Housing Sub-Committee
2 November 2017

Kingston Residents Scrutiny Panel Annual Review and Value for Money Report
Report by the Deputy Chief Executive

Call-in deadline Thursday 16 November 2017 (ten working days after the meeting)

**Purpose:**
To consider the Annual Review & Value for Money (VfM) Report for the Kingston Residents Scrutiny Panel (KRiSP)

**Recommendation of the Portfolio Holder for Adults Social Care and Health:**
To resolve that the annual appraisal report is noted and welcomed (attached at Annex 1).

**Key Points**

A. The annual appraisal of KRiSP includes an assessment of the effectiveness of the Chair, Vice Chair and the membership of the group, as well as the group’s overall effectiveness, in terms of suitability, function, operation and sustainability, in addition to a Value for Money (VfM) assessment.

B. It was originally intended that KRiSP would carry out up to three scrutiny investigations annually, each to be operationally and strategically focused in making recommendations to improve service delivery and highlight performance that exceeds expectations, but low membership numbers have precluded this higher level of activity, not least due to the depth and detailed nature of the investigations.

C. KRiSP’s total numerical membership is less than half that originally envisaged and further recruitment needs to be undertaken.

D. The original terms of reference (ToR) were first amended in 2015, but changes to the policy and operational environment in which KRiSP functions require that further refinement be made.

**Context**

1. KRiSP was set up in 2013, as part of the Council’s commitment to co-regulation, to investigate RBK Housing Service delivery, against RBK’s own housing standards and industry best practise, making recommendations for improvements to benefit residents and the Council.

2. The initial proposals for Kingston Council’s resident scrutiny were considered and approved by the Housing Consultative Committee (HCC) in April 2013, following work in conjunction with the Kingston Residents’ Federation. Following a subsequent report to the Place and Sustainability Committee (PSC) on 23 May 2013 the proposal was agreed by the HCC on 05 September 2013, with final proposals for adoption of the KRiSP model approved and adopted at the PSC on 19 September 2013.

3. The budget to develop and establish KRiSP was originally set at £60K with an annual budget estimated at £55K, but actual expenditure in the last financial year (2016/17) was less than £10K, with the annual budget for KRiSP now set at £20K.
4. It was originally intended that up to three scrutiny investigations would be undertaken annually by KRiSP, each to be operationally and strategically focused in making recommendations to improve service delivery and highlight performance exceeding expectations.

5. As originally constituted KRiSP comprised 20 members, in order to support an extensive and intensive workload.

6. As established the then Housing Management Team was responsible for monitoring implementation plans arising from KRiSP’s recommendations and reporting progress back to KRiSP, the Resident Participation Review Group (RPRG) and the HCC on a six monthly basis.

7. Given the current changes to the housing landscape nationally, regionally and locally and the challenges that KRiSP has faced in complying with its original terms of reference, it is now recommended that a review of KRiSP’s ToR takes place to ensure KRiSP’s continued relevance for all Council residents in the borough and for its continued effective operation.

Resource Implications

8. The implementation of the annual appraisal report’s recommendations (as set out on page 1 of Annex 1) will not result in additional resources being required.

Legal Implications

9. None arising from the specific recommendations of the report.

Risk

10. None arising from the specific recommendations of the report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

11. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken. There are no Equalities implications arising from the specific recommendations of the report.

Environmental Implications

12. Not arising from the specific recommendations of the report.

Background papers - held by the author of the report - Robert Johnson Service Manager Policy, Service Development & Partnerships Tel: 020 8547 5816
robert.johnson@kingston.gov.uk