

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

CABINET

26 MARCH 2009

REFERENCE FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 10 FEBRUARY 2009

RIGHT TO MANAGE

The Joint Chairs of the Right to Manage Challenge Panel introduced the report, which set out the findings of the Scrutiny Challenge Panel on the Right to Manage in Harrow. The Challenge Panel had been commissioned to investigate a number of concerns expressed by some residents about the Right to Manage process and the conduct of the Independent Tenant Advisor, First Call.

The Joint Chairs thanked all those who had taken part in the Challenge Panel and the support received from the scrutiny officer. They stated that the recommendations reached by the Panel identified a way forward and encouraged the process to re-commence. As the remit of the Panel had been limited, it had been difficult to resolve some of the issues raised and any further work in relation to this matter would impinge on scrutiny's overall work programme. A significant finding of the Panel was the lack of effective communication amongst all parties involved.

Members welcomed the report and felt that this was a prime example of how scrutiny ought to conduct its business. Scrutiny was at its most effective when investigating residents' concerns. It was suggested that the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Sub-Committee receive a progress update in three months' time instead of the proposed six months. A Member of the Challenge Panel moved that a further recommendation highlighting lack of ownership be included in the recommendations, and supported the proposal that the report be submitted to Cabinet.

RESOLVED: That (1) the report and the recommendations of the Scrutiny Challenge Panel on the Right to Manage in Harrow be endorsed;

(2) the following additional recommendation be included in the report of the Right to Manage Challenge Panel: That the Portfolio Holder advocate the need for increased quality assurance via the Housing Corporation or the Council's Adults and Housing Directorate;

(3) the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Sub-Committee monitor progress of the Right to Manage process and receive a progress update in three months' time;

(4) the report be submitted to the Portfolio Holder and Cabinet for information.

FOR INFORMATION

Background Documents:

Report considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 10 February 2009.

Contact Officer:

Daksha Ghelani, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Tel: 020 8424 1881

Email: daksha.ghelani@harrow.gov.uk