

COUNCIL

30 MARCH 2023

AMENDMENT 2 TO MOTION 3

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Lynda Thorne
SECONDED BY: Councillor Grace Ferguson-Thorne

Insert prior to 'this council notes' - 'Recognising the important distinction between homelessness and rough sleeping'

Bullet point 2 - delete 'homelessness' and replace with 'rough sleeping'

Bullet point 6 - insert at the end 'and notes further that rough sleeping rates in Cardiff are broadly similar to that city, albeit rates in the North East have actually increased over the last 2 years.

Insert after 'This council believes that homelessness isn't inevitable and can be ended 'but that that requires a fundamental change of approach at UK Government level. This Council therefore condemns the freezes to the Local Housing Allowance introduced by the Coalition Government 2010-15, and continued under the subsequent Conservative Government, which have seen homelessness levels soar above pre-2010 levels.

This Council further calls on the UK Government to raise the Local Housing Allowance back to the Median level of market rents

- The Council welcomes the establishment in 2019 of a Homeless and Vulnerable Person Board, bringing together public sector partners and a range of 3rd sector organisations working on Task and Finish Groups to tackle homelessness, and notes that the Council's Cardiff's Housing Support Programme Strategy 2022-2026 was developed with extensive engagement with external holders on our approach to preventing homelessness and notes the achievements of the Board in reducing the number rough sleepers from the peak in December 2018/September 2019 of 87 to 30 by March 2020, the lowest level for six years.

Delete 'and calls on the administration to establish a Homelessness Task Force tasked with developing a plan to end homelessness in Cardiff that includes:'

Insert ' The Council further:

Bullet point 7 - delete 'Ending the use of hostile architecture in the built environment' and replace with 'Welcomes the long-standing Council policy not to use hostile architecture within the Council controlled public-realm, whilst recognising that businesses have a reasonable expectation that entrances to premises are accessible to customers and staff.'

Bullet point 8 - delete 'Setting out engagement with South Wales Police to end all use of the Vagrancy Act and related anti-homelessness measures and replace with 'Welcomes the work of the Street Based Lifestyles Group which includes partner organisations including South Wales Police, which ensures an appropriate balance is set in the approach to supporting communities disproportionately impacted by Street Based Lifestyles whilst taking the complex needs of vulnerable individuals into account'

Bullet point 9 – delete and replace with 'Endorses the administration's work currently underway in improving and expanding temporary accommodation, whilst recognising that there is a nationwide surge in demand for temporary accommodation'

Bullet point 10 – delete and replace with 'Endorses the administration's approach to increasing the overall share of social housing in the city, both through the award winning Council-homes building programme, and the support provided to RSLs in expanding their build programme in the city. The Council believes it is imperative for social housing to be constructed widely in every part of the city, not just in areas of historically high demand'

Bullet point 11 – delete and replace with 'Welcomes the decision to increase council tax premiums on empty and second homes, and requests Cabinet give consideration to the option increasing premiums further in due course% to support housing and homelessness activity.'

The Amended Motion would read:

Recognising the important distinction between homelessness and rough sleeping, this council notes that:

- *homelessness is devastating, dangerous and isolating.*
- *the average age of death for people experiencing rough sleeping is 46 for men and 42 for women.*
- *people sleeping on the street are almost 17 times more likely to have been victims of violence. More than one in three people sleeping rough have been deliberately hit or kicked or experienced some other form of violence whilst homeless.*
- *people experiencing homelessness are over nine times more likely to take their own life than the general population.*
- *LGBTQ+ people are disproportionately affected by youth homelessness. 24% of the youth homelessness across the UK identified as LGBT.*

- *Newcastle Council has committed to plans to end homelessness in their local areas, looking at supply, prevention, re-housing, the private rented sector, and welfare support, and notes further that rough sleeping rates in Cardiff are broadly similar to that city, albeit rates in the North East have actually increased over the last 2 years.*

This council believes that homelessness isn't inevitable and can be ended, but that that requires a fundamental change of approach at UK Government level. This Council therefore condemns the freezes to the Local Housing Allowance introduced by the Coalition Government 2010-15, and continued under the subsequent Conservative Government, which have seen homelessness levels soar above pre-2010 levels.

This Council further calls on the UK Government to raise the Local Housing Allowance back to the Median level of market rents

- *The Council welcomes the establishment in 2019 of a Homeless and Vulnerable Person Board, bringing together public sector partners and a range of 3rd sector organisations working on Task and Finish Groups to tackle homelessness, and notes that the Council's Cardiff's Housing Support Programme Strategy 2022-2026 was developed with extensive engagement with external holders on our approach to preventing homelessness and notes the achievements of the Board in reducing the number rough sleepers from the peak in December 2018 /September 2019 of 87 to 30 by March 2020, the lowest level for six years.*

The Council further:

- *Welcomes the long-standing Council policy not to use hostile architecture within the Council controlled public-realm, whilst recognising that businesses have a reasonable expectation that entrances to premises are accessible to customers and staff.*
- *Welcomes the work of the Street Based Lifestyles Group which includes partner organisations including South Wales Police, which ensures an appropriate balance is set in the approach to supporting communities disproportionately impacted by Street Based Lifestyles whilst taking the complex needs of vulnerable individuals into account*
- *Endorses the administration's work currently underway in Improving and expanding temporary accommodation, whilst recognising that there is a nationwide surge in demand for temporary accommodation*
- *Endorses the administration's approach to increasing the overall share of social housing in the city, both through the award winning Council-homes building programme, and the support provided to RSLs in expanding their build programme in the city. The Council believes it is imperative for social housing to be constructed widely in every part of the city, not just in areas of historically high demand*
- *Welcomes the decision to increase council tax premiums on empty and second homes, and requests Cabinet give consideration to the option increasing premiums further in due course% to support housing and homelessness activity.*