

Item No: 2	Classification: Open	Date: 24 th June 2003	Meeting Name: Housing Scrutiny Sub Committee
Report Title:		Private Housing Renewal Policy	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Housing	

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee consider the attached draft report entitled "Private Housing Renewal Policy" prior to its consideration by the Executive on 8th July 2003. A key aspect of the proposed policy relates to arrangements for loan finance.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

2. The attached report to the Executive sets out proposed changes to Council policy in respect of private sector housing renewal. The Regulatory Reform Order will come into force on 18th July 2003 and gives the authority a general power to offer assistance to qualifying persons for a variety of purposes, and the opportunity to devise its own means by which to assist with housing repair, improvement or adaptation works.
3. In order to exercise its powers under the order, Southwark must adopt a policy for assistance [and give public notice of the adoption of such a policy], and make a full policy document available for inspection on request and by post by the 18th July 2003. This order repeals the Housing Grants Construction and Regeneration Act (1996) and failure to adopt a policy by this deadline date would render the authority without a policy and hence the legal power to provide assistance.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4. The detail of the proposals are set out in full in Appendices 1 & 2 to the attached draft Executive report, and its key priorities and guiding principles summarised in paragraphs 4 & 5 of that report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5. There are no specific legal implications of this current report. Legal advice on the Executive proposals are set out at paragraph 17 of the attached report.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6. The resource implications of the proposed policy are addressed in paragraph 15 and 16 of the attached report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Overview & Scrutiny Committee - agendas, reports & minutes	Constitutional Support Unit Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB	Lucas Lundgren T: 0207 525 7224
Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-Committee [2002-03]- agendas, report & minutes	Constitutional Support Unit Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB	Lucas Lundgren T: 0207 525 7224

Audit Trail

Lead Officer	<i>Rachel Sharpe, Head of Strategy & Regeneration</i>	
Report Author	--	
Version	<i>Final Draft</i>	
Dated	<i>16th June 2003</i>	
Key Decision?	<i>No</i>	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Chief Finance Officer	Refers to comments in main Executive report	
Borough Solicitor & Secretary	Refers to comments in main Executive report	
Executive Member	Refers to comments in main Executive report	