

Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission8th April 2019**Item 6 - Findings of Commission investigation into contract management - Discussion with Cabinet Member for Housing Services**

Item No

6**Outline**

During the 2017/18 municipal year the Commission held a number of items relating to the management of contracts by the Council's Housing Services.

Members received a number of updates on the performance and management of one specific major contract - that for Specialist Electrical Works with Morgan Sindall - and held a more general discussion item focusing the benefits, risks and issues with some of Housing Services' larger 'partnering' contracts.

In July 2018 a detailed set of findings from this work were handed over to the Scrutiny Panel. With the Scrutiny Panel planning to contribute to the Council's planned development of a Sustainable Procurement Strategy (understood to include defining an approach to outsourcing and insourcing of services) this was in order that the findings could help inform this.

In addition, the Commission wrote to the Cabinet Member for Housing Services, relaying the findings of its investigation and asking for his attendance at a Commission meeting.

This is in order that he can respond to three issues with specific regards to Housing Services which the work identified. The letter (which is enclosed) set out (in sections 3.1 to 3.3) in detail the findings of the Commission in these areas. It explained that questioning on the evening would be focused on these. The areas are those below:

- Cabinet Member for Housing Services' view around the need to achieve sustainable in house Clerks of Works and Quantity Surveying functions and to ensure their effective deployment, and any plans to support this.
- Resident liaison functions within contracts - any work by Housing Services to enable the in-house delivery of resident liaison functions, within both existing partnering contracts and any future large housing contracts.
- Any update on work to tackle issues around underpricing at tender stage

Action

Members are asked to re-familiarise themselves with the findings of the Commission's investigation into contract management within Housing Services, through reviewing the letter enclosed. This is in particular regard to the findings detailed in sections 3.1 to 3.3.

Members are asked to hear any opening comments from Cllr McKenzie and Officers in attendance, and to then ask questions on the elements detailed in sections 3.1 to 3.3.