

Motions Submitted to Council

In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 15) of the Council's Constitution

Motion 2

Submitted by Councillor Worrall

“Thurrock Council are concerned over implications for tenants and housing stock of the Conservative government's Emergency Budget's housing measures:

- Housing Benefit withdrawn for 18–21 year olds;
- Housing Benefit/ Local Housing Allowance (LHA) frozen for five years;
- Tax Credits and Housing Benefit/LHA include only first two children in households born after April 2017;
- Market rents charged in social housing where incomes are £30,000, additional rent receipts go to Treasury not Housing Revenue Account or Council.

The impact will increase poverty, homelessness and numbers at risk of being homeless, amongst young and very low income families.

For individual tenants who have faced significant above inflation rent increases and falling incomes over the last few years, the Budget proposal to cut social sector rents by 1% for the next four years will be welcome.

That a 1% rent cut will mean loss of rental income to Housing Revenue Account of £18.75 million by 2019/2020, that loss will have significant consequences for Council's plans to build new homes, maintain and refurbish existing stock of homes.

The Council resolves to write to the two MPs for Thurrock to lay out concerns and to highlight the impact on Thurrock residents of these measures in Westminster.”

Monitoring Officer Comments:

This motion relates to a matter which affects the authority or the authority's area

Section 151 Officer Comments:

This motion has two parts financially.

The changes to Housing Benefits, Tax Credits, etc will impact on individuals and families and, as a result, could well increase demand on a wide range of services within the Council with related cost pressures.

The reduction to social sector rents has a direct impact on the Council to continue with its plans and timescales in transforming existing stock, building new homes and estate regeneration. The impact is still being modelled and options to re-phase expenditure being considered.

Is the above motion within the remit of Council to approve?

Yes