

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET		
SUBJECT:	SCRUTINY PANEL A: MAINTAINING BALANCED NEIGHBOURHOODS THROUGH PLANNING INQUIRY – FINAL REPORT		
DATE OF DECISION:	17 JUNE 2014		
REPORT OF:	CHAIR OF SCRUTINY PANEL A		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None

BRIEF SUMMARY

From November 2013 to May 2014 Scrutiny Panel A undertook an inquiry examining the contribution planning can make to maintaining balanced neighbourhoods and the quality of life for their residents. The Scrutiny Inquiry report contains a number of recommendations which have been highlighted in Appendix 2. Subject to the final report, attached as Appendix 1, being agreed at the meeting of the OSMC on 12th June 2014, the Cabinet needs to formally respond to these recommendations within two months to meet the requirements in the Council's constitution.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) Subject to the report attached as Appendix 1 being agreed at the meeting of the OSMC on 12th June 2014, Cabinet is recommended to receive the attached Scrutiny Panel A report to enable the Executive to formulate its response to the recommendations contained within it, in order to comply with the requirements set out in the Council's Constitution.

REASON FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The overview and scrutiny procedure rules in part 4 of the Council's Constitution requires the Executive to consider all inquiry reports that have been endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, and to submit a formal response to the recommendations contained within them within two months of their receipt..

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. None.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3. On 12th September 2013 the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee agreed the indicative terms of reference for an Inquiry examining the contribution planning can make to maintaining balanced neighbourhoods. The set objectives of the Inquiry were:
 - To review how effectively the City Council's Article 4 and HMOs

Supplementary Planning Document is working

- To increase understanding of the various Government proposals to relax permitted development rights, including those relating to extensions and office to residential conversions, and to consider if a local response should be developed
 - To consider the Council's approach to planning enforcement.
4. The Inquiry was undertaken by Scrutiny Panel A with information presented to 6 meetings from November 2013 to May 2014.
 5. The final report contains 21 recommendations in total, summarised in Appendix 2, which if implemented the Panel believe will help to maintain balanced communities in Southampton.
 6. The recommendations are grouped under the following key themes:
 - Houses in Multiple Occupation
 - Planning Enforcement
 - Permitted Development Rights
 - Community Led Planning
 7. A final report of the Inquiry is attached as Appendix 1. The report will not be considered by the OSMC until 12th June 2014, after the deadline for publication of Cabinet papers, therefore any amendments made by the OSMC will be reported to the Executive verbally at the Cabinet meeting.
 8. The Executive needs to consider the Inquiry recommendations and to formally respond within two months of the date of receiving this report in order to meet the requirements set out in the Council's constitution.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

9. In practice any future resource implications arising from this review will be dependent upon whether, and how, each of the individual recommendations within the Inquiry report are progressed by the Executive. More detailed work will need to be undertaken by the Executive in considering its response to each of the recommendations set out in the Inquiry report.

Property/Other

10. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

11. The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Other Legal Implications:

12. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

13. The proposals contained within the appended report are in accordance with the Council's Policy Framework.

KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None directly as a result of this report
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Final Report – Scrutiny Panel A Inquiry
2.	Summary of Recommendations

Documents In Members’ Rooms

1.	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	No
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Other Background Documents Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
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1.	None	
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