



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Joint Strategic Committee
11 January 2022

Key Decision: [Yes/No]

Ward(s) Affected: All Worthing

Referral of Motion on Notice from Worthing Borough Council

Report by the Interim Director for Communities

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This report sets out a motion (attached as Appendix 1) referred from the meeting of Worthing Borough Council on the 14th December 2021.
- 1.2. Members of the Joint Strategic committee are asked to consider and determine the Motion.
- 1.3. Members can either support the motion and ask for further work to be carried out in this regard, or, members can reject the motion.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the Joint Strategic Committee support the motion and determine how further work is carried out; or,
- 2.2. That the Joint Strategic Committee reject the motion.

3. Context

- 3.1. At its meeting on the 14th December 2021, Worthing Borough Council received a motion from Councillor Emma Taylor, seconded by Councillor Margaret Howard, details of which can be found at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The motion submitted to Council contained 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 was moved and seconded, immediately noted by the Council and referred without debate to the Joint Strategic Committee for consideration and determination.
- 3.3 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 of the Executive and explain the motion. Councillor Emma Taylor has been made aware that the motion has been referred to this Committee.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 The Joint Strategic Committee can either support or reject the motion.
- 4.2 Should the Joint Strategic Committee support the motion, then the Committee should ask Officers to prepare a further report on the substantive issues to be presented at a future meeting of the JSC.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There may be direct financial implications in future depending on the course of action the Joint Strategic Committee wishes to take.

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

Motion to Worthing Borough Council on the 19th October 2021

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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