

Decision under Delegated Powers

Officer Making the Decision

Chief Executive

Officer Requesting the Decision

Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing

Recommendation

That up to £50,000 from the Reinvestment Reserve is made available to recruit a consultant to support the implementation of the Private Sector Housing Licensing Schemes.

Reason

To ensure that appropriate resources and capacity is available for the implementation of the Private Sector Housing Licensing Schemes.

Authority for Decision

The Financial Regulations allow the Chief Executive to use up to £50,000 from the Reinvestment Reserve for purpose in line with Reinvestment Reserve guidelines (see 16.5 SPECIFIC FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES part (e)). Use of the Reinvestment Reserve for organisational change purposes is within Reinvestment Reserve use guidelines which include 'spend to save' and 'service improvement' initiatives.

Decision and Date



Rob Mitchell, Chief Executive 05/07/2022

Background

The Cabinet considered a report of the Scrutiny Management Board on 19th November 2015 when it was resolved that the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing should further investigate the potential to implement a Loughborough Accreditation Standard in partnership with the Loughborough Students Union; and consider the submission from the Loughborough Student Advisory Service of complaints data from 2014/15 and evaluate this alongside the evidence that had already been collated in relation to potentially introducing an Additional or Selective Licensing Scheme.

The Cabinet considered a report from the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing on the 17th January 2019 when it was resolved that further investigations be undertaken to gather evidence (as referred to in paragraph 61 of Part B of the report of the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing – see Background papers) to establish the case for the introduction of an Additional or Selective Licensing Scheme be approved.

The Cabinet considered a report from the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing on the 16th January 2020 when it was resolved that a consultation exercise be undertaken, as required by Section 56(3) of the Housing Act 2004 for Additional Licensing and Section 80(9) of the Housing Act 2004 for Selective Licensing.

The Cabinet considered a report from the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing on the 10th December 2020 when it was resolved to declare Charnwood Borough as an area for Additional Licensing and the two wards Hastings and Lemyngton an area for Selective Licensing. Approved the proposed draft licence conditions for both schemes, a consultation exercise to be undertaken for a period of 6 weeks from the 18th January 2021 to the 26th February 2021 be approved.

The Cabinet considered a report from the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing on the 1st July 2021 when it was resolved to approve the Licence Conditions for the Additional and Selective Licensing Schemes and that the conditions would be used for all Mandatory Houses in Multiple Occupation licence applications and renewals.

The implementation of the two schemes has been delayed due to the pandemic and a report was taken to Cabinet in March 2022 to the Houses in Multiple Occupation and Selective Licensing Policies and Licence Conditions and the next steps to the implementation of the schemes thereafter.

The consultant will take the work completed to date forward and implement the two approved Licensing Schemes.

Comments from HR

Not required in respect of this decision.

Financial Implications

This decision will see use of the Reinvestment Reserve of up to £50,000.

Risk Management

No specific risks have been identified with this report.

Key Decision:

No

Background Papers:

None