

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
CABINET HOUSING PANEL – 7 MARCH 2022
REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

INDEPENDENT COMPLIANCE REVIEW

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The council made a self-referral to the Regulator for Social Housing in May 2021, following issues that had been identified in the way that housing compliance was managed.
- 1.2 Much of the focus since the self-referral had been spent on bringing the compliance performance up to date and regular meetings have taken place with the Regulator to ensure that they are fully informed about the progress and the measures that the council are putting in place.
- 1.3 As shown in the latest housing compliance update report, the council has made great progress since the issue came to light. New staff and procedures have also been put in place in the Housing Property service team.
- 1.4 As a learning organisation, the council has also commissioned Eversheds Sutherland to carry out an independent review, in order to provide further assurance that historic concerns have been identified and that the remedial measures that are being put in place by the council will be effective. A copy of the report is shown in Appendix A.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Members of Cabinet Housing Panel are asked to note the content of this report and the independent review report as shown in Appendix A.

3 Implications

4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 As detailed in Appendix A.

5 Financial Implication(s)

- 5.1 No direct financial implications arising from this report.

6 Risk Management Implications

- 6.1 As detailed in Appendix A.

7 Communication

7.1 Officers have regular communications and engagement meetings with the Regulator of Social Housing to ensure the progress required is completed. A copy of the independent review report will also be shared with the Regulator.

8 Security & Terrorism Implication(s)

8.1 There are no security and terrorism implications arising from this report.

9 Procurement Implication(s)

9.1 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

10 Climate Change Implication(s)

10.1 There are no climate change implications arising from this report.

11 Human Resources Implication(s)

11.1 As detailed in Appendix A.

12 Health and Wellbeing Implication(s)

12.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

13 Link to Corporate Priorities

13.1 The subject of this report is linked to the following Council's Corporate Priorities "Our Housing" specifically to Improving Housing Need in the Borough.

14 Equalities and Diversity

14.1 An EqIA was not completed because this report does not propose changes to existing service-related policies or the development of new service-related policies.

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