

Item 11 - Notice of Motion

To consider the following motions which have been submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 12.1:

a) HOMELESS ORGANISATIONS IN BLACKPOOL. Councillor Williams to propose.

Homeless organisations in Blackpool depend entirely on charity funding and Housing Benefit. No evidence is currently provided as to the ultimate results in terms of long term re-homing or social integration.

Whilst it is agreed they provide a most valuable service they should in fact, if successful in their outcomes, be self liquidating.

Since 2012, this Council has administered over £39 million pounds in Housing Benefit to Housing Associations, Registered Social Landlords and identifiable Landlords. Whilst a large proportion of this public money may be attributed to the Council's own Blackpool Coastal Housing Association, it must be considered that other separate Homeless organisations are claiming a significant amount on an annual basis.

This Council therefore recommends that the Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee, sets up a full and thorough scrutiny of the effectiveness of homeless shelters and organisations in Blackpool to ensure that their objectives are being met and that those who need their refuge are being successfully guided into a contributing social environment.

The exercise will also provide additional opportunity for the Council to confirm its commitment in regard to its position in deploying a most responsible position in the distribution of Housing Benefit to these sectors.

b) BLACKPOOL TENANTS RIGHT TO BUY. Councillor Williams to propose.

It is reported this week that over 1000 housing association tenants are signing up each week to buy their homes.

A website dedicated to those who wish to buy has had 5000 individuals sign up in the first month.

Social housing tenants share the same hopes and dreams as everyone else. They live in same towns their children go to the same schools they have the same ambitions for themselves and their families. They should be given the same opportunities if they aspire to own their own homes.

The Government is soon to launch a ground breaking scheme giving all 1.3 million families in rented housing association accommodation properties the right to buy, offering discounts of up to 70% with terms and conditions on re-sales. The cost of the discount will be funded by Central Government.

The scheme will also be supported by a generous home owning ISA savings scheme where the Government will put in £50 for every £200 saved.

The Council is therefore asked to place on record its support for the families living in Blackpool Coastal Housing properties who wish to purchase their own home to actively support this Government scheme and to request Blackpool Coastal Housing to notify each tenant of the website, provide details of the scheme in the Association's newsletters and on the Council's website and that Blackpool Coastal Housing customer service staff are also trained to understand how the scheme works and provide full assistance to those who wish to partake.