

Report for: Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 18th September 2025

Item number: 10

Title: Scrutiny Review - Temporary Accommodation Placements Policy and Private Rented Sector Discharge Policy

Report authorised by: Cllr Adam Small, Chair of Housing, Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel

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Ward(s) affected: N/A

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:** Non Key

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 or Sub-Committees, the Executive, or to other appropriate external bodies.
- 1.2 In this context, on 6th March 2025, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to set up a review project to look at the Temporary Accommodation Placements Policy and the Private Rented Sector Discharge Policy

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

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

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1 The Committee is requested to approve the report and the recommendations within it so that it may be submitted to Cabinet for response.

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1 The Committee could decide not to agree the report and its recommendations, which would mean that it could not be referred to Cabinet for response.

6. Background information

- 6.1 The rationale for the setting up of the review, including the scope and terms of reference, is outlined in paragraphs 3.2, 3.7 and 3.8 of the report.

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 7.1 This review relates to Theme 5 of the Corporate Delivery Plan – Homes for the Future. Specifically, it relates to the Outcome Area – A Reduction in Temporary Accommodation.

8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Director of Legal & Governance, Equalities)

Finance and Procurement

- 8.1 Finance notes the contents of the report and recommendations made. It is anticipated that most of these, if adopted, can be implemented with existing resources. Where implementation of a recommendation would lead to additional resources being required, it will be assessed and would be subject to the relevant governance processes.

Legal

- 8.2 The Director of Legal and Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report and comments as follows.
- 8.3 Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 imposes on the Council a number of duties to secure accommodation for those seeking assistance as homeless. The main duties are set out in the body of the review.
- 8.4 In addition, under the same Act the Council has power where appropriate to secure accommodation for the homeless.
- 8.5 Where accommodation is secured by the Council, it must be suitable; and location is taken into account in determining suitability. On the other hand, the Council is not expected to be able to produce perfectly suitable accommodation at all times for all those accommodated.
- 8.6 It is open to the Council, if it is unable to find in-borough accommodation for all those for whom it secures accommodation, to use out of borough accommodation. If it does, it must do so according to a rational policy.

- 8.7 The Council's Constitution, at Part 4, Rules of Procedure Section G – Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules provides that Scrutiny Review Panels are appointed to examine designated Council services. Scrutiny Panels will refer their findings/recommendations in the form of a written report, with the approval of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to the Cabinet. Other legal comments are contained in the review.

Equality

- 8.9 The council has a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics and people who do not
 - Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not
- 8.10 The three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.
- 8.11 Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.
- 8.12 This report concerns the Housing, Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel's 2024/25 review of the Temporary Accommodation Placements Policy and the Private Rented Sector Discharge Policy. With regard to equalities, the report indicates that people from minority communities are more likely to spend longer in TA, are more likely to be moved out of borough, and are less likely to be housed at the end of the statutory homelessness period.
- 8.13 The report recommends that Cabinet commit to undertaking equalities monitoring for households in temporary accommodation. This monitoring should include the ethnicity of households in temporary accommodation, the ethnicity of households placed out of borough, and the length of time households spend in TA. This reflects concerns about national disproportionality relating to ethnicity and temporary accommodation.
- 8.14 While this report and the relevant recommendation will not have a direct impact on equalities in Haringey, if the recommendation is implemented, equalities monitoring of those in temporary accommodation may ultimately contribute to addressing known inequalities of outcome and therefore have an indirect positive equalities impact.

9. Use of Appendices

Appendix A: Draft report of the Housing, Planning & Development Scrutiny Panel: Scrutiny Review into Temporary Accommodation (TA) Placements Policy and the Private Rented Sector (PRS) Discharge Policy.

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1 Link to Temporary Accommodation Placements Policy:
[Link 1](#)