

Subject: Extract from the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on the 28th January 2016 – Solution Based Proposals to End Homelessness

Date of Meeting: 2nd March 2016

Report of: Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer: Name: **Mark Wall** Tel: **29-1006**
E-mail: mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Action Required of the Housing & New Homes Committee:

To receive the item referred from the Council for consideration:

Recommendation:

That the Housing & New Homes Committee give consideration to the petition's request.

COUNCIL

**4.30 pm 28 January 2016
COUNCIL CHAMBER, BRIGHTON TOWN HALL**

DRAFT MINUTES**PART ONE**

Present: Councillors Hyde (Chair), West (Deputy Chair), Allen, Atkinson, Barford, Barradell, Bell, Bennett, Bewick, Brown, Cattell, Chapman, Daniel, Deane, Druitt, Gibson, Gilbey, Greenbaum, Hamilton, Hill, Horan, Inkipin-Leissner, Knight, Lewry, Littman, Mac Cafferty, Marsh, Meadows, Mears, Miller, Moonan, Morgan, Morris, Nemeth, A Norman, K Norman, O'Quinn, Penn, Phillips, Robins, Simson, Sykes, Taylor, C Theobald, G Theobald, Wares, Wealls and Yates.

75. (B) SOLUTION BASED PROPOSALS TO END HOMELESSNESS

- 75.12 The Mayor stated that the council's petition scheme provided that where a petition secured 1,250 or more signatures it could be debated at a Council meeting. She had been notified of two such petitions which had sufficient signatures to warrant a debate and therefore would call on the lead petitioner to present their petition before opening the matter up for debate.
- 75.13 The Mayor invited Ree to come forward and present the petition on behalf of Love Activists.
- 75.14 Ree thanked the Mayor and presented the petition which called on the Council to expand the Housing First model to offer housing to all of the city's homeless people and work with the community to address the issue of homelessness. She hoped that the council would take on board the proposals outlined in the petition and seek to encourage other Authorities to implement the measures nationally. She stated that the aim had to be to avoid any more deaths on the streets in the city and referred to a recent Supreme Court ruling which stated that all homeless people should be seen and given priority need. This was something that was not being actioned as available resources were being used as a factor rather than need. She also noted that a doctor at the Housing summit last year had detailed how many homeless people were being treated and called it the human face of an inhuman statistic. She stated that people could not wait until 2020 as was the council's current objective to meet the needs of the homeless and that action needed to be undertaken now. She hoped that the council would implement the solution based proposals as outlined in the petition.
- 75.15 Councillor Meadows thanked Ree for her presentation and referred the points raised in the petition and stated that the council and officers were seeking to address the situation and find ways to help those who were homeless. She noted that supported housing was available and cases were assessed as quickly as possible, although not every person could be accepted as being vulnerable. The council was committed to finding accommodation and had identified 2020 as a target for addressing the

homeless situation and had piloted the Housing First model. However, there was a need to recognise that people presented with a wide-range of needs which would have to be addressed. She also noted that some aspects required changes nationally and was happy to provide a full response on the matter in writing given the limited time at the present meeting.

- 75.16 Councillor Mears welcomed the petition and stated that she looked forward to the debate at the Housing & New Homes Committee. She believed the council had a duty to the most vulnerable in the community and had to provide a front-line service to support the homeless population. She also noted that the government had maintained funding for local authorities and hoped that this would help to prevent numbers from increasing.
- 75.17 Councillor Gibson stated that he hoped the council could work with Love Activists to address the problems identified and noted that there was a housing crisis in the city which was not in the direct control of the authority. He hoped that pressure could be put on the government to commit to supporting homeless people and to provide more homes. It could impose rent controls which would then ease the private rented sector and make more accommodation available.
- 75.18 Councillor Moonan welcomed the petition and stated that the council did want to work the community and Love Activists to tackle the situation and noted that a new Housing Strategy was being developed.
- 75.19 The Mayor noted the information and called on Councillor Meadows to respond to the petition
- 75.20 Councillor Meadows stated that the Rough Sleepers Strategy was being reviewed and the council was very aware of the need to support and help the homeless people in the city.
- 75.21 The Mayor then put the recommendation to refer the petition to the Fairness Commission for information and the Housing & New Homes Committee for consideration to the vote, which was agreed.
- 75.22 **RESOLVED:** That the petition be referred to the Fairness Commission for information and the Housing & New Homes Committee for consideration at its next meeting.

