

NOTICE OF MOTION

GREEN GROUP

LIVING WAGE / SOCIAL RENT HOUSING FOR THE CITY

That Housing & New Homes Committee receives a report for consideration at the committee meeting in January 2019:

- (1) Exploring the options available for the creation of a ring fenced reserve as part of the current HRA reserve, to support the building of 27.5% living wage rent or social rent housing in the city; and
- (2) Setting out options for the proposed size of this reserve for 2019/20.

Proposed by: Cllr Gibson

Seconded by: Cllr Druitt

Additional information:

- It is estimated that 15,000 households in the city can only afford social rents. Since discounts were increased, on average, around 50 social rented properties are sold each year through the 'Right to Buy.'
- "Affordable" rents at local housing allowance - or at 37.5% Living wage rates for a 2 bed property - are typically more than double social rents.
- For a 2 bed property, 27.5% Living wage rents are typically around 50% more than social rents.
- Pressures on the HRA reserves have reduced due to a recent national government decision to scrap the demand on local authorities to sell high value homes in council ownership.
- A meeting of PR&G Committee on October 11th received an amendment on the use of HRA reserves to support living wage rents. Members of this committee raised the need for this issue to be discussed by Housing and New Homes Committee:

<http://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/mgconvert2pdf.aspx?id=132960>

