

Scrutiny review proposal

- 1 What is the review?**
Empty Homes

- 2 What outcomes could realistically be achieved? Which agency does the review seek to influence?**
An assessment of how the council is doing in relation to voids (and an action plan to address any problems in the system). Understanding what data is available in relation to empty homes in the private sector and different approaches to tackling this problem in our borough. There has also been a request from one member to look at Air b'n'b in Southwark – again there would be a need to establish what data we can access on this and what powers we have as a council.

- 3 When should the review be carried out/completed?**
During this council term.

- 4 What format would suit this review? (eg full investigation, q&a with executive member/partners, public meeting, one-off session)**
This would be more suited to a Q&A with Officers, with a follow up meeting to understand whether progress is being made.

- 5 What are some of the key issues that you would like the review to look at?**
As noted above. We would want to get a clear picture not just of average turnaround times, but also of long-term voids, how many of these exist and how the council is taking action to bring them all back into use. On Air b'n'b (if we go into this), statistics on the number of reports/complaints, and also information about any enforcement action taken by the Council.

On empty homes in the private sector, what powers are available to the council, and what have other local authorities done (if anything) in this area?

- 6 Who would you like to receive evidence and advice from during the review?**
Key Officers, Cabinet Member for Housing Management

- 7 Any suggestions for background information? Are you aware of**

any best practice on this topic?

8 What approaches could be useful for gathering evidence? What can be done outside committee meetings?

e.g. verbal or written submissions, site visits, mystery-shopping, service observation, meeting with stakeholders, survey, consultation event