

NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

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| Council: | 11 July 2024 |
| By: | Ingrid Brown, Head of Legal and Democracy and Monitoring Officer |
| Cabinet Portfolio Member: | Councillor Everitt, Leader of the Council |
| Key Decision: | No |
| Decision classification: | Unrestricted |
| Call in status: | No |
| Ward: | All |

Purpose of the Report

This Council will consider a notice of motion requesting that the Government takes urgent action to support this local authority and others whose capacity to deliver services in general is threatened by the rising demand for, and therefore cost of, temporary accommodation due to the threat of homelessness, as well as to prevent the damaging impacts on the Thanet families and individuals affected. The notice of motion requests that the local MPs make representations to the government to provide more support as a matter of urgency.

Recommendation(s):

With reference to the options in section 3.0 of the report, Council is invited to consider the motion.

1. Summary of Reasons

- 1.1 This report ensures that the Council complies with Council Procedure Rule 3.0 [paras 3.1-3.3], Part 4 of the Constitution Procedure Rule.

2. Background

- 2.1 The following motion has been received from Councillor Everitt in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 3:

“Council notes the outcome of the general election and congratulates the successful candidates in Thanet. We call upon the new government to take urgent action to support this local authority and others whose capacity to deliver services in general is threatened by the rising demand for, and therefore cost of, temporary accommodation due to the threat of homelessness, as well as to prevent the damaging impacts on the

Thanet families and individuals affected. We call upon the local MPs to make representations to government to provide more support as a matter of urgency.”

3. Relevant Issues

- 3.1 Council could decide to either:
- 3.2 To debate the motion and make a decision.
- 3.3 Not to debate the motion, in which case the motion will fall.
- 3.4 If the motion is debated, at the end of the debate a vote will be taken to agree the motion or not. As only Council can agree to this motion, if the motion falls then it will not be referred to any other committee.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 There is no public law duty or statutory requirement to consult on this matter.

5. Corporate Implications

5.1 Finance and Resources

- 5.1.1 There are no direct financial implications arising directly from this request to make further representations to the government in relation to this matter.
- 5.1.2 The following paragraphs set out some financial context for the operation of homelessness services:
- 5.1.3 During the financial year 2023-24, our Housing Options service incurred an overspend of £1.1m for the provision of temporary accommodation. This was primarily because of an increasing number of homeless individuals being accommodated and also a corresponding increase in the cost of nightly stays with external temporary accommodation providers. As of the beginning of 2024-25 there remains a consistent increase in the total number of temporary accommodation cases, which is expected to result in a similar overspend as 2023-24. However, the successful completion of our in-house temporary housing projects at Foy House and Truro Road will help us control and reduce overall costs, although not enough to stay within the approved budget. As we get closer to our goal of adding 400 new homes to our housing revenue account, over the next few years, this should positively impact on our temporary accommodation numbers as our allocations policy means these homes are allocated equally between temporary accommodation tenants and individuals on the housing register
- 5.1.4 Nationally Local Authorities are seeing significant budgetary impact from temporary accommodation as costs have increased significantly, whilst the support from government has not. Therefore even though the Council is undertaking its own steps

to address the financial impact of temporary accommodation where possible, more financial support from government is needed in the medium to longer term to ensure financial stability across the whole of local government.

5.2 Legal and Constitutional

5.2.1 There are no particular legal issues arising from this report. The relevant provisions of the Council's constitution are referred to throughout the body of this report and provide that councillors can put forward a motion on notice for Full Council to consider and either agree to adopt the motion as is or with amendments or to reject the motion.

5.3 Council Policies and Priorities

5.3.1 This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- To keep our district safe and clean
- To deliver the housing we need
- To protect our environment
- To create a thriving place
- To work efficiently for you

5.4 Risk

5.4.1 There are no risk implications arising from this report.

5.5 Climate Change and Biodiversity

5.5.1 There are no climate change and biodiversity implications arising directly from this report..

6. Equality, Equity and Diversity Implications

6.1 Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

There are no specific equality issues arising from this report.

7. Crime and Disorder Implications and Community impact

7.1 There are no crime and disorder implications to this report.

8. Subject History

8.1 This is the first occasion that this matter is being considered.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

None

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Report Sign Off

Legal: Ingrid Brown-Head of Legal and Democracy and Monitoring Officer

Finance **Chris Blundell (Director of Corporate Services - Section 151)**