

HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 36(a)

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Petitions
Date of Meeting: 12 November 2014
Report of: Head of Legal & Democratic Services
Contact Officer: Name: Caroline De Marco Tel: 29-1063
E-mail: caroline.demarco@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Key Decision: No
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 To receive any petitions presented at Council, any petitions submitted directly to Democratic Services or any e-Petition submitted via the council's website.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.2 That the Committee responds to the two petitions either by noting them or writing to the petition organiser setting out the Council's views, or where it is considered more appropriate, calls for an officer report on the matter which may give consideration to a range of options, including the following:

- § taking the action requested in the petition
- § considering the petition at a council meeting
- § holding an inquiry into the matter
- § undertaking research into the matter
- § holding a public meeting
- § holding a consultation
- § holding a meeting with petitioners
- § referring the petition for consideration by the council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- § calling a referendum

3. PETITIONS

3. (i) To consider the following petition signed by 2164 people as an online petition and 506 people as a paper petition. Total signatures - 2506. The petition was considered by Council on 23 October 2014 and is now referred to Housing Committee. (Note: Extract from Council attached with recommendations).

Support the Campaign for a Living Rent

"We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to 1)
Acknowledge that the massive increase in private sector rents is causing unacceptable harm to many residents in the city. Some of

whom are faced with not having enough to feed their families once their rent has been paid. 2) Make a public statement deploring the hardship caused to residents of the city by unaffordable private sector rents that rose by up to 27% last year forcing many people to move away from areas where they have lived all their lives or live in unsuitable overcrowded accommodation 3) Develop an ethical landlord scheme, whereby landlords voluntarily commit: to charge living rent, to cap increases by inflation, to provide a good standard of property maintenance 4) Support the development of an ethical lettings agency 5) Call on the government to institute rent controls on private sector rents”

Submitted by: Diane Montgomery

- 3. (ii) To consider the following petition and paper petition signed by 503 people and presented to the Council meeting on 23 October 2014.**

Demand for Affordable Housing

“We the undersigned, petition Brighton & Hove Council to ensure any future residential proposals in sustainable development locations, which include identified brownfield and urban fringe sites (we say no to development in the National Park), are positively planned to ensure Brighton’s full housing requirements are met. Proposed developments should comply with Brighton’s requirement of 40% affordable housing to address the vast shortfall in supply of affordable homes in the City.”

Submitted by Sam Bellas