

Council – 14 December 2015

Motions (3)

| Motion A | Proposed by: Councillor Whyborn | Seconded by: Councillor Flynn |
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| | <p>Cheltenham Borough Council notes that many councils across the country, of various party political control, have implemented or are now implementing 20mph speed limits over wide areas without traffic calming. Over 14 million people now live in areas, where 20 mph has become the default speed limit in residential and urban streets, except for arterial roads.</p> <p>Council recognises that 20 mph limits have the potential to promote increased road safety, particularly for young and elderly pedestrians and cyclists, as well as to enable active and sustainable travel. Nationally Public health and other bodies such as NICE, Public Health England, the LGA and the WHO all support such a policy. It is described as the most cost-effective way to improve health equality by tackling inactivity, obesity and isolation, whilst also being child, disability, elderly and dementia friendly.</p> <p>Council notes that the report of the Cycling and Walking Scrutiny Group includes recommendations to "initiate a review to assess the appetite for a 20 mile speed limit across town from residents, businesses, and visitors", and also notes the County Council report "Draft Local Transport Plan Policy Document PD 2 (Cycle)" in which implementation of a 20 mph zones programme are described as an operational priority.</p> <p>Council requests that Cabinet consider the recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny committee of 26th Oct 2015 regarding Cycling and Walking, and include provision for a consultation exercise in the 2016/17 corporate work plan to establish where there is appetite for 20 mile per hour limits in Cheltenham and that the Council use its best endeavours in conjunction with Gloucestershire County Council to work towards trials in suitable areas where public support exists.</p> | |
| Motion B | Proposed by: Councillor Savage | Seconded by: Councillor Harman |
| | <p>As a Council we have a responsibility to work to reduce inequalities in mental health, tackle discrimination on the ground of mental health and work to support positive mental health in our community.</p> <p>This Council will work with local partners to support people with mental health needs, particularly in areas such as housing and community safety.</p> <p>This Council resolves to sign the Local Authorities' Mental Health Challenge run collaboratively by the Centre for Mental Health, Mental Health Foundation, Mental Health Providers Forum, Mind, Rethink Mental Illness, YoungMinds and the Royal College of Psychiatrists."</p> | |

| Motion C | Proposed by: Councillor Wilkinson | Seconded by: Councillor Jeffries |
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| <p>RIGHT TO BUY AND THE FORCED SELL OFF OF COUNCIL HOUSING</p> <p>This Council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Government’s proposal to extend the Right to Buy to Housing Association tenants, to be paid for by a forced sell off of the most expensive Council Housing stock; • with alarm the shortage of affordable rented homes in Cheltenham with 2,500 households on our council’s housing waiting list and is very concerned that the Housing and Planning Bill risks making matters worse. • the LGA “First 100 Days” campaign which highlighted there are 1.7 million households on waiting lists for affordable housing across England and that more than 3.4 million adults between 20 and 34 live with their parents. <p>Council opposes the forced sell off of council housing to pay for this plan and is concerned that the Government also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fails to address the situation for many local authorities which no longer have any housing stock to sell as they have transferred theirs to housing associations; • Fails to address the situation in areas of high housing demand, like Cheltenham, where there are often few suitable sites to build replacement social housing stock; • Fails to recognise that this means housing associations will simply be trying to catch up with replacing homes rather than building affordable housing to give more people homes they need <p>Council notes that even the Mayor of London has said he did not want to see councils “deprived at a rapid rate of their housing stock” if more homes were not being built to replace them.</p> <p>Council also regrets the following decisions of the Government that will reduce the amount of good quality social housing for rent to local families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The decision that the focus on building “affordable homes” is on homes to buy for £250,000, a price unaffordable for most families trying to get on the property ladder, rather than affordable homes to rent. • That a tax will be imposed by the Government on the rents of council tenants to fund discounts for housing association tenants who are rich enough to buy their properties. Taxing families on the lowest incomes to fund discounts for people who may well be much better off. • The cuts to section 106 payments from developers which will see fewer social housing properties offered to residents in the town from new builds. | | |

These actions will mean that there is less money for the provision of new social rented properties and less money available to provide services to tenants such as repairs, estate services, youth clubs or play centres that significantly improve the life of families.

Council resolves:

- to work with other neighbouring authorities to oppose the current government proposals to force councils to sell off high value stock (or any equivalent charge based on estimates of high value stock);
- to write to Alex Chalk MP asking him to support the Council's position; to speak up in parliament for more social housing and to push for a genuine "one for one" replacement but not at the cost of losing more council housing.