Committee: Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee	Dated: 09/09/2024
Subject: Rough Sleeping Annual Performance Report 2023–2024	**Public**
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1,2,3,4
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	**No**
If so, how much?	**N/A**
What is the source of Funding?	**N/A**
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	**N/A**
Report of: Judith Finley, Executive Director of Community and Children's Services	**For Discussion**
Report author: Rowan Wyllie Rough Sleeping Co-ordinator, Department of Community and Children's Services	

Summary

This report provides the City of London Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee with an introduction to the Annual Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN) report for rough sleeping in 2023–2024. The full report is published online on the London Datastore.[1]

A copy can also be found in Appendix 1 for Greater London and Appendix 2 for City of London.

The Annual CHAIN report shows the continued rise in rough sleeping figures across London. This is also reflected in data collected specifically for the City of London.

This report references the following priority areas from the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023–2027:

Priority 1 – Rapid, effective and tailored interventions
Priority 2 – Securing access to suitable, affordable accommodation
Priority 3 – Achieving our goals through better collaboration and partnership
Priority 4 – Providing support beyond accommodation.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

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[1] CHAIN (2024) *Rough Sleeping in London (CHAIN reports) – London Datastore.* Available at: https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/chain-reports (Accessed: 29 July 2024).

Main Report

Background

1. This report draws attention to the recorded levels of rough sleeping in the City of London in financial year 2023/2024 as published by the Greater London Authority (GLA) (see Appendix 1).

2. The data from CHAIN is analysed by Homeless Link which publishes full reports for Greater London and for each London borough. Annual data is available for each year from 2014.

Current Position

3. Rough sleeping figures increased in the City of London in 2023/2024. Most of the people rough sleeping in the Square Mile in 2023/2024 were seen only once.

4. Notable findings of the Annual Report for City of London (see Appendix 2) were:

"656 people were seen rough sleeping in the borough in 2023/24. This represents a 36% increase when compared to 2022/23.

247 (38%) people were seen rough sleeping only once in 2023/24, this compares to 129 (27%) seen rough sleeping only once in 2022/23.

56% of people seen rough sleeping in the borough during 2023/24 who were new to the streets were seen rough sleeping just once"

5. Rough sleeping figures across Greater London have also increased by a slightly smaller rate than the increase seen in the previous financial year 2022/2023.

6. Key findings of the Annual Report for Greater London (see Appendix 1) were:

"A total of 11,993 people were seen rough sleeping in London in 2023/24. This is a 19% increase on 2022/23, compared to a 21% increase between 2021/22 and 2022/23.

The 2023/24 total is 58% higher than the total of 7,581 people seen rough sleeping 10 years ago, in 2014/15.

2023/24 was the first year in which more than 2,000 people have been recorded rough sleeping on CHAIN in a single month, with both September and November 2023 exceeding that threshold.

UK nationals accounted for 45% of all people seen rough sleeping in 2023/24, compared to 49% in 2022/23.

For the first time in CHAIN's history, the proportion of people seen rough sleeping who were from countries in Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Australasia was

higher than the proportion of people from Europe (excluding the UK), with 30% coming from these areas, compared to 25% from Europe.
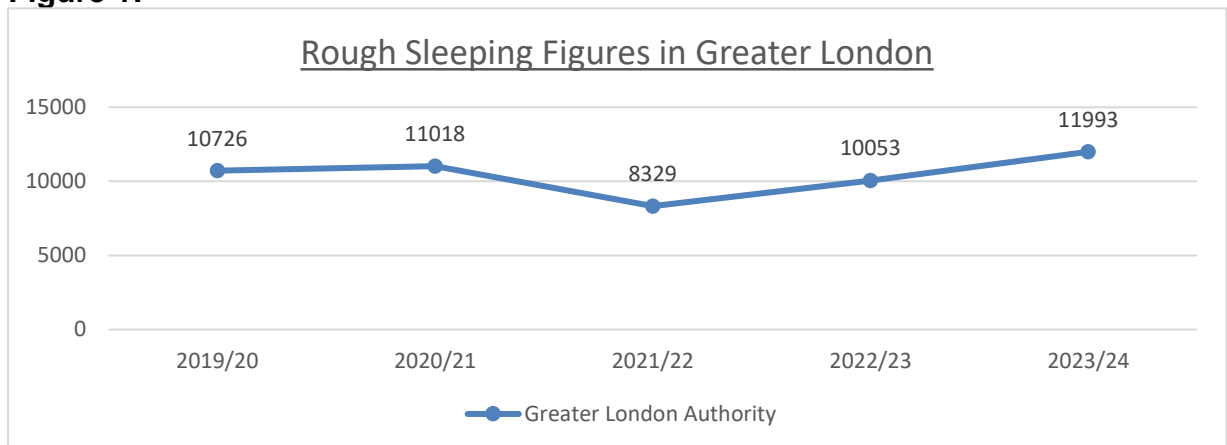
17% of new rough sleepers who had information recorded about their last settled base prior to rough sleeping had previously been staying in asylum support accommodation.

Homelessness services worked to help 4,379 people who were seen rough sleeping during 2023/24 into any type of accommodation. This represents 37% of all people seen rough sleeping during the year, but it should be noted that this does not necessarily mean that the other 63% are still rough sleeping, as many of them will no longer be in contact with services and may have found their own solutions."
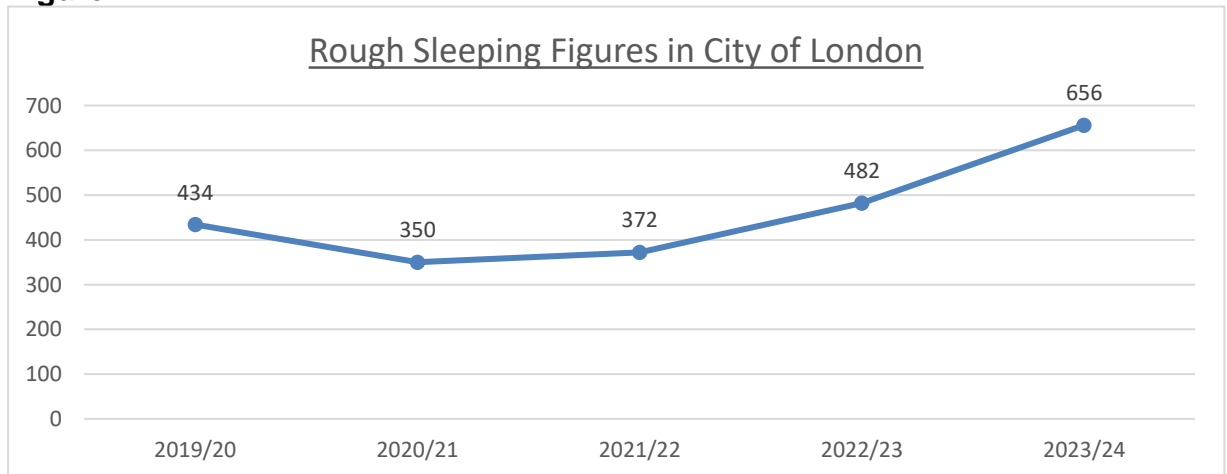
Key Data

7. Figure 1 shows the increase of rough sleeping in Greater London in the last four years:
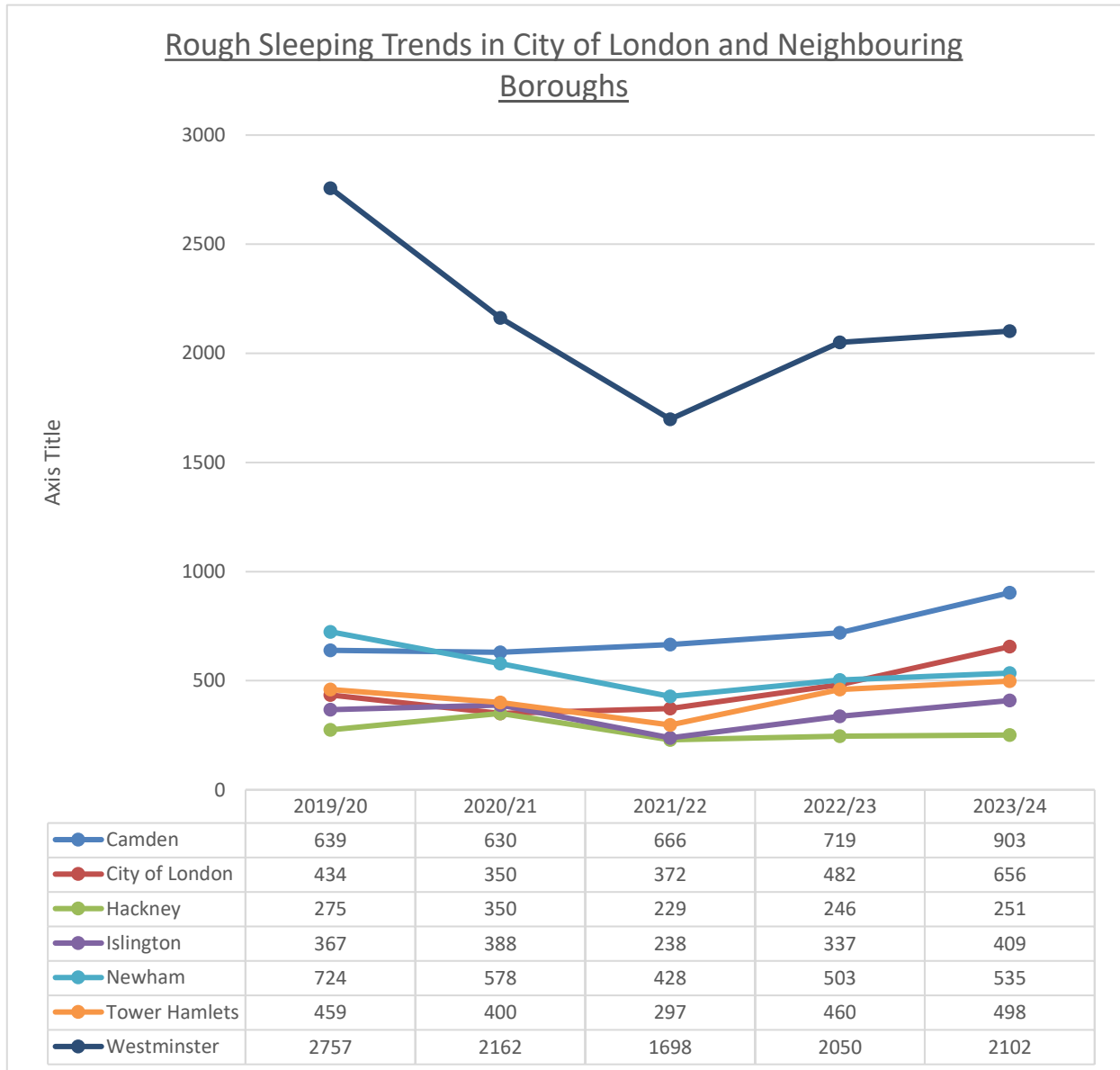
Figure 1:

8. Figure 2 shows the increase of rough sleeping in the City of London in the last four years:

Figure 2:

9. Figure 3 compares the levels of rough sleeping in City of London and neighbouring boroughs in the last four years:

Figure 3:

Rough Sleeping Trends in City of London and Neighbouring Boroughs

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Camden	639	630	666	719	903
City of London	434	350	372	482	656
Hackney	275	350	229	246	251
Islington	367	388	238	337	409
Newham	724	578	428	503	535
Tower Hamlets	459	400	297	460	498
Westminster	2757	2162	1698	2050	2102

10. As seen in Figure 3, rough sleeping figures have increased across all neighbouring boroughs. More detail can be found via the GLA Datastore.

11. Comparing figures for 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 between the City and neighbouring boroughs, the City ranks third in total rough sleeping numbers between the central London boroughs:

Area	2022/23	Area	2023/24
Westminster	2,050	Westminster	2,102
Camden	719	Camden	903
Newham	503	City of London	656
City of London	482	Newham	535
Tower Hamlets	460	Tower Hamlets	498
Islington	337	Islington	409
Hackney	246	Hackney	251

12. The City now ranks fifth highest in London (Appendix 1, 3.1 Total rough sleepers by borough: Yearly comparison, Table 2).

Corporate & Strategic Implications

13. There are no strategic implications directly related to this report.

- Financial implications – N/A
- Resource implications – N/A
- Legal implications – N/A
- Risk implications – N/A
- Equalities implications – N/A
- Climate implications – N/A
- Security implications – N/A

Conclusion

14. As the Annual CHAIN reports demonstrate, rough sleeping numbers continue to rise in London. The frequency of rough sleeping increased in City of London and all neighbouring boroughs; this is also seen across Greater London as a whole.

15. Rough sleeping increased at a rate of 36% in the City of London between 2022/2023 and 2023/2024, whereas the average increase across Greater London was 19%. The percentage change across the two financial years varied greatly from borough to borough (Appendix 1, 3.1, Table 2).

16. It is most common for people to be seen rough sleeping only once when seen by the City of London Outreach team. Services must maximise efforts to ensure that all interactions with new rough sleepers is pursued, and relevant data is recorded accurately to track trends and changes in rough sleeping patterns in the City of London.

17. The Rough Sleeping team's work in financial year 2024/2025 will continue to target resources for clients that reflect their support needs, offering routes to get

off the streets as quickly as possible. The data trends shown in the Annual CHAIN reports suggest that the demands on Rough Sleeping and Homelessness services will continue to be pressured in financial year 2024/2025.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Annual CHAIN Report – Greater London 2023–2024
- Appendix 2 – Annual CHAIN Report – City of London 2023–2024

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