The Enfield Context

London boroughs estimate that one in 50 Londoners and one in 23 children are homeless and living in temporary accommodation. London Councils’ analysis shows that boroughs are expected to spend over £900m in total on homelessness in 2024-25 – an overspend of at least £330m (or 60%) and an increase of over 40% compared to 2023-24.

We know that Enfield faces some of the most acute housing challenges in London as a borough with significant pockets of deprivation, rapidly rising rents, and a shortage of genuinely affordable homes this position was exasperated at the end of 2022 when the availability of private rented accommodation began to plumet, and Enfield experienced the highest number of no-fault evictions in London.

23.48 households in every 1,000 in Enfield are in temporary accommodation; the average for Greater London is 18.34.The increase in homelessness and the ability to secure affordable accommodation in London has led to a crisis and over the last two years substantial use of hotel accommodation that the Borough is only now exiting.

Whilst housing needs registers do not represent true need, a recent news article showed data compiled by the National Housing Federation, Crisis and Shelter, claiming it would take 105.3 years to house all those residents on the register who had a three-bed need.

Analysis by the Institute of Fiscal Studies undertaken in 2023 showed that Enfield is the seventh most underfunded authority in the country. Budget pressures, partly driven by the rising cost of temporary accommodation and children’s social care are being addressed.  The net overspend of over £21m in 2024/25 has been reduced to £14m in 2025/26 and is reliant on a significant programme of work and further initiatives will be required to bear down on this cost over the next five years.

As of March 2025, there were 3125 households in temporary accommodation; 1155 of these have been in TA for over five years, and 330 for more than 10 years; and while the approval of exceptional financial support from government to allow the council to use capital receipts for revenue over the short term the new director will need to continue to explore more innovative long-term solutions to achieve a sustained impact.