

**DEPUTY LEADER - ADULTS, HEALTH, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES
CABINET MEMBER**

8 August 2023

7 SELECTIVE LICENSING OF PRIVATE RENTED ACCOMMODATION – The Director: Economy and Environment submitted a report seeking approval of a public consultation and business case to consider a selective licensing scheme in North Lincolnshire.

It was the council's ambition to be the best place for its people. To achieve this there was a clear commitment to ensuring that the council supported provision of a safe and healthy place for communities to flourish and be resilient. The provision of suitable and well managed housing was fundamental in delivering this outcome.

On 18 July 2017, Cabinet agreed, subject to the production of a business case and a public consultation exercise, to consider a scheme for selective licensing (minute 1271 refers). It was decided, in line with guidance, that there were alternative interventions that should be tried before a scheme for Selective Licensing was introduced. A variety of these alternative interventions had been attempted, since 2017 to date, including a voluntary landlord accreditation scheme.

The option to review the selective licensing scheme was due to the increasing nature of housing management issues, criminal landlord activity, public health, environmental and anti-social behaviour, negatively impacting on communities. Existing powers and collaborative working had had little impact and mixed success in delivering the positive change that achieved the council's priorities for people and place. Therefore, the introduction of the more robust powers available through selective licensing must be reconsidered.

Councils had discretionary powers to introduce selective licensing schemes requiring all private landlords with houses in a designated area to operate under the terms of a licence. Licence conditions typically covered matters related to the property being safe and well managed.

Before a selective licensing scheme could be introduced, an evidence-based business case must be produced detailing the objectives of the scheme. The business case must also identify ways to achieve the same objectives and complementary measures which would be taken alongside the proposed scheme. A scheme should be introduced only when there were no other practical and beneficial alternatives.

Resolved – (a) That consideration be given to the introduction of a selective licensing scheme, subject to a business case and consultation; (b) that the proposal to develop a business case and undertake a consultation be approved, and (c) that findings be submitted to the Cabinet Member for final decisions around implementation of a selective licensing scheme.