

To: Cabinet
Date: 17 April 2024
Report of: Housing and Homelessness Panel
Title of Report: Implementation of Selective Licensing

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To present Panel of the Scrutiny Committee recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
Key decision:	No
Scrutiny Lead Member:	Cllr Lizzy Diggins, Panel Chair
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Linda Smith, Cabinet Member for Housing
Corporate Priority:	Deliver More Affordable Housing
Policy Framework:	Housing, Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28
Recommendation: That the Cabinet states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations in the body of this report.	

Appendices	
Appendix A	Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

Introduction and overview

1. The Housing and Homelessness Panel met on 07 March 2024 to consider a report on the Implementation of Selective Licensing. It was recommended that the Panel consider the report and agree any recommendations.
2. The Panel would like to thank Councillor Linda Smith (Cabinet Member for Housing) and Gail Siddal, Regulatory Services Manager for attending the meeting to present and answer questions.

Summary and recommendations

3. Cllr L Smith, Cabinet Member for Housing introduced the report, which provided an update on the year one actions of the Selective Licensing scheme. She highlighted that Oxford's Selective Licensing scheme was one of the largest in

the country and Oxford City Council was the only authority where the whole city was covered by the scheme. Gail Siddall, Regulatory Services Manager provided an overview of the implementation processes and challenges across the first year of the scheme. The Selective Licensing scheme sought to help the Council address poor conditions in private rented housing stock within the city.

4. The Panel asked a range of questions, including questions relating to the estimates set out in the report; Rent Repayment Orders; plans for communications and engagement campaigns; inspection targets; Selective Licensing fees; evictions; and incentives to landlords to apply for a licence.
5. In particular, the Panel noted responses to questions that the initial Selective Licensing scheme plans included the rollout of a tenant communication and engagement campaign, however this work had not yet started. The Panel agreed that this campaign should be commenced as soon as possible to ensure tenants' awareness of the scheme and their rights. The Panel was also of the view that tenants unions should be actively engaged with as part of this work.

Recommendation 1: That the Council rolls out a Selective Licensing scheme communications campaign aimed at tenants to raise awareness of the scheme and tenants' rights; and actively engages with tenants unions as part of the campaign.

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