

**To: City Executive Board**

**Date: 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

**Report of: The Housing Panel (Panel of the Scrutiny Committee)**

**Title of Report: HOUSING STRATEGY ACTION PLAN - REFRESH**

## **Summary and Recommendations**

**Purpose of report:** To report the comments and recommendations of the Housing Panel on the Housing Strategy Action Plan - Refresh.

**Key decision:** Yes

**Scrutiny Lead Member:** Councillor Val Smith

**Executive Lead Member:** Councillor Rd Turner

**Policy Framework:** Housing Strategy 2012-15

**Recommendation(s):** For the City Executive Board to say if it agrees or disagrees with the following recommendation.

### **Recommendation 1**

That the implementation of a new Landlord and Lettings Agencies Accreditation Scheme be publicised as widely as possible to achieve the greatest impact and that the number of Landlords in the scheme be maximised.

## **Introduction**

1. The Housing Panel considered the draft proposals for the Housing Strategy Action Plan, Refresh. They were supported in their debate by David Scholes, Gary Parsons, Tom Porter and Councillor Scott Seamons, the Panel would like to thank them for their time and advice.

## **Conclusions and Recommendation**

2. The Panel discussed in depth the five objectives and were updated on the progress of each:

- Objective One: Provide more affordable housing
- Objective Two: Prevent homelessness
- Objective Three: Address housing needs of vulnerable people
- Objective Four: Improve housing conditions
- Objective Five: Improve quality, cost effectiveness and efficiency

The Panel particularly commented on issues surrounding homelessness and its prevention and welcomed the work in this area. The Panel notably on Objective Four, Action Point 23 in appendix A to the report, which concerned improving the quality of individual rented properties and the implementation of a new landlord and letting agency accreditation scheme, supported an accreditation scheme, but felt that any scheme should be publicised as widely as possible to achieve the greatest impact and that the numbers of landlords in the scheme be maximised..

### **Recommendation 1**

That the implementation of a new Landlord and Lettings Agencies Accreditation Scheme be publicised as widely as possible to achieve the greatest impact and that the number of Landlords in the scheme be maximised.

### **Comments from the Director and Board Member**

3. Any comments will be provided at the City Executive Board meeting.

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**List of background papers: None**

**Version number: 1**