

## **CABINET – 10TH DECEMBER 2020**

### **Report of the Scrutiny Commission**

#### **ITEM 7      DISCRETIONARY PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING LICENSING SCHEME**

##### Purpose of Report

To consider the comments and recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission in relation to the Discretionary Private Sector Housing Licensing Scheme proposals.

##### Recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission

That the Cabinet be informed that the Commission welcomes and supports the recommendations set out in the report of the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing.

##### Reason

The Commission, having carefully considered and asked questions on the report felt the Cabinet should approve the recommendations set out.

##### Meeting Discussion

- i. The Additional Licensing scheme would focus on HMO properties that were not covered by the HMO Mandatory Scheme and the Selective Licensing Scheme, which would cover all rented properties within the specified areas of Hastings and Lemyngton wards, not included within the Mandatory or proposed Additional Licensing Scheme.
- ii. The Risk Register within the report had highlighted all the potential risks identified in implementing the proposed schemes. There were a number of high-risk categories and it was considered that implementing the proposed schemes would be beneficial to improve the standards and management of accommodation within the Borough and the specified areas.
- iii. The proposed consultation exercise had been developed ensuring that statutory guidance and recent case law implications had all been considered in the planning and consultation process.
- iv. The Discretionary Private Sector Licensing Schemes would be cost-neutral, and a staggered recruitment approach would be taken to ensure the resources available reflected the size of the scheme.
- v. In the future, it is possible that the Selective Scheme could be expanded to further wards within the Borough, providing there was sufficient evidence to demonstrate the need.

- vi. If approved, the scheme would be reviewed after five years, at which point further work would be required to justify the continuation of a scheme.

### Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

Scrutiny Commission Procedure Rule 11.12 sets out the procedure by which a report of a Scrutiny Committee should be considered by Cabinet.

### Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The information on this in the Cabinet report is not affected by the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

### Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

#### *Financial Implications*

There are no further financial implications associated with the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

#### *Risk Management*

There are no specific risks associated with the recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission.

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Key Decision:       | Yes  |
| Background Paper:   | Scrutiny Commission Minute 94 2020/21, 7th December 2020                                       |
| Officer to Contact: | Sally Watson<br>Democratic Services Officer<br>(01509) 634969<br>Sally.watson@charnwood.gov.uk |