

Council

20 October 2016

Agenda Item 37

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Rent Smart Partnership Agreement - Extract from the proceedings of the Housing & New Homes Committee Meeting held on the 21 September 2016		
Date of Meeting:	20 October 2016		
Report of:	Executive Lead for Strategy, Governance & Law		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Caroline DeMarco	Tel: 29-1063
	E-mail:	caroline.demarco@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE***Action Required of Council***

To receive the item referred from the Housing & New Homes Committee for information.

Recommendation:

That the Council notes the report.

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

HOUSING & NEW HOMES COMMITTEE

4.00pm 21 SEPTEMBER 2016

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Meadows (Chair); Councillor Hill (Deputy Chair), Mears (Opposition Spokesperson), Gibson (Group Spokesperson), Atkinson, Bell, Druitt, Lewry, Miller and Moonan.

PART ONE**20. RENT SMART PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

- 20.1 The Committee considered a presentation from representatives of Rent Smart and a report of the Executive Director Economy Environment & Culture which drew attention to the Rent Smart Partnership Agreement. Rent Smart, Brighton and Hove was a new citywide partnership of organisations committed to supporting tenants in the private rented sector. The aims of Rent Smart were set out in paragraph 1.4 of the report.
- 20.2 Councillor Hill informed the Committee that she had encouraged a broad range of organisations to get together to look at areas relating to the private rented sector which were outside the remit of the council. Rent Smart had agreed to have a website for tenants which would be launched in November 2016. Councillor Hill asked members to consider requesting an officer report on the council becoming part of the Rent Smart Partnership agreement.
- 20.3 Alex from Brighton Housing Trust and Sarah from Sussex University were in attendance at the meeting. Alex stated that he worked in the Private Sector Housing Team in Brighton Housing Trust and stressed that it had never been so difficult for tenants in the private rented sector. He stated that Rent Smart had a number of key partners and wanted more partners to get involved. The organisation would help to signpost people to relevant agencies.
- 20.4 Sarah stated that Sussex University was involved in representative work and valued the opportunity of being part of the partnership. There were many shared interests and she hoped that it could be demonstrated that organisations are stronger together. The website would be a great resource.
- 20.5 The Chair considered that Rent Smart was a great initiative and a wonderful way forward.

- 20.6 Councillor Gibson welcomed the suggestion that a report be brought back to the committee. He paid tribute to the efforts of Councillor Hill in convening a private rented sector workshop to consider responses to the Private Rented Sector scrutiny report which were outside the remit of the council. Councillor Gibson stressed that Rent Smart was an important group and he was pleased to see that the Living Rent Campaign wanted to be involved.
- 20.7 Councillor Hill asked members to consider adding an additional recommendation 20.2 (2) "That the Committee request an officer report on the council becoming a partner of Rent Smart." This was agreed.
- 20.8 **RESOLVED:-**
- (1) That the attached Rent Smart Partnership Agreement be noted as background information to the Rent Smart presentation and discussion.
 - (2) That the Committee request an officer report to the next meeting on the Council becoming a partner of Rent Smart.

28 ITEMS REFERRED FOR FULL COUNCIL

- 28.1 The following items were referred to Full Council on 20 October 2016, for information.
- (a) Councillor Hill referred Item 20 – Rent Smart Partnership Agreement;
 - (b) Councillor Gibson referred Item 23 – Single Homeless and Rough Sleeper Accommodation & Support Services Remodelling and Tender.

