

Selective Licensing Work Group – Action Plan for proposal to Prosperous Communities Committee

Notes of meeting: 27th May 2022

Present:

Cllr Coulson (Chair)
Cllr Young

In Attendance:

Nova Roberts (Assistant Director for Change Management and Regulatory Services,
Andy Gray (Housing and Environmental Enforcement Manager)

Apologies:

Cllr Howitt Cowan
Cllr Bunney
Cllr Regis

1. Context

The context of the meeting was provided by Andy Gray and the meeting was then led by Cllr Coulson as Chair.

2. Agreement of Terms of Reference

The proposed terms of reference were agreed by Councillors present. A discussion was undertaken in regards to the quorum required for any decision, which was agreed as two working group members, plus the elected Chair.

At the initial working group meeting there were only two Councillors present, one of which was the Chair. Both Councillors present felt it necessary for the meeting to proceed.

Action: Terms of Reference agreed and to be proposed to PCC in July 2022.

3. Consideration of report relating to proposed action plans

A working paper was sent to members of the group in advance of the meeting titled "SL Working Group Paper 27.5.22". The working paper sought feedback on a number of proposed actions

Working group Action 1: *The working group were asked to provide feedback on the proposed timescales*

The working group agreed with the proposed timescales set out in Table 1 in the paper.

The “Renters Reform Bill” was discussed, specifically the proposals for a landlord registration portal and a new “Decent Homes Standard”. Members informed that these proposals are at an early stage and will be duly considered within any future proposals. Officers confirmed that they are engaging with representative bodies to influence and inform any proposals.

Information on this proposed bill can be found here [What’s the latest on the Renters’ Reform Bill? | Leaders](#)

Working Group Action 2: *The working group were asked to provide feedback on the proposal for a broader workshop for all Councillors on the PRS in West Lindsey.*

Councillors agreed that a broader workshop on the PRS was needed to ensure that the wider views of Councillors from all areas could be incorporated. It was proposed that the following elements be considered within this:

- Recognition of different challenge in different wards (rural vs urban)
- Provision of evidence to aid understanding from a rural perspective. Potentially different sessions for rural and urban Councillors.
- Workshop to also include subjects such as; current evidence; what we know about the sector; what the overall strategy is; views on additional regulation; examples of available approaches; case studies.

It was proposed that face to face and online workshops be undertaken.

Action:

- *Planning of workshop to involve working group members (recommendation for committee)*
- *Workshop to be arranged for September 2022 (recommendation for committee)*

Working Group Action 3: *The working group were asked confirm if they agree with how the concerns raised have been grouped into the four themes.*

Councillors agreed that the four themes were appropriate

Working Group Action 4: *The working group are asked to approve that theme 1 is explored first to provide the framework and basis for any future proposals in relation to the PRS.*

Councillors agreed that Theme 1 “Overall approach in the PRS” will need to be explored prior to any further discussions about themes 2, 3 and 4.

Working Group Action 5: *Within table 2, in relation to theme 1, the working group are asked to put their views forward on how the specific concerns may be best addressed and/or explored further.*

Councillors agreed with the proposed content given for guidance. Additional points were added and are listed below:

- Examples of other initiatives in the PRS such as accreditation and rogue landlord schemes should be explored, to include information on the outcomes they seek to achieve.
- Examples need to be provided on how our existing tools work.
- Keen to consider the difference between urban and rural approaches.
- Need to ensure that the overall strategic approach is aligned if looking to deliver a broader partnership.

4. Any Other Business

The future engagement of the working group was discussed. It was proposed that the group are engaged in the following activities prior to the final paper to Prosperous Communities Committee (PCC) in November 2022

- Provision of comments prior to report being finalised for PCC in July 2022.
- Informing the development of and approving the scope and content of the workshops for all Councillors.
- Attending the workshops for all Councillors
- Informing the development of the report to be presented to PCC in November 2022 relating to “Overall approach to the PRS”
- Provision of comments prior to report being finalised for PCC in November 2022.

Action:

- *Working group members to provide comments on report prior to it being finalised for PCC in July 2022.*
- *Proposals for engaging working group between July and November 2022 to be recommended to PCC in July 2022.*

END