

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

16th April 2014

NOTICE OF MOTION – HOUSING BENEFIT CHANGES

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr M.J.A. Webb
Relevant Head of Service	Executive Director Finance and Corporate Resources

The following Notice of Motion has been submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 11 by Councillor C. J. Bloore:

Council Notes

The benefits changes introduced on 1st April 2013 meant social housing tenants deemed to have one spare bedroom have had their housing benefit reduced by 14%. Those with two or more spare bedrooms had reductions of 25%.

Bromsgrove District Council has in recent years changed its planning policy on building affordable homes removing the need for new building developments to build at least 40% affordable homes.

A discretionary payment system for those affected has been administered by the District Council staff.

Council Believes

That the national data available and statements from BDHT on the effects of the spare room subsidy commonly known as the bedroom tax suggests that residents in Bromsgrove may have fallen into debt because of the bedroom tax.

When Bromsgrove residents cannot pay their rent and end up in emergency accommodation it costs the District Council a significant amount of money through stays in bed and breakfast.

Council Resolves

To investigate all costs to the Council in lost council tax and other revenues of residents being forced into emergency accommodation.