

**Motion to** Council  
22 September 2020

**Item**

**Subject** Private rented sector

10(a)

**Proposer** Councillor Jones

**Seconded** Councillor Davis

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A secure home is at the heart of all of our lives. It gives security, enables aspiration and gives children a stable home in which to grow up. Residents living in the private rented sector should have the security to build their lives and futures, and to become an active part of their community, just as residents in other housing tenures should expect. Nationally one-in-four private rented homes are classed 'non-decent', meaning they are damp, cold, in disrepair and unsafe to live in and private tenants collectively pay £10bn per year in private rents to landlords letting sub-standard homes. Over 1.7 million private renters pay more than a third of their income in rents.

This Council **RESOLVES** to:

- 1) support the national and local campaign to introduce a national private renters' charter including a right to an affordable home, a right to a secure home, and a right to a decent home.
- 2) ask the cabinet member for Safer, Stronger Neighbourhoods to:
  - a) call for the Prime Minister to honour the commitment to abolish 'Section 21' of the Housing Act 1988 and continue the ban on Covid-19 related evictions during such high levels of economic uncertainty.
  - b) call on the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to increase the local housing allowance for under 35s to the standard limit
  - c) write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to:
    - i. Abolish Section 21 of the Housing Act 1988 which allows eviction without the landlord having to establish fault on the part of a tenant and continue the ban on Covid-19 related evictions during such high levels of economic uncertainty.

- ii. Introduce open-ended tenancies to help to make renting more secure and protect tenants from unfair evictions
- iii. Cap rents at the Local Housing Allowance rate.
- iv. Implement no rent increases until March 2021 and introduce a Coronavirus Home Retention Scheme to make grants available to cover the rent of the most financially vulnerable.
- v. remove the Ministerial veto on local licensing schemes for private landlords and call on the government to give councils discretionary powers to licence all private rented housing within its boundaries; and
- vi. introduce a property 'MOT' consisting of annual, independent checks of private rental properties, tough fines including repayment of rent to tenants, and fresh local enforcement powers.

3) write to local MPs to ask for their support to in pressing the Government to act.

**Motion to** Council  
22 September 2020  
**Subject** Action on fly-tipping  
**Proposer** Councillor Schmierer  
**Seconder** Councillor Price

**Item**  
**10(b)**

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Across Britain, fly-tipping figures soared by 300 per cent during the lockdown. Fly-tipping increased in Norwich with over 1,700 mattresses dumped in the city in 2018-19, more than almost anywhere else in the UK.

Disposing of bulky items is currently expensive or inconvenient, collection costing £23.50 for one item and £30 for three items, while getting them to the Mile Cross recycling centre is only possible with vehicle ownership.

Other councils are conducting similar reviews of the cost of providing community tips, to make it easier for people to dispose of rubbish legally.

Council therefore **RESOLVES** to ask cabinet to:

- 1) investigate the cost and logistics of both introducing “community skips” in key locations across the city or regular fly-tipping “amnesties” as well as kerbside collections
- 2) evaluate the current kerbside collection system, especially whether the costs and the service are suitable to the needs of residents, taking into account the impact of the planned creation of a new recycling centre in the north of Norwich to replace the existing one at the Mile Cross depot
- 3) continue to provide information to residents about how to dispose of their waste legally and, where possible, increase the provision of this information
- 4) investigate working with partners and other councils to ensure greater enforcement action is taken against those who fly-tip in Norwich
- 5) work with the Norwich Car Club to ensure that larger vehicles are available to residents who need to take bulky items to a recycling centre.

**Motion to** Council  
22 September 2020  
**Subject** Changes to the planning system  
**Proposer** Councillor Carlo  
**Seconder** Councillor Neale

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**Item**  
**10(c)**

'Planning for the Future', if implemented, would replace the planning system for England. In his foreword to the White Paper, the Prime Minister wants to, "tear it down and start again". Local people's input on planning would be limited to the plan-making stage. Planning permission would be 'automatically secured' for growth areas. Permitted development would be expanded to allow more conversion of commercial buildings to residential units. Shelter says it is a myth that the planning system is stopping homes being built and that more money for social housing is required not planning reforms.

This council **RESOLVES** to:

- (1) Respond to the 'Planning for the Future' consultation, with input from local councillors, and robustly challenge plans to de-regulate the planning system and to instead make the case that a progressive, democratic, planning system underpins the delivery of healthy communities and sustainable development.
- (2) Write to the Prime Minister in support of Shelter's call to the Government to use the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review to increase spending on social housing which would better address housing needs than de-regulation of the planning system.
- (3) Publicly announce support of the Town and Country Planning Association's Healthy Homes Bill and write to Norwich's two Members of Parliament asking them also to publicly announce support of the Bill which would give the government a duty to ensure that any new housing meets decent homes principles set out in an Act such as adequate living space, access to natural light and low carbon emissions.