

Subject:	Homeless Emergency Accommodation – Petition for Debate		
Date of Meeting:	24 March 2016		
Report of:	The Monitoring Officer		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Mark Wall	Tel: 01273 291006
	E-mail:	mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 Under the Council's Petition Scheme if a petition contains more than 1,250 signatures and is not petition requesting officer evidence, it will be debated by the Full Council.
- 1.2 A combined e-petition and paper petition has resulted in triggering a debate at the council meeting, having exceeded the threshold with a total of 1,446 signatures confirmed at the time of printing the report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the petition is noted and referred to the Housing & New Homes Committee for consideration at its meeting on the 15th June 2016.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION / CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:**3.1 The Petition**

Homelessness Emergency Accommodation

"We, the undersigned request the council to consider the 10 point action plan listed below to address this matter:

1. Homemove Allocations for vulnerable persons in priority need with a duty of care should be awarded a higher banding than band C (the general band) when placed in Emergency Housing. I am looking for a band A priority.
2. More inspections of Emergency Accommodation to ensure the living standards meets the needs of the people occupying them.
3. The council to adopt a plan to bring emergency housing into public ownership by 2020. They **MUST** pledge to stop funding private landlords who only have an interest in profit.

4. I want the council to ask all applicants to complete surveys with all emergency housed people to ensure they have a voice.
5. The right to food, is a human right protecting the right for people to feed themselves in dignity, The council must ensure that emergency housing adequately meets the individual's dietary needs. The current conditions do not allow for a healthy diet which can be a huge issue for vulnerable people.
6. I want the council to be radical and rather than spend millions of tax payers money in private sector emergency and temporary housing, they should build more storage container homes after the success of the BHT scheme in Brighton.
7. I want the council to ensure that all persons in emergency accommodation have access to the internet for free.
8. To revoke the rules on no visitors. Vulnerable people are isolated enough and this in my opinion is discrimination. Even Prisoners are allowed visitors.
9. For persons who are vulnerable the council MUST provide them with secure social housing to ensure they are able to live life free from FEAR and outside the Private Sector Property Scam.
10. Ensure hot water is available in emergency housing for persons to wash in comfort.

3.2 The options open to the council are:

- To note the petition and take no action for reasons put forward in the debate; or
- To refer the petition to the relevant Committee meeting; or
- To refer the petition to the relevant Committee meeting with recommendations.

4. **PROCEDURE:**

4.1 The petition will be debated at the Council meeting in accordance with the agreed protocol:

- (i) The Lead petitioner will be invited by the Mayor to present the petition and will have up to 3 minutes in which to outline the prayer of the petition and confirm the number of signatures;
- (ii) The Mayor will then call on the relevant Committee Chair to respond to the petition and move a proposed response;
- (iii) The Mayor will then open the matter up for debate by councillors and call on those councillors who have indicated a desire to move an amendment

or additional recommendation(s) to the recommendation listed in paragraph 2.1 of the report;

- (iv) Any councillor may move an amendment or recommendation, having regard to the recommendation in 2.1 above and any such proposal will need to be formally seconded;
- (v) After a period of 15 minutes, the Mayor will then call an end to the debate and ask the relevant Committee Chair to reply to the points raised;
- (vi) The Mayor will then formally put:
 - (a) Any amendments in the order in which they are moved, and
 - (b) The substantive recommendation(s) as amended (if amended).

