

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee: Holding the Executive to Account

Scrutiny Monitoring – 12 December 2024

| Date | Portfolio | Title | Action proposed | Action Taken | Progress Status |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| 21/11/24 | Housing Operations | Housing Strategy – New and better homes for all | 1) That, reflecting the limited value being garnered by the current version, the next iteration of the Council’s Housing Strategy is developed and published as soon as resources allow. | New officer corporate group established. Detailed timetable in preparation for draft new strategy Q1 25/26 and formal decision Q2 25/26. | Started Nov 24 |
| | | | Response to the Private Rented Sector Scrutiny Inquiry | | |
| | | | 1) That Cabinet review the Council’s ambition, objectives and approach to the private rented sector, and draws on good practice elsewhere to fundamentally improve outcomes for tenants in the city. | Recommendation supported at Cabinet on 26/11/24. Currently reviewing good practice across other LAs in regards licensing schemes and wider private sector housing enforcement. Awaiting new guidance following anticipated launch of new Renters Reform Bill in Spring 2025. The Councils ambition, objectives and approach to the private rented sector will be included within the new housing strategy, which is currently under development. | Started Nov 24 |
| | | | 2) That, in recognition of its importance with regards to targeting future activity, Cabinet explores all available opportunities to fund and procure a stock condition survey as soon as possible. | Recommendation supported at Cabinet on 26/11/24. Cabinet will explore all available opportunities for funding a stock condition survey, discussions are currently underway to secure funding to enable this work in 2025/26. | Started Nov 24. End Feb 25 (Budget setting) |
| 3) That Cabinet commits to the target of delivering 8,000 additional affordable homes | Recommendation supported at Cabinet on 26/11/24. | | | | |

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| | | | in Southampton by 2040 as outlined by the Council following the approval of the first Affordable Housing Framework sites in December 2022. | | |
| | | | 4) That the Executive contact the University of Southampton and Southampton Tenants Union to explore their willingness to be involved in developing and updating a database of market rent levels for Southampton. | Recommendation supported at Cabinet on 26/11/24. | |
| | | | Additional Licensing Scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation | | |
| | | | 1) That, whilst recognising that there is a formal process to follow to adopt a new Additional HMO licensing scheme, if this scheme is approved the Council reviews the fee structure, including discounts available, to support the improvement of housing conditions and the management of HMOs in Southampton. | Recommendation supported at Cabinet on 26/11/24. A wide scale review of all fees and their calculations has now begun. A benchmarking exercise will also be undertaken to review fees and how they align with other LAs. This work is scheduled for completion in Feb 2025 to inform the new fee structure for any new HMO licensing scheme. | Started Dec 24. End Feb 2025 |