

Executive decision taken by Leader



Working in partnership with **Eastbourne Homes**

Decision taken by:

Councillor Stephen Holt, Leader of the Council

Date of decision:

26 July 2024

Subject of report:

Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Development Plan Document (DPD)

At its meeting on the 17th July 2024, Cabinet agreed a series of interventions to address concerns relating to the proliferation and impact of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in the town. This included the introduction of new planning policy to provide more extensive criteria for applications for new HMOs to be assessed against, through the preparation of an HMO Development Plan Document (DPD).

The report identifies the approach being taken to the HMO DPD, and seeks approval to undertake a public consultation on a draft version of the Eastbourne HMO DPD under Regulation 18 of the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), which represents the first consultation stage in the plan-making process.

Exempt matter (if any as given under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972):

No

Key decision?:

Non-key – this decision is to authorise the undertaking of consultation on the HMO DPD, which is not considered to be a key decision. Subsequent reports will be

presented to Cabinet and Full Council for a decision to approve the Proposed Submission version of the HMO DPD following this consultation.

Open summary of decision made:

- (1) That the Leader approves the publication of the Eastbourne HMO DPD (Appendix 1 of the report) for public consultation between Friday 2nd August and Friday 27th September 2024.
- (2) That the Leader delegates authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet member for enterprise, community spaces and planning, to make any necessary editorial changes and minor amendments to the consultation document and supporting evidence prior to publication if necessary.

Reason(s) for decision:

- (1) To meet the requirements of Regulation 18 of the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) in the preparation of a Development Plan Document
- (2) To ensure that any minor or typographical errors can be corrected prior to the HMO DPD being published for consultation

Alongside the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act, the Government proposed changes to planning regulations to reform the plan-making process. This included a deadline of the end of June 2025 for local planning authorities to submit plans for examination under the existing national framework. In order to meet this deadline, it will be necessary to undertake the initial round of public consultation on the HMO DPD under Regulation 18 of the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), at this time.

Alternative options considered:

The Council could choose not to undertake consultation on the HMO DPD at this time. However, delays in undertaking consultation would mean that the submission of the HMO DPD for examination by the end of June 2025 deadline may not be achievable.

Was an executive councillor(s) consulted before decision was taken?

Yes

If councillor(s) consulted, did they declare any personal interest relating to the decision, had they been given a dispensation in respect of the matter?

No

Signed:

Councillor Stephen Holt, Leader of the Council