

<b>Mayor &amp; Cabinet</b>		
<b>Report Title</b>	Response to the Housing Select Committee on the Private Rented Sector and Discretionary License Schemes	
<b>Key Decision</b>	No	Item No
<b>Ward</b>	All	
<b>Contributors</b>	Executive Director for Customer Services	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: 9April 2014

## 1. Summary

- 1.1. This report is the response to the Housing Select Committee, following their referral report on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014 which informed M&C of the comments and views of the Housing Select Committee on the Private Rented Sector and Discretionary License Schemes which arose from discussions at a meeting held on 3 February 2014.

## 2. Recommendation

The Mayor is asked to agree that the response contained in this report can be presented to Housing Select Committee.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. On 3 February 2014, the Housing Select Committee considered an officer report and presentation on the private rented sector in Lewisham and a presentation from the London Borough of Newham on property licensing in that borough.
- 3.2. The Committee commended Newham's borough wide mandatory licensing scheme and recommended that officers carry out a feasibility study to assess whether a discretionary licensing scheme would be suitable for application in Lewisham. The study should include an investigation of borough wide schemes such as Newham's and other, more targeted, schemes such as those proposed by the London Boroughs of Southwark, Brent and Greenwich.
- 3.3 Having considered an officer report, the Mayor agreed that the views of the Housing Select Committee be received and the Executive Director for Customer Services be asked to respond.

#### **4. Response**

- 4.1. Officers will undertake a review of the options for a Private Rented Sector licensing scheme and consider their applicability to the issues that are apparent in Lewisham. Consideration will be given to the licensing schemes introduced elsewhere, primarily in London, and will include the costs and benefits of each.
- 4.2. The review will be reported to Housing Select Committee for its consideration as part of its work programme next year.
- 4.3. As part of the work around improving the condition of the PRS, officers will provide regular reports on the progress of the rogue landlord project.

#### **5 Background Papers and Report Author**

Private Rented Sector Review – Officer Report to Housing Select Committee (03.02.14)

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s26914/04PRS030214.pdf>

Presentation from the London Borough of Newham on property licensing (available on request)

M&C referral – Item 48 -

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=2851&Ver=4>

- 5.1 If you have any queries on this report, please contact Louise Spires, Strategy, Policy and Development Manager on extension 46649