

Environment, Culture and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Status Report: June 2019

HOMES OF MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMO)

To date six meetings have taken place spanning the period October 2016 – June 2019.

Seven members volunteered to be part of the Overview and Scrutiny panel although we never secured 100% attendance based on work commitments, illness etc.

The attendance varied from 2 (once), 3 (three times) and 4 (once)

Those interviewed covered a broad spectrum including:

- Environment and Public Protection
- Community Safety manager
- Chief Officer housing
- Chief Officer planning
- Chief Officer customer services
- Thames Valley police
- Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue services
- Prospect Estate agent managing HMO's in Berkshire

The scope of this work embraced the following areas:

- Planning, housing, environmental health, rates and ASB aspects with HMO
- Landlord's responsibilities in relation to HMO
- Solutions to address any issues associated with HMO
- Members experiences with HMO
- Relevant legislation, data, reports and research.

The government are currently reviewing the legislation in place for HMO's which could result in the way HMO's are managed.

A pictorial will be made showing pictures and a narrative lasting approximately three minutes. This can then be viewed on YouTube etc.

LED Working Group

The working group consisted of eight members from different wards.

The group met four times.

The scope of the working group was to make sure that the savings had been achieved and how the project was managed.

The group took evidence from;

- Chief Officer Highways
- Executive member Transport and Planning
- Executive member Finance and Transformation
- Thames Valley Police.

The group also carried out four site visits to areas of concerns, a small courtyard, a cul-de-sac and a main road leading to an estate.

The general findings were that initial member engagement was very poor, lack of consultation with residents, no detail of existing lighting was provided and any issues and how we will dispose of LED lights at end of life.

The findings from Thames Valley Police found that there was no increase in anti-social behaviour as claimed by residents.

The surplus of funding will be spent on dealing with the concerns both from members and residents where possible.

A video will be made by all members of the working group to highlight the work carried out and the recommendations we will be forwarding to the Executive.