



Council
14 December 2021

WORTHING BOROUGH
COUNCIL

Ward(s) Affected: All

Motion on Notice

Report by the Director for Communities

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The report before Council sets out a motion received from Councillor Emma Taylor which has been seconded by Councillor Margaret Howard.
- 1.2. Council is asked to deal with the motion under provisions set out in paragraph 14 of the Council Procedure Rules (under part 4 of the Council Constitution - Rules of Procedure).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the motion, upon being moved and seconded, be noted by Council and referred without debate to the Joint Strategic Committee.

3. Context

- 3.1 A motion on notice has been received from Councillor Emma Taylor, (attached as Annex A).
- 3.2 The content of the motion is relevant to a matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties and which affects the Borough.
- 3.3 The motion before Council contains a subject matter that is within the remit of the Joint Strategic Committee, as defined in para 14.4.1 of the Council's Procedure Rules. Therefore, it shall be moved and seconded, immediately noted by the Council and referred without debate to the Joint Strategic Committee for consideration and determination.
- 3.4 If a motion on the agenda at Full Council is to be referred automatically to the Executive, a Regulatory Committee or another Council Committee, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.4, the proposer of the motion will confirm to the Chairperson their proposal of the motion as set out in the report before Council **without** a speech.
- 3.5 Where a motion has been referred by Full Council to the Joint Strategic Committee, the mover, or the seconder in the absence of the mover, shall be entitled to attend the relevant meeting and explain the motion.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 Motions considered by Full Council are done so under part 14 of the Council's Procedure Rules.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The motion has subject matter that comes within the remit of the Joint Strategic Committee and should the Joint Strategic Committee determine that the motion be accepted there may be financial implications in the future.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 Rules concerning motions are set out in the Council's Constitution under paragraph 14 of the Council's Procedure Rules.

Background Papers

None.

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The Threat of Mass Homelessness

Worthing Borough Council notes that thousands of families are facing evictions and repossessions as measures to protect families put in place during Covid have come to an end. Universal Credit has reduced by £20 per week; the furlough scheme has finished; and electricity and gas prices have risen at an alarming rate. Now is not the time to unravel the great interventions that the Government brought in to protect people during this unprecedented period. Unless urgent action is taken, the UK will face a homelessness crisis this autumn, on a scale never seen before.

This Council resolves to:

1. Support the Big Issue's plan to Stop Mass Homelessness by writing to the relevant Secretaries of State asking them to keep people in their homes and in sustainable jobs. They could do this by committing to pay off £360m in rent arrears; suspending no fault evictions until a Renters' Reform Act is passed; permanently reinstating the £20 p/w Universal Credit uplift; improving access to Discretionary Housing Payments; unfreezing Local Housing Allowance; improving support for financial literacy education; providing grants to improve the insulation of people's homes and investing in the creation of new green jobs.
2. Express its support for a Wellbeing of Future Generations Act requiring public bodies to consider how decisions made now affect future needs, and tackle persistent problems such as poverty, homelessness, health inequalities and climate change.
3. Commission a report outlining options that will ensure the impact of Council decisions on future generations are properly considered.
4. Commission a report outlining how the Council can expand social housing; encourage innovative ways to increase housing stock; and increase support for ethical property and letting firms.

Proposed: Emma Taylor

Seconded: Margaret Howard