



Council
15 December 2022

ADUR DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ward(s) Affected: N/A

Main Opposition Priority Motion

Report by the Director for Communities

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The report before Council sets out a Main Opposition Priority Motion received from Councillor Lee Cowen and seconded by Councillor Debs Stainforth.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Council is asked to receive the priority motion as set out in Annex A to this report.
- 2.2 The Council is asked to note the procedure for this Main Opposition Priority motion which may be found in the legal paragraphs to this report.

3. Context

- 3.1 A Main Opposition Priority Motion on notice has been received from Councillor Lee Cowen, seconded by Councillor Debs Stainforth (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 specifically affects the District.

3.3 There is nothing substantive within the motion that would cause its rejection under the terms of the Constitution.

3.5 The Main Opposition Priority Motion shall be put and responded to in accordance with the part 14 of the Council's procedure rules

4. Issues for consideration

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

4.2 The Proposer of the Motion may have five minutes to speak and the Seconder three minutes.

4.3 The Member speaking on behalf of the Administration may speak for five minutes

4.4 No other questions or debate shall be allowed and the total time allowed for this item shall not exceed 15 minutes

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications

6. Legal Implications

6.1 Rules concerning Main Opposition Priority Motions are set out in the Council & Committee Procedure Rules prior to paragraphs 14 Motions on Notice.

6.2 A Member nominated by the Main Opposition Leader may move a single Priority Motion on notice (in accordance with Procedure Rule 14).

The proposer may speak for up to five minutes, the seconder may speak for up to three minutes, and the Member responding on behalf of the Administration may speak for five minutes.

No other questions or debate shall be allowed. The total time allowed for the item will be 15 minutes.

- 6.3 As the process for dealing with this motion does not enable questions or debate from Members, there will also be no vote on the Main Opposition Priority Motion.

Background Papers

None

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This main opposition group notes:

- Government policy is to extend the right-to-buy scheme to make it applicable to tenants of housing associations.
- Right-to-buy has depleted Council housing stock, as the homes being sold were not replaced, resulting in a lower levels of social housing.
- There is already a shortage of social housing in Adur.
- 40% of council homes have been transferred to the private rented sector through right-to-buy.
- The UK Housing Review 2022 branding right-to-buy as a ‘strategic failure.’
- The Local Government Association has slammed plans to expand it. Those using the existing right-to-buy get an average discount of 42% on the property. This has resulted in the taxpayer spending £6bn on “unsustainable” right-to-buy discounts in the last 10 years.
- Unlike the existing right-to-buy scheme, the Government has promised to replace every social home sold off. However, no plan yet exists for how it will do this.
- The Government has not yet announced how it will fund the discounts for extending right-to- buy to housing associations.

This main opposition group believes:

- The planned extension of the right-to-buy scheme will further deplete Adur’s social housing stock and exacerbate the housing crisis.
- That we should support housing associations in opposing the extension of right-to-buy.

- Measures to support homeownership should not come at the cost of depleting social housing stock.
- There should be no further extension to the right-to-buy scheme. If they insist on pushing ahead with the scheme, all funding for it should be covered centrally and increased funding should be given to Councils and registered providers to build more social housing.
- Amendment of the existing right-to-buy is where the focus should be, as opposed to looking at any extension of it.

This main opposition group resolves to:

- Write to the secretary of state for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, outlining the views in this motion and to ask them to stop any immediate extension of the right-to-buy scheme.
- Also to recommend new powers to set right-to-buy discounts locally and to be able to keep all the sales receipts with the subsequent ability to combine them with other grant funding to fund replacements.

Proposer: Lee Cowen

Seconder: Debs Stainforth