

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Date:	5th June 2023
	Cabinet		12th July 2023
Subject:	Task and Finish Group – Damp and Mould in Gloucester’s Rented Accommodation		
Report Of:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
Contact Officer:	Lauren Richards, Democratic and Electoral Services Officer		
	Email	lauren.richards@gloucester.gov.uk	Tel: 39-6735
Appendices:	1. Task and Finish Group – Damp and Mould in Gloucester’s Rented Accommodation		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform Members of the findings and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group on damp and mould in Gloucester’s rented accommodation.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the findings and recommendations of the Task and Finish Group and make any amendments or further recommendations to Cabinet as necessary.
- 2.2 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report be addressed and implemented at the earliest opportunity, and those recommendations requiring more detailed consideration be the subject of a further report to Cabinet as necessary.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 The Task and Finish Group was established by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2023 following the death of a two-year old child living in Manchester, Awaab Ishak, in December 2020 and the publication of the coroner’s report in November 2022 linking Awaab’s death to prolonged exposure to mould in his home.
- 3.2 The Task and Finish Group’s enquiry sought to establish the scale of damp and mould growth in Gloucester’s rented accommodation. Task and Finish Group Members wanted to ascertain how damp and mould issues are dealt with and whether sufficient resolution processes are in place for tenants living in both social housing and private

rented accommodation. The Group wanted to establish what redress options are available to tenants if they are dissatisfied with the response of their landlord after reporting damp and mould in their home, and in considering their recommendations, the Task and Finish Group contemplated whether there is any additional action the City Council could take to assist tenants in this area.

- 3.3 To date, the Task and Finish Group has held 7 meetings from February to May 2023. The scope of their project, summary of their findings and their recommendations are set out in Appendix 1 of this report.

4.0 Social Value Considerations

- 4.1 The Council's commitment to tackling inequalities is one of two key cross cutting themes that run through the Council Plan 2022-24. The Task and Finish Group project identified that low-income households who are living in poor quality housing are disproportionately affected by damp and mould. The recommendations in this report aim to drive behaviour change locally by promoting responsible renting, improve Council online resources so that tenants are able to find information on their rights and recourse options, as well as acknowledging that damp and mould growth is a complex national problem which requires ongoing action from both Local and Central Government.

5.0 Environmental Implications

- 5.1 There are no environmental implications in respect of the recommendations in this report.

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 There are no alternative options.

7.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 7.1 Cabinet is asked to accept and implement the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group as set out in Section 6 of Appendix 1.

8.0 Future Work and Conclusions

- 8.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be monitoring the implementation of any recommendations agreed by Cabinet and will request an update approximately 6 months from the time after which they have been formally accepted.

9.0 Financial Implications

- 9.1 There are no financial implications resulting from the recommendations in this report.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

10.0 Legal Implications

- 10.1 Section 9F (2) (e) of the Local Government Act 2000 provides that a scrutiny committee can make reports or recommendations to the Executive on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of that area.
- 10.2 Section 9FE of the Local Government Act 2000, requires Cabinet to consider the Task and Finish Group report and provide a response to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee setting out what action it proposes to take.
- 10.3 The Task and Finish Group report has informed the recommendations to be made to the Cabinet.
- 10.4 There are no other specific legal implications arising from this report.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

11.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 11.1 There are no risk and opportunity management implications.

12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

- 12.1 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact; therefore a full PIA was not required.

13.0 Community Safety Implications

- 13.1 There are no community implications resulting from the recommendations in the report.

14.0 Staffing & Trade Union Implications

- 14.1 There are no staffing and trade union implications resulting from the recommendations in the report.

Background Documents: None