

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – THURSDAY, 31  
AUGUST 2023**



<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>ESTABLISHMENT OF MOULD AND DAMP IN COUNCIL HOUSING PROPERTY TASK AND FINISH GROUP</b>	
<b>Presented by</b>	Andy Barton Strategic Director	
<b>Background Papers</b>	<a href="#"><u>Minutes of Cabinet – 25 April 2023</u></a>	<b>Public Report:</b> Yes
<b>Financial Implications</b>	There are no financial implications identified at this stage.	
	<b>Signed off by the Section 151 Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Legal Implications</b>	None identified at this stage.	
	<b>Signed off by the Monitoring Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Staffing and Corporate Implications</b>	None identified at this stage.	
	<b>Signed off by the Head of Paid Service:</b> Yes	
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	In response to a member request to ask the Committee to establish a Task and Finish Group comprised of Corporate Scrutiny Members to review the current issues with mould and damp in Council-owned homes and what action the Council is taking.	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>THAT CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1) ESTABLISHES A TASK AND FINISH GROUP TO REVIEW THE CURRENT ISSUES WITH MOULD AND DAMP IN COUCIL OWNED HOMES AND WHAT ACTION THE COUNCIL IS TAKING.</b></li> <li><b>2) AGREES THE PRINCIPLES SET OUT IN THE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP, AS SET OUT IN THE APPENDIX.</b></li> <li><b>3) RECEIVES NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTS TO THE SEATS ON THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF REFERENCE.</b></li> </ol>	

## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 At the meeting of Cabinet on 25 April 2023, several questions were asked in relation to cases of mould and damp within the Council's housing stock. During discussion the Leader of the Council acknowledged the issues and requested that Corporate Scrutiny Committee form a Task and Finish Group to review the matter following the local elections in May 2023.
- 1.2 Officers have consulted with the Member that raised the questions at Cabinet and the Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee to scope the desired outcomes of this Task and Finish Group, resulting in the draft terms of reference attached at the appendix.

## **2.0 PROPOSAL**

- 2.1 It is proposed that a Task and Finish Group undertake a review on the action being taken by the Council in relation to the mould and damp issues in Council-owned homes.
- 2.2 Due to the nature of the matter, it is proposed that work commences as soon as possible so that the review can be completed by the end of October 2023 and then results reported back to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee at its scheduled meeting on 23 November 2023, alongside the Housing Repairs Update Report.
- 2.3 The draft terms of reference of the Task and Finish Group are attached at the appendix and will be formally agreed at the first meeting of the group.
- 2.4 Meetings will be held as required, culminating in a draft report for consideration by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 23 November 2023.

<b>Policies and other considerations, as appropriate</b>	
Council Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local people live in high quality, affordable homes</li> <li>- Our communities are safe, healthy and connected</li> </ul>
Policy Considerations:	None identified as part of this report but will be considered as part of the work of the Task and Finish Group.
Safeguarding:	None identified as part of this report but will be considered as part of the work of the Task and Finish Group.
Equalities/Diversity:	None identified as part of this report but will be considered as part of the work of the Task and Finish Group.
Customer Impact:	None identified as part of this report but will be considered as part of the work of the Task and Finish Group.
Economic and Social Impact:	None identified as part of this report but will be considered as part of the work of the Task and Finish Group.
Environment, Climate Change and zero carbon:	None identified as part of this report but will be considered as part of the work of the Task and Finish Group.
Consultation/Community Engagement:	None identified as part of this report but will be considered as part of the work of the Task and Finish Group.
Risks:	None identified as part of this report but will be considered as part of the work of the Task and Finish Group.
Officer Contact	Andy Barton Strategic Director of Communities <a href="mailto:andy.barton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">andy.barton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a>

## **Mould and Damp in Housing Properties Task and Finish Group**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **What is the role of the Mould and Damp in Housing Properties Task and Finish Group?**

To review the work which the Council is doing in relation to mould and damp in Council owned housing.

#### **What are the Principles of the Review?**

- To look at the issues of damp and mould in Council owned housing;
- To review the issues facing the tenants and the housing service in addressing these; and
- To review the actions being taken by the housing service to address the issues.

#### **What is expected of members of the Mould and Damp in Housing Properties Task and Finish Group?**

Whilst the Task and Finish Group will not be a decision-making body, the group will be asked to:

- Review the information available on the damp and mould issues in Council owned housing.
- Review the actions being taken by the housing service.
- Act as critical friends during key aspects of the report, in relation to the scrutiny function, providing comments and feedback as required.
- Agree a majority consensus for recommendation back to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.

#### **Who has voting rights on the recommendations?**

Only elected Members (or their substitutes) have voting rights.

#### **Members of the Task and Finish Group**

- Alliance – name tbc
- Alliance – name tbc
- Alliance – name tbc
- Labour – name tbc
- Labour – name tbc
- Labour – name tbc

Where any of the above councillors are not able to attend a meeting, they may select a councillor of their choosing to take their place drawn from either of the Scrutiny Committees.

#### **What is expected of officers of the Task and Finish Group?**

- Provide professional advice, as required, throughout the task;
- Ensure effective administration of the group including provision of agendas and minutes;

- Help formulate the views of members into a number of recommendations for consideration by Corporate Scrutiny Committee

#### **Officers of the Task and Finish Group**

- Jane Rochelle, Head of Housing
- Rachel Wallace, Democratic Services Officer
- Other officers/representatives as appropriate or requested

#### **How often will the Group meet?**

- Meetings will be held, as required, culminating in a draft report for consideration by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee at its meeting scheduled for 23 November 2023. They may be face to face and/or virtual.