7 May 2025

The Council is pleased to announce that it has been able to settle a long-running piece of litigation brought by Nick Martin-Clark.

That litigation related to a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for a draft report produced by the Residents' Scrutiny Panel in 2014, summarising the result of an investigation into the Haringey Leaseholders Association (the **RSP Report** and the **HLA** respectively). Mr Martin-Clark was, and remains, a committee member of the HLA.

The Council notes from the papers in this litigation that: (1) whilst the 'Scope of audit' document listed as an output "*The Board requires a detailed confidential report outlining comprehensively the findings of the investigation along with recommendations*" (2) a subsequent response to a Freedom of Information request in December 2014 stated that "*the Chair of the Board said that he did not want the RSP to make strategic level recommendations in its report to the Board as it was up to the Board to draw its own conclusions from the summary of evidence the RSP reported*" and that the final report was "*sent to the Board and published without the recommendations".*

At the time that the RSP Report was produced, it was necessary for leaseholder groups such as the HLA to be formally recognised in order to actively participate in leaseholder engagement and formally represent leaseholders within the London Borough of Haringey (**the Borough**). The HLA was de-recognised following production of the RSP Report in 2014. Sue Brown was the Chair of the HLA at the time and Mr Martin Clark was a committee member of the HLA. Since that date, the HLA has been re-recognised. On 5 August 2016 Homes for Haringey published a statement confirming that: "*Homes for Haringey acknowledges that Haringey Leaseholders Association has properly accounted for all the public money it has received from Homes for Haringey*[1]". As part of the settlement between the parties in the present matter the Council agrees not to place any future reliance on the Report. The Council is committed to continue working with the HLA, taking account of their views and contributions on leaseholder issues, as part of the wider engagement of all leaseholders and in accordance with the applicable code(s) of conduct.

Much has changed more broadly since 2014. On 1st June 2022, housing services previously provided by Homes for Haringey returned to be delivered directly by the Council. The Council, following consultation with residents and leaseholders which included the HLA, established a new Engagement Structure and Framework. The HLA continues to be recognised as an important borough wide group which is included in consultations with regard to issues pertaining to Leaseholders and which receives some funding from the Council as part of that recognition. The Council recognises the longstanding commitment of the HLA to such issues.

As such, the Council's position is that matters relating to the RSP Report and the derecognition of the HLA some 10 years ago are no longer relevant to current matters of resident engagement in the Borough. The Report will not be disclosed and Mr Martin-Clark no longer seeks a copy of the

Report. The Council has always taken, and continues to take, resident and leaseholder engagement seriously, and considers this to be an important part of the current framework within which it considers and understands the views of its residents. It recognises the importance of leaseholder engagement and continuing to strive for best practice in this regard.

Further and in addition, Council Officers have attended, at the invitation of the HLA, the HLA Annual General Meeting in order to further share and discuss the new engagement structures.

As a public authority, the Council understands the need for such frameworks to be properly understood by all those involved and the need for all those involved in community and resident engagement to act properly and reasonably in the application and interpretation of those frameworks.

Further information on the Council's engagement strategy can be found here https://new.haringey.gov.uk/housing/housing-resident-engagement