

**Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development**

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Safer and Stronger Communities)**

**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

**Subject: Forthcoming Scrutiny Inquiries - Draft Terms of Reference**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary of main issues**

1. The Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board has identified Private Rented Sector Housing and Fuel Poverty as key areas to undertake inquiries this municipal year. This report presents the draft terms of reference for these two inquiries.
2. The Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules Guidance Notes require that, before embarking on an Inquiry, the Board seeks and considers the views of the relevant Director and Executive Member. These views will need to be taken into account in finalising the terms of reference for both inquiries.

**Recommendations**

3. Members are asked to agree the terms of reference for its forthcoming Scrutiny Inquiries into Private Rented Sector Housing and Fuel Poverty.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report presents the draft terms of reference in relation to the Scrutiny Board's forthcoming Inquiries into Private Rented Sector Housing and Fuel Poverty.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 The Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board identified Private Rented Sector Housing and Fuel Poverty as key areas to undertake inquiries this municipal year. Working group meetings were held during August with key officers to consider the potential scope of these Inquiries, with a view to bringing draft terms of reference back to this meeting.

## **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 Draft terms of reference for the Board's forthcoming Inquiries into Private Rented Sector Housing and Fuel Poverty are attached for Members' consideration and approval.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1.1 The Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules Guidance Notes require that, before embarking on an inquiry, the Board seeks and considers the views of the relevant Director and Executive Member. These views will need to be taken into account in finalising the terms of reference for both Inquiries.
- 4.1.2 Any comments received on the draft terms of reference will be reported to the Board at the meeting.

### **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

- 4.2.1 Where consideration has been given to the impact on equality areas, as defined in the Council's Equality and Diversity Scheme, this will be referenced within the draft terms of reference.

### **4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities**

- 4.3.1 Relevance to Council Policies and City Priorities will be detailed within the draft terms of reference.

### **4.4 Resources and Value for Money**

- 4.4.1 Details of any significant resource and financial implications will be referenced within the draft terms of reference.

### **4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

- 4.5.1 This report does not contain any exempt or confidential information.

### **4.6 Risk Management**

- 4.6.1 This section is not relevant to this report.

## **5 Conclusions**

- 5.1 Terms of reference for the Scrutiny Board's forthcoming Inquiries into Private Rented Sector Housing and Fuel Poverty have been drafted and are attached for Members' consideration and approval.

## **6 Recommendations**

- 6.1 Members are asked to agree the terms of reference for its forthcoming Scrutiny Inquiries into Private Rented Sector Housing and Fuel Poverty.

## **7 Background documents**

- 7.1 None used.