

Supplementary 10

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA COUNCIL MEETING – 13 OCTOBER 2010

ITEM 10

MOTIONS

Amendment to Motion (ii)

Mover: Cllr Sir Merrick Cockell
Seconder: Cllr Feilding-Mellen

To amend the motion so that it reads as follows:

"This Council congratulates the Coalition Government, under the leadership of David Cameron and Nick Clegg for the reforms they have announced since May. The last Labour Government left the country in a perilous state and its economy in tatters. Whilst planning vast savings in public expenditure, any details were hidden by Labour from the electorate.

The Conservative/Liberal Democrat Coalition is reforming public services and making essential savings at the same time. This Council will be doing the same locally and, as the two parties of Government share responsibility for the consequences of clearing up Labour's mess, so will Councillors locally.

We support the proposed changes to Housing Benefit that will take effect from April 2011. The current very high level of Local Housing Allowance (LHA) has pushed local rent levels beyond the reach of many local residents, who seek to rent in the private sector.

Recently, some have made groundless claims that council tenants' homes were at risk, causing terrible anxiety, especially amongst vulnerable residents. This Council fully supports the rights of secure tenants to live in their council homes for as long as they wish.

This Council further condemns the Labour Government's failure to build much needed council and social housing during its thirteen years in power."

Amendment to Motion (ii)

Mover: Cllr Dent Coad
Seconder: Cllr Mingay

To amend the motion by deleting all after "this Council regrets the announcement..." and inserting:

“by the Conservative/Liberal-Democrat government about changes to Housing benefit, Local Housing Allowance and Temporary Accommodation subsidy. These proposed changes would affect over 4,000 households in this Borough, including many of our poorest and most vulnerable residents and will have a disproportionate effect on women and black and minority ethnic communities. These households will not be able to make up the difference in lost benefits, leading to arrears and possible eviction or enforced migration to cheaper boroughs or even out of London. This would be to the serious detriment of their health and well-being, their prospects of obtaining employment and will disrupt the education and life chances of their children.

The proposed changes also represent a very serious threat to the Council’s *Community Strategy* commitment to “enable a diverse population to live as part of the same community” and an even greater threat in terms of equality of opportunity for minority communities.

This Council therefore resolves that it will:

- (a) call on the Government to reverse these cuts in the light of their far-reaching effects on the lives of Borough residents;
- (b) immediately undertake an *Equality Impact Assessment* as required by legislation before taking any steps that will lead to the eviction or removal of any tenants out of their present homes; and
- (c) ask the Government to investigate ways to mitigate the effect of any such cuts on Borough residents.”

Amendment to Motion (iii)

Mover: Cllr Foreman
Seconder: Cllr Blakeman

To amend the motion by adding at the end:

"In view of recently expressed local concerns, it will now take immediate steps to re-assure residents in nearby blocks that their homes will not be demolished in order to achieve these objectives."

Derek Myers
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

Officer Contact: M. Carver, Principal Governance Manager (Tel. 020 7361 2477).

Background Papers: None.