

DECISION-MAKER:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE		
SUBJECT:	SCRUTINY PANEL A: MAINTAINING BALANCED NEIGHBOURHOODS THROUGH PLANNING INQUIRY – FINAL REPORT		
DATE OF DECISION:	12 JUNE 2014		
REPORT OF:	CHAIR OF SCRUTINY PANEL A		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
AUTHOR:	Name:	Mark Pirnie	Tel: 023 8083 3886
	E-mail:	Mark.pirnie@southampton.gov.uk	
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
None			

BRIEF SUMMARY

From November 2013 to May 2014 Scrutiny Panel A undertook an inquiry examining the contribution planning can make to maintaining balanced neighbourhoods and the quality of life for their residents. The final report of the Panel is attached as Appendix 1 for consideration and approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To consider and approve the final report of Scrutiny Panel A, attached as Appendix 1, and forward it to the Executive for consideration and further action.
- (ii) To delegate authority to the Chair of the Committee to approve any minor amendments arising from considerations raised at the Committee's meeting on 12th June 2014.

REASON FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In accordance with the Council's constitution, this Committee must approve the final report of a Scrutiny Inquiry and refer it to the Executive for consideration and further action.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. None.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3. On 12th September 2013 the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee agreed the indicative terms of reference for an Inquiry examining the contribution planning can make to maintaining balanced neighbourhoods. The set objectives of the Inquiry were:
 - To review how effectively the City Council's Article 4 and HMOs Supplementary Planning Document is working
 - To increase understanding of the various Government proposals to relax permitted development rights, including those relating to extensions and office to residential conversions, and to consider if a

local response should be developed

- To consider the Council's approach to planning enforcement.
4. The Inquiry was undertaken by Scrutiny Panel A with information presented to 6 meetings from November 2013 to May 2014.
 5. The final report contains 21 recommendations in total, summarised in Appendix 2, which if implemented the Panel believe will help to maintain balanced communities in Southampton.
 6. The recommendations are grouped under the following key themes:
 - Houses in Multiple Occupation
 - Planning Enforcement
 - Permitted Development Rights
 - Community Led Planning
 7. A final report of the Inquiry is attached as Appendix 1. This Committee needs to consider whether the report adequately responds to the Inquiry objectives outlined in the Terms of Reference shown within the attached report.
 8. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee procedure rules within the constitution require that within two months of the date that this committee approves a final inquiry report, the Executive will consider the report and submit its findings to either this Committee or to Council. If this Committee is therefore minded to accept the final version of the report, then the document will be forwarded to the Executive on 17th June for further action.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

9. In practice any future resource implications arising from this review will be dependent upon whether, and how, each of the individual recommendations within the Inquiry report are progressed by the Executive. More detailed work will need to be undertaken by the Executive in considering its response to each of the recommendations set out in the Inquiry report.

Property/Other

10. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

11. The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Other Legal Implications:

12. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

13. The proposals contained within the appended report are in accordance with the Council's Policy Framework.

KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None directly as a result of this report
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Final Report – Scrutiny Panel A Inquiry
2.	Summary of Recommendations

Documents In Members’ Rooms

1.	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	No
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Other Background Documents Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
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1.	None	
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