

**SCOPING REPORT - SCRUTINY REVIEW:
THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF SOCIAL HOUSING PROVIDERS
TO THE COUNCIL AND RESIDENTS OF STOCKPORT**

Report of the Director of Place Management

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report outlines the proposed scope for reviewing the accountability of social housing providers to the council and residents of Stockport.

Title of review	The accountability of social housing providers to the council and residents of Stockport
Lead member and panel members	Councillor Dena Ryness (Lead member and Vice-Chair of the Economy, Regeneration & Climate Change Scrutiny Committee), Councillors Claire Vibert and John Taylor
Lead officer	Mark Glynn, Director of Place Management
Report author	Andy Kippax, Strategic Housing Lead
Support officer	Charlotte Douglass, Democratic Services

2. BACKGROUND TO THE TOPIC SELECTION

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Review Panel held on 21 September 2023, members considered a background report containing information relating to the social housing providers in operation in Stockport and their governance structures, as well as the council's partnership arrangements with providers.

- 2.2 The panel then considered a proposed scope of the review, as summarised below:

- To gain an understanding of where social housing providers are accountable to Stockport Council and the residents of Stockport, and the current mechanisms in operation for accountability for each of the different types of social housing providers in Stockport, including the perceived success and/ or areas of improvement for these mechanisms; and
- To gain an understanding of the risks of lack of sufficient accountability.

With a view to considering any recommendations for change in the accountability mechanisms for social housing providers in Stockport.

- 2.3 It was suggested that the following could support the panel in their evidence-gathering stage:

- Examples of how social housing providers operating in three other local authority areas are held to account, to gather learning and inform the review.
- Over the course of the review, to invite other stakeholders such as Greater Manchester Police (GMP) (who work closely with housing teams) to speak to the panel to get their views on the accountability of social housing providers to residents.

2.4 The Panel intend to update members of the Economy, Regeneration and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee at regular intervals throughout the review process. It is expected that the panel will conclude the work for their review by the end of the municipal year. During the review, panel members will formulate a number of recommendations that will go on to be considered by the Economy, Regeneration and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee (meeting 19 February 2024), and thereafter, the Cabinet (meeting 12 March 2024).

3. MAIN TYPES OF SOCIAL HOUSING PROVIDER

3.1 Following their first meeting, members of the panel requested further information as to the main types of social housing providers currently in operation in Stockport. This supplementary information is at **appendix A**, and also contains information on the national regulator of social housing and the 2015 council housing management options appraisal.

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 The Scrutiny Review Panel is requested that the scope of the review be agreed as follows:

- To gain an understanding of where social housing providers are accountable to Stockport Council and the residents of Stockport, and the current mechanisms in operation for accountability for each of the different types of social housing providers in Stockport, including the perceived success and/ or areas of improvement for these mechanisms; and
- To gain an understanding of the risks of lack of sufficient accountability.

With a view to considering any recommendations for change in the accountability mechanisms for social housing providers in Stockport.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Agenda – meeting of the Scrutiny Review Panel – the accountability of social housing providers to the council and residents of Stockport – Thursday 21 September 2023](#)

[Minutes - meeting of the Scrutiny Review Panel – the accountability of social housing providers to the council and residents of Stockport – Thursday 21 September 2023](#)

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Andy Kippax | andy.kippax@stockport.gov.uk