

# Birmingham City Council

## City Council

15 March 2022



**Subject:** Motions for Debate from Individual Members

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:

To consider the following Motions of which notice has been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules (section B4 G of the Constitution).

**A. Councillors Mariam Khan and Liz Clements have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-**

“This council notes that:

- Birmingham is experiencing a dramatic growth in exempt supported accommodation.
- There are now more than 21,000 exempt units in the city - representing a 20 per cent increase in the last 12 months.
- When delivered well, exempt supported accommodation can play a vital role in supporting people at risk of homelessness and other vulnerable groups, such as those with support needs or disabilities.
- However, in recent years there has been a worrying rise in unscrupulous agencies exploiting gaps in the national regulatory regime to claim higher Housing Benefit levels while providing minimal or no levels of support.
- This has led to a worrying growth of poorly managed, unsafe exempt accommodation, delivering inadequate support, and safeguarding, particularly for people who experience homelessness and have multiple support needs. This often has extremely serious consequences for vulnerable people (including care leavers, victims of domestic abuse and ex-offenders), communities, neighbourhoods, policing, and Local Authority services.
- Currently, local authorities have limited powers to enforce standards where homes are unsafe or poorly managed because registered providers are not subject to houses in multiple occupation (HMO) licensing rules, while the Regulator is constrained by the current reactive focus of consumer regulation.

- Together with Birmingham communities, MPs and responsible providers, this council has led national calls for a tougher regulatory framework to ensure that all homes funded in this way are safe, well-managed, and provide good quality and effective support.
- Further the council welcomes and supports the Birmingham Mail campaign calling on the Government to take urgent action on exempt housing.

Council now resolves to continue lobbying Government, alongside partners at community, local government, and parliamentary level, to secure:

- A review of the current funding model for locally delivered supported housing.
- A government national accreditation requirement supported with additional regulation.
- Greater powers for local authorities to control provision and growth based on each council's Needs assessment.
- Alignment of existing planning and HMO licencing powers to capture supported housing provision.
- Strengthened definitions within current regulations relating to provision of care, support, and supervision.
- Greater enforcement powers to tackle providers who do not effectively manage ASB.

The current system is in urgent need of reform and we believe the Government must act now to ensure that all homes funded in this way are safe, well-managed, and provide good quality and effective support.”

**B. Councillors Deirdre Alden and Debbie Clancy have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-**

“This Council has no confidence in the Executive’s ability to maintain a safe and satisfactory street scene.”