



CABINET WORKING PARTY SELECTIVE LICENSING AND HOUSES OF MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

13th May 2025 at 11.00am

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)
- Eve Richardson-Smith (Service Manager Consultancy)
- Jacqui Wells (Housing Programme Manager)

Also in attendance

- Councillor Beasant
- Jade Hassan (Environmental Health & Housing Manager)
- Dee Hitter (Head of Regulation and Sustainability)
- Sophie Pickerden (Scrutiny and Committee Support Officer)

There was one member of the public and no members of the press in attendance at the meeting.

CWP.23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received for this meeting.

CWP.24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

CWP.25 MINUTES

That the minutes from the meeting held on the 4th February 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

CWP.26 PETITION

It was explained to the working group the background to the petition and the current position. The working group acknowledged the petition to revoke or stop conversion to a House of Multiple Occupation for a property on Douglas Road and limiting future Houses in Multiple Occupation. The petition was referred to the working group by the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport at the meeting on the 24th March 2025 and concern was expressed with the length of time that it had taken for the report to be completed since first requested in March 2024.

Members felt this was an unacceptable timescale for a response/outcome and may have affected public confidence in the petition process.

The Chair thanked officers for their hard work whilst also acknowledging that the Council needed to explore practical options to address staffing pressures with the relevant service areas and report back to the Cabinet working group in due course which the members of the working group agreed.

Members requested that officers write to the residents on the petition, to apologise for the delay and detailing the options available to them to escalate issues further in terms of noise nuisance, anti-social behaviour and parking if applicable.

A member queried what work had been carried out with landlords to take responsibility of any anti-social behaviour issues raised. Mr Hunt explained that if a referral was made to the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team then the team would look into it and find a resolution which would include talking to the Landlord if appropriate.

RESOLVED

1. That officers explore practical options to address staffing pressures with the relevant service areas and report back to the Cabinet working group in due course.
2. That officers write to the residents on the petition, to apologise for the delay and detailing the options open to them to escalate issues further.

CWP.27 SELECTIVE LICENSING CONSULTATION

The working group received an update on the results of selective licensing scheme public consultation.

Members were concerned that the geographical area identified for selective licensing and subsequently consulted on had included the correct streets. Officers explained that the Home Office Safer Streets 4 area was chosen based on the data requirements for selective licensing with three additional streets added to the overall footprint. Feedback suggested that residents questioned the addition of these three streets. Officers committed to carrying out some follow up work to determine if these streets would still be included in the final geographical boundary for the selective licensing scheme and explained that residents would be contacted to see what their issues were.

A member expressed concern that they would like to have a more detailed look at the results of the consultation before the final report went to Cabinet on the 20th August 2025.

RESOLVED – That the outcome of the consultation report be presented at the next meeting of the Cabinet working group ahead of the Cabinet.

CWP 28 AREAS OF ACTION

The working group received a briefing note outlining opportunities that were available to the Council when considering the options to deliver housing and management improvements in the proposed Areas of Action.

A member queried why there was no record of repairs and the dangers of damp and felt it was worthy of inclusion. Ms Wells confirmed that it was included in the health impacts.

Members of the working group expressed their concerns that there were no specific timescales to implement the areas of action and felt they were unable to make a decision without a clear set of timescales and data.

Ms Jickells explained that the first step was to wait for the Cabinet decision on the 20th August 2025 to see if the Selective Licensing scheme was approved and if so officers would start work to recruit and train new members of staff and then officers would be able to provide timescales for the next steps with the areas of action.

Ms Wells highlighted that more evidence would need to be gathered around the area of action. The Chair felt it would be a good opportunity to work with the landlords in the Sidney Sussex and Heneage areas.

RESOLVED – That the briefing paper be noted.

CWP.30 NOTTINGHAM SITE VISIT

The working group discussed and agreed a site visit to Nottingham City Council to hear about the selective licensing scheme they had implemented.

RESOLVED – That a site visit to Nottingham City Council be arranged.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 12.37 p.m.