

Council: 26 July 2016

Agenda item 15.5 - Amendment in the name of Councillor Tom Davey

Key worker housing strategy and affordable housing

Delete all after the bullet points and replace with:

‘Council notes the success of the Conservative administration in Barnet in delivering over 2,500 new affordable homes for people who need them in the last five years, with 38% of housing completions between 2010/11 and 2014/15 being classed as affordable.

Council also notes that the removal of at least 800 social homes from Barnet's council estates through 'regeneration' schemes are offset by the delivery of new social and affordable homes on other sites around the borough. Council notes there will be a net increase in social rented homes over the next five years.

Council does, though, recognise that affordable housing may not be affordable enough for some people and that this is an issue right across London.

Council believes that a failure to increase the supply of homes could damage London and Barnet's local economy and businesses, making it harder for the Council to recruit and retain quality key workers - like social workers.

Council notes the pre-election pledges made by the current Mayor of London and expresses concern that he may already be signalling these are unachievable.

Council asks the Housing Committee to look into these issues and consider how to build more new homes in the borough, including those affordable to key workers. Council further calls on the committee to monitor the Mayor's progress and encourage him to deliver an increased supply of homes for Londoners.’

Amendment to read in full:

Council notes the findings of the report "The Business Case for Affordable Housing" published by Peabody on 14 July and produced in partnership with the CBI with the research carried out by the Centre for Economic and Business Research:

- That London's social housing residents make a contribution that is five times greater than the housing benefit bill for social housing tenants in London in the same year.
- That Londoners living in social housing contributed at least £15bn to the capital's economy in 2015 alone.

- That over a third work in the emergency services (ambulance, police, fire service).
- That over 30 per cent work in lower paid jobs which are essential to the effective running of the capital - these include carers, security staff, cleaners, postal workers, kitchen assistants, and bar staff and waiters/waitresses.
- That businesses of all sizes and sectors have made it clear that both housing cost and availability is negatively impacting on their ability to recruit and retain staff.
- That the narrow definition of key workers fails to appreciate the essential role to the economy of many people working on lower incomes.
- That, post-Brexit, ensuring London remains globally competitive is even more important, and that means making sure the people who keep our city running have an affordable home.

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Under Full Council Procedure Rule 23.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end I request that it be referred to the appropriate Council Committee for consideration.