

Report of the Chief Executive

## **HMO UPDATE**

1. Purpose of report

To update members on the steps taken to progress the Article 4 Direction in Beeston.

2. Background

Following the decision of the Jobs and Economy Committee in February work has been progressing on the Article 4. Current priorities of the Planning policy team during the lockdown have been to progress the Core Strategy Review / Growth options work for a public consultation in July, HS2 / Toton (Strategic Location for Growth) Supplementary Planning Document, Climate Change initiatives in addition to progressing the Article 4 Direction.

Planning and Legal colleagues have been in constructive dialogue regarding the next steps in progressing the Direction. Some of the most significant issues are the number of letters that need to be sent out given the size of the area affected, the need for availability of a physical copy of the direction for people to inspect (in the Council Offices, which needs to be open) and a number of issues about the interpretation of the legislation in light of the current restrictions.

This remain a high priority but with the current restrictions on attendance in the office for staff and visitors, it is proving difficult to keep up to speed with the much more limited mail outs for the progression of planning applications (e.g. committee items, public speaking letters etc.). Members may be aware that given these difficulties the progression of planning applications during the lockdown has relied on applicants notifying neighbours directly and without this it would not have been possible to progress planning applications with the one day a week opening of the office. It currently appears to be the case that there is no way of progressing the Article 4 without a specific letter to all affected households which is taking longer to arrange.

In addition to the Policy and Development Management work described above, this will be a major priority once the office is anticipated to be open to a limited extent within the next few weeks. With an opening of the office in early July it is anticipated that the necessary steps including notification of affected parties will be able to be carried out by the end of July.

### **Recommendation**

**The committee is asked to NOTE the report.**

Background papers

Nil