

Report of the Chief Executive

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HIMOS) IN BEESTON1. Purpose of report

To provide members with an update on Housing Need work, in so far as it relates to clusters of student accommodation in Beeston and to recommend the appropriate response to this issue.

2. Background

Update reports were provided to the committee in July 2019 and in January 2020, and these reports are contained in appendices 1 and 2. Icen Projects Limited were commissioned to undertake a Greater Nottingham & Ashfield Housing Needs Assessment, and as part of this a Technical Paper was completed on Student Housing Needs. This paper was specifically included in the brief in order to inform decision taking in Broxtowe on student housing needs, which includes consideration of Houses in Multiple Occupation, and how this should be addressed in policy terms.

The Icen report is included in full at appendix 3 which does not yet contain data from the universities. At appendix 4 is an assessment of the options available including a recommended course of action. At appendix 5 is a map showing the recommended boundary for the Article 4 Direction. The Council is seeking a legal opinion as to the appropriate time scale and boundary of the Article 4 direction and this together with the information from the universities will be available prior to the Committee.

3. Financial implications

The cost of issuing an Article 4 Direction can be done within existing budgets. The work on an SPD is likely to take one planning officer between 6 months and 1 year to do this comprehensively. Depending on other commitments it may be possible to redistribute work within the department, but with an uplift in Core Strategy work, HS2 now confirmed, Development Corporation work gathering pace, and Town Centre regeneration initiatives accelerating, it would not be the case that any redistribution of work can be done seamlessly without a knock on effect on other priorities. This will be kept under review with further reports to the Committee.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that the work outlined in appendix 4 and shown in appendix 5 is undertaken to create an Article 4 Direction in relation to Houses in Multiple Occupation.

Background papers

Nil