

Homes and Neighbourhoods
Islington Council
222 Upper Street N1 1XR

Report of: Ian Swift, Director of Housing Needs and Strategy

Meeting of: Housing Scrutiny Committee

Date: 1 December 2022

Private Rented Sector Housing Charter

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Housing Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to comment on the draft Private Rented Sector Housing Charter as part of the wider consultation framework.

The consultation will be for a period of eight weeks through a combination of an online survey and a series of consultation meetings and focus groups to ensure we obtain a wide spectrum of engagement and responses.

The Private Rented Sector Charter aims to build a common understanding of values, standard and requirements for the rental sector.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the Committee comment on the Private Rented Sector Charter and the proposed actions within it.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

Private rented accommodation provides a flexible and accessible housing solution for many residents. The Council recognises the valuable contribution the sector makes to providing decent and safe homes for many tenants. There

is, however, a minority of landlords who provide poorly managed, substandard, and unsafe homes, often to the most vulnerable in society. In some areas with high densities of private rented accommodation, there can be a direct impact on neighbourhood cohesion.

A few services across the Council engage with the private rented sector (PRS), including Environmental Health, Housing Options and Advice, Planning, Adult Social Care, Children's Services Building Control, and Public Health etc.

4. PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR CONSULTATION

The Charter sets out the key actions that the Council will lead on to help support tenants, landlords, managing and letting agents to deliver a safe, healthy, and thriving private rented sector. It promotes tenants' choice and rights, landlord taking responsibility for their properties and delivering robust and effective action where they fail to do so.

Key partners will be contacted in writing to advise of the consultation along with landlords who had previously expressed an interest in participating in Private Sector Housing Consultations.

A press release will also be issued to promote the consultation and all the elected members and officers from across Islington Council will be made aware of the consultation

The Housing Scrutiny Committee will receive a further report to outline the consultation responses and direction of travel.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

Providing homes for those most in need - the proposals in this report will result in improved housing conditions and contribute to the health, safety, and welfare of residents by driving up physical and management standards in the Private Rented Sector.

Keeping Islington clean, safe, green, and active - the outcome of this project will reduce the impacts of enviro-crime, report anti-social behaviour, and build community resilience.

On-going community engagement to encourage support and further partnership working and to develop and advance actions to improve the PRS.

Report Author: Ian Swift, Director, Housing Needs and Strategy

Tel: 0207 527 4811

Email: ian.swift@islington.gov.uk