

**DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting of the Committee for the hearing of deputations from members of the public. Each deputation may be heard for a maximum of five minutes following which the Chair may speak in response. It shall then be moved by the Chair and voted on without discussion that the deputation be thanked for attending and its subject matter noted.

Notification of one Deputation has been received. The spokesperson is entitled to speak for 5 minutes.

**(1) Deputation concerning: Homeless Bill of Rights**

**Spokesperson:** David Thomas

Supported by:

David Croydon  
Jim Deans  
John Hadman  
Barry Hughes

**Ward affected: All**



**(1) Deputation concerning the Homeless Bill of Rights**

On 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019 the Brighton & Hove Housing Coalition presented a petition to the full Council calling upon the city of Brighton & Hove to adopt the Homeless Bill of Rights. The petition had more than 2,500 signatures (it now has more). John Allcock, chair of the Housing and New Homes Committee, welcomed it warmly, as did Amy Heley of the Green Party and Mary Mears of the Conservative Party. The Council noted the petition and referred it to the Housing and New Homes Committee for action.

Among the items for this committee to consider is item 7, the Strategic Delivery Targets, and we welcome the commitment in these to the Homeless Bill of Rights; in particular, in Appendix 2, to consult on how best to implement a Bill of Rights for homeless people. However, we are very concerned that there is no item on your agenda to take this forward, and yet there is an item to start a consultation on the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy for the next five years.

This deputation argues that this is in danger of putting the cart before the horse. The Homeless Bill of Rights does not, in itself, have financial implications; it is a statement of principles, a high promise to our homeless and our rough sleepers to make their human rights real, a set of standards for the Council to hold itself to. It should inform every step of the consultation on Homelessness and Rough Sleeping; it is relevant to every word of it; it is the common thread that should run through the whole.

Standing as we are on the threshold of winter, the Coalition urges the Committee to pledge itself without delay to these principles of equality, humanity and dignity in its treatment of the homeless, and to integrate them into every part of the consultation on its homelessness strategies.

We accompany this deputation with the text of the Homeless Bill of Rights, since it is not in your papers today.

**Spokesperson**

David Thomas

