

**Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy &  
Scrutiny Committee (Pre-Decision Calling – In)**

**9 May 2016**

Report of the Assistant Director, Governance and ICT

**Called-in Item Pre-Decision: Private Sector Housing Strategy**

**Summary**

1. This report presents an update on the work to revise the Private Sector Housing Strategy to enable Members to consider the reasons for the call-in and provide feedback to inform this ongoing work.
2. The report sets out brief background to the issue called-in and the role of and options available to this Committee, under the agreed pre-decision call-in arrangements.

**Background**

3. At its meeting in August 2015, the Executive agreed some operational guidelines for enabling and supporting a pre-decision call-in process. This supplements the pre-existing arrangements for post-decision call in and is intended to provide all backbench and scrutiny Members with opportunities to comment upon relevant upcoming Executive or Executive Member decisions.
4. In accordance with the arrangements for pre-decision scrutiny call-in, three Members (Councillors Boyce Barnes (N) and Flinders) have called in the intended decision in relation to the Private Sector Housing Strategy, for the following reason:
  - (i) To provide input on addressing the efficacy of the current voluntary accreditation scheme;
  - (ii) To establish ways in which the council can improve on a lack of available data on the quality of private sector housing stock;
  - (iii) To consider how the strategy ties in with the planning system.

## **Consultation**

5. In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, the calling-in Members have been invited to attend and/or speak at the Call-In meeting, as appropriate, together with the appropriate Executive member and officers.

## **Options**

6. In relation to dealing with this pre decision call-in, in accordance with the new agreed arrangements Members may choose to provide feedback to officers to inform their ongoing work on the draft strategy ahead of it being presented to the Executive in July 2016.

## **Analysis**

7. Members need to consider the reasons for call-in and any comments made at the meeting by speakers, as well as have regard to the information in the officer's report to the Executive on this matter.

## **Council Plan**

8. There are no direct implications for this call-in in relation to the delivery of the Council Plan and its priorities for 2015-19.

## **Implications**

9. There are no known Financial, HR, Legal, Property, Equalities, or Crime and Disorder implications in relation to the following in terms of dealing with the specific matter before Members; namely, to consider and handle the pre decision call-in. However, if it became clear to the Committee from information received that there were implications associated with any comments/recommendations it wished to make then it would be appropriate for the Committee to also recommend that any such implications be looked into, prior to the Executive making a decision which might be affected by those implications.

## **Risk Management**

10. There are no direct risk management implications associated with considering the call in of this matter. However, the Committee would be advised to invite the Executive to take account of any risks associated with any comments/recommendations which the Committee may wish to make on the matter in hand, prior to implementing any decision.

## Recommendations:

11. Having considered the reasons for call-in, Members are asked to note and comment upon the draft strategy and action plan which has taken into account:
- (i) The new evidence base for the private sector housing stock from the Building Research Establishment (BRE) and
  - (ii) The recent government consultation on extending Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) licensing, the response to the consultation and the proposed approach towards future HMO Licensing and the review of the city-wide accreditation scheme.

**Reason:** To provide scrutiny's views on the ongoing work to revise the Private Sector Housing Strategy.

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### Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

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Assistant Director, Governance and ICT

Report  
Approved



Date 28 April 2016

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** None

**Wards Affected:**

All



**For further information please contact the author of the report**

## Annexes

Appendix 1 – Private Sector Housing Strategy Report