

MOTION ON NOTICE – HABITABLE PRIVATE RENTED HOMES

This council notes the passing of the Housing and Planning Bill through its Third Reading on 12th January 2016.

This council expresses deep concern that the three Members of Parliament representing Plymouth (Oliver Colvile, Jonny Mercer and Gary Streeter) voted against proposed new rules requiring private sector landlords to ensure that their properties are fit for human habitation.

Private Sector homes in Plymouth make up approximately 20% of all housing stock in the city and in the 2010 stock condition survey 37.2% failed to meet the decent homes standard with a lack of affordable heating amongst the many problems.

This council has endorsed the findings of the Plymouth Fairness Commission, including those calling for improvements in the city's private rented sector housing. This council has adopted the current administration's pledge 30 to support this and has produced the Plan for Private Rented Housing as a response to the Plymouth Charter for Private Rented Housing. This part of the Housing and Planning Bill would have supported the great work we are doing in the city and gone some way to helping eradicate poor quality accommodation for all.

This council resolves to:

- 1) Write to the Minister of State for Housing and Planning, Brandon Lewis MP, and our Members of Parliament expressing our concerns that they voted against new rules requiring Private Sector Landlords to ensure their properties are fit for human habitation.
- 2) Continue to champion the Private Rented Charter in Plymouth and to work with Private Sector Landlords, Property Owners, Letting agents, and the Voluntary and Community Sector to improve the standards of Private Rented Homes across the City.

Further this council:

- 3) Calls on all of Plymouth's Private Sector Landlords to ensure that their properties are fit for human habitation and complies with all legislative requirements and to seek advice if they are unsure what this entails.
- 4) Encourages all of Plymouth's Private Sector Landlords to join a recognised Landlords Association.

Proposed by Councillor Kate Taylor

Seconded by Councillor Chris Penberthy