

EXTRACT OF MINUTE OF PLANNING, PROTECTIVE SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2022

*** 14. ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL'S SHORT TERM LET LICENSING SCHEME**

A report seeking approval of the arrangements for the Council's Short-term Let Licensing Scheme was before the Committee for consideration.

The licensing scheme was brought in by the Scottish Government under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Short-term Lets) Order 2022, with the aim to ensure short-term lets are safe, address issues faced by neighbours, to facilitate local authorities knowing and understanding what is happening in their area, and handling of complaints effectively. It also aims to balance the economic and tourism benefits from short-term lets with the needs and concerns of local communities to ensure the people providing short-term lets are suitable.

Local authorities must introduce a new mandatory licensing system for short-term lets for the 1 October 2022 to receive applications from existing and new "hosts" and thereafter determine them.

Decision

The Committee agreed to recommend to Council that they:

1. note the considerable work undertaken to develop the new licensing regime in a challenging timescale, and without any additional funding or resourcing from the Scottish Government;
2. welcome the high level of responses to the public consultation, and recognise that many of the issues raised have been incorporated into the final licensing regime;
3. approve the Short-term Let Licensing regime, Licensing Policy, additional conditions and fee and charges as set out in section 5.4 and 5.6 of the report;
4. note the intention to focus on "New hosts" initially until resources in place; and
5. amend the Council's Scheme of Delegation to delegate responsibility for the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Short-term Lets) Order 2022 to the Executive Director with responsibility for Regulatory Services to enable the Council's Environmental Health Service to authorise officers to deliver the Short-term Let Licensing regime.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Development and Economic Growth dated 20 September 2022, submitted)