



Cabinet Member Report for Housing

Northampton Borough Council

14th July 2014

Designation for Additional Licensing of Housing is Multiple Occupation

After detailed liaison with the Council's legal services (LGSS) the designation for additional licensing of houses in multiple occupation and the required public notice have been drafted. The designation for additional licensing was made on 3rd July and public notice will run for six weeks. Following this all landlords who operate a house in multiple occupation in the designated area will be required to licence the property or risk prosecution. We anticipate the scheme will affect about 2000 shared houses across the wards of Obelisk, Sunnyside, Kingsthorpe, St David's, Kingsley, Semilong, Trinity, St James, Delapre, Briar Hill, Castle, and Abington. We will also be looking at the introduction of an accreditation scheme to complement and extend our approach to achieving better standards in private rented housing. Once the scheme becomes operational, landlords will have sixteen weeks to ensure that they have applied for a licence. Officers have agreed a detailed communications exercise so that all people who are affected are aware.

Prevention Bid

Subject to Cabinet approval, Northamptonshire County Council will issue an Invitation to tender for Community Wellbeing Services. We recognize the importance of a range of services delivered by and for the local community to the wellbeing of local people and our communities. We are therefore working in partnership with a wide range of agencies in order to submit a proposal for how these services could be delivered. We do not expect to hear the outcome of this tender exercise until October, after which there will be detailed planning about how services, including those we deliver ourselves, are changed to meet the new requirements of the County Council.

New Pre-ALMO team at Landlord Services

With the considerable activity preparing for the establishment of Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH), we have taken steps to bring the preparation work and the day to day operational/activity together. A new Pre-ALMO team has been put in place.

New board for NPH established

Vital to the success of NPH is its Board of Management, which is now in place and has met twice. We are satisfied that a Board of significant quality has been put together and in particular, along-side the tenants, council nominees and members, we have been able to attract independent board members with good experience.

Decent Homes

In order that we can let tenants know in advance the works to be undertaken and to have greater control of the programme for the contractors, we have bought in Savills to pre-survey all the properties that have not yet been started. We have also created a Decent Homes hot-line in partnership with the Contact Centre to ensure that queries and complaints can be speedily resolved.

Councillor Mary Markham
Cabinet Member for Housing