

**DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting of the Committee for the hearing of deputations from members of the public. Each deputation may be heard for a maximum of five minutes following which one Member of the Council, nominated by the Mayor, may speak in response. It shall then be moved by the Mayor and voted on without discussion that the deputation be thanked for attending and its subject matter noted.

Notification of one Deputation has been received. The spokesperson is entitled to speak for 5 minutes.

**(1) Deputation concerning Bristol Estate****Spokesperson David Croydon**

Supported by:

David Croydon  
Charlotte Rogers  
David Green  
Michael Bushby  
Madeleine Sailani  
Keith Marston  
Ghebrat Kahsay  
Violeta Belogaska  
Shula Rich  
Alan Bryan  
Barbara Roberts  
Stewart Gillies

**Ward affected: East Brighton**

**(2) Deputation from the Living Rent Campaign on using borrowing available to build truly affordable council housing****Spokesperson Michael Fitzpatrick**

Supported by:

Diane Montgomery  
Sheila Rimmer  
Caroline Hinds  
John Hadman  
Duncan Moore

**Wards Affected: All**

## **(1) Deputation - Bristol Estate**

Brighton and Hove City Council leaseholders and tenants throughout the City, particularly in blocks of flats, have been subject to costly major works that in some cases is of poor quality and unnecessary. Individual leaseholders have been presented with demands for payment of sums in excess of £30,000 with similar sums being paid from the Housing Revenue Account for each property.

'Justice for Tenants', an affiliate of the Brighton and Hove Housing Coalition, is aware of residents who have lost their homes or have sold at a loss. Others have suffered serious health issues as a result of the stress or the effect of the work on their day to day living conditions.

The Council has spent tens of thousands of pounds on aggressive legal action against all leaseholders in 5 blocks (known as "phase 2") on the Bristol Estate.

At the initial hearing of the Tribunal, as well as beforehand, the leaseholders urged the council to meet with them to discuss grievances or to go to mediation. Many were still involved in following the council's own disputes procedure. At the hearing the presiding Judge highlighted the mediation facilities available. The Council representative refused to talk, to go to mediation, or even to complete the council's own local dispute procedure.

**We urge councillors to make every effort to discuss the present dispute with leaseholders and request that officers be instructed to exhaust the BHCC dispute process and mediation prior to any tribunal hearing**

## **(2) Deputation from the Living Rent Campaign on using the borrowing available to build truly affordable council housing**

Given that the council has only used a quarter of the money available under the HRA borrowing cap in the last 3 years the living rent campaign are urging housing committee to "get on with it" and use this large resource of over £30 million that is still available to tackle the cities housing crisis.

We are dismayed to discover that an average of only £3.5 million net borrowing has been used over the last 3 years from a potential of £40 million. It is no good campaigning to raise our borrowing cap, if the council don't use the borrowing already allowed up to the cap limits!

Over the last 20 years, on average, around 80 council homes a year have been lost to the right to buy in Brighton and Hove and it is vital that these homes are not only replaced, but more are made available.

There are over 15,000 households on the waiting list. Brighton has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of rough sleepers in the whole country and 1 in 69 people are rough sleeping or in temporary homeless accommodation. Homelessness is being fuelled by high private sector rents. An average 2 bed private rented flat is estimated to cost around £15,500 a year which swallows about 60 % of the median income of households living and working in the city. People are being driven out of the city they grew up in. Low income households urgently need new homes at Living rents and social rents and only the council will be able to do this

The number of affordable homes provided in Brighton and Hove has dropped from 239 in 2014/15 to an estimated 131 for 2017/18 and as housing associations do less, the council is increasingly central to providing affordable homes for the city. It must get its act together better.

It is a scandal that as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of April this year the council still has over £30 million available to put toward building new homes. The council are sitting on a goldmine we urge you to show the will and competence to get on and spend this money over the next 2 years. If you don't the people of Brighton will not forgive you.

