

## **Annual Report: Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 2023**

In 2023, the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee experienced a significant influx of new Councillors, bringing with them a diverse array of skillsets and personalities. This fresh injection of perspectives has proven immensely beneficial to the scrutiny process, fostering dynamic discussions and innovative approaches to addressing housing challenges within our community.

Throughout the year, our committee delved into a multitude of critical topics, guided by the overarching goal of ensuring the well-being and satisfaction of our residents. From reviewing housing policies to examining the implementation of initiatives aimed at tackling homelessness, each discussion was marked by a commitment to thorough analysis and constructive dialogue. From the intricacies of housing allocations to the efficacy of tenant engagement strategies, every facet of housing provision and management received meticulous attention.

Our meetings served as forums for collaboration and exchange, where members drew upon their respective expertise to challenge assumptions and propose solutions. The dedication displayed by each member of the committee underscored our collective commitment to serving the best interests of the community. The brilliance of our officers shone brightly, providing invaluable support and expertise to facilitate our deliberations. Their tireless dedication and unwavering professionalism ensured that our committee remained well-informed and equipped to make informed decisions.

Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to advancing the interests of our community and upholding the highest standards of accountability and transparency in housing governance. There will be challenges ahead, but with our collective expertise, passion, and dedication, we are confident in our ability to navigate them successfully.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of 2023 and chart our course for the future, let us continue to embrace diversity, collaboration, and innovation in our pursuit of a housing landscape that is equitable, inclusive, and thriving for all.

It has been a privilege to be Chairwoman of this committee. I would like to thank my Vice-Chairwoman, Cllr Michela Capozzi, the whole Committee, Portfolio Holders Cllr Sheron Wilkie, Cllr Simy Dhyani and Cllr Carole Weston, and all Officers for their dedication to Dacorum this past year. Thank you to Kayley Johnston for her attention to detail which ensures the minutes are accurate, and for assisting me as a new chair who sometimes needs some support in what I am doing.

**Councillor Sammy Barry-Mears Chairwoman, Housing & Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee April 2024**