

Subject:	Cover Sheet: Rent Smart Partnership Agreement		
Date of Meeting:	21 September 2016		
Report of:	Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture		
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 The Council's formal response to the Private Rented Sector Scrutiny Panel was approved by Housing & New Homes Committee on 11 November 2015 in relation to matters within the remit of the Committee.
- 1.2 While non-housing matters were to be reported to the relevant policy committee for consideration some Scrutiny Panel recommendations were outside the remit of the council as a whole. This included recommendations related to a city wide 'rate my landlord' scheme for all private rented housing, promoting the development of university endorsed landlords and lettings agents and joint working outside of our existing formal council partnership arrangements.
- 1.3 Following the Housing & New Homes Committee approval of recommendations relating to matters within their remit, Cllr Hill convened a private rented sector workshop to consider responses to the PRS scrutiny report that are outside the remit of the Council. This has led to the Rent Smart initiative.
- 1.4 Rent Smart Brighton and Hove is a new citywide partnership of organisations committed to supporting tenants in the private rented sector. Rent Smart aims to:
 - Increase awareness of rights and responsibilities amongst private renting tenants and people looking for a place to live in the private rented sector
 - Give tenants/potential tenants more confidence in dealing with agencies and landlords
 - Signpost tenants to up to date information and advice about privately renting
 - Promote use of a ratings system for letting agencies
- 1.5 Rent Smart has been invited to September 2016 Housing & New Homes Committee to present their work. The attached Partnership Agreement outlines the scope of the partnership to help inform the presentation and discussion in Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Housing & New Homes Committee note the attached Rent Smart Partnership Agreement as background information to the Rent Smart presentation and discussion.

3. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Rent Smart Brighton and Hove is a new citywide partnership of organisations and the purpose of this report is to note their Partnership Agreement and presentation.
- 3.2 Brighton and Hove have not committed any resources to this project, therefore there are no direct financial implications to the council.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Rent Smart Partnership Agreement