

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 29 November 2023

Report Title

Cabinet's Response to the Scrutiny Review – Selective Licensing

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Rawmarsh East

Rotherham East

Rotherham West

Maltby East

Dinnington

Thurcroft and Wickersley South

Report Summary

To report on the response to the findings and recommendations from the spotlight review into Selective Licensing.

Recommendations

1. That Council note Cabinet's response to the recommendations as summarised in the Cabinet's Response to the Scrutiny review – Selective Licensing at Appendix 1.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Cabinet's Response to Scrutiny Review – Selective Licensing

Appendix 2 Selective Licensing Feedback Survey (2023)

Appendix 3 Equalities Screening Impact Assessment

Appendix 4 Carbon and Climate Change Assessment

Background Papers

[Scrutiny Review Recommendations – Impact of Selective Licensing](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
Cabinet – 20th November 2023

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Cabinet's Response to the Scrutiny Review – Selective Licensing

1. Background

1.1 The Improving Places Select Commission supports the Council in achieving its Council Plan 2022-25 themes of Every Neighbourhood Thriving and People are Safe, Healthy and Live Well. Members of Improving Places Select Commission had concerns about living conditions and absentee landlords in specific areas of deprivation. These concerns led to a Scrutiny Review of the impact of the selective licensing scheme in place from 2020-2025. The review considered the current response to deprivation and housing conditions in specific residential areas of Parkgate, Thurcroft, Maltby, Dinnington, Eastwood/Town centre and Masbrough.

1.2 On 20 November 2023 Cabinet received a report 'Scrutiny Review Recommendations – Impact of Selective Licensing.' The report gave a detailed account of the current scheme outlining its strengths and weaknesses. The report identified four key risk factors to the success of the scheme:

- 1) pandemic-related delays,
- 2) a shortage of experienced inspectors,
- 3) a rising cost of living
- 4) complexity of measuring impact on deprivation

The recommendations and Cabinet's response are set out in the paper in Appendix 1 and especially section 2.

2. Key Issues

2.1 The key issues are set out in the Cabinet report at Appendix 1.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.2 It is recommended that Council note that Cabinet approved the response to the recommendations as summarised in the Cabinet report at Appendix 1.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Details of consultation are set out in section 4 of the Cabinet report listed in Appendix 1 and the full consultation report in Appendix 2.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Cabinet's responses to each of the recommendations and associated timescales are detailed in Appendix 1.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 Financial implications are outlined within the Cabinet report listed in Appendix 1.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 Legal Advice and Implications are outlined within the Cabinet report listed in Appendix 1.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 Human Resources Advice and Implications are outlined within the Cabinet report listed in Appendix 1.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The scheme supports families in the private rented sector and therefore improvements in conditions will have a positive impact on the families concerned.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 An assessment has been carried out in Appendix 3. There are no equalities or human rights implications from this report.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 An assessment has been carried out in Appendix 4. The overall impact of improving the repair of dwelling is likely to have a positive emissions impact.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Implications for partners are set out in the main sections of the Cabinet report listed in Appendix 1.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Risks and Mitigations are set out in the main sections of the Cabinet report listed in Appendix 1.

14. Accountable Officers

Emma Ellis, Head of Service, Community Safety and Regulatory Services

	Name	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	20/11/23
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	17/11/23
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Bal Nahal	17/11/23
Assistant Director of Human Resources (if appropriate)	N/A	
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)	N/A	
The Strategic Director with responsibility for this report	Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment	13/11/23
Consultation undertaken with the relevant Cabinet Member	N/A	

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