

LETTER FROM COUNCILLOR

The following letter has been received from a Councillor and will be taken as read as detailed below:

(1) Councillor: Amy Heley

As chair of the Housing Committee, I'm sure Councillor Allcock shares our concerns about the conditions in temporary accommodation and the need for these to be drastically improved.

The fact that existing contracts expire in May 2020 presents an opportunity for us to guarantee an improvement to conditions. These conditions must be laid out before the re-procurement process begins.

The Council must commit itself to improving conditions in temporary accommodation before starting the re-procurement process with providers of temporary accommodation, and if the provider does not agree to pay for these additional services, we feel that the council should cover the costs.

The council has a duty to ensure that temporary accommodation is a safe, comfortable and welcoming place, and the current conditions do not meet these requirements. Extra charges for basic services result in unnecessary stress and financial burden for people at points of crisis in their lives, so the council should alleviate this as much as we can by covering the costs.

Given the above, I would ask that as the Chair, Councillor Allcock agrees with us that the Committee should to commit to the following conditions being included in the procurement documents:

That:

- Service charges should be paid by the council, not the tenants;
- Laundry facilities must be provided for tenants;
- Basic kitchen equipment (kettles, crockery, cutlery, toaster, microwave, dishtowels) and bedding must be provided to tenants free of charge;
- Wi-Fi must be provided to tenants free of charge

Yours sincerely

Councillor Amy Heley
Councillor Nichole Brennan

