

## NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING AIRBNBS IN THANET

Council	<b>14 October 2021</b>
Report Author	<b>Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager</b>
Portfolio Holder	<b>Councillor Ashbee, The Leader of the Council</b>
Status	<b>For Decision</b>
Classification:	<b><i>Unrestricted</i></b>
Key Decision	<b>No</b>
Ward:	<b>All Wards</b>

### **Executive Summary:**

This Council will consider a notice of motion requesting that the Local Plan Cabinet Advisory Group look at the possibility of introducing planning restrictions on short term rentals, and a request that the Leader write to the AirBnB UK Public Policy Manager and seek a 90 day annual limit for home rentals in Thanet on the AirBnB platform.

### **Recommendation(s):**

Council is invited to consider whether to debate the motion.

### **Corporate Implications**

#### **Financial and Value for Money**

None arising directly from this report.

#### **Legal**

Council Procedure Rule 3.7 states that: "the Member whose name appears first on the notice will move the motion during his or her speech and call for a seconder. If seconded, a Member from the controlling political group will be entitled to a reply, after which the motion shall stand referred without further discussion to the Cabinet or appropriate committee for determination or report unless the Council decides to debate the motion in accordance with Rule 16" (*rules of debate*)

#### **Corporate**

Council Procedure Rule 3 provides the opportunity for Councillors to give advance notice of motions to be put to Council.

#### **Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty**

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

There are no specific equalities issues arising from this report.

## **CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- *Communities*

### **1.0 Introduction and Background**

- 1.1 The following motion has been received from Councillor Yates in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 3:

#### **Motion**

“This council notes with concern the ongoing issues raised by residents around the growth in AirBnbs in Thanet, especially in relation to the reduction in long term rentable properties. We welcome the majority of visitors to Thanet, who make an important contribution to our economy, but we hear residents’ concerns and wish to take action to control this serious issue which is damaging our community and damaging the reputation of AirBnb.

This council recognises that it currently does not possess the powers to intervene and regulate these properties, and that this is a problem faced by many local authorities across the country.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- a) Work within the Local Plan Cabinet Advisory Group to try and introduce planning restrictions that affect short-term rentals, such as change of use regulations that are required in Greater London to turn a property into an AirBnb property.
- b) Ask the Leader of the Council to write to Marie Lorimer, the UK Public Policy Manager at AirBnb to request a meeting, and seek to proactively introduce a 90 day annual limit for entire home rentals in Thanet within the AirBnb platform. AirBnb currently has a lock on their platform that does not

allow Greater London entire home properties to be rented out for more than 90 days a year. "

## **2.0 Options**

- 2.1 To debate the motion and to choose whether to adopt it, if debated but Council does not then adopt it, the motion will fall. As the motion relates to a Council function only, Council can agree to the motion.
- 2.2 Not to debate the motion, in which case the motion will fall.

## **3.0 Decision Making Process**

- 3.1 It is for Council to decide whether or not to debate the motion.

Contact Officer: Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager  
Reporting to: Estelle Culligan, Head of Law and Democracy

### **Annex List**

There are no Annexes with this report.

### **Background Papers**

There are no Background Papers with this report.

### **Corporate Consultation**

**Finance:** Chris Blundell, Director of Finance  
**Legal:** Estelle Culligan, Director of Law and Democracy