

MOTION ON NOTICE

City Council 29th January 2018



TACKLING HOMELESSNESS IN PLYMOUTH

Plymouth City Council acknowledges the shocking government announcement that homelessness has risen for the seventh consecutive year, and believes that such levels of homelessness are shameful in a country which boasts to be the fifth largest economy in the world.

Plymouth City Council condemns the Government's lack of action on tackling the issue of homelessness, particularly the fact that the Housing Secretary returned £72m allocated for affordable housing back to the Treasury this year. Alongside failed spending for the building of affordable homes and the surrendering of money for the Starter Homes schemes, the total of the housing budget allocated but not used by the government now stands at £1.1bn and this is simply not good enough.

Plymouth City Council recognises the impact that homelessness has on people's mental health, physical health, employment and educational opportunities, child development, financial security and their networks and relationships.

Plymouth City Council commits to helping all those who find themselves homeless, whether they are rough sleeping, in temporary or emergency accommodation or hidden homeless, as well as those at risk of homelessness, to find suitable and secure accommodation.

Plymouth City Council place on record its sincere thanks to all staff, volunteers and members of the public who work and volunteer tirelessly to improve the lives of the city's homeless and commits to:

- Ending the practise of families with children being placed in bed and breakfasts;
- Publish an action plan to help address the increase in homelessness which will include temporary and emergency accommodation as well as rough sleepers;
- Investigate the "pop up homes" project pioneered in Bristol and London to see if that scheme can be used in Plymouth, too.

Proposed – Councillor Kate Taylor (Via Email)

Seconded – Councillor Chris Penberthy (Via Email)