

Referral To Scrutiny: Impact of Radon Gas on Social Housing Tenants

Date: 20 July 2023

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing & Communities)

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

This report presents details of a referral to scrutiny that falls within the remit of the Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing & Communities).

Cllr Wayne Dixon has requested that members consider a request to schedule detailed future scrutiny of issues relating to the impact of radon gas on the health of social housing tenants.

All referrals are subject to a member-led process of examination and review, in line with the principles set out in the Vision for Scrutiny within [Article 6 of the Council's Constitution](#) and the procedures outlined in sections G&H of the [Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules](#).

Recommendations

- a) The Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing & Communities) is asked to determine what - if any - further scrutiny activity is required in relation to the matter referred.
- b) If further scrutiny is requested by the Board the work programme will be amended accordingly.

What is this report about?

- 1 In accordance with the Council's Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules, any member of a Scrutiny Board may request that the Scrutiny Board of which they are a member considers a matter relevant to that Board's functions. Such requests are generally considered as part of a Scrutiny Board's standard agenda item to review its work programme
- 2 Any referrals that arise from outside of the relevant Scrutiny Board membership are to be dealt with in accordance with sections G and H of the [Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules](#). This is the case for the referral that has been made by Cllr Dixon (as set out in **Appendix 1**).
- 3 An invitation to the Scrutiny Board meeting on 20 July has been extended to Cllr Dixon to make representations as to why it would be appropriate for the Board to exercise its functions in relation to the matter.

Referral Process

- 4 The Scrutiny Board Chair will invite Cllr Dixon to set out his request at the meeting of the Scrutiny Board on 20 July 2023. The Chair will decide how much time will be given to the referrer to address the Scrutiny Board.
- 5 The request submitted by Cllr Dixon is set out at **Appendix 1**.
- 6 Members of the Scrutiny Board will have the opportunity to ask questions of Cllr Dixon, Council Officers and the Executive Member to determine whether or not they wish to schedule detailed scrutiny of this issue at a later date.
- 7 The Scrutiny Board shall then consider whether to exercise its power to review or scrutinise the matter referred and may have regard to:-
 - Any relevant information provided by or representations made by the Referrer as to why it would be appropriate for the Scrutiny Board to exercise any of its powers in relation to the matter;
 - The principles set out within the 'Vision for Leeds at Scrutiny' document as part of [Article 6 of the Council's Constitution](#).
- 8 The Scrutiny Board may wish to consider:
 - If further information is required before considering whether further scrutiny should be undertaken.
 - If the matter links in with the scope of any current / planned scrutiny inquiries.
 - If a similar or related issue is already being examined by Scrutiny or has been considered by Scrutiny recently.
 - If the matter raised is of sufficient significance and has the potential for scrutiny to produce realistic recommendations that could be implemented and lead to tangible improvements.
 - The impact on the Board's current workload.
 - The time available to undertake further scrutiny.
 - The level of resources required to carry out further scrutiny.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 9 The member-led examination of the referral will determine whether further scrutiny is required in relation to the matters outlined.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing Inclusive Growth Zero Carbon

- 10 Issues associated with all three pillars will be discussed as is appropriate within the context of the Board's deliberations.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 11 The Vision for Scrutiny states that the relevant scrutiny board should seek the advice of the Scrutiny Officer, relevant Director(s) and Executive Board member(s) about available resources before agreeing to items of work.
- 12 An invitation has been extended to the relevant officers and Executive Board Member to contribute to the Board's initial discussion about the referral.

What are the resource implications?

- 13 Should there be a request for further scrutiny the Board is advised to consider any potential impact on its current work programme, including the level of resources required to support additional work items.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 14 This report has no specific risk management implications.

What are the legal implications?

- 15 This report has no specific legal implications.
- 16 However, in reaching its conclusions the Board is asked to take into account any specific risks identified during the review of the referral.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 17 In line with the requirements of the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules, members of the Board are asked only to determine whether further scrutiny is required in relation to the issues outlined in the referral.

How will success be measured?

- 18 Officers will support the member-led examination of the referral in line with procedural guidance to help ensure a successful conclusion of the process.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

- 19 Should there be requests for further scrutiny the Board's work programme will be amended accordingly.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Cllr Dixon Referral to Scrutiny

Background papers

- None