

Appendix A

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL

Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) Request Form

This form is for District Councillors to raise topics of concern to Thanet District Council to enable investigation by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel, or other method as appropriate. To ensure that Scrutiny's work is most effective, Members must provide evidence of what they have previously done to try to resolve the issue. When deciding which topics to scrutinise, the primary aim is adding value to the work of the Council, focusing on the things that matter most and which make a real difference to the local community.

For this reason, Scrutiny does not get involved with individual cases or minor matters, which should be addressed through other channels, including the appropriate service area or Ward Councillor. Scrutiny does not deal with individual complaints, which should be directed through the Councils' Complaints Procedure.

Your contact details:

Name (print): COUNCILLOR HELEN WHITEHEAD

Address:**Contact number:****Email address:**

cllr-helen.whitehead@thanet.gov.uk

The Ward you represent:

MARGATE CENTRAL

Description of the topic

Please describe as fully as possible what the issue is with specific examples where possible.

Hyper inflation of rent and the lack of funding to build Council properties is causing displacement of low income families throughout my ward. Any individual or family relying on LHA now has no way to re enter the rental market if displaced, and with the rise in evictions across my ward displacement is a frequent occurrence.

Why are you raising the topic?

Please explain what has prompted you to raise the topic, e.g. concerns by residents, etc.

I have been dealing with eviction cases regularly for a long time now, but their prevalence is increasing; I am contacted often by residents who can no longer afford rent, are facing eviction, or have no way to secure a new rental property.

Who does it affect?

Please describe if any other wards / parishes are affected, or if it is local to your ward, how many residents are affected?

This issue is affecting my ward in a very particular way, but hyper inflation of rent and lack of affordable housing is affecting all wards within Thaxet. In terms of specific numbers, I am contacted directly by residents 3-5 times per week, and indirectly by other councillors/agencies 2-3 times per week.

What solutions have already been tried?

Please describe what avenues to solve the issue have already been tried and the outcomes.

I have already spoken to our Head of Housing at length, I have spoken at Full Council, Cabinet, written to central government, requested that the Housing CAG write to central government, and have written to the relevant Ministers.

What outcomes are required?

A full and frank discussion of the crisis we face in our affordable rental market, and a clear whole council approach that recognises the struggles that residents are facing and proposes a plan to address this. Although a specific solution may not be possible, it will assist the Committee if you describe what outcomes or solutions you would prefer.

What evidence do you have in support of your CCfA?

Letters ✓

Emails ✓

Agendas/Minutes of meetings ✓

Photographs

Film

Other (please specify)

Is the CCfA currently the subject of legal action by any party (to your knowledge) or is being examined by a formal complaints' process?

No.

What (if any) are the critical deadlines?

Please make clear if there are specific deadlines for this topic.

It is a critical issue that needs addressing as soon as possible, but there is no specific deadline.

Would you like the opportunity to speak to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel?


Yes No

Have you approached the Overview and Scrutiny Panel on the same issue in the past six months?

Yes No

Would you like your response by:

Email Letter

Signature: 	Date of submission: 04/08/2022
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Please complete and return the form to:
 Nick Hughes
 Committee Services Manager
 Thanet District Council
 Council Offices
 Cecil Street
 Margate
 Kent CT9 1XZ