

TABLED ITEMS

Full Council - Monday, 18th November, 2013

- 2. TO ASK THE MAYOR TO CONSIDER THE ADMISSION OF ANY LATE ITEMS OF BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 100B OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (PAGES 1 - 2)
- 14. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, IF ANY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE NOS. 9 & 10 (PAGES 3 - 12)
- 16. AMENDMENT TO MOTIONS B & C IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE NO. 13 (PAGES 13 - 16)

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Agenda Item 2

Item 2

COUNCIL MEETING – 18 NOVEMBER 2013

LATE ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

Item 9 – reports from the following Bodies

Report No 2 2013/14 of the Cabinet 12 November 2013

The report is late for consideration and could not be forwarded to Full Council until Cabinet had met on 12 November 2013 and agreed recommendations for full Council in respect of the Armed Forces Covenant, The Children's and Young Peoples Plan, and the Social Housing Fraud Act 2013.

Item 14 – Questions and Written Answers

Notice of questions is not requested until 8 clear days before the meeting, following which the matters raised have to be researched and replies prepared to be given at the meeting.

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COUNCIL – 18 November 2013 – QUESTIONS

PUBLIC QUESTION FROM DR JEREMY KLEIN TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

SEE ATTACHED MARKED a

ORAL QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

ORAL QUESTION 1 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN FROM COUNCILLOR NEWTON:

Following the awful cases of Child T and Child B, it has been reported in the Independent on Sunday that there is another serious case review being conducted by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, how many serious case reviews are currently being conducted in Haringey and when will they be published?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 2 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE EMPLOYMENT AND CARBON REDUCTION FROM COUNCILLOR EGAN:

Can the Cabinet Member provide more information on the recent announcement that the Council is proposing a council tax freeze for the fifth consecutive year in 2014?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 3 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR WILSON:

How many kitchens could have been replaced by Homes for Haringey with the $\pm 3.7m$ wasted on dodgy bonuses for Homes for Haringey staff?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 4 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR ADJE:

Can the Cabinet Member update members on what is being done to tackle drug and alcohol abuse in the borough?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 5 - TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR REECE:

Why are you keeping Haringey's residents and taxpayers in the dark about how much of their hard-earned money has been spent compensating Sharon Shoesmith due to the incompetence of Haringey Council and Ed Balls?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 6 - TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR CHRISTOPHIDES:

Can the Leader of the Council provide an update on what progress has been made with the McAslan and Partners design studio in N17?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 7 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND ENFORCEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR SOLOMON:

How much did the proposal to build a waste plant on Pinkham Way cost to develop and how much is Haringey likely to save over the next five years as a result of the shelving of these plans?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 8 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND REGENERATION FROM COUNCLLOR BULL:

With the cost of living crisis forcing even more people to take out payday loans to make ends meet and more than 1.5 million households already spending over 30 per cent of their income on unsecured credit repayments, can the Cabinet Member tell us what the Council is doing to support available alternatives?

ANSWER

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

WRITTEN QUESTION 1 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ALEXANDER:

Is the council meeting its EU target for reducing pollution on the borough's roads and in particular what is it doing to reduce the amount of pollution from HGVs particularly on roads where there are vehicle weight bans?

ANSWER

The Council does not have an EU set target for reducing air pollution, although we have our own strategies to improve air quality.

Our Transport Strategy sets out a wide range of projects aimed at improving Haringey's air quality, involving lowering traffic volumes, easing congestion and encouraging modal shift to sustainable transport. The Council has identified hotspots at Tottenham gyratory, Seven Sisters Road, Tottenham High Road and Wood Green High Road. Projects at each of these locations are planned or underway to improve the local air quality. The Council is also increasing the effectiveness of enforcement against those vehicles that contravene weight restrictions, through the installation of CCTV cameras at key locations in the borough.

WRITTEN QUESTION 2 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND ENFORCEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JENKS:

Bearing in mind the ecological importance of the Pinkham Way site, can the Council confirm that its planning status will be changed to prevent any future development on this site which is not relevant to its ecological status and when this will be done?

ANSWER

The Council cannot at this time confirm that the planning status of the site will be changed.

The Council is currently preparing a Sites Allocations Development Plan Document (SADPD) together with an updated borough-wide Open Space and Biodiversity Study and an Employment Land Review. These processes will contribute to a review of the planning designation of a number of strategic sites in the borough in the SADPD, including the site at Pinkham Way. The first draft SADPD will be subject to public consultation, expected to be in early 2014.

WRITTEN QUESTION 3 – TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR SCOTT:

Are you still conducting a Community Centre review and if so when will findings be reported? The report was due to go to Cabinet this summer.

ANSWER

The review's principles and programme were approved by Cabinet in December 2012. As per the approved programme, the review commenced in Summer 2013 and is underway to implement these principles.

A report was not due back to Cabinet unless the original programme for the review changed. The review is due to conclude in early 2014 and a report with recommendations will be referred to Cabinet in Summer 2014.

WRITTEN QUESTION 4 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BEACHAM:

Do you agree that there should be new and safer crossings on Colney Hatch Lane given the recent accidents there?

ANSWER

Officers are currently working with TfL on improvements warranted at the junction of Alexandra Park Road and Colney Hatch Lane.

WRITTEN QUESTION 5 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR WINSKILL:

Why has no risk assessment been undertaken to ensure that the proposal to allow dementia sufferers at our day-centres to help cook their own meals is, at the very least, a safe way of saving money?

ANSWER

The removal of catering posts at day centres for older people is no longer part of the proposals for service efficiencies.

If the proposal had progressed, a full risk assessment would have been undertaken at that time.

WRITTEN QUESTION 6 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR SCHMITZ:

How many businesses in Tottenham will be displaced by the new Tottenham Hotspurs development and the associated regeneration schemes?

ANSWER

There were 85 businesses occupying premises that were required for the entire Northumberland Development Project, including the new stadium. Of these, 72 businesses have been successfully relocated either within the borough. The remaining businesses chose not to relocate.

WRITTEN QUESTION 7 – TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR BLOCH:

How many times in the last five years has Haringey council's whistleblowing policy been invoked and what was the outcome in each case?

ANSWER

As reported quarterly to the Council's Corporate Committee:

Year	Number of referrals	Outcome
2013/14	0	N/A
2012/13	2	Audit investigation found evidence of financial irregularity in both cases, disciplinary action recommended.
2011/12	4	Audit investigation found evidence of financial irregularity in 2 cases, disciplinary action recommended.

2010/11	4	Audit investigation found evidence of financial irregularity in 2 cases, disciplinary action recommended.
2009/10	2	Audit investigation found no evidence of financial irregularity.

WRITTEN QUESTION 8 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIORNMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ALLISON:

Please could the Cabinet Member explain why having a stationary traffic monitoring vehicle (reg KY60 HXX) parked in a bus stop on a narrow stretch of the High Street in the centre of Highgate village for at least 30 minutes during Thursday afternoon rush hour helps to keep traffic moving and sets a good example to other road users?

ANSWER

The mobile CCTV enforcement vehicle was parked at this location to carry out enforcement of a banned right turn restriction further down the road at South Grove, contravention of which is a road safety concern. This vehicle is deployed for up to 25 minutes a time, 2 -3 times a day due to the high level of contraventions at this location.

The vehicle was instructed to park beyond the bus stop, so that buses are not obstructed. The crew have clear instructions on where they can and cannot park when carrying out enforcement at this location, and they have followed those instructions.

WRITTEN QUESTION 9 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ERSKINE

Are there any plans to return to source separated recycling collection and if so what would this cost the council?

ANSWER

There are no plans for this.

WRITTEN QUESTION 10 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR STRANG

When will the Hornsey Town Hall development be completed?

ANSWER

Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts continue to plan occupying the building by September 2016.

WRITTEN QUESTION 11 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN FROM COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS

Do you welcome a new school being built on the Ashmount site?

ANSWER

Ashmount Primary School is an Islington school with two form entry. The school moved to its current Islington site at 83 Crouch Hill in January 2013.

The Council works cross-borough to ensure sufficiency of school places, and we welcome the creation of any additional school places to meet identified demand. We cannot rely on a school on the former Ashmount site to meet any future unmet demand for school places in the wider Haringey area however, as there can be no guarantee that Haringey pupils would qualify for a place at the school.

WRITTEN QUESTION 12 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR HARE

How many trees in the borough were damaged by the St Jude storm and had to be removed?

ANSWER

Site surveys have identified 330 trees that were damaged during the storm, 155 of which had to be removed.

WRITTEN QUESTION 13 – TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR GORRIE

How much profit has the Alexandra Palace fireworks made this year?

ANSWER

The Alexandra Palace fireworks on 2 November 2013 made a net profit of approximately £8,500 for the Alexandra Park and Palace Trust.

WRITTEN QUESTION 14 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND ENFORCEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR REID

How many residents has the council contacted as part of the consultation on the planning application submitted for Hornsey Depot?

ANSWER

The Planning Service consulted 3931 households on the planning application for Hornsey Depot.

WRITTEN QUESTION 15 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ENGERT

Will you listen to Haringey Lib Dems calls and give local shoppers 4 days of free parking in the run up to Christmas on local high streets, shopping centres and in council car parks?

ANSWER

The Council has introduced concessions in car parks leading up to the Christmas period for the past number of years.

This year we want to ensure that all town centres benefit from concessions, not just those with car parks. We have therefore agreed that a 50% reduction in parking charges will be on offer in all town centres and in car parks on all weekends leading up to Christmas.

In addition we are building on the successful parking loyalty scheme run in Green Lanes over the last Christmas period, and are offering this to all town centres this year. Appropriate steps to publicise these plans and notify Traders' Associations are underway.

WRITTEN QUESTION 16 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BUTCHER

Will you listen to residents and focus on making concerts at Finsbury Park more profitable rather than increasing the number of concerts days as has been proposed?

ANSWER

The Council is currently consulting on revisions to the present policy with a report scheduled to go to Cabinet in December. As part of the report, amendments to the current fees and charges will be proposed to assist the Council maximise the income available from each event.

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PUBLIC QUESTION SUBMITTED FROM DR JEREMY KLEIN

FULL COUNCIL - 18 NOVEMBER 2013

To the Leader of the Council.

You will be aware that I discovered that the Council had made multiple mistakes in the sale of land in Cranley Gardens that resulted in a loss of over £300,000 to the Council. You will also be aware that I remain concerned at the way the case was handled and that the senior staff involved have not been disciplined.

Having discovered the error immediately wrote to the Council on 11 July 2009 stating "There would appear to be a prima facie case of maladministration here so I submit this letter as a formal complaint. It trust it will be addressed as a matter of urgency".

Following the failure of the Council to properly investigate my complaint I received the following response dated 25 March 2010:

"It is my view that [] did not regard his email as the Council's response to a formal complaint about this matter. It did not purport to be a report on the findings of an extensive investigation. I understand that there had been considerable contact between you and officers in my team as well as you and others within the Council and that []was replying in an informal way to the latest email from you".

Quite why a letter flagged as a formal complaint on the loss of £300,000 should have been regarded by Council staff as an informal matter is unclear. No evidence of prior contact between myself and the Council department has ever been found.

The previous Chief Executive of the Council stated in correspondence that "[the author of this email] has been prepared to acknowledge that he would have answered your e mail differently if he had been in possession of the findings of the audit report".

Yet the email was dated 25th March 2010 whereas the Internal Audit Report the author claimed not to have seen at this point was dated September 2009. The Internal Audit report had the author of the email as a named addressee. The assertions of this member of staff simply do not accord with the facts.

The current Chief Executive has refused to address the errors and inconsistencies in the statements of this senior member of staff, which in my view amount to a cover-up of failures in his department.

Will the Leader of the Council agree to personally review the case with me and properly address the questions I have raised as her staff have evidently been

unwilling to do so, and to take all appropriate actions if my allegations of inconsistencies are upheld?

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COUNCIL - 18 NOVEMBER 2013

Amendment to Motion B

Propose: Cllr Richard Wilson Second: Cllr Jim Jenks

Amend the motion to delete struck through words and insert underlined words:

This Council believes:

- The decline of high streets across London and throughout the UK has been accelerated as result of the <u>last</u> Government's deregulation of use class planning rules which prevent. <u>failure in 13 years to introduce additional powers</u> <u>to further empower</u> local councils from to controlling the damaging spread of betting shops, payday lenders and fried food outlets.
- It is wrong that local authorities and communities feel increasingly powerless to shape their town centres or do anything to halt the tide of businesses such as payday loan firms which alter the character of a high street and can put off people visiting or investing, and damages other businesses already there.

This Council notes:

- A Comres poll carried out for the Local Government Association last year found that two out of three members of the public (68 per cent) were against lax planning rules which allow high street banks to be turned into betting shops without permission because they both fall under the same planning category of financial services.
- <u>Liberal Democrat MP Don Foster has demanded curbs on new betting shops</u> opening up on local high streets. And at Liberal Democrat conference this autumn the Liberal Democrats confirmed their support for a new use class.
- <u>That Labour-run Southwark Council has banned new betting shops, payday</u>
 <u>loans firms and pawnbrokers from opening in its borough. Businesses in
 <u>Southwark will not be allowed to change the type of business operating on a site
 without a fresh application to the council. The council did this by bringing into
 </u></u>

force Article 4 directions on change of use, removing the development rights with immediate effect.

- A report by London Councils has said that town centres and high streets are at risk of not meeting the needs of local residents because planning regulations restrict the power of councils to encourage balanced local economies, including a lack of control on the spread of shops such as pawnbrokers, payday lenders and bookmakers.
- The London Councils report also calls for the Government to reconsider its decision not to grant exemption to the London boroughs that asked to be removed from the recent permitted development rights which allow offices to be converted to homes without planning permission.
- The MP for Tottenham David Lammy, laid down an amendment to the Localism Bill to change the use class of betting shops, but this amendment was defeated by the Lib Dem / Tory Government. The Hornsey and Wood Green MP Lynne Featherstone, voted against the amendment
- The Labour Party Local Government Association has proposed to create the creation of an additional umbrella planning class which would allow local councils to decide if they want to place some premises, such as betting shops and payday lenders, in a separate category. Local authorities could then refuse planning permission on the grounds that, for example, opening a payday loan shop would constitute a change of use. It would also allow councils to control the spread of other types of outlet where there is local concern. This proposal matches the recommendations put forward by London Councils.

This Council resolves:

 To write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles, to outline the Council's concerns about the impact the Government's planning reforms are having in Haringey and ask that he urgently considers the proposals to introduce a sui generis (umbrella) planning use class.

- To write to Haringey's two local MPs asking them to publically raise the Council's concerns in Parliament and demand the Government rethink its localism agenda and give more control to local authorities and communities.
- <u>To investigate the possibility of following Southwark Council's example and</u> <u>stopping new payday lenders, pawnbrokers and betting shops from opening in</u> <u>Haringey using an Article 4 direction.</u>

The amended motion reads as follows:

This Council believes:

- The decline of high streets across London and throughout the UK has been accelerated as result of the last Government's failure in 13 years to introduce additional powers to further empower local councils to control the damaging spread of betting shops, payday lenders and fried food outlets.
- It is wrong that local authorities and communities feel increasingly powerless to shape their town centres or do anything to halt the tide of businesses such as payday loan firms which alter the character of a high street and can put off people visiting or investing, and damages other businesses already there.

This Council notes:

- A Comres poll carried out for the Local Government Association last year found that two out of three members of the public (68 per cent) were against lax planning rules which allow high street banks to be turned into betting shops without permission because they both fall under the same planning category of financial services.
- Liberal Democrat MP Don Foster has demanded curbs on new betting shops opening up on local high streets. And at Liberal Democrat conference this autumn the Liberal Democrats confirmed their support for a new use class.
- That Labour-run Southwark Council has banned new betting shops, payday loans firms and pawnbrokers from opening in its borough. Businesses in Southwark will not be allowed to change the type of business operating on a site without a fresh application to the council. The council did this by bringing into

force Article 4 directions on change of use, removing the development rights with immediate effect.

• The Local Government Association has proposed the creation of an additional umbrella planning class which would allow local councils to decide if they want to place some premises, such as betting shops and payday lenders, in a separate category. Local authorities could then refuse planning permission on the grounds that, for example, opening a payday loan shop would constitute a change of use. It would also allow councils to control the spread of other types of outlet where there is local concern. This proposal matches the recommendations put forward by London Councils.

This Council resolves:

- To write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles, to ask that he urgently considers the proposals to introduce a sui generis (umbrella) planning use class.
- To investigate the possibility of following Southwark Council's example and stopping new payday lenders, pawnbrokers and betting shops from opening in Haringey using an Article 4 direction.

COUNCIL – 18 NOVEMBER 2013

Amendment to Motion C

Propose: Cllr Alan Strickland Second: Cllr Pat Egan

Amend the motion to delete struck through words and insert underlined words:

Affordable Homes and Jobs

The Council acknowledges:

The ambitious plan to deliver 270,000 new affordable homes in the capital by 2018 and create jobs as set out by Liberal Democrat London Assembly Members Stephen Knight and Caroline Pidgeon in a report launched in October. The Council notes that:

- <u>The plans set out in the 'Affordable Homes and Jobs for London' report aim to tackle</u> <u>the current shortage of affordable housing n London</u>
- The plans set out to turn around the total failure over the last 35 years to build a sufficient number of affordable homes in the capital, leading to not only soaring rents but also a soaring Housing Benefit bill.
- Haringey Council has not build any council homes for 26 years and the last ones the council built were 6 flats in Hornsey.
- That thousands of people are on the housing waiting list in Haringey and that more council homes need to be built.
- Nationally, under the Coalition Government, house building has fallen to its lowest level in peacetime Britain since the 1920s.
- <u>The Government has led a wholesale attack on social housing tenants. In the 2010</u> <u>Spending Review the Government cut the national budget for building affordable</u> <u>housing by 60% and by nearly 70% in London. The Government introduction of the</u> <u>Affordable Rent model – 'affordable housing' charged at up to 80% of market rent –</u> <u>and removal of grant for social housing has priced low and middle-income</u> <u>households out of affordable housing in London, pushed up land values and</u> <u>increased benefit dependency.</u>
- <u>The Tory-Lib Dem Government introduced the Bedroom Tax earlier this year and</u> <u>Haringey residents were some of the first and hardest hit. The policy removes 14% of</u> <u>tenants' Housing Benefit if they are deemed to have one unused bedroom in their</u> <u>council or housing association home and 25% for those with two or more. This policy</u> <u>was introduced despite an insufficient number of smaller properties for under-</u> <u>occupying households to move in to.</u>
- <u>The Government's welfare reforms have exacerbated the cost of living crisis and</u> forced many Londoners to move out of their homes or downsize which has led to one-third of landlords, who currently let to London Housing Association -supported tenants, to consider no longer doing so. Reform has also created perverse incentives for private landlords.

• That If the 7 point plan in the Affordable Homes and Jobs for London report were to be implemented this would benefit Haringey by making it easier to build council homes and would also create jobs for the local economy.

The Council also notes the main recommendations in the Affordable Homes and Jobs for London report:

- The Mayor of London to double his investment in affordable homes by borrowing against the Greater London Authority's £11.2bn annual revenue budget under prudential borrowing rules.
- The Mayor of London to use most, if not all, GLA-owned land for affordable homes.
- Government to scrap the Housing Revenue Account borrowing cap, enabling the London boroughs to invest in affordable housing under prudential borrowing rules.
- Government to increase its investment in affordable homes, shifting the balance of its spending from housing benefit to bricks and mortar.
- Devolution of responsibility for Skills Funding Agency money for London to the Mayor of London, so that it can be better focused on addressing local needs.
- A package of measures to help SMEs in the construction sector take advantage of the work generated by the programme.
- The Mayor of London to act as a one stop shop for construction apprenticeships, streamlining the process for SMEs in particular and providing career development for apprentices.
- Government to increase its investment in affordable homes, shifting the balance of its spending from housing benefit to bricks and mortar.
- Devolution of responsibility for Skills Funding Agency money for London to the Mayor, so that it can be better focused on addressing local needs.
- A package of measures to help SMEs in the construction sector take advantage of the work generated by the programme.
- The Mayor of London to act as a one stop shop for construction apprenticeships, streamlining the process for SMEs in particular and providing career development for apprentices.

The Council acknowledges that:

- Labour Members of the London Assembly along with the majority of the London boroughs – have strongly opposed the recent introduction of the Affordable Rent tenure by the Government and Mayor due to high rents charged on these properties across London. They have also argued for social rents to be reintroduced.
- <u>The housing market is broken, with house builders restricting the supply of housing because it increases the selling price. The market cannot, therefore, be trusted to deliver the 60,000 homes London needs to build each year for the next decade to meet housing need. To correct this market failure, Labour Assembly Members want the GLA to deliver new homes and manage them directly.</u>

The Council resolves:

- To endorse the main-majority of the recommendations in the Affordable Homes and Jobs for London report.
- Not to support the recommendation that the Mayor should use GLA land solely for affordable housing. This runs counter to the principles of mixed and balanced communities. A larger number of homes could be delivered by building an element of private sales to cross-subsidise more affordable housing
- <u>To fight for the Affordable Rent tenure to be abolished (at least in London) and social housing reintroduced.</u>

Propose: Cllr Richard Wilson Second: Cllr Paul Strang

The amended motion reads as follows:

COUNCIL - 18 NOVEMBER 2013 - Motion C

Affordable Homes and Jobs

The Council acknowledges:

The ambitious plan to deliver 270,000 new affordable homes in the capital by 2018 and create jobs as set out by Liberal Democrat London Assembly Members Stephen Knight and Caroline Pidgeon in a report launched in October. The Council notes that:

- The plans set out in the 'Affordable Homes and Jobs for London' report aim to tackle the current shortage of affordable housing n London
- Nationally, under the Coalition Government, house building has fallen to its lowest level in peacetime Britain since the 1920s.
- The Government has led a wholesale attack on social housing tenants. In the 2010 Spending Review the Government cut the national budget for building affordable housing by 60% and by nearly 70% in London. The Government introduction of the Affordable Rent model – 'affordable housing' charged at up to 80% of market rent – and removal of grant for social housing has priced low and middle-income households out of affordable housing in London, pushed up land values and increased benefit dependency.
- The Tory-Lib Dem Government introduced the Bedroom Tax earlier this year and Haringey residents were some of the first and hardest hit. The policy removes 14% of tenants' Housing Benefit if they are deemed to have one unused bedroom in their council or housing association home and 25% for those with two or more. This policy was introduced despite an insufficient number of smaller properties for underoccupying households to move in to.
- The Government's welfare reforms have exacerbated the cost of living crisis and forced many Londoners to move out of their homes or downsize which has led to one-third of landlords, who currently let to London Housing Association -supported

tenants, to consider no longer doing so. Reform has also created perverse incentives for private landlords.

• If the 7 point plan in the Affordable Homes and Jobs for London report were to be implemented this would benefit Haringey by making it easier to build council homes and would also create jobs for the local economy.

The Council also notes the main recommendations in the Affordable Homes and Jobs for London report:

- The Mayor of London to double his investment in affordable homes by borrowing against the Greater London Authority's £11.2bn annual revenue budget under prudential borrowing rules.
- The Mayor of London to use most, if not all, GLA-owned land for affordable homes.
- Government to scrap the Housing Revenue Account borrowing cap, enabling the London boroughs to invest in affordable housing under prudential borrowing rules.
- Government to increase its investment in affordable homes, shifting the balance of its spending from housing benefit to bricks and mortar.
- Devolution of responsibility for Skills Funding Agency money for London to the Mayor of London, so that it can be better focused on addressing local needs.
- A package of measures to help SMEs in the construction sector take advantage of the work generated by the programme.
- The Mayor of London to act as a one stop shop for construction apprenticeships, streamlining the process for SMEs in particular and providing career development for apprentices.

The Council acknowledges that:

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- The housing market is broken, with house builders restricting the supply of housing because it increases the selling price. The market cannot, therefore, be trusted to deliver the 60,000 homes London needs to build each year for the next decade to meet housing need. To correct this market failure, Labour Assembly Members want the GLA to deliver new homes and manage them directly

The Council resolves:

- To endorse the majority of the recommendations in the Affordable Homes and Jobs for London report.
- Not to support the recommendation that the Mayor should use GLA land solely for affordable housing. This runs counter to the principles of mixed and balanced communities. A larger number of homes could be delivered by building an element of private sales to cross-subsidise more affordable housing
- To fight for the Affordable Rent tenure to be abolished (at least in London) and social housing reintroduced.

Propose: Cllr Richard Wilson Second: Cllr Paul Strang

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