

Title of Report: Transfer of Houses in Multiple Occupation: Memorandum of Understanding between Department for Communities Housing Division and lead Councils	Officer Presenting: Director of Health and Community Author: Head of Health and Community Wellbeing
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1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek members' approval of the draft Memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Department for Communities (DfC) Housing Division and lead Councils for the operation of the new HMO regulatory regime.

2 Background Information

- 2.1 The Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Act NI 2016 ('the 2016 Act') is due to commence on 1st April 2019. This will transfer the responsibility for the Houses in Multiple Occupation ('HMO') registration scheme from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to local district councils.
- 2.2 The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been developed in consultation with Council officers and sets out key working arrangements and responsibilities for the operation of the new HMO regulatory regime.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 The MOU will assist and provide clarity and accountability regarding the respective roles of the lead Councils and the Department to the procedures and activities involved in the regulation of this HMO function. It identifies key performance indicators (KPI's) and sets out the main activities and statistics to be provided with respect to monitoring the delivery of the scheme. A copy of the MOU is attached to the report (Appendix 1).
- 3.2 The MOU will be effective from the 1 April 2019 when the HMO Licensing scheme will commence.

4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement and other Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial or other implications.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 It is recommended that committee approve the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding and that the Chief Executive sign on Council's behalf.

Background Papers

Appendix 1: Memorandum of Understanding between Department for Communities (DfC) Housing Division and Belfast City Council; Derry City and Strabane District Council and Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council