

# ***London Borough of Bexley***

## ***News Release***

**For Immediate Release**

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### **RENT IT RIGHT**

Local people are being encouraged to take part in a consultation on a new local licensing scheme designed to support tenants, landlords and residents.

The licensing options planned for Bexley would take the form of an additional licensing scheme for all smaller Houses of Multiple Occupations (HMOs) as well as possible 'selective licensing' of all privately rented accommodation in a defined area where there is evidence of a higher number of incidents of anti-social behaviour.

“This is a big change and we would like anyone that may be affected to find out more and take part in this important consultation,” said Cllr Brad Smith, Cabinet Member for Adult Services. “By extending licensing powers, we hope to drive up standards and protect tenants, landlords and the local community while helping the Council to regulate these properties better. If it’s accepted, this scheme will bring us into line with a number of other councils who already have it in place and have seen the difference it makes.”

Consultation also recently took place on changes to local planning powers that would see an 'Article 4 Direction' in the borough. If introduced, this will bring smaller HMOs under the same planning enforcement rules as larger properties.

The local licensing scheme consultation ends on 24 January 2017. To find out more information or to take part visit [www.bexley.gov.uk/rentitrightconsultation](http://www.bexley.gov.uk/rentitrightconsultation)

ENDS

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