

HOUSING COMMITTEE ADDENDUM Public Involvement

4.00PM, WEDNESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2021

HOVE TOWN HALL

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ADDENDUM

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HOUSING COMMITTEE	Agenda Item 36(b) Brighton & Hove City Council
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Subject:	Questions	
Date of Meeting:	17 November 2021	
Report of:	Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law	
Contact Officer: Name:	Shaun Hughes	Tel: 01273 293059
	E-mail: shaun.hughes@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Wards Affected:	All	

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 To receive any questions submitted to Democratic Services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.2 That the Committee responds to the questions.

3. Questions:

3.1 Ellen Musgrove (Acorn)

Question:

"After several meetings with ACORN over the past year, councillors and officers said they were committed to landlord licensing. Then before September's housing committee meeting the Private Sector Housing Update Report did not recommend pursuing landlord licensing schemes without anyone contacting ACORN to say the strategy had changed. Then bizarrely the administration voted to amend its own report to say the council was still committed to landlord licensing. Can the committee explain why this happened, who is responsible for this failure, and how can renters trust the council when they backtrack on commitments like this?"

3.2 Daniel Harris

Question:

How much revenue in rent do you get from the government for Housing Benefit payments for those listed in emergency and Temporary Accommodation? of that payment how much does the council keep? & how much goes to other sources? can you let us know were: private sector etc. (All sources of income.

Finally, can you list all of the Grants and funding bids the council has received in the last 5 years including a figure for each year? (All sources of income).

3.3 David Thomas

Question:

SWEP. Emergency should never be a secret. Please advise how SWEP is meant to work this year now there is no public involved and no public notifications.

3.4 **Charles Harrison**

Question:

"The recent Kerslake report highlighted that poor housing has wide-ranging impacts, making significant demands on many Council Departments and Support Organisations. It also called for an increase in the supply of Social Housing.

However, the national supply of suitable social housing falls well short of the 90.000 new homes at social rent needed every year, as called for in the UK Government "Building More Social Housing" Report.

What progress has the Council made in achieving its target to build more new Council homes and in reducing the unit build cost towards the £167k average cost per unit for the SE region, as identified in the UK Government Consultation "Use of receipts from Right to Buy sales?"

3.5 **Jim Deans**

Question:

"Recent commissioned reports and guidance from government are showing the need for Social Housing, the lack of is featuring high as a cause of many physical and mental illness. Can the Health and Well-being Board support a plan to build Social Homes and reduce the burden on local services including the NHS?"

3.6 **Jackie Strube & Ian Macintyre (Hanover Action)**

Question:

*Having just completed our B&H Carbon Reduction Fund supported **Hanover Action** project on Greening Hanover Homes, together with the Low Carbon Trust, see*

<https://hanover-action.org.uk/home/taking-action/greening-hanover-homes/>

we would like to submit the following question for next week's Housing Committee please:

"Hanover Action welcomed the budget amendment in 2020 to create a £2.6 million warmer homes budget and its subsequent doubling to an investment of £5.2 million in 2021/22 for support towards the councils' ambitious carbon neutral 2030 goal. We are concerned to read in the report "carbon reduction in housing" at housing committee that only "up to £400,000" of this budget is likely to be spent in 21/22. Given we are facing a climate emergency we believe that using this resource to help provide warmer homes with a lower carbon footprint should be a priority and we ask that the committee explain the delay and provide members of the public with a timetable setting the expected stages up to an estimated date by which the budget will be fully spent?"

HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 36(c)

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Deputations	
Date of Meeting:	17 November 2021	
Report of:	Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law	
Contact Officer: Name:	Shaun Hughes	Tel: 01273 293059
	E-mail: shaun.hughes@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Wards Affected:	All	

DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Notification of one Deputation has been received. The spokesperson is entitled to speak for 5 minutes.

(1) Urgent Rent Review

Spokesperson: Jim Deans

Supported by:

J. Deans
C. Harrison
D. Croydon
B. Hughes
D. Thomas
J. Pawluk

Topic: Urgent Rent Review

Presenters: Jim Deans

DEPUTATION: URGENT RENT REVIEW

With property rental costs soaring and rapidly growing Councils are forced to spend millions with private landlords to accommodate the growing population, Millions of people trapped in emergency and temporary accommodation this is set to hit 2 million people by 2030 if we do not act.

Malnutrition, Drink and Drug abuse, domestic abuse and Violence, Child Poverty, and plain old trapped in debt these are all part of the same crisis. Council setting its own rents at Local Housing Allowance or near trap people in debt, it makes the transition from unemployment to work very difficult, people with disabilities have no option but to live their lives on benefits trapped by the high rents.

The Kerslake Commission report spells out the implications of privatisation, we are having to buy back previously sold council homes which were sold at a great loss (I have an example of a flat sold under the RTB for £15k and recently bought back for £250k). Under the RTB we still lose a social rent home and the people living there could either be students exploited, we have a lot of families living in overcrowded positions, essentially hidden homeless, living from one room. Because the standards in private sector housing is worse than the overcrowding. Include those stuck in high rents and benefit capped. Genuine working families are left with £70 to live off each month or a single working woman only £10 better off while working a 40 hour week due to high rents, 3rd child rule drives families and single parents further into debt. We are exploiting the most vulnerable when the system needs to be fairer to keep children above the poverty line,

There needs to be fairness in council rents, some people have rents set at Social Level yet are high earners. Some council homes have multiple people in the home working yet still paying one social rent, meanwhile some people are on minimum wage but paying Local Housing Allowance level of rent leaving them trapped in debt or having to use Discretionary Funds or Universal credit to live, they are trapped.

We need a rent review of the Council Owned and managed and even Council Owned but leased out to Private Landlords or Trusts/Charities. A fairness Rent Policy and Scale to match people's earnings.

We the signed hereby formally request an Urgent Rent review we would also like transparency and a community involvement in this review.