

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

Date: 17 March 2016

ITEM 8

Title: Motions

Notice has been received of the following motions from Members of the Council to be put to the Council meeting.

1. Motion signed by Councillors A Newman, C Davis and B Burdis

The Housing and Planning Bill contains a wide range of measures to expand home ownership; reform housing management and the planning process; and increase housing supply to tackle the housing crisis in England. However, the Bill's main focus is on boosting homeownership at the expense of affordable and social housing, which the majority of people on average incomes need. As a consequence, there will be even fewer social and affordable homes, the housing crisis will worsen and it will become more difficult for people on average incomes to find an affordable home to rent or buy. With fewer housing stock available social housing jobs will be put at risk. The main concerns are as follows:

- The Housing and Planning Bill applies to England
- The measures in the Bill, particularly the extension of the Right to Buy to housing association tenants and the forced sale of council housing to fund it, will reduce further the number of social housing stock; they will take away funding from the provision of affordable housing to boost homeownership
- The Pay to Stay measure will make social rents expensive for some and will be a disincentive for tenants to get better employment
- Starter Homes for sale are priced too high and will be beyond the reach of many
- Changes to lifetime tenancies will remove security of tenure from council tenants
- People who are not able to buy their own home will have no security in renting and may face a lifetime of insecure renting
- Young people and families on average incomes will be locked out of a decent affordable home
- There will be fewer homes at prices people can afford to buy or rent
- With fewer social housing for renting housing jobs and housing services will be at risk

- More people will face rent arrears, evictions, poverty and homelessness
- There will be more social cleansing of people out of high value property areas

While we welcome some measures in the bill such as help for first time buyers to get onto the property ladder, and help councils with methods to tackle the worst offending landlords. We believe this bill will lead to reducing the availability of much needed council/social housing and hamper our ability to invest in new affordable council/social housing.

We call upon the Mayor to write to the secretary of state raising this council's concerns about the bill and that residents are made aware of the consequences that many residents will have no prospect of a secure or affordable home.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising specifically from this motion.

Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from the motion. The final impact of the Bill will have to be assessed once it is enacted and becomes law.

2. Motion signed by Councillors S Graham, G Madden and F Lott

Council expresses its grave concerns about the government proposal to abolish the retail rate relief. This is estimated to affect in excess of 800 small and medium size businesses across the borough amounting to a loss of £1.054m relief which represents a significant loss not only those businesses but also the local economy. This major loss becomes even more significant at a time when businesses are struggling for survival. This action is seen as an attack by Government on the viability of a whole range of retail businesses in our town centres of North Shields, Wallsend, Whitley Bay and other parts of the Borough.

We call upon the Mayor to make urgent representations to the Prime Minister to enable this much needed relief to continue.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising specifically from this motion.

The cost of giving the retail rate relief to businesses is fully met by central government.

Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from this motion.

3. Motion signed by Councillors J Allan, P Earley and T Mulvenna

This Council believes that, it is in the best interests of the residents of North Tyneside that the United Kingdom remains a member of the European Union.

The EU is good for North Tyneside - and other areas of the North East region where North Tyneside residents may work - because it:

- Creates jobs and growth - the EU single market allows our businesses to trade and grow. Currently almost half of the region's exports go to the EU, which supports an estimated 140,000 jobs. It also supports science and technical innovation in the region.
- Invests in major projects across the North East – the region has received billions of pounds of investment over the decades from the EU. It continues to invest in key economic projects across the North East, including the regeneration of the former Swan Hunter site in Wallsend.
- Protects our rights - the EU helps keep people safe at work and protects consumer rights. The EU protects paid leave, maternity rights and equal rights for agency workers and has banned excessive credit and debit card surcharges and expensive customer phone lines.
- Keeps us safe - the EU helps bring criminals to justice and creates peace and stability. The EU is helping to tackle international threats in a way the UK couldn't do if it was acting alone which helps keep our ports and airports secure. The EU also helps police tackle crime, human trafficking and terrorism which is increasingly international in nature.
- Improves our environment – the EU leads on tackling climate change and caring for our environment. Environmental issues don't stop at borders and only by working together closely can we best protect our environment. North East beaches and air quality have improved because of Europe. Environmental protection can also bring jobs to the region through new low carbon industries.

The Council calls on the Mayor and Cabinet to support, as far as lawfully possible, the UK's continuing membership of the EU as this is in the best interests of the businesses and people of North Tyneside.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this motion.

Legal Implications

Any support that the Authority offers must be lawful and within its powers. The Authority will be for example subject to Section 125 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 in relation to the publication of promotional material concerning the referendum.