

**NOTICE OF MOTION  
GREEN GROUP****PAYMENTS FOR VACANT HIGH-VALUE COUNCIL HOUSING  
FORCED SALE OF COUNCIL HOUSING ASSETS**

This council notes proposals in the Housing and Planning Bill for Local Housing Authorities to be required to consider selling high value housing as it becomes vacant, and for a payment to be made to the Secretary of State of the market value of such housing, whether or not any sale is made.

The council further notes that if this money is lost to Brighton and Hove it could severely impair the council's ability to build affordable housing to tackle the growing housing crisis in the city. This council therefore;

- (1) Requests the Chief Executive to write to the Housing Minister, expressing its support for the principle that councils should decide on how many of their empty properties are sold off and that any payments to the Secretary of State be made only after sufficient funds have been set aside to repay debt and replace the council property with an equivalent at the same rents;
- (2) Agrees that the council will issue an immediate press release to publicise this decision.

Proposed by: Councillor Gibson

Seconded by: Councillor Phillips

Supported by: Councillors Mac Cafferty, Sykes, Druitt, Deane, Greenbaum, Knight, Littman, Page, and West

**Supporting information:**

The extension of the right-to-buy scheme to housing association tenants was a key pledge in the Conservative's 2015 manifesto. Ministers have said housing associations will be compensated with funds from forcing local authorities to sell their most expensive housing stock as it becomes vacant.

Section 62 of the Housing and Planning Bill currently before Parliament proposes a payment be required from council house owning local authorities to the Secretary of State, consisting of the estimated market value of any high-value housing that is likely to become vacant during the year.

Section 67 of the bill makes provision for the Secretary of State and a local housing authority to enter into an agreement to reduce the amount the authority is required to pay where the amount by which the payment is reduced is used for the provision of housing.

It has been estimated that Councils will be required to transfer £4.5 billion per year to central government, which represents a worrying return to previous government policies of seizing council tenants rents/capital receipts.

