

<b>Notice of:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Decision Number:</b>	EX20/2021
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
<b>Relevant Cabinet Members:</b>	Councillor Neal Brookes, Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform and Councillor Jo Farrell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	12 April 2021

## **SUPPORTED HOUSING SCRUTINY REVIEW INTERIM REPORT**

### **1.0 Purpose of the report:**

- 1.1 To present the interim findings and recommendations of the Supported Housing Scrutiny Review to the Executive for consideration.

### **2.0 Recommendation(s):**

- 2.1 To consider the two recommendations of the interim report of the Supported Housing Scrutiny namely:
- i. That Blackpool Council establishes its own standards for what supported housing should look like in the town and that scrutiny plays an active role in developing these standards.
  - ii. That the Council writes a letter to the local MPs setting out the key issues relating to supported housing in the town and requests that they lobby Government for new legislation that allows for more control over the sector.

### **3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):**

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Review Panel believes the recommendations will work towards provision of a better standard of supported accommodation within the town. The writing of a letter to the local MPs will be a timely intervention and provide additional weight to the outcomes of the ongoing pilot scheme which will be reported to Government in due course. The establishment of aspirational standards for accommodation will take time to develop and it is hoped that the Blackpool Standards can be ready for implementation immediately should regulation in the sector change. The development of the standards will also consider to what extent they can be applied should there be no change in regulation.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? No

**4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:**

4.1 The Executive may choose not to approve the recommendations, but will be requested to provide the reasons for the decision to the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee.

**5.0 Council priority:**

5.1 The relevant Council priority is: "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience."

**6.0 Background information**

6.1 The Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee considered and approved the interim report of the Supported Housing Scrutiny Review and its meeting on 17 March 2021. It is unusual for a scrutiny review to provide an interim report, however, Members of the Panel considered that the two key recommendations identified would be best achieved if they could be implemented as soon as practicable, with the review panel reconvening in due course to consider any outstanding issues. Once the review has concluded a final report will be submitted to the Executive setting out any additional conclusions and recommendations.

6.2 The interim report of the Supported Housing Scrutiny Review is attached at Appendix 2(a).

6.3 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 Appendix 2(a): Supported Housing Scrutiny Review Interim Report

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 Contained within Appendix 2(a).

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 Contained within Appendix 2(a).

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 Contained within Appendix 2(a).

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 Contained within Appendix 2(a).

**12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

12.1 Contained within Appendix 2(a).

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 Contained within Appendix 2(a).

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 Contained within Appendix 2(a).

**15.0 Key decision information:**

15.1 Is this a key decision? No

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:

15.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

15.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

**16.0 Call-in information:**

16.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

16.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**

**17.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):**

Date informed: N/A

Date approved: N/A

**18.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):**

18.1 None.

**19.0 Executive decision:**

19.1 The Executive resolved as follows:

To endorse the two recommendations of the interim report of the Supported Housing Scrutiny namely:

- i. That Blackpool Council establishes its own standards for what supported housing should look like in the town and that scrutiny plays an active role in developing these standards.
- ii. That the Council writes a letter to the local MPs setting out the key issues relating to supported housing in the town and requests that they lobby Government for new legislation that allows for more control over the sector.

**20.0 Date of Decision:**

20.1 12 April 2021

**21.0 Reason(s) for decision:**

21.1 The Executive supports the Scrutiny Review Panel's belief that the recommendations will work towards provision of a better standard of supported accommodation within the town. The writing of a letter to the local MPs will be a timely intervention and provide additional weight to the outcomes of the ongoing pilot scheme which will be reported to Government in due course. The establishment of aspirational standards for accommodation will take time to develop and it is hoped that the Blackpool Standards can be ready for implementation immediately should regulation in the sector change. The development of the standards will also consider to what extent they can be applied should there be no change in regulation.

**22.0 Date Decision published:**

22.1 13 April 2021

**23.0 Executive Members in attendance:**

23.1 Councillor L Williams, in the Chair

Councillors Benson, Brookes, Campbell, Farrell, Hobson, Kirkland, Smith and Taylor

**24.0 Call-in:**

24.1

**25.0 Notes:**

25.1