



Housing Scrutiny Committee
29 November 2018

**Report from the Chair of the
Housing Scrutiny Committee**

Scrutiny Café - Housing

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
No. of Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Jackie Barry-Purssell, Senior Policy and Scrutiny Officer jacqueline.barry-purssell@brent.gov.uk Tel. 020 8937 1958

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To enable members of the Housing Scrutiny Committee to gain an overview of the housing scrutiny café that was held at Willesden Green Library on Tuesday 16 October.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Members of the Housing Scrutiny Committee to discuss and agree how the points raised at the scrutiny café should be taken forward.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 As part of Local Democracy week a scrutiny café focused on housing standards was held on Tuesday 16 October led by Cllr Long. It was an opportunity for those who live in the borough to discuss housing standards over a tea or coffee.
- 3.2 Residents from across the borough came to discuss this topic. The common theme was the private rented sector and landlord licensing. The main points raised were the cost of the private rented sector, inadequate action from RSLs with regards to repairs, the lack of enforcement of landlord licensing,

overcrowding and anti-social behaviour. For example, one resident was living in an unlicensed property and was unaware of licensing whilst another from Harlesden was concerned about the effectiveness of the Landlord licensing scheme, which has operated in the Harlesden ward since 2015. A summary of the concerns raised overall are as follows:

- a) Lack of licensing enforcement
- b) Lack of inspections
- c) The external condition of many licensed properties.
- d) The need to prioritise inspections
- e) Properties being rented out as an HMO when it only has a Selective licence.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications.

6.0 Equality Implications

6.1 There are no equality implications

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

7.1 Non-executive members are regularly involved in overview and scrutiny.

Report sign off:

PETER GADSDON

Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships