

Inquiry into Private Rented Sector Housing

Report published April 2012

Last update September 2014

	Recommendation	Stage	Complete
2 (ii)	That as part of the drive to recruit and retain landlords to the Leeds Landlord Accreditation Scheme, the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods works closely with the Housing Regulation Team, Locality Managers and the Chair of the Residential Landlords Association to explore the development of local landlord forums, particularly within identified ‘hot spot’ areas of the city, to share ideas on how to address their needs.		
	<p><u>March 2015 update</u></p> <p>With the commencement of the Leeds Neighbourhood Approach in Holbeck it was agreed to set up a local landlords’ forum for the area. The aim of the forum was to engage with the local private rented sector property owners to develop closer working. This will now allow the service to work with the better landlords who want to engage and work with us and partners, allowing resources to be targeted at those who continue to cause issues for the community. The initial meeting took place at St Matthew’s Community Centre on the evening of 4th March. Attendees included Cllr Gruen, Ward Councillors, Keepmoat, public sector housing partners and local landlords.</p> <p>The proposal to operate more local landlord forums has also seen additional discussions amongst those key parties with an interest in the Burley Ward, including Ward Members, and it is anticipated that a “pilot” landlord forum can be organised and a scheme implemented to address topical local issues in this Ward shortly. It is hoped that these pilot forums will form a basis that can be rolled out across other hot spot areas of the city to better address local community and environmental issues.</p> <p>In addition, officers have recently attended meetings with DCLG and other partners to discuss the possibility of a national rental standard. This could take the form of self-regulation and increased use of accreditation with the better landlords thus allowing local authorities to better target their resources on the lower end of the market. Following this, meetings have been set up for early March with both the National Landlords Association (NLA) and the Residential Landlords Association (RLA) and Unipol to determine a possible way forward for such a local scheme to operate in Leeds.</p> <p><i><u>Formal response July 2012</u></i> <i>Work on models of engagement are currently being developed for working more closely with landlords on an area basis. These will be developed based on previous schemes in Beeston Hill and Holbeck and for selective licensing in Cross Green. It is proposed to develop these forums when an area is targeted as part of the proposed new way of working, once resources are identified.</i></p> <p><i><u>October 2013 update</u></i> <i>Officers are working with a National Landlords Association in the Nowells to develop free help and advice. They are looking to have a forum for local landlords and are offering free associate membership of the association to any landlord.</i></p>	2 (Achieved)	

	<p><u>September 2014 update</u></p> <p><i>Following constructive discussions with RLAAS Ltd who operate LCC's accreditation scheme it has been agreed that they will take a lead on creating and running local forums, It is proposed to undertake a pilot forum linked to the LNA work. It is proposed to work up the details to implement a pilot forum linked to the next target area in Holbeck.</i></p> <p><i>This will also involve discussions with local managing agents to determine how they can be involved in this process.</i></p>		
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