

Full Council: 25 July 2017

Opposition Motion: Cllr Ross Houston

Standards in the private rented sector

Council is appalled that 72 Conservative MPs, who are also private landlords, voted to oppose Labour's amendment to the Housing & Planning Bill earlier this year requiring private landlords to make their homes safe and "fit for human habitation".

Council is further appalled that two of these MPs were Mike Freer (Finchley & Golders Green) and Theresa Villiers (Chipping Barnet).

Council notes that since April 2015, local authorities are now required to obtain Secretary of State confirmation for any selective licensing scheme affecting more than 20% of private landlords in their area.

Council believes this is designed to prevent local authorities from introducing borough-wide licensing schemes that would help strengthen the working relationship between private landlords and councils, improve poor standards in the private rented sector, and ensure good landlords are supported.

Council believes that local authorities should have the freedom and flexibility to use all available tools and powers at their disposal to ensure that private rented homes are safe and "fit for human habitation".

Council therefore requests that the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition write to the Secretary of State calling for local authorities to either be allowed to introduce schemes or that Government introduce a national scheme.