

NOTICE OF MOTION**LABOUR GROUP****HOUSING BENEFIT**

This council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Communities;

- Expressing the council's concern about local people being priced out of private sector housing at a time where there is insufficient social housing available; and
- Demanding that Housing Benefit levels are increased to an appropriate level.

Proposed by: Cllr Williams

Seconded by: Cllr Appich

Supporting information

- Recent analysis by the National Housing Federation (NHF) has found that 94% of homes for private rent – and up to 99% in some areas – are too expensive for those on housing benefit.
- In 2013, LHA (Local Housing Allowance) rates were separated from market values and eventually frozen in 2016, leaving many unable to afford a place to live. This benefit – for which there are 1.3 million claimants country-wide – is causing increasing levels of poverty, debt and homelessness.
- Government data for England shows that homelessness acceptances by local authorities in England have increased by 41% since April 2011, when Local Housing Allowance rates were first reduced.
- The diminishing financial support for private renters on low incomes has meant there are often large shortfalls between Local Housing Allowance rates and people's rents.
- Allowance rates are an important part of housing and welfare policy and ought to be properly resourced so that, when needed, they sufficiently cover the costs of renting and help successfully secure people's homes.

