

Date of meeting: 20 July 2023

### LABOUR GROUP AMENDMENT

#### RENT CONTROLS

That the relevant changes are made to the recommendations as shown below in ~~strikethrough~~ and ***bold italics***:

Council notes:

~~1 Rent in Brighton & Hove is one of the highest in the country, with an average rent of £1,100 which accounts for 50% of the average monthly income;~~ ***On 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 a motion was passed at Housing committee requesting that the Chief executive Write to the Secretary of State to ask that powers to implement rents controls are given to the city of Brighton and Hove.***

~~2. The cost of rent continues to spiral upwards;~~ ***Rents are high and the lack of affordable housing is causing distress and poverty. On 22 June 2022 a motion was passed at Housing committee to stop unlawful discrimination against benefit claimants by landlords and letting agents***

~~3. The quality of rented properties continues to be poor, with the highest proportion of one-bedroom households (24.7%) in England and Wales outside the capital;~~ ***on 15 December 2022 a motion was passed at full council to take a tougher approach to enforcement where there are hazardous conditions in private rented homes On June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021 a motion at Housing Committee to commit to introducing Landlord Licencing in our City. On 17th November 2021 a motion was passed at Housing Committee to declare an intention to adopt a zero tolerance approach to rogue landlords***

~~4 With 32.9% of residents privately renting, Brighton & Hove has suffered heavily in the housing crisis, with residents priced out of the city;~~

~~5. At least two of the parties represented on the council supported devolving powers from government to support rent controls;~~

~~6. Politicians continue to waiver on commitments to support renters when they are hit hardest by the housing crisis;~~

~~7. There is a desperate need for local authorities to have greater powers over landlords, and to use those powers to tackle a housing market profiting a few at the cost of many;~~

~~8. It is interested and attracted by the idea that council leaders should be able to make decisions to freeze rent.~~

~~9. Request that the Chief Executive writes to both the National Government and the Leader of the Opposition in Westminster making a case for councils to be given the power to freeze private rents in their areas;~~

337

~~10. Call on every party to commit to supporting rent controls at the next General Election;~~

~~11. Request that, should any mechanism to introduce rent control be introduced, the Council considers taking immediate action to implement those measures. 338~~

Council resolves to request that the Housing Committee considers:

- 1 Implementation of Landlord licensing at the soonest opportunity
- 2 Taking a tougher approach to enforcement where there are poor conditions in the Private Rental Sector
- 3 Adoption of a zero tolerance approach to rogue landlords
- 4 Exploration of how we can develop a long term strategy to improve conditions and affordability for private renters on our city including calling for rent control powers. following the examples of The Mayor of London Sadiq Khan and the Mayor of Bristol Maris Rees who have called for powers to impose rent controls.

5 Do all we can to provide more affordable, decent homes for our residents.

Proposed by: Councillor Williams

Seconded by: Councillor Sheard

**Recommendations to read if carried:**

Council notes

1. On June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021 a motion at Housing Committee to commit to introducing Landlord Licencing in our City
2. On 17th November 2021 a motion was passed at Housing Committee to declare an intention to adopt a zero tolerance approach to rogue landlords
3. on 15 December 2022 a motion was passed at full council to take a tougher approach to enforcement where there are hazardous conditions in private rented homes
4. 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 a motion was passed at Housing committee requesting that the Chief executive Write to the Secretary of State to ask that powers to implement rents controls are given to the city of Brighton and Hove.
5. Rents are high and the lack of affordable housing is causing distress and poverty

Council resolves to request that the Housing Committee considers:

1. Implementation of Landlord licensing at the soonest opportunity
2. Taking a tougher approach to enforcement where there are poor conditions in the Private Rental Sector
3. Adoption of a zero tolerance approach to rogue landlords
4. Exploration of how we can develop a long term strategy to improve conditions and affordability for private renters on our city including calling for rent control powers. following the examples of The Mayor of London Sadiq Khan and the Mayor of Bristol Maris Rees who have called for powers to impose rent controls.
5. Do all we can to provide more affordable, decent homes for our residents.