



**AGENDA ITEM: 12**

**EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW &  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:  
4 February 2010**

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**Report of: Council Secretary and Solicitor**

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**SUBJECT: A NEW REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL HOUSING IN  
ENGLAND – A STATUTORY CONSULTATION**

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Wards affected: Borough wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To consider the draft response to the Consultation Paper issued by the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) on a new regulatory framework for Social Housing in England.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the comments on the draft response, attached at Appendix B to this report, be agreed.

2.2 That it be noted that the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services will take these comments into account, in consultation with the Housing Portfolio Holder, when responding to the Consultation Paper issued by the TSA.

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## **3.0 BACKGROUND**

3.1 The report of the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services, which was considered at Cabinet on 19 January 2010, is attached at Appendix A to this report.

3.2 The minute of Cabinet reads as follows:-

### **“91. A NEW REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL HOUSING IN ENGLAND - A STATUTORY CONSULTATION**

Councillor Mrs Hopley introduced the report of the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services which advised on a Consultation Paper issued by the

Tenant Services Authority (TSA) on a new regulatory framework for Social Housing in England and sought guidance on how best to respond.

Comments were raised in respect of the following:

- Concern that fees to be levied were not included in the consultation.
- That 'choosing' contractors should be done via a formal tendering process.
- That consultation should involve all tenants, including the formal tenant and resident groups.
- Concern of the increased bureaucracy of establishing another Quango.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

- RESOLVED: A. That the report be noted and the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services, in consultation with the Housing Portfolio Holder, be given delegated authority to prepare a draft response to the consultation on behalf of Cabinet and submit it to the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Tenants and Residents Forum for comments.
- B. That taking into account the comments of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Tenants and Residents Forum, the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services, in consultation with the Housing Portfolio Holder, be given delegated authority to send the final response to the TSA before the deadline of 5 February 2010.
- C. That call in is not appropriate for this item as the report is being submitted to the next meeting of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 February 2010."

3.3 The Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services, in consultation with the Housing Portfolio Holder has prepared a draft response for consideration which is attached at Appendix B to this report.

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### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

There is no evidence from an initial assessment of an adverse impact on equality in relation to the equality target groups.

### **Appendices**

- A. Report of the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services - A NEW REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL HOUSING IN ENGLAND – A STATUTORY CONSULTATION – Cabinet 19 January 2010.
- B. Draft response to the consultation paper.