



To be submitted to the Council at its meeting on 25th September 2025

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL AND TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND STRATEGIC HOUSING SCRUTINY PANEL

21st July 2025 at 5.30pm

Present: Councillors Aisthorpe, Augusta, Boyd (substitute for Silvester), Crofts, Lindley, Mill, Patrick, Shutt, K. Swinburn (substitute for Hasthorpe), Wheatley and Wilson.

Officers in attendance:

- Carolina Borgstrom (Director of Economy, Environment & Infrastructure)
- Dee Hitter (Head of Regulation and Sustainability)
- Spencer Hunt (Assistant Director Safer and Stronger Place)
- Simon Jones (Assistant Director Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer))
- Jaqui Wells (Housing Programme Manager)
- Paul Windley (Democratic & Scrutiny Team Manager)

Also in attendance:

- Councillor Jackson, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Net Zero, Skills and Housing
- Councillor S Swinburn, Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport
- Councillor Beasant
- Councillor Clough
- Councillor Humphrey

There were two members of the public present.

JSPCT.1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED – That Councillor Mill be appointed Chair for this joint scrutiny panel meeting.

COUNCILLOR MILL IN THE CHAIR

JSPCT.2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hasthorpe and Silvester.

JSPCT.3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made with regard to any items on the agenda for this meeting.

JSPCT.4 SELECTIVE LICENSING – CABINET REPORT

The panel received a report from the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport proposing the introduction of a Selective Licensing scheme, following a consultation exercise that had been undertaken in a defined area of the East Marsh ward. The report was brought to this joint panel to allow pre-decision scrutiny and comment prior to proposed consideration by Cabinet at its meeting on 20th August 2025.

The panel received a presentation from officers summarising the proposed scheme and the outcome of the consultation.

The panel were invited to comment on the proposals and sought clarification on a number of issues, including the following:

- What was the criteria for deciding on the best area for the scheme?
- Would it be better to consider on an area by area rather than ward by ward basis?
- The potential for displacement as landlords left areas covered by the scheme.
- The potential for legal challenge and delay if only one ward was chosen.
- What housing enforcement had been carried out to support the proposed scheme?
- Was there an option to pursue discretionary/voluntary schemes?
- What would be the resource requirement to support the scheme?

In response, officers noted that advice from other authorities that had implemented schemes was not to start too large. Areas needed to be decided based on the highest need. East Marsh was chosen based on ONS data and the outcome of the recent housing needs assessment due to deprivation levels and the number of housing complaints from that area. Data for other areas of the Borough could be collated but current accessible data pointed towards the introduction of a scheme in the East Marsh. Having spoken to other authorities that had implemented selective licensing schemes, there was little evidence of displacement. A robust process was important to avoid any legal challenge and the active consultation that had taken place was a further positive. The risk of

judicial review would apply equally across a number of schemes and it was felt that getting a pilot scheme right before moving on to other areas was the best safeguard. It was noted that all enforcement requests were investigated and action taken as appropriate. It was anticipated that under a selective licensing scheme, trust would be developed with tenants as it would work in a different way. Timelines and staffing requirements were outlined to the panel.

Whilst supporting implementation of the proposed East Marsh scheme, the joint panel was keen to expand it to other areas of the Borough and discussed options that would prevent any displacement issues, including potential discretionary schemes where selective licensing was not felt to be an appropriate solution.

Councillor Aisthorpe suggested that the Selective Licensing Cabinet Working Party be tasked with further investigating those options. Following a discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Wilson and seconded by Councillor Augusta that implementation of the proposed East Marsh scheme be supported but it be recommended to Cabinet that, alongside that:

- The Selective Licensing scheme be expanded to cover other areas of the Borough.
- The Transformation Fund be utilised to cover any shortfall in budget from any expansion of the scheme.
- There be an exploration of discretionary schemes in other areas where Selective Licensing was not able to be implemented.

RESOLVED – That implementation of the proposed East Marsh scheme be supported but it be recommended to Cabinet that, alongside that:

- The Selective Licensing scheme be expanded to cover other areas of the Borough.
- The Transformation Fund be utilised to cover any shortfall in budget from any expansion of the scheme.
- There be an exploration of discretionary schemes in other areas where Selective Licensing was not able to be implemented.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.52 p.m.