

## Motion F

Labour Group Motion - Ending Rough Sleeping in Haringey – Delivering a fairer borough for all

Proposer: Cllr Scott Emery

Seconder: Cllr Nick da Costa

This Council notes:

- Homelessness and rough sleeping are some of the most challenging and complex social issues, spanning housing, mental health, domestic abuse, and immigration and asylum.
- The number of people rough sleeping hit a historic low in 2010. However, since then numbers have spiralled. An estimated 4,667 people slept rough on any given night in autumn 2024 – a 164% increase on the 2010 estimate. (HoC Library).
- The Mayor of London has pledged to end all rough sleeping in London by 2030
- **The current government has introduced several measures aimed at tackling rough sleeping and homelessness -**
  - o Increased national funding to tackle homelessness by £233m.
  - o Passed the Renters' Rights Act - ending no-fault evictions, the most common cause of statutory homelessness in London.
  - o Abolishing the 200-year-old Vagrancy Act – an archaic law that criminalised rough sleeping and embedded myths and ignorance about homelessness.
  - o Provided Haringey Council with almost £600,000 to help residents experiencing homelessness.
- **Rough sleeping has decreased 33% since 2022 following a variety of interventions, including:**
  - o Launched the Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2027, embedding a strong foundation of trauma-informed, evidence-led practice, co-produced with people with lived experience.
  - o Secured £4m in government funding to expand housing stock and deliver 24/7 wraparound support, including access to mental health and substance misuse services.
  - o Implemented a rapid-access accommodation model, enabling direct transitions from street homelessness into safe housing.

- Osborne Grove has been repurposed to provide 37 units of accommodation, significantly boosting local capacity.
- Opened a female-only crash pad to support women experiencing hidden homelessness, offering short-term emergency accommodation with minimal entry requirements, ensuring quick access to safety.
- 20% of all beds are allocated to individuals with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), addressing a critical gap in statutory support and ensuring that vulnerable individuals are not excluded from emergency housing.
- Alongside this, the newly launched Homelessness Strategy sets out an ambition to phase out the use of commercial hotels for temporary accommodation as well as enhancing our front door services for families by creating a new prevention hub.
- The 33% decrease in Haringey sits against a 20% increase nationally, positioning Haringey as one of the few areas demonstrating measurable progress.
- **Under this Council, we are building council homes:** 800 new council homes (the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in London in that time); 1,000 by Christmas 2025; and on track to build 3,000 by 2031. Council homes at council rents for families in need to stay locally. However, private-sector housebuilding has stalled, with only eight new homes started in the six months to September 2025 and only two completed in that period. The Mayor of London has recently halved the requirement for affordable homes in new developments.
- **Under this Council we are taking major action to help residents out of temporary accommodation:**
  - Home-buying initiative for temporary accommodation (with hundreds bought already).
  - Bringing in pension fund investment to fund more home-buying for temporary accommodation.
  - Adopting the proposal made by the Liberal Democrats in March 2025 to provide incentives for private landlords to rent to families currently in temporary accommodation
  - Prioritised the use of in-house operatives for housing repairs, though void turnaround times have flatlined since summer 2024, with the

average property standing empty for more than ten times longer than the twenty-day target.

This Council believes:

- The current government shares our mission to end rough sleeping.
- In the UK in 2025 no one should be without a home. We believe that every Haringey resident should have a safe, decent and comfortable home.
- It is imperative we prevent residents from becoming homeless and provide the best possible support for those in crisis as well as good quality temporary accommodation.
- Commercial hotels are not suitable for families in need. We aim to end our use of them, but the challenges imposed by the housing crisis mean this is not a quick process.

This Council resolves to:

- Set ambitious and clearly defined targets and milestones for our mission to end rough sleeping in Haringey, reducing rough sleeping by 20% per year compared to the 2025 baseline, and supporting the Mayor's of London's target to eliminate rough sleeping altogether by 2030.
- Continue to explore means that contribute to this strategic objective, including providing holistic wrap-around support for the breadth of challenges faced by people experiencing homelessness.
- Celebrate the work of this Council and all officers and local and national partners involved in delivering the 33% decrease in rough sleeping since 2022.
- Write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to:
  - o Showcase the policies and strategy that have contributed to Haringey's measurable progress.
  - o Invite the Secretary of State or relevant minister to visit the borough to showcase some of these policies in action and further discuss how our local success might translate to the national picture.
    - Ask for more funding to scale-up this work to the level required to reach our ambitious new targets
- Write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions calling for:
  - Local Housing Allowance to be increased to reflect the real cost of housing in London

- The process for setting up Alternative Payment Arrangements to be streamlined, and expanded to cover rents higher than the LHA, to give landlords greater confidence when considering taking on a tenant with a poor or limited track record.
- Write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care calling to:
  - Increase mental health funding.
  - Place a duty on Integrated Care Boards to ensure that mental health service providers have the necessary resources, including financial support, to meet service demands.
- Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer calling for:
  - The public health budget to be increased every year as a proportion of total health and social care spending.
  - Increased grant funding to Haringey to increase the number of properties being purchased annually through the council's house-buying initiative.
- Recognise that our task is not complete until rough sleeping has been eradicated in Haringey.