

**Appendix B – PRS Housing Report  
Housing Scrutiny Committee minutes extract, item 21/10/HSC  
19.01.2021**

**21/10/HSC Feasibility Study for the Implementation of Selective Licensing in the City of Cambridge - Publication and Actioning the Recommendations**

This item was chaired by Councillor Mike Todd-Jones

**Matter for Decision**

An independent feasibility study was conducted into the need for selective licensing of private rented properties within Cambridge City. The study was for the purpose of identifying if it was appropriate for the Council to implement a scheme.

**Decision of Executive Councillor for Housing**

- i. Agreed that the Feasibility Study Report, contained in Appendix A of the Officer's report could be released into the public domain.
- ii. Agreed the actions outlined within the Committee Report to address recommendations of the Feasibility Study Report throughout 2021/22, continuing the Council's focus of improving and sustaining the quality of the private rented sector within the City.
- iii. Agreed that an annual report be brought back assessing progress on the work in time for any new bids to be submitted for work in the budget for the following year.

**Reason for the Decision**

As set out in the Officer's report.

**Any Alternative Options Considered and Rejected**

Not applicable.

**Scrutiny Considerations**

The Committee received a report from the Residential Team Manager, Environmental Services.

The Executive Councillor said the following in response to Members' questions: Housing Scrutiny Committee EnvCm/15 Tuesday, 19 January 2021

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- i. The report raised several possibilities where the council could take action against private sector landlords where they did not respond to issues raised by tenants.
- ii. The report had a wider scope than just housing (acknowledged there was a high demand for this). The report looked at socio-economic issues (eg crime) and how actions could be taken to address these.

The Residential Team Manager said that work was underway to set up an enforcement group to share intelligence across regulatory services within the council as well as with external stakeholders including the Fire Service.

Councillor Robertson requested a change to the recommendation in the Officer's report:

Add third recommendation: 2.3 Agree that an annual report be brought back assessing progress on the work in time for any new bids be submitted for work in the budget for the following year."

The Committee unanimously approved this additional recommendation. The Chair decided that the recommendations highlighted in the Officer's report should be voted on and recorded separately:

The Committee unanimously endorsed recommendation 2.1.

The Committee endorsed recommendation 2.2 by 5 votes to 0 with 3 abstentions.

The Committee approved (new) recommendation 2.3 unanimously.

The Executive Councillor approved the recommendations as amended.

**Conflicts of Interest Declared by the Executive Councillor (and any Dispensations Granted)**

No conflicts of interest were declared by the Executive Councillor.