

Item No. 3.2	Classification: Open	Date: 13 July 2016	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Motion on the Theme: Tackling the Housing Crisis	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The theme for this meeting is tackling the housing crisis.

The relevant cabinet member shall submit a motion on the theme. All other political groups on the council are allowed to submit one amendment to the motion. The cabinet member's motion and the amendments do not need to be seconded. The cabinet member will present the motion to the meeting, followed by the lead opposition spokesperson's response and moving of their amendment. Following this the subject matter of the theme will be open to debate. Amendment(s) from other opposition groups on the council can be moved during this part of the meeting.

MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR STEPHANIE CRYAN, DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND COUNCILLOR MARK WILLIAMS, CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND NEW HOMES

1. Council assembly recognises the role of local authorities in tackling the housing crisis, to ensure that there are enough decent affordable homes for all of our residents.
2. Council assembly welcomes the steps that this administration is taking to ensure Southwark plays its role in solving the housing crisis, including:
 - Building 11,000 new council homes, with the first 1,500 delivered by 2018
 - Ensuring that local residents benefit directly by reserving half of all the new council homes for residents on the housing waiting list who live in the local area
 - Ensuring the delivery of truly affordable homes by securing over 35% affordable homes in new developments last year, with over 50% of these for social rent
 - Improving the quality of 15,000 council homes, spending £480m to make every council home warm, dry and safe and ensuring every council tenant has a quality kitchen and bathroom
 - Introducing a private-rented sector licensing scheme to raise standards in private rented housing and protect the 1 in 4 families in Southwark who rent privately.
3. Council assembly recognises that at a time when the Conservative government has slashed funding for new affordable homes, it is more important than ever to hold developers to account and secure as many affordable homes as possible, and therefore welcomes the new rules introduced by this administration to make viability assessments public for all new developments.

4. Council assembly welcomes the new Mayor of London's bold plan to deliver the homes that Londoners need, including supporting councils to enforce clear, new rules to maximise the affordable housing in new developments and the option to set local affordable housing targets.
5. Council assembly condemns the government for pushing through its disastrous Housing and Planning Act despite fierce opposition by local councils including Southwark and for refusing to accept concessions to limit the impact of 'pay to stay' on council tenants and to ensure that any high value council homes sold are replaced in the same area.
6. Council assembly recognises that the government's 'Starter Homes' contained in this act will not be affordable for most Southwark residents, and calls on the cabinet to work with the Mayor of London to explore alternatives for low cost home ownership, to support residents who are struggling to buy their own home.
7. Council assembly recognises that the lack of detail in the legislation about the implementation of the act seriously limits the information and advice that the council can provide to residents, but calls on the cabinet to do everything it can to minimise the impact of this disastrous legislation on Southwark residents and particularly council tenants.
8. Council assembly calls on all councillors to continue to fight the Conservatives' attack on social housing.

Note: If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Cabinet members motion	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Virginia Wynn-Jones 020 7525 7055

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Constitutional Officer
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