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| Subject: | Update on Department for Communities response to Licensing Committee's request to attend a meeting to discuss the Houses in Multiple Occupation Act and the Review of the HMO Licensing Scheme |
| Date: | 21 st April 2021 |
| Reporting Officer: | Vivienne Donnelly City Protection Manager |
| Contact Officer: | Kevin Bloomfield, HMO Unit Manager |

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| Is this report restricted? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-in? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues |
| 1.1 | The purpose of this report is to update Committee Members on the response from the Department for Communities (DfC) to the invitation to attend a meeting to discuss the Licensing Committee's ongoing frustrations at the ineffectiveness of the current HMO Act 2016 and around the proposed upcoming review of the legislation. |
| 2.0 | Recommendations |
| 2.1 | Committee is asked to note the response from DfC proposing to attend the May Committee meeting to provide feedback from their Review of HMOs. |
| 2.2 | In light of DfC's proposal to attend the May Licensing Committee, Members are asked to consider that the workshop that was proposed with DfC and other statutory agencies to discuss HMOs be deferred until after DfC have presented a HMO Review briefing to the Committee. |

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| 3.0 | Main report |
| | <p data-bbox="260 232 432 264"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 304 1471 412">3.1 The Council wrote to DfC requesting if the Minister could attend a meeting to discuss the Committees’ ongoing frustrations at the ineffectiveness of the current HMO Act 2016 and around the proposed upcoming review of the legislation.</p> <p data-bbox="165 452 1471 741">3.2 Members will recall that the Minister’s office responded in February and declined the Council’s invitation to attend a meeting with Members, however, it was indicated that a representative from DfC would facilitate a meeting. A subsequent invitation was sent to DfC requesting the attendance of a DfC representative at this evening’s Committee, however, DfC have advised that they have received 227 responses to the HMO Review and they will not be in a position to attend a meeting until they have analysed the responses received. DfC have further proposed that they could attend a meeting in May to provide a briefing on the findings of the HMO Review.</p> <p data-bbox="165 781 1471 1032">3.3 Given that DfC have declined to engage with the Committee until after they have conducted their review, the proposed workshop that was agreed to take place with DfC and other statutory partners may be best convened after DfC have had an opportunity to attend Committee. The outcome of the briefing by DfC on the HMO Review may provide a useful basis for informing a workshop with DfC and other statutory partners. Members are invited to consider this approach in light of the current position adopted of DfC to meet with the Committee.</p> <p data-bbox="260 1072 820 1104"><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 1144 1259 1176">3.4 There are no financial and resource issues associated with this report.</p> <p data-bbox="260 1256 895 1288"><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 1328 1302 1359">3.5 There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this report.</p> |
| 4.0 | Appendices |
| | Appendix 1: Response from DfC to invitation to attend Licensing Committee 21 st April 2021 |