

NOTICE OF MOTION – SOCIAL RENTED HOUSING IN BROMSGROVE

The following Notice of Motion has been submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 11 by Councillor S. P. Shannon:

This Council notes the launch of the Social Housing Under Threat (SHOUT) campaign (18/6/14). It agrees with SHOUT that building social housing – social rented homes – is at the core of tackling the housing crisis nationally and locally in Bromsgrove, and that social rented housing meets needs that other tenures cannot address.

This Council also notes that:

- (1) Under the coalition government the funding of social housing has become increasingly marginalised with the latest prospectus for bidders from the Homes and Community Agency stating that “social rent provision will only be supported in very limited circumstances”
- (2) The coalition government’s Affordable Rent Programme linking grant funding to rents of up to 80% of market rents is quite simply unaffordable and there is evidence that even setting Affordable rents of 65% of local market rents is putting homes out of reach of many in Bromsgrove.
- (3) Social housing faces great challenges in meeting the needs of those affected by welfare cuts and rule changes over the last three years, including the damaging “bedroom tax” and increased pressure from the escalating number of affordable homes lost through the Right to Buy/Right to Acquire schemes after the significant increase in discount in April 2012 suggested by the coalition government.

This Council therefore resolves:

- (1) That the Chief Executive and Group Leaders of Bromsgrove District Council write to the MP for Bromsgrove Sajid Javid MP laying out the case for a social rent level of 60% of local market rent as “affordable” for current and potential Bromsgrove tenants, and requesting his support for this and lobbying of the Minister for Communities and Local Government to ensure the Affordable Housing Strategy favours a Bromsgrove Social Rented Programme by working in partnership with its social housing providers.
- (2) To support the work of the SHOUT campaign and take a lead in affirming the positive value and purpose of social rented provision in Bromsgrove.