

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

To consider the following Motions of which notice has been given in accordance with Standing Order 4(1)

A. Councillors Gareth Moore and Robert Alden have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

“This Council believes that in any modern city, a diverse range of housing options are required to match the needs of the population. The Council also recognise that every community within Birmingham is unique and distinctive and it is important that we preserve the character of these areas. The Council also believes that the City has a shortage of quality family housing and the conversion of family dwellings to HMO properties exacerbates this problem.

The Council recognises that there is a need to increase the housing supply, but believes that this must be balanced against the concerns there are about the proliferation of HMOs and about the impact this can have on established communities and neighbourhoods and how they can undermine the character of historical parts of Birmingham. The Council notes that the police have also often raised concerns through the planning process in relation to HMO conversions because of the impact they can have on community cohesion.

The Council also notes the importance of the provision of decent, high quality accommodation and that often HMOs are over intensive for the building they are put in, leaving rooms below adequate size.

The Council notes that there are already policies in place in parts of the City that seek to restrict the creation of new HMOs via an Article 4 Direction, however this is not City wide and even where it is in place has had limited impact in restricting the creation of new HMOs.

The Council also notes that under an Article 4 direction, planning fees cannot be charged meaning that any extension of such arrangements would create a cost pressure for the Council. However, under current planning laws this is the only way to remove permitted development rights for a change from C3 to C4.

The Council notes that Selective licensing has recently been extended to parts of the City but whilst this goes some way to promoting good management of HMOs after conversion it does not prevent their proliferation across the City.

Council therefore calls on the Council Leader to consider the options for further restricting HMO conversions as part of revised local planning policies, including a City wide Article 4 Direction. Such a Direction should include a requirement for all conversions from C3 to C4 to require planning permission, and that this permission should be considered based on the existing character of the local area, the impact on communities and the wishes of local residents.

The Council also calls for covenants to be placed on all future Council new builds or disposals (including Right to Buy) to prevent future conversion of these properties into flats or HMOs.

The Council also asks the Council Leader to write, jointly with the other Group Leaders, to the Minister of State for Housing and Planning to reflect the views of residents in Birmingham that there is a need within the city to ensure that family homes in communities are protected. This letter should call for more powers to be given to Local Authorities to further restrict the number of HMOs within their area without impacting on the planning income that is needed to ensure robust enforcement activity."

B. Councillors Roger Harmer and Morriam Jan have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

"This Council notes that:

- 1) UK households were estimated to throw away 7 million tonnes of food each year in 2012
- 2) The total cost of the food wasted in the UK is equivalent to 6 meals per household per week or £470 per year
- 3) Food wasted in the UK has a major environmental impact. It takes 19,000km² of land to grow and produces Green House Gas emissions equivalent to 17million tonnes of CO₂, equivalent to those produced by 1 in 4 UK cars
- 4) A two week survey in 2016 showed that food waste makes up 48% of the total waste collected in Birmingham
- 5) Collecting food waste has been shown to reduce the amount of food wasted, bringing environmental and cost benefits
- 6) A Parliamentary report into food waste in 2017 recommended that:
"Local authorities must look at the opportunities to introduce separate food waste collections when new waste contracts are put in place.

Council therefore regrets that the Waste Strategy 2017-40, agreed by Cabinet in October 2017, rules out Council-led food waste recycling.

Council further resolves that the Waste Strategy 2017-40 be amended, so that it does not explicitly exclude Council-led food waste recycling initiatives, and instead prioritises the development of options for a Council-led food waste collection trial."