



**NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**25 JULY 2013**

**BRIEFING NOTE:**

**SCRUTINY PANEL 2 – MANAGEMENT AND REGULATION OF PRIVATE  
SECTOR HOUSING (INCLUDING HIMOs)**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned Scrutiny Panel 2 to undertake a review regarding the management and regulation of private sector housing (including HIMOs), the rationale being “To investigate the regulation and management of private lettings.”
- 1.2 At the first meeting of the Scrutiny Panel, Councillors agreed the scope of the review; a copy is attached at Appendix A, for the Committee’s approval.
- 1.3 The Scrutiny Panel agreed that the purpose of the Review should be updated to read “To investigate the regulation and management of private lettings, both by landlords and agencies”.
- 1.4 Membership of the Scrutiny Panel comprises Councillor Joy Capstick (Chair); Councillors Sally Beardsworth, Mick Ford, Lee Mason, Beverley Mennell, Brian Sargeant and Danielle Stone. It was proposed by the Chair and agreed by the Panel that a Vice Chair be elected. It was agreed that Councillor Sally Beardsworth be elected Vice Chair of this Scrutiny Panel.

**2 UPDATE**

- 2.1 In discussing the rationale for the review, the Scrutiny Panel felt that the required outcomes should be:
  - To agree the priorities for private sector housing towards achieving high quality, affordable private sector lettings
  - To ensure that private lettings make a positive contribution to neighbourhoods
  - To consider the options for licensing and make recommendations to Cabinet
  - To consider the legislative options available to the Council and make recommendations to Cabinet

- To produce a best practice guide for Northampton's private sector landlords

2.2 The schedule of meetings comprises:-

July 2013 to April 2014

- 8 July 2013 - Scoping meeting
- 18 September - Evidence gathering
- 17 October - Evidence gathering
- 4 December - Evidence gathering
- 23 January 2014 - Evidence gathering
- 13 February - Evidence gathering
- 30 April - Approval of the final report

2.3 It became apparent at the inaugural meeting that the scheduled date of 18 September is not convenient to all members of the Panel. An alternative date will be programmed into the schedule.

2.4 Meetings of the Scrutiny Panel will commence at 6.00 pm and will be held in the Jeffery Room, at the Guildhall.

2.5 Various site visits will be programmed into the schedule.

2.6 In accordance with the Scrutiny Panel Protocol, the Chair of this Scrutiny Panel will provide written progress reports to future meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information.

### 3 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That the purpose of the Review is updated to read "To investigate the regulation and management of private lettings, both by landlords and agencies".

3.2 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approves the scope of Scrutiny Panel 2 – Management and Regulation of Private Sector Housing (Including HIMOs) as attached at Appendix A.

Author: Tracy Tiff, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Joy Capstick, Chair, Scrutiny Panel 2 – Management and Regulation of Private Sector Housing (Including HIMOs)

9 July 2013