

# Arun District Council

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Policy and Finance Committee – 6 September 2022</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Options for Introducing Further Controls on the Quality of Houses in Multiple Occupation – Financial Implications</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Carolyn Martlew – Interim Group Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer</b>
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	Cllr Shaun Gunner
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>Marine, Hotham, River</b>
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION:</b> The recommendation supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improving the wellbeing of Arun;</li><li>• Delivering the right homes in the right places.</li></ul>	
<b>DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT:</b> The licensing of Homes in Multiple Occupation (HMO) is a major function performed in the Directorate. Medium Term Financial Plan: Supplementary estimates increase the amount of net expenditure which reduces the balances available.	
<b>FINANCIAL SUMMARY:</b> The report requests a supplementary revenue estimate of £40,000, to be funded from general fund balances.	

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1. The purpose of this report is to make financial arrangements to implement the recommendation of the Environment Committee at its meeting of 14 July 2022.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. It is recommended that Policy and Finance Committee recommend to Full Council that a supplementary estimate of up to £40,000 be approved for additional resources to support the consultation process required to implement the additional licensing scheme for house in multiple occupation. This equates to a Band D Council Tax equivalent of 63p.

### **3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

3.1. The Environment Committee considered a report 'Options for introducing further controls on the quality of Houses in Multiple Occupation' at its meeting on 14 July 2022. The Environment Committee report contained a recommendation to approve a supplementary revenue estimate of up to £40,000 which has a financial implication for the Council. Under the Council Constitution, the Environment Committee resolution is subject to Policy and Finance Committee and Full Council confirmation of finances being available. This report recommends that Policy and Finance Committee approve the finance subject to Full Council approval.

### **4. DETAIL**

4.1. As outlined above, the Environment Committee have approved instigating a consultation process for HMOs in Marine, Hotham and river Wards. This requires a consultation process to be undertaken.

4.2. There is no current provision for this in the 2022/23 General Fund Revenue Budget approved by the Council in February 2022. For the consultation to be undertaken, the Council must provide additional resource.

4.3. This report therefore recommends a non-recurring supplementary revenue estimate be approved of up to £40,000 in 2022/23.

### **5. CONSULTATION**

5.1. No consultation has been undertaken with external bodies.

### **6. OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

6.1. No alternatives have been considered.

### **7. COMMENTS BY THE GROUP HEAD OF FINANCE/SECTION 151 OFFICER**

7.1. The approval of the supplementary estimate will be funded from General Fund balances. The approved budget includes a withdrawal from balances of £817k. The approval of a one-off General Fund supplementary estimate of £40k is not material to the financial position of the Council.

### **8. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

8.1. Undertaking the consultation will ameliorate any likely risks in the implementation of the new policy.

### **9. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER**

9.1. To implement an additional HMO licensing scheme a legally prescribed consultation process must be followed. Increased enforcement and potential appeals via the First Tier Tribunal will impact on the resources of the Legal Services Team.

## **10.HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT**

10.1. None.

## **11.HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT**

11.1. None.

## **12.PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT**

12.1. None.

## **13.EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) / SOCIAL VALUE**

13.1. No adverse impacts on protected characteristics have been identified but a formal consultation for an additional licensing scheme would provide the opportunity for further consideration.

## **14.CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/SOCIAL VALUE**

14.1. None.

## **15.CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT**

15.1. None.

## **16.HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT**

16.1. None.

## **17.FREEDOM OF INFORMATION / DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS**

17.1. None.

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### **CONTACT OFFICER:**

Name: Carolin Martlew

Job Title: Interim Group Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer

Contact Number: 01903 737558

### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:**

Minutes of Environment Committee Meeting of 14 July 2022;

Report to Environment Committee of 14 July 2022 - Options for introducing further controls on the quality of Houses in Multiple Occupation