

Cllr Hamida Ali
Leader
Croydon Council
Town Hall
Katharine St
Croydon CR0 1NX

13 March 2022

Dear Hamida

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT HOUSING IMPROVEMENT BOARD

I enclose the first report of the housing improvement board, which we are providing to inform the Cabinet's decision on the paper the Housing Improvement Plan, which you will be discussing at your meeting on 21 March.

In summary:

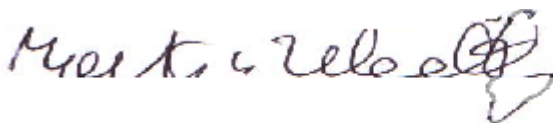
- We **support** recommendations I, II, and III
- We **support** recommendation IV, but **reluctantly and ask you to add a rider to your approval** that a further version of the Plan be prepared for approval by the new Administration, taking account of the suggestions on page 3 of our paper.
- We **disagree** with recommendation V. Improvement of the housing service is a vital **corporate** priority, and ownership of the Plan after the election should rest with the Mayor and Cabinet.

The council's political and officer leadership has commendably accepted the need for radical change and stated its determination to bring it about. However, our view is that far more could and should have been done in the year since the ITV News pieces to address the unacceptable conditions in which some tenants have been living in Regina Road and elsewhere, both to take the first steps to improve the service, and to produce a strong plan to bring the service up to a good standard over the next few years. My colleagues and I would need to see clearer, visible, evidence of change in the experience of tenants, and a much-strengthened plan, to have greater confidence that the council's correct analysis and intentions will lead to the very substantial improvements needed.

I would like to thank my fellow board members for their insight and hard work over the last four months; all councillors, tenants and other members of the public who have shared their views with us; and council officers, especially David Padfield, Velvet Dibley, Yvonne Aryeetey, and the tenant involvement team, for their assistance in our work.

This letter and the accompanying paper will be placed on the board's web page, and I am copying it to all members of the Cabinet and Shadow Cabinet, and to Tony McCardle (Improvement and Assurance Panel).

Yours sincerely



Martin Wheatley
Chair, Independent Housing Improvement Board