

---

**SCRUTINY INQUIRY PANEL - HOW DO WE GET A BETTER DEAL FOR PRIVATE  
SECTOR RENTERS IN SOUTHAMPTON?**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 APRIL 2024**

---

**Present:** Councillors McEwing, Every, Windle and Blackman

**Apologies:** Councillors Powell-Vaughan

13. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)**

Apologies were received from Councillor Powell-Vaughan.

14. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

15. **HOW DO WE GET A BETTER DEAL FOR PRIVATE SECTOR RENTERS IN  
SOUTHAMPTON? - INQUIRY DRAFT FINAL REPORT**

Mark Pirnie, Scrutiny Manager, Southampton City Council presented his draft report. The contributors to the Inquiry and members of the Panel had been sent a copy prior to its publication.

The Panel, with the consent of the Chair, received comments from representatives of landlords, tenants and the expert advisors.

**RESOLVED** following a Panel discussion that the final version of the draft report was agreed subject to the following changes:

- Recommendation 3 - That Southampton City Council develops and embeds a range of creative solutions, including the Call B4 You Serve initiative, to work with landlords and tenants in the private rented sector, at the earliest opportunity, to prevent homelessness.
- Recommendation 4 - Commission a private sector housing conditions survey. This is vitally important in developing a scientific basis for understanding housing conditions and targeting enforcement action in a proactive and structured fashion.

Authority is granted to the Scrutiny Manager to amend the final report following consultation with the Chair of the Panel.