

Committee(s)	Dated:
Community and Children’s Services Committee Policy and Resources Committee Finance Committee	20 September 2024 26 September 2024 24 September 2024
Subject: Report of Action Taken Between Meetings	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	n/a
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
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: The Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: Blair Stringman, Governance Officer	

Summary

This report advises Members of action taken by the Town Clerk outside of the Committee’s meeting schedule, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, in accordance with Standing Order Nos. 41(a) and (b).

Recommendation(s)

That Members note the report.

Main Report

Decision Under Standing Order 41(A) – Supporting Inter-Local Authority Initiative “Securing the Future of Council Housing”

The report, led by Southwark Council and supported by several other local authorities, advocates for council housing as a solution to the housing challenges in England. It calls for reforms to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and other programmes, highlighting that council landlords face deficits of over £3 billion on their HRAs over the next ten years. The current framework is becoming unworkable for the provision of social housing, and the City Corporation has experienced pressures on its HRA, resulting in rent increases for social tenants and a precarious revenue funding position.

In July 2024, the City Corporation was approached by Southwark Council with a preliminary version of their report titled "Securing the Future of Council Housing." This report presents council housing as a crucial solution to the various challenges confronting residents and the nation at large. It outlines a comprehensive strategy aimed at increasing the quantity and quality of council homes throughout England.

The report recommends that the City Corporation endorses the principles outlined in the report and approves its submission to the Government by the deadline of 14 August 2024. The proposal, reviewed by the Chamberlain and Executive Director of Community and Children's Services, notes that supporting the report would benefit the City Corporation by easing its HRA pressures, improving its delivery of housing services, and demonstrating its willingness to work with other local authorities.

The Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair(s) and Deputy Chair(s) of the Policy & Resources Committee, Finance Committee and Community and Children's Service Committee, approved on 13 August 2024 the following:

- a) To endorse the principles outlined in the *Securing the Future of Council Housing Report* (Appendix 1) and approve on behalf of the City of London Corporation, its submission to Government by the deadline of 14 August 2024.

Conclusion

Background papers for Members are available from Blair Stringman on the email address provided below.

Blair Stringman

Governance Officer, Town Clerk's Department

Email: Blair.Stringman@cityoflondon.gov.uk