



Housing and Growth Committee

6th July 2020

Title	Member's Items Cllr Paul Edwards - Homelessness and rough sleeping Cllr Sara Conway - Digital access in estates and across the Borough Cllr Kath McGuirk - Town Centres and High Streets Cllr Ross Houston - Regeneration and housing investment
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Report of	Head of Governance
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Wards	All Wards
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Status	Public
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Urgent	No
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Key	No
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Enclosures	None
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Officer Contact Details	Abigail Lewis, 020 8359 4369, Abigail.Lewis@barnet.gov.uk
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Summary

. The Committee is requested to consider the item and give instruction to Officers.

Officers Recommendation

That the Housing and Growth Committee's instructions in relation to these Member's Items are requested.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Members of the Committee have requested that the items tabled below are submitted to the Housing and Growth Committee for considering and determination. The Housing and Growth Committee are requested to provide instructions to Officers of the Council as recommended.

Cllr Paul Edwards	Homelessness and rough sleeping The Council, working with HAB and Barnet Homes, have found accommodation for rough sleepers in Barnet during the lock-down. As the restrictions are lifted it is imperative that we have a sustainable plan in place to ensure they are not returned to the streets. I ask that the Committee consider the following issues and ask officers to update the Committee on the Council's plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring that the particular needs of all our rough sleepers are assessed and that ongoing housing solutions can be found to meet their needs.• Ensuring that those who do not qualify for public assistance due to their nationality may be helped to apply for UK right to remain status. Many of these cases may well qualify to apply but may need assistance to apply. Personal circumstances are likely to be a factor – many rough sleepers will lack the necessary paperwork.• EU nationals may be unaware they still need to apply.• The number of people who do not qualify for public assistance presently, and the number of those who may qualify if applications are made and those who are likely not to qualify.• Securing accommodation to ensure none of our rough sleepers are made homeless again. How much of the current accommodation will we be able to secure on a longer-term basis and how will we be able to secure alternative or more suitable accommodation where this is necessary.• Maintaining the ongoing support needed to sustain rough sleepers once off the streets when the current funding arrangements end.• The role of night shelters given Covid-19 restrictions.• The likely dramatic increase in homelessness when the current ban on evictions is lifted in August, and, also, as a result of job losses when the current furlough scheme ends.
Cllr Sara Conway	Digital access in estates and across the Borough The pandemic has highlighted that many residents have no digital access, and this has been a particular challenge for those shielding, especially as so much of the guidance and community support information has been and will continue to be delivered online. I ask

	<p>that the Committee consider this issue and ask officers for a report back on how the Council might assist. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • getting an idea of the extent of the digital deficit in the borough • increasing the supply of dongles • what can be done to get all estates online • a faster rollout of fibre optic broadband across the borough • considering best practice models like Community Fibre, to connect communities and community centres
<p>Cllr Kath McGuirk</p>	<p>Town Centres and High Streets</p> <p>I ask that the Committee receive an update on work to help our town centres and high streets recover following the lock-down, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting businesses re-opening with social distance guidance, • boosting cycling provision and ensuring this is properly integrated with parking, • liaison with Barnet FSB and our Town Teams • monitoring business failures as a result of the pandemic
<p>Cllr Ross Houston</p>	<p>Regeneration and housing investment</p> <p>I ask that the Committee consider what opportunities there are for boosting regeneration and housing investment post lockdown.</p> <p>The pandemic has had an impact on the housing market and this may mean a drop in the provision of affordable housing due to housing associations, other providers and developers putting breaks on schemes amid fears that schemes may not be viable.</p> <p>The council could potentially make good investments, help economic recovery and help keep schemes on track.</p> <p>I ask that current regenerations and schemes are reviewed to see where there will be challenges and opportunities.</p> <p>I know some councils are looking at taking on S106 schemes where viability is now an issue.</p> <p>Another opportunity would be to boost the street property acquisition programme and to look at schemes where we could become an investment partner.</p> <p>With pressures from estates like Marsh Drive, a drop in the delivery pipeline affecting affordable supply is really concerning, but it is</p>

	something the Council could mitigate.
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2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 No recommendations have been made. The Committee are therefore requested to give consideration and provide instruction.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 N/A

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Post decision implementation will depend on the decision taken by the Committee.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 As and when issues raised through a Member's Item are progressed, they will need to be evaluated against the Corporate Plan and other relevant policies.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 None in the context of this report.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.3.1 A Member (including Members appointed as substitutes by Council) will be permitted to have one matter only (with no sub-items) on the agenda for a meeting of a committee or Sub-Committee on which s/he serves. The matter must be relevant to the terms of reference of the committee.

- 5.3.2 The referral of a motion from Full Council to a committee will not count as a Member's Item for the purposes of this rule.

5.4 Risk Management

- 5.4.1 None in the context of this report.

5.5 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.5.1 Members' Items allow Members of a Committee to bring a wide range of issues to the attention of a Committee in accordance with the Council's Constitution. All of these issues must be considered for their equalities and diversity implications.

5.6 **Consultation and Engagement**

5.6.1 None in the context of this report.

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 Email received on the 24th June 2020 from the Members.