

<b>Subject:</b>	Report of the Rogue Landlords Task and Finish Group	<b>Status:</b>	For Publication
<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	<b>Date:</b>	22nd October 2014
<b>Report of:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Housing and Environmental Health
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>General Exception</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Special Urgency</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	No	Attached: No
<b>Biodiversity Impact Assessment</b>	Required:	No	Attached: No
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Pat Couch	<b>Telephone:</b>	01706 252426
<b>Email:</b>	patriciacouch@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1.	<b>RECOMMENDATION(S)</b>
1.1	That Cabinet consider the recommendations of the Phase 1 Report of the Rogue Landlords Task and Finish Group.
1.2	That Cabinet, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Environmental Health and other relevant officers provide a written response to the recommendations within two months of receiving this report.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To ask Cabinet to consider the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group, as indicated within the report.

## 3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:
- **Responsive Value for Money Services:** This priority is about the Council working collaboratively, being a provider, procurer and a commissioner of services that are efficient and that meet the needs of local people.

## 4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Members need to note the requirement to formally respond to recommendations of overview and scrutiny committees within a two month period as set out in the Council's Constitution and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

## 5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 5.1 At the end of December 2013, the Government announced that funding was being made available to 23 councils nationally to tackle rogue landlords. The funding is part of a package of measures that will ensure millions of working and vulnerable tenants get a better deal when they rent a home.
- 5.2 When Rossendale Borough Council found out that they were successful in their bid and were granted £79,000, it was suggested that scrutiny was an ideal way of reviewing the subject of how the Council was going to tackle rogue landlords around the Borough.
- 5.3 As the work looking at Rogue Landlords within the Borough was just commencing, the task and finish group agreed to undertake this piece of work in two phases. First to look at how they intend to commence the work and the second phase will look at how they have progressed.

- 5.4 The Phase 1 report, which was agreed by the Task and Finish Group on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014 is attached as **Appendix A**.
- 5.5 Representatives from numerous organisations were invited to provide information and guidance to the task and finish group which included the CAB, Police, Lancashire Fire and Rescue and Trading Standards.
- 5.6 A response from Cabinet is required within two months and once received will be presented to the first Phase 2 meeting of the Task and Finish Group on 8<sup>th</sup> December. Therefore it would be appreciated if a response could be made available at the end of November 2014.

#### **COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:**

#### **6. SECTION 151 OFFICER**

- 6.1 It is assumed that all recommendations are to be contained within existing budget resources.

#### **7. MONITORING OFFICER**

- 7.1 No comments.

#### **8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

- 8.1 Operation Carl (Co-operation against rogue landlords) is a key policy initiative supporting a local solution to a problem affecting those most vulnerable in our communities.
- 8.2 The report set out in Appendix 1 has been developed in consultation with the Rogue Landlords Task and Finish Group.

#### **9. CONCLUSION**

- 9.1 That Cabinet considers the recommendation of the Task and Finish Group.

No background papers