

Residential Conversions

4.11 The conversion of single dwellings into more dwellings or the redevelopment of dwellings into new blocks of flats can enable more effective use of sites to be achieved. However, this type of development must seek to enhance the local character of the area. In recent years, large concentrations of flats have resulted in a range of problems, including increased on-street parking and resultant congestion on roads, the loss of front gardens, reductions in privacy, significant changes to the street scene, and loss of family accommodation.

4.12 Policy DMH 4: Residential Conversions and Redevelopment aims to address these issues by controlling the number of residential conversions and the size of the original residential units from which conversions are achieved. Policy DMH 5: Houses in Multiple Occupation specifically deals with the conversion of properties into Houses in Multiple Occupation, hostels and secure accommodation.

Policy DMH 4: Residential Conversions and Redevelopment

Residential conversions and the redevelopment of dwellings into new blocks of flats will only be permitted where:

- i) it is on a residential street where the proposal will not result in more than 10% of properties being redeveloped into flats;**
- ii) On residential streets longer than 1km the proposed redevelopment site should be taken as the midpoint of a 1km length of road for assessment purposes;**
- iii) the internal floor area of the original building to be converted is at least 120 sqm; and**
- iv) units are limited to one unit per floor for residential conversions.**

Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), hostels and secure accommodation

4.13 Large homes in multiple occupation (HMOs) and hostels can contribute to the overall supply of cheaper accommodation, particularly for students, young people and those on low income.

4.14 Intensive occupation of former family dwellings such as those used for student accommodation or as a HMO can have negative impacts on residential amenity within an area through increases in on-street and off-street parking, loss of front gardens, reductions in levels of privacy, alterations to the