



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods)

Date: 9th February 2009

Subject: Inquiry into Private Rented Sector Housing

Electoral Wards Affected: All

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of today's meeting is to consider evidence in line with session two of the Board's Inquiry. This session focuses on the following areas:

- The Leeds Landlord Accreditation Scheme and the incentives to accreditation;
- The views and experiences of private landlords and tenants;
- Common perceptions of the different housing tenures and the impact this has on private rented sector housing;
- The Council's role in promoting private rented sector property and offering advice to prospective tenants;
- The impact of the Local Housing Assessment (housing benefit) on private rented sector housing;
- The role of the Council in offering advice and support to private landlords about the various options available to them to enable their properties to be re-occupied.

1.2 A working group of the Board met on 19th January 2009 to consider most of the evidence in line with the above. However, it was agreed that a further working group meeting would be arranged in February to continue the consideration of evidence in line with session two.

1.3 A summary report of the working group's discussions (appendix 1) will follow and be made available prior to the meeting for the Board's consideration.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is asked to note the summary report of the working group in line with session two of its inquiry into Private Rented Sector Housing.

Background Papers

None