



## Council

### Motions

**Date:** July 20 2022

**Key decision:** No

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** n/a

**Contributors:** Chief Executive (**Acting Head of Committee Business**)

### Outline and recommendation

Members are asked to consider motions submitted to Council

#### **Motion 1**

#### **Housing Association Motion**

Proposer: Cllr Cooper; Seconder: Cllr Parry

#### **This council notes:**

- That the Conservative Government has re-announced plans to introduce a right-to-buy scheme for housing association tenants.
- Housing association properties make up a key component of our social housing stock in Lewisham, Across London and across the UK.
- That in Lewisham alone we have around 10,000 applicants on our housing waiting list and 2,000 families in temporary accommodation.
- A large number of the properties designated via our choice-based lettings service, to those on our housing waiting list, are housing association properties.

#### **This council believes:**

- That introducing a policy of right to buy for housing association properties will further deplete the number of properties available to those on our housing waiting list.
- That this policy will have an extremely detrimental impact on the number of social homes in our borough and across the UK.
- The Government should be focussing on tackling the housing crisis by building more social homes and funding local authorities and housing associations to have radical social home building programmes, not selling off existing social housing stock.
- That the promises that have been made to replace all properties sold under the new scheme are extremely hollow as the government has no direct power over how housing associations build and replace properties.
- As a Labour council we will continue to fight for a decent, safe and affordable home for every resident, and this policy will be hugely detrimental to that aim.

**This council resolves to:**

- Write to the government minister expressing our opposition to these plans and demand they are halted immediately.
- To make a public statement against the policy change and in support of more funding for social homes from the Government.
- Write to our local MPs to put together a cohesive local campaign against the proposals to protect our social housing stock.

**Motion 2**

**Local Government Pay to Council – A fully funded, proper pay rise for council and school workers**

Proposer: Cllr Sorba; Seconder: Cllr Johnston-Franklin

**This council notes:**

Local government has endured central government funding cuts of more than 50% since 2010. Between 2010 and 2020, councils lost 60p out of every £1 they have received from central government. UNISON research found that councils in England had to fill a combined funding gap of £3 billion when setting budgets for 2022/23.

Over the last two years, councils have led the way in efforts against the Covid-19 pandemic, providing a huge range of services and support for our communities. Local government has shown more than ever how indispensable it is. But Covid has led to a massive increase in expenditure and loss of income, and as we emerge from the pandemic, local authorities and schools need far more support from Westminster.

Council and school workers kept our communities safe through the pandemic, often putting themselves at considerable risk as they work to protect public health, provide

quality housing, ensure our children continue to be educated, and look after older and vulnerable people.

Since 2010, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing at least 25 per cent of their value since 2009/10. Staff are now facing the worst cost of living crisis in a generation, with inflation hitting 9% and many having to make impossible choices between food, heating and other essentials. This is a terrible situation for anyone to find themselves in.

At the same time, workers have experienced ever-increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Across the UK, 900,000 jobs have been lost in local government since June 2010 – a reduction of more than 30 per cent. Local government has arguably been hit by more severe job losses than any other part of the public sector.

There has been a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than three-quarters of the local government workforce.

Recent research shows that if the Government were to fully fund the unions' 2022 pay claim, around half of the money would be recouped thanks to increased tax revenue, reduced expenditure on benefits and tax credits, and increased consumer spending in the local economy.

**This council believes:**

Our workers are public service super-heroes. They keep our communities clean and safe, look after those in need and keep our towns and cities running.

Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.

Local government workers deserve a proper real-terms pay increase. The Government needs to take responsibility and fully fund this increase; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding has been cut to the bone and who were not offered adequate support through the Covid-19 pandemic.

**This council resolves to:**

Support the pay claim submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of council and school workers, for an increase of £2,000 or the current RPI rate, whichever is the greater (along with the various conditions claims proposed)

Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the NJC pay claim

Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government

Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and consider practical ways in which the council can support the campaign

Encourage all local government workers to join a union.