

**REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

---

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	28 February 2012
<b>Subject:</b>	Project scope - Private rented sector housing review
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Alex Dewsnap Divisional Director, Partnership Development and Performance
<b>Scrutiny Lead Member area:</b>	Cllr Sue Anderson and Cllr Stephen Wright, Sustainable Development and Enterprise
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Enclosures:</b>	<i>Scope for Private Rented Sector review</i>

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

This report outlines the proposed scope for the Private Rented Sector review.

**Recommendations:**

The Committee is requested to:

- Consider and agree the scope for the review.

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Background**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed, at its meeting held on 24 November 2011, to include a review of the private rented sector in the work programme for scrutiny.

This decision was driven by concerns about the capacity of private sector housing provision and the council's relationship with providers, particularly in the context of changing Government policy. These changes will see homeless households no longer being able to refuse offers of private sector accommodation as well as ceilings on the amount of Housing Benefit which can be paid to tenants.

The review group met on 14 February 2012 and agreed the attached scope. Members agreed that Councillor Marilyn Ashton should chair the review. The Committee is requested to accept the scope of the review.

### **Financial Implications**

The costs of delivering this project will be met from within existing resources.

### **Performance Issues**

There are no specific performance issues associated with agreeing the scope

### **Environmental Impact**

There are no specific environmental issues associated with agreeing the scope.

### **Risk Management Implications**

There are none specific to this report.

### **Equalities implications**

Equalities implications are reflected in the scope for the review.

### **Corporate Priorities**

The review will contribute to the delivery of the following corporate priorities:

- United and involved communities: a Council that listens and leads
- Supporting and protecting people who are most in need

### **Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance**

Not required for this report.

### **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Heather Smith, Scrutiny Officer, 020 8420 9203,  
[heather.smith@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:heather.smith@harrow.gov.uk)

**Background Papers:** Housing Changes Review [Report to Cabinet, 15 December 2011]. Available at:  
<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/documents/s94010/Housing%20Changes%20Review.pdf>