

## **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2017**

	<b>Report for Consultation</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Proposal for a Scheme of Selective Licensing for Privately Rented Houses</b>
<b>Lead Board Member(s):</b>	
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<b>Brief summary:</b>	<p>This report is to inform the Health and Wellbeing Board of the data collection and analysis work that has been completed to inform a decision to consult on a proposal to introduce a selective licensing scheme for privately rented houses. Nottingham City Council Executive Board have approved the proposed designation in principle and a public consultation will take place on these proposals between January and March 2017.</p> <p>The use of selective licensing powers will provide the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An opportunity to effectively influence higher standards of privately rented houses and to ensure effective management through more extensive control;</li><li>• A key tool in achieving the overall reduction of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB); and</li><li>• Lead to higher levels of customer satisfaction with private rented sector accommodation within the City</li><li>• Work with landlords and tenants to provide positive advice and assistance to achieve legislative compliance, education and the provision of advice and information as appropriate.</li></ul> <p>The report outlines the outcomes of an evidence gathering project surrounding the need for selective licensing within the City and demonstrates the existence of problems within the proposed designation. It shows that there is a strong correlation between the criteria for introducing a scheme and the private rented housing stock in Nottingham. Whilst different parts of the City meet different grounds,</p>

	<p>collectively there is a strong argument for suggesting that the entire City should be covered by the scheme.</p> <p>The Council is committed to working jointly with other local authority services, other public sector organisations and a wide range of private and voluntary sector organisations to provide and deliver improvements in health and wellbeing. Its approach to housing also follows this principle, seeking to work with a range of other services to improve citizens' lives, not least their health and wellbeing.</p> <p>One of the key benefits the Council believes that selective licensing will bring is improved housing conditions. The positive impact that better housing can make on health and wellbeing has been demonstrated both nationally and locally. The City's Health and Wellbeing Strategy has "Healthy Environment" as one of its four main priorities. Within this there is the priority action "Housing will maximise the benefit and minimise the risk to health of Nottingham's citizens".</p> <p>The proposal for selective licensing fits very clearly with this action and supports the Memorandum of Understanding on Housing and Health that was signed off by the Board and can significantly contribute to the action plan that clearly identifies the private rented sector as a focus for action.</p>
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#### **Recommendation to the Health and Wellbeing Board:**

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- a) note the contents of the report;
- b) offer its views on the proposal for a scheme of selective licensing for privately rented houses; and
- c) request that Board members actively contribute to the consultation process which ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

#### **Contribution to Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy:**

<b>Health and Wellbeing Strategy aims and outcomes</b>	<b>Summary of contribution to the Strategy</b>
Aim: To increase healthy life expectancy in Nottingham and make us one of the	Aim: To increase healthy life expectancy in Nottingham and make us one of the

healthiest big cities	healthiest big cities Outcome 4: Nottingham's environment will be sustainable – supporting and enabling its citizens to have good health and wellbeing
Aim: To reduce inequalities in health by targeting the neighbourhoods with the lowest levels of healthy life expectancy	
Outcome 1: Children and adults in Nottingham adopt and maintain healthy lifestyles	
Outcome 2: Children and adults in Nottingham will have positive mental wellbeing and those with long-term mental health problems will have good physical health	
Outcome 3: There will be a healthy culture in Nottingham in which citizens are supported and empowered to live healthy lives and manage ill health well	
Outcome 4: Nottingham's environment will be sustainable – supporting and enabling its citizens to have good health and wellbeing	

**How mental health and wellbeing is being championed in line with the Board's aspiration to give equal value to mental and physical health**

Poor housing can contribute to ill health, and improving housing conditions e.g. tackling damp and cold can improve health. Poor housing can also contribute to, or exacerbate mental health problems. The Council and its partners in housing organisations and the health services are working together to achieve housing objectives which lead to a healthier and happier community. Selective licensing will be a significant part of this.

**Background papers:**

*Documents which disclose important facts or matters on which the decision has been based and have been relied on to a material extent in preparing the decision. This does not include any published works e.g. previous Board reports or any exempt documents.*

None