Motion to: Council

21 June 2022

Subject: Private Renters Deserve the Right to a Secure, Decent and Affordable Home

Proposer: Councillor Jones

Seconder: Councillor Matthew Fulton-McAlister

An amendment from **Councillor Osborn** has been received.

Councillor Osborn is amending the motion as follows:-

Inserting the words "**and resource**" after the word "**powers**" in resolution 2d)

So that the revised motion becomes:-

Over 22% of Norwich people live in the private rented sector and this is increasing due to the unaffordability of homeownership and inaccessibility and lack of affordable social housing. There is little incentive for high housing standards due to the significant imbalance between high demand from potential tenants and low property availability.
Private renters face high rents, poor quality housing and insecurity, as well as the threat of eviction hanging over their heads. Action by government is vital to address this chronic emergency facing so many citizens in our city.

This council **RESOLVES** to:

1) Note that many households in our city are facing the stark choices of food, heat, or rent as the Conservative government has increased taxes, and wages have failed to keep up with the rapid price rises. Rents in Britain are rising at their fastest rate on record and often far exceeds the local housing allowance. Private landlords can evict private tenants without giving them a reason by simply issuing a two-month notice after their fixed term tenancy ends under Section 21 no-fault evictions, with renters powerless to fight against this.

2) Call on government to:

a) Finally introduce the renters' reforms they promised and end Section 21 no-fault evictions, protecting tenants from unfair and unnecessary evictions

b) Introduce new legislation to create secure, permanent tenancies in line with Scotland

c) Provide local councils the power to introduce rent controls to protect private tenants from unpredictable and extortionate rent increases

d) Give councils the powers and resource to introduce district wide licensing schemes setting out minimum standards of landlord accreditation to deter rogue landlords and drive-up standards in private renting without need for approval by the Secretary of State; and

e) Provide adequate funding for local authorities to increase staffing levels in environmental health, trading standards, tenancy relations and other roles, which are needed to provide effective regulation and enforcement in the private rented sector.