

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – THURSDAY, 4  
JANUARY 2024**



<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>DAMP AND MOULD TASK AND FINISH GROUP REPORT</b>	
<b>Presented by</b>	Jane Rochelle Head of Housing	
<b>Background Papers</b>	<a href="#"><u>Committee Report creating Mould and Damp Task and Finish Group</u></a>	<b>Public Report:</b> Yes
<b>Financial Implications</b>	There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of the Fuel Poverty Task and Finish Group. However, depending upon how Cabinet plans to implement the recommendations there are likely to be financial considerations. The financial impact would need to be contained within approved budget resources.	
	<b>Signed off by the Section 151 Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Legal Implications</b>	There are no legal implications arising from the report of the Task and Finish Group. There may be legal implications arising from the implementation of any recommendations and advice will be provided as necessary.	
	<b>Signed off by the Monitoring Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Staffing and Corporate Implications</b>	Staffing implications will be considered in the Cabinet response should changes be made to the Housing service or its policies.	
	<b>Signed off by the Head of Paid Service:</b> Yes	
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	Summary Report of Task and Finish Group into Mould and Damp within Council housing stock.	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>THAT THE COMMITTEE:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. NOTES THE WORK OF THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP IN PREPARING THEIR REPORT AND THANK THEM FOR THEIR EFFORTS.</b></li> <li><b>2. AGREES THE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT IT WISHES TO MAKE TO CABINET ON THIS ISSUE SET OUT IN PARAGRAPH 2.1 .</b></li> </ol>	

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Task and Finish Group was established by this Committee at its meeting in September this year, the scope of the group is summarised in the minutes of that meeting which is listed in the background papers above.
- 1.2 The Group consisted of Councillors Bigby, Morley, Horn, Lambeth, Morris and Burke members with Cllr Morley elected as the Chair.
- 1.3 The Group met three times between August and December 2023, and was supported by a team of officers led by the Head of Housing.

## 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP

- 2.1 Attached at Appendix A is the final report of the Task and Finish Group which includes a series of recommendations for the Committee to consider and determine what recommendations to make to Cabinet on the matter. The report is the work of the Task and Finish Group itself in its own words. For ease the recommendations are repeated below:

The Group recommends to Cabinet that:

1. A stand alone policy on damp and mould is produced and agreed as soon as possible
  2. Steps are taken to improve the materials provided to tenants about damp and mould drawing on best practice as outlined in this report
  3. The Council participates in benchmarking of damp and mould cases as soon as such benchmarking is available through Housemark and build the results into our standard reporting arrangements
  4. The Housing Service is instructed to scope a specification to use external contractors to supplement the inhouse workforce capacity to specifically address the damp and mould cases and associated repairs and works and to proceed to procure a preferred contractor.
  5. Cabinet note the outcome of the review and identifies if they want the Task and Finish Group to continue its work on damp and mould in any capacity
- 2.2 Any recommendation made by the Committee will be presented to Cabinet in due course.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	Communities and Housing
Policy Considerations:	Asset Management Plan for Housing
Safeguarding:	None direct – however there are links to safeguarding for vulnerable tenants who may be experiencing any Damp and Mould issues.
Equalities/Diversity:	None direct – however should changes in approach occur and where appropriate an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) will be conducted if deemed necessary.
Customer Impact:	The aim of the Task and Finish work is to improve

	the tenant experience.
Economic and Social Impact:	None direct
Environment, Climate Change and zero carbon:	Addressing mould and damp issues should assist with increasing efficiency in homes and will have an indirect benefit to the Council's carbon and climate ambitions.
Consultation/Community Engagement:	None direct
Risks:	Addressing the Council's regulatory and statutory duties as a landlord are in part influenced by the topics covered by the Task and Finish Group
Officer Contact	Jane Rochelle Head of Housing <a href="mailto:Jane.Rochelle@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">Jane.Rochelle@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a>