

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 15/07/03	MEETING NAME Executive
Report title:		Scrutiny comments on private sector housing renewal policy	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1 That the Executive considers and responds to the Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee's comments on the Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy as set out below

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2 The Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee had the opportunity to consider the draft policy at their meeting on 2nd July. Having considered the policy and its practical implications, the committee wishes to make the following comments:
 - a) that the Executive should address the issue of monitoring of standard of contractors' work and behaviour in respect of renewal works, and to address whether contractors might be held liable for the work and behaviour of their sub-contractors
 - b) whilst the Sub-Committee recognises that the Regulatory Reform Order requires the Council to publicise this policy, it asks the Council to be positively proactive in disseminating information to those to whom the Private Sector Renewal Scheme is targeted. Such action should include producing information in community languages [in particular Vietnamese], and talking to a range of relevant community groups about the scheme
 - c) that officers involved in providing advice to individuals about the scheme should be properly trained in giving financial advice
 - d) that officers should ensure that individuals signing up to the scheme are competent to do so, in order to avoid problems at such time as any loan is called-in
 - e) that the Executive consider the implications of the financial structure of such a scheme on the Muslim community, and take proper advice in respect of whether the scheme might be structured in such a way as to meet approval under Sharia Law and approval as an Islamic product

Audit Trail

Lead Officer	<i>Sarah Naylor, ACE (Performance and Strategy)</i>	
Report Author	<i>Shelley Burke, Head of Overview and Scrutiny</i>	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Borough Solicitor & Secretary	No	N/a
Chief Finance Officer	No	N/a
<i>List other Officers here</i>		
Executive Member	No	N/a
Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services	14 July 2003	

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
<i>Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee agenda</i>	<i>Scrutiny Team, Southwark Town Hall</i>	<i>Lucas Lundgren 02075257224</i>