

NOTICE OF MOTION**LABOUR AND CO-OPERATIVE AND GREEN GROUPS****AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND ROUGH SLEEPING**

This Council resolves to request the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for DCLG Sajid Javid MP, calling for the introduction of legislation and regulations to increase affordable housing supply and to enhance security for tenants, and thereby reduce homelessness and rough sleeping in Brighton and Hove. These policy changes should include:

- Raising the HRA borrowing cap so the council can build more social housing
- Providing additional grants so social housing providers can build at lower rents and directly provide more accommodation for rough sleepers
- Allowing councils to suspend the right to buy where an affordable housing shortage exists
- Introducing more secure longer tenancies in the private rented sector
- Introducing powers for local councils to institute rent controls to suit local market needs
- Withdrawing the threat in the Housing and Planning Act to councils to sell much needed high value council homes and give the money towards HA discounts.

Proposed by: Cllr Moonan

Seconded by: Cllr Gibson

The number of rough sleepers has continued to rise across the city, despite local services and charities working together to support 1300 people last year move off our streets and on with their lives. The increase in homelessness is fuelled by a shortage of affordable housing; unaffordable rents; short term insecure tenancies; loss of employment and reduced welfare benefits. Becoming homeless further increases and aggravates high levels of substance misuse, mental health needs, general poor health and disability, leading to high numbers of rough sleepers with multiple and complex needs in Brighton and Hove.

The implementation of the City's 2016 Rough Sleeping Strategy is in the process of delivering best practice and innovation across partner agencies.

The government is currently consulting on a green paper "Fixing the broken housing market", and that this motion proposes solutions to the acute problems identified in this paper.

The Government have provided £2.5m of additional welcome fixed term funding to help address homelessness prevention and rough sleeping in the city. But this is set against council cuts to hostel and homeless prevention resulting from austerity constraints. The homeless hostel system is full. There is a shortage of move on accommodation. The LA is the only body currently building social housing in Brighton and Hove, but it is limited by the HRA borrowing cap, which will severely hamper its ability to build new affordable homes in the future. The NHS has serious pressures on the mental health and substance misuses services necessary for this client group.

