

CITY COUNCIL

23 MARCH 2015

MOTION ON NOTICE



PLYMOUTH
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LAND REGISTRY PROPOSALS FOR LOCAL LAND CHARGES

This Council notes that its Legal Service operates one of the most efficient Local Land Charges departments in the country (as recognised in 2013 by the Local Land Charges Institute) which generates much needed income for the Authority.

This Council is disappointed and concerned that:

- (a) despite widespread opposition from a variety of organisations including: the LGA; District Councils' Network; Association of Independent Search Agents; and the Local Land Charges Institute, the Government is pushing ahead with its planned transfer of responsibility for Local Land Charges Registers to HM Land Registry;
- (b) the Infrastructure Act, which puts the legislative framework in place to enable a future transfer, received Royal Assent on 12 February 2015 but did not undergo pre-legislative scrutiny;
- (c) the consultation by the Land Registry and subsequent Government response overlooked the substantial opposition to the proposed transfer across business, local authorities and the property sector;
- (d) from the Land Registry's inadequate consultation it is evident that there is no clear detailed implementation plan for these changes;
- (e) any transfer will have an adverse impact on this Council and the customers it serves, not least because of the requirement to provide data for a centralised register during the transition period, despite the withdrawal of funding for such service provision from Government.

Accordingly

- (1) given the genuine concerns that this Council has previously raised with Government regarding the need to fragment a system which is currently operating effectively; and
- (2) the adverse financial impact that this will have on the Council at a time when budgets are already under immense pressure:

This Council mandates the Chief Executive to:

- a) raise its opposition to the Government's proposals with local MPs
- b) writes to the Secretary of State requesting that the proposed transfer is stopped.

Proposed by Councillor Tudor Evans

Seconded by Councillor Bill Stevens

Dated 12 March 2015