

# CABINET MEMBER DECISION NOTICE

15 January, 2019



## *Cabinet Member Decision on this Notice*

### **Amendment to Housing in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Fee Structure / Discount**

The Cabinet Member for Communities has taken the following decision:

#### **AMENDMENT TO HOUSING IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMO) FEE STRUCTURE / DISCOUNT**

**(a) Decision(s)**

That the proposed revised discounts for HMO licences, as detailed in the report published on 8 January, 2019, be approved with immediate effect. This includes to:-

- Offer a 30% discount to all new HMO applications that are received within 3 months of first occupation (Mandatory and Additional HMOs)
- Offer a 30% discount to all HMO renewals applications that are made prior to licence expiry.
- Remove the £80 discount for applications from 'known compliant HMOs'.

**(b) Reason(s) for decision(s)**

To ensure that HMO licence fees are consistent and fair, whether for a new application or a renewal. The updated discounts will also provide a financial incentive for landlords to apply for a licence (or renewal) at the earliest opportunity.

**(c) Alternative options considered**

Not to review the fees and charges. However, a full corporate review of fees and charges (which includes HMO fees) is currently being considered as part of the budget setting process and will take effect in April 2019. Due to the timing of some early HMO licenses the renewal date falls ahead of time. It is therefore prudent to bring forward the renewal discount so as not to penalise those due to renew now.

**(d) Conflicts of Interest / Dispensation(s)**

None.

#### **CALL IN TIMESCALE**

Any requests for call in must be received by the Democratic Manager by 5.00 pm on 22 January 2019. The request must be made by the Chairman or any 3 Members of the Environment and Living Scrutiny Committee.

Contact Officer: Craig Saunders (01296) 585043