

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
SUBJECT:	SCRUTINY INQUIRY PANEL - HOW DO WE GET A BETTER DEAL FOR PRIVATE SECTOR RENTERS IN SOUTHAMPTON?
DATE OF DECISION:	26 th NOVEMBER 2024
REPORT OF:	COUNCILLOR ANDY FRAMPTON CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING OPERATIONS

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
NOT APPLICABLE	
BRIEF SUMMARY	
This report sets out the Executive’s responses to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel into a better deal for private sector renters in Southampton	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
(i)	That the Cabinet approves the responses detailed in Appendix 1 for submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	
1.	The Council constitution provides that the Executive should respond to Scrutiny inquiry recommendations.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
2.	None.
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
3.	In 2023/24 a Scrutiny Inquiry Panel was formed to identify opportunities to improve outcomes for private sector renters in Southampton.
4.	The objectives of the Inquiry were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. To identify the challenges and concerns of private sector renters in Southampton. b. To understand existing plans and opportunities to address the identified challenges.

	<p>c. To identify good practice being employed to get a better deal for private sector renters in the UK and beyond.</p> <p>d. To identify what initiatives and approaches could work well in Southampton to improve outcomes for private sector renters.</p>
5.	<p>The Scrutiny Inquiry Panel made 10 recommendations to improve the conditions and standards for private sector renters in Southampton through effective enforcement, grouped in the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To help target enforcement action and facilitate the future use of available enforcement tool • To implement the pyramid of responsive regulation approach • To provide transparency to the Council's approach, utilise available expertise, and demonstrate political commitment
6.	<p>The Executive's response to each of these recommendations is detailed in Appendix 1.</p>
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
7.	<p>Where required, the financial implications have been considered in the relevant responses in Appendix 1. The costs associated with measures identified in the responses, for which the Council would be responsible, will generally be met from existing budgets. Possible options for funding the housing condition survey are currently being explored as part of the current business planning process.</p>
<u>Property/Other</u>	
8.	<p>None.</p>
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
9.	<p>The powers to undertake scrutiny inquiries are set out in the Local Government Act 2000 and the Health and Social Care Act 2001.</p>
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
10.	<p>None.</p>
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
11.	<p>None.</p>

KEY DECISION?	Yes
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Appendix 1: Response to scrutiny inquiry recommendations.
Documents In Members' Rooms	
1.	None.

Equality Impact Assessment		
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.		No
Data Protection Impact Assessment		
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.		No
Other Background Documents		
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)	
1.	None.	