

Amendment to Housing Emergency Motion

After “1,684 households that are on the Housing Register”

Insert “This Council understands:

- In parts of the borough “Affordable Rents” are higher than the Local Housing Allowance Rate
- High inflation in the construction sector has had a significant impact upon the viability of building new social and affordable rent homes in the borough.
- New Social rent properties are unlikely to come forward without significant grant funding.
- Housing and security of tenure are intrinsically linked to all aspects of an individual’s life, including mental & physical health, employment prospects and educational outcomes.
- Successive Governments have failed to adequately address the need for additional social rent homes.
- Community Led housing has a part to play in providing new social and affordable rent homes.
- “First Homes”, Shared Ownership Homes, Private Market Rent Homes, and Homes for sale have a role to play in cross subsidising Social and affordable rent developments.”

After “Call on the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Housing Minister to urgently seek proper solutions to this crisis”

Insert “including implementing the recommendations of “The economic impact of building social housing” report carried out by CEBR on behalf of Shelter and the National Housing Federation (NHF), by investing £12 billion to build 90,000 new social rent homes.”

Then add

“5. Lobby government, for Local Housing Allowance Rates to be matched to Affordable Rent levels and to be linked to future increases in the Affordable Rent levels.

6. Policy and Resources committee to consider introducing and implementing discounts on planning fees for Registered Providers for land led schemes which deliver new social rent homes.

7. Policy and Resources Committee consider increasing the length of the council tax exemption period for Unoccupied properties owned by a charity to 12 months instead of 6 months to encourage registered providers to undertake works to bring existing social and affordable rent homes that are long term empty back into use instead of selling them off.

8. That the Housing & Health Committee consider updating the rules for applying and use of the Community Housing Fund grants to allow applications for grants towards capital spend as well as for research.

9. Lobby for Government to update the rate at which housing benefit can be claimed for temporary accommodation costs to be set at current Local Housing Allowance rates and to be index linked

10. That the Property and Regeneration review the land holdings of the council particularly in areas that were transferred under the stock transfer to “Swale Housing Association” to ascertain if the transfer of some of this land to registered providers or community led housing organisations could provide additional new social and affordable rent homes.”

Proposed by Cllr Ben J Martin

Seconded by Cllr Claire Martin