Review – Noel Park Major Works

Report authorised by: Cllr Ruth Gordon, Chair of Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Panel

Lead Officer: Dominic O'Brien, Principal Scrutiny Officer
dominic.obrien@haringey.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: Noel Park

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 Under the agreed terms of reference, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) can assist the Council and the Cabinet in its budgetary and policy framework through conducting in-depth analysis of local policy issues and can make recommendations for service development or improvement. The Committee may:

(a) Review the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;

(b) Conduct research to assist in specific investigations. This may involve surveys, focus groups, public meetings and/or site visits;

(c) Make reports and recommendations, on issues affecting the authority's area, or its inhabitants, to Full Council, its Committees

1.2 On 23rd November 2020, the OSC agreed to set up a Scrutiny Review on the Noel Park major works to be carried out by the Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Panel.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Committee approve the report and its recommendations and that it be submitted to Cabinet for response.

3. Alternative options

3.1 The Committee could decide not to agree the report and its recommendations, could propose amendments or refer the report back to the Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Panel for further consideration.

4. Background information

4.1 The rationale for setting up the review and the terms of reference are outlined in paragraphs 4.1, 4.2 and 5.2 of the Scrutiny Review report.

5. Contribution to strategic outcomes

5.1 This Scrutiny Review relates to “Priority 1 – Housing” of the Council’s Borough Plan.

6. Legal comments

6.1 Under Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 (“The Act”), an Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the powers to review or scrutinise decisions made or other action taken in connection with the discharge of any executive and non-executive functions and to make reports or recommendations to the executive or to the authority with respect to the discharge of those functions. An Overview and Scrutiny Committee also has the powers to make reports or recommendations to the executive or to the authority on matters which affect the authority’s area or the inhabitants of its area. Under Section 9FA of the Act, Overview and Scrutiny Committees have the power to appoint sub-committees to assist with the discharge of its scrutiny functions. Such sub-committees may not discharge any functions other than those conferred on it.

6.2 Pursuant to the above provisions, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has established Scrutiny Review Panels of which the Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Panel is one, to discharge on its behalf, defined scrutiny functions. On the request of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Panel has undertaken a Scrutiny Review on the Noel Park estate major works. In accordance with the Council’s Constitution, the Panel must refer the outcome of its Review for consideration and approval.

6.3 The remit of the Scrutiny Panel’s review is defined in the terms of reference set out in the review report. The Scrutiny Panel should keep to the terms of reference and ensure that its findings and recommendations are based on good evidence, accord with good practice and are reasonable and rational.

7. Equality

7.1 The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010) to have due regard to:

- Tackle discrimination and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability,

gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation;

- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

7.2 The Panel has aimed to consider these duties within this review and, in particular;

- How policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share the nine protected characteristics;
- Whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate
- Whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Haringey;
- Whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people, are being realised.

8. Use of Appendices

8.1 Appendix A: Draft report of Scrutiny Review on Noel Park Major Works.