

Committee: Community and Children's Services	Date: 14/09/2018
Subject: Housing Governance Review	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report authors: Jacquie Campbell, Assistant Director, Housing and Neighbourhoods Paul Murtagh, Assistant Director, Barbican and Property Services	

Summary

This paper informs Members of proposals for reviewing the current governance of Housing and Barbican matters and alerts them to a paper on this subject which will come before the Committee in October 2018.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The City's housing governance arrangements were last reviewed in 2011. At that time, consideration was given to setting up a new committee to oversee the management of all the City's housing activity, including the Barbican Estate. However, it was decided instead to retain a separate Committee for the Barbican Estate (the Barbican Residential Committee) and to set up a Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee of the Community and Children's Services Committee.

Current Position

2. The Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee works well. However, a number of concerns have been expressed about the Barbican Residential Committee. These are, principally, that it struggles to attract Members to fill the non-resident vacancies, which is essential to ensure that meetings are quorate and to protect the Committee from conflicts of interest.
3. In January 2018 the Standards Committee resolved its belief that the present operation of the Barbican Residential Committee gives rise to a perception of a conflict of interest and suggested that the Policy and Resources Committee may wish to review this.
4. The Policy and Resources Committee has agreed to set up a new Working Party to oversee the delivery of 3,700 new homes as part of the City's commitment to affordable housing. The issue of housing governance was raised as part of this discussion, with particular reference to the concerns about the Barbican Residential Committee.

5. The issue of housing governance was also raised and discussed at the meeting of the Court of Common Council in June 2018.
6. A paper was subsequently taken by the Town Clerk to the Policy and Resources Committee in July 2018. The paper set out options for Members to consider, ranging from maintaining the status quo to establishing a new Housing Committee.
7. It was agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee that a report setting out the current position and the options should be presented to relevant service committees to seek their views as to a potential future model and to inform further consideration.
8. The proposed timetable for the report to be presented to the various committees is as follows:
 - Property Investment Board – 12 September 2018
 - Barbican Residential Committee – 17 September 2018
 - Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee – 24 September 2018
 - Community and Children's Services Committee – 12 October 2018

Conclusion

9. This paper is to alert Members of the Community and Children's Services Committee to the discussions that have taken place to date, and to the plans to present a paper on housing government to relevant services committees over the next few months.

Appendices

- None

Background Papers

Review of Housing Governance – paper to Policy and Resources Committee 5 July 2018

Jacquie Campbell

Assistant Director, Housing and Neighbourhoods
Community and Children's Services Department

T: 020 7332 3785

E: jacquie.campbell@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Paul Murtagh

Assistant Director, Barbican and Property Services

T: 020 7332 3014

E: paul.murtagh@cityoflondon.gov.uk