



CABINET WORKING PARTY SELECTIVE LICENSING AND HOUSES OF MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

4th July 2025 at 12.30pm

Present: Councillors Aisthorpe (Chair)
Councillors, Bonner, Farren, Jackson and S Swinburn

Officers in attendance:

- Zoe Campbell (Senior Scrutiny and Committee Advisor)
- Spencer Hunt (Assistant Director Safer and Stronger Place)
- Kath Jickells (Assistant Director Environment)

Also in attendance

- Councillors Augusta, Clough, Emmerson and Shutt.

There was one member of the public and one member of the press in attendance at the meeting.

CWP.31 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received for this meeting.

CWP.32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests made from members with regard to items on the agenda for this meeting.

CWP.33 MINUTES

The Chair referred to the actions in the previous minutes CWP.26 from the petition and asked for an update regarding the staffing pressures. Ms

Jickells explained that this was wrapped up in the transformation plans for the Environmental Health and Housing team and suggested that at some point the Selective Licensing and Equans working groups came together to review the transformation plans. The Chair asked for a timescale, Ms Jickells confirmed that she would report this information back to the working group and explained that in the meantime recruitment was taking place.

A Councillor queried the timescale for the recruitment process. Ms Jickells felt that it would be around 12 months however reassured the working group that it was a priority.

The Chair asked for confirmation if officers had written to the residents on the petition as agreed. Ms Jickells confirmed that a letter had been sent to the lead petitioner, she had arranged a site visit to explore any further actions and that ward councillors had been informed. Councillor Swinburn also confirmed that he had agreed to meet with the lead petitioner to look at potential traffic enforcement options.

Councillor Farran noted that there was an action missing from the minutes from CWP.28 for officers to come back to a future meeting with the cost implications for the areas of actions voluntary scheme. Mr Hunt explained that if the areas of action scheme was to go ahead then it would require additional resources.

Referring to the petition agenda item CWP.26, Councillor Farren recalled that Councillor Swinburn offered to meet with herself and the resident group when the working group looked at HMO's in the future and that parking enforcement was considered around Douglas Road, Cleethorpes.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the minutes of the meeting on the 13th May 2025 with the following actions included:
- 2) That the timescale for recruitment of additional staff to deal with current staffing pressures be provided to the working group in a briefing paper.
- 3) That the additional resourcing costs for the potential voluntary area of action scheme be provided to the working group.
- 4) That the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport meets with ward councillors and Douglas Road residents group to consider parking enforcement when the HMO's are looked at in the future by the working group.

CWP.34 SELECTIVE LICENSING DRAFT CABINET REPORT

The working group received the draft Selective Licensing Cabinet report for the meeting on the 20th August 2025.

The Chair was concerned about the proposed removal of Columbia, Fairmont and Cooper Road from the selective licensing scheme boundary referring to item 1.26 in the report and the justification for removing them was to rely solely on average property values and rental income. There was no reference to a petition from residents who lived in those streets who called for selective licensing or the consultation responses from people who wanted the whole of the East Marsh to be included. The Chair referred to the previous minutes where officers agreed to carry out a door knocking exercise on the three named above streets to better understand residents issues and queried if this exercise had been carried out and if so why was the feedback not reflected in the report.

Mr Hunt confirmed that the difference in the rental value and the property value meant that the geographical area was unlikely to meet the criteria around low housing demand.

Mr Hunt pointed out that Columbia, Fairmont and Cooper Road were not part of the original safer streets geographical area therefore based on the Home Office analysis, crime and anti-social behaviour in the area was not as high as it was in the original safer streets area initiative otherwise it would have been included.

Mr Hunt confirmed that the door knocking exercise has not taken place and that he has asked officers to refer back to the consultation results and see if they could drill down into those three streets and surrounding ones to see specifically what the residents fed back.

The Chair referred to a 500 signature petition originally calling for selective licensing and that half of those were from Columbia, Fairmont and Cooper Road. She felt that crime and anti-social behaviour went down during the safer streets initiative and had risen again and in particular in those three streets.

The Chair referred to another reason for those three streets not being included and documented in the report was that residents expressed concerns about it being included as part of the selective licensing boundary but the data did not support that. She referred to item 6.82 of the report and highlighted that overall opposition came from people who did not live in those streets and that residents who lived on those streets were

more supportive than opposed. She felt that the Cabinet report may misrepresent the balance of opinion of residents in the community and gave disproportioned weight to landlords objections over what the residents wanted and needed.

The Chair questioned whether or not it would be reasonable to keep Columbia, Fairmont and Cooper Road as part of the scheme or revisit it before the Joint Scrutiny panel meeting on the 21st July 2025. Mr Hunt agreed to revisit this recommendation and drill down into the crime and anti-social data and consultation feedback for those three streets.

Councillor Bonner queried if other streets to the east in the Sidney Sussex ward should be included in the scheme compared to Columbia, Fairmont and Cooper Road. The Chair highlighted that there would need to be data provided to back this up and she supported that selective licensing did need to be expanded in other wards at a future date.

Councillor Farren queried why other local authority areas were not considered for a site visit where selective licensing had been implemented. Mr Hunt confirmed that other Councils had been approached and Nottingham were the ones that come back with a date for the visit in the timescales required.

The members of the working group who attended the site felt it was useful and informative and they heard from experience that the best way forward to was start in a small area and then once established include other areas of the borough.

Regarding data for other wards to address the housing issues Councillor Farren explained that the day to day enforcement that had taken place, and that was a statutory requirement would support the evidence base for the scheme along with the density of private rented housing and felt that if this information was considered, other streets could be included for selective licensing. She referred to Nottingham City Council who based their spread on areas not arbitrary borders or wards as a compromise which she felt had not happened throughout this process.

The Chair stressed that no other proposal had been put forward and at the first meeting of the working group it was agreed that that area within the East Marsh was the focus for the proposed selective licensing scheme. Councillor Farran suggested that she comes back to the working group with another proposal and map.

There was a debate whether or not day to day data could be used to establish if other areas within the borough were eligible to be included in the proposed scheme.

Mr Hunt clarified the area within the East Marsh was chosen because of the data already available and wider data compiled for the safer streets scheme pilot. In addition as previously explained, advice provided recommended that a manageable geographical area should be prioritised considering the scale and size as an initial starting point where the Council could embed the scheme, demonstrate it was working effectively. Once implemented it would then be feasible to consider other areas such as Sidney Sussex, Henage Wards or other areas of the borough that would benefit from selective licensing in the future.

The Chair explained that the next phase was the areas of action so that the data could be gathered to build up the evidence base within areas of Henage and Sidney Sussex wards.

Some members of the working group felt that Cabinet should consider the report as laid out and if approved that Selective Licensing Scheme be rolled out with the boundary agreed at the first meeting of the working group and the once embedded look at other areas through the area of action followed by Selective Licensing.

Councillor Farren asked why the scheme proposed was being designed and submitted separately from the multi million pound regeneration bid for the East Marsh retro fit scheme. Mr Hunt explained the retro fit scheme would enhance one particular street within the East Marsh which was part of the selective licensing scheme area and clarified that the two were being looked at separately.

Councillor Farren and Councillor Bonner did not agree that the Selective Licensing should be focused on parts of one ward and should include other streets in the Henage and Sidney Sussex ward and asked for a compromise to see how long it would take for officers to come up with the figures for three smaller areas that would spread the risk. Mr Hunt suggested that the data subject to identifying sufficient resources could be gathered for the areas within Henage and Sidney Sussex alongside implementing selective licensing within the East Marsh area so that the data and evidence was ready for a future date.

RESOLVED

1. That the draft report be noted.
2. That at the Joint Scrutiny Panel meeting to be held on the 21st July 2025 the working group officers to provide the additional postcode data for Columbia, Fairmont and Cooper Road to be available for the meeting so it could be considered before the final report is submitted to Cabinet on the 20th August 2025.

CWP.35 AREAS OF ACTION

The working group received a briefing note that updated on the areas of action.

Councillor Farren asked for clarification that there were not the resources at present and needs a budget to be agreed for the proposed areas of action. Ms Jickells confirmed that this would be part of the budget setting process in the run up to December 2025.

Councillor Farren referred to the call in when it was suggested that the working group revisited the voluntary schemes in March 2026. Ms Jickells explained that if the budget was approved in February 2026 and the governance around the business development group was completed then the work could start April 2026.

RESOLVED – That the briefing paper be noted.

CWP.36 NEXT STEPS

Mr Hunt confirmed that the next step was to attend the Joint Communities and Transport, Infrastructure and Strategic Housing Scrutiny panel meeting on the 21st July 2025 to present the draft Cabinet report and any recommendations from the meeting would be incorporated into the final report for Cabinet on the 20th August 2025.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 1.35 p.m.