

11. NOTICE OF MOTION - TIME LIMIT ON TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR ROBERT DE BOLD

The Council considered a motion (copies of which had been circulated) submitted by Councillor De Bold in the following terms :-

“Council notes with growing alarm the increasing times that homeless applicants and their families have to endure in Council-owned temporary accommodation

Reports of families spending 12 or more months in temporary accommodation prior to being allocated a permanent let are not uncommon. Such families are unable to progress with their lives and are unable to decorate or improve their property. In many cases, they begin to put down permanent roots in the community of the temporary accommodation.

Council resolves that this is unacceptable and will set a time limit of six months after which, where feasible, the temporary accommodation property should be offered to the applicant as a permanent let at their request..”

- Moved by Councillor De Bold and seconded by Councillor MacAulay

Amendment

“The Council agrees that it has a lack of available housing supply to meet demand and when combined with our high level of sustainability, this leads to a lack of accommodation turnover. The result of this is longer stays in temporary tenancies for those who present as homeless and less permanent lets overall

Council is asked to note the impositions placed on all Councils by Scottish Government in managing homelessness and in particular its Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and that the bid placed by our Council to deliver this programme was underfunded by £2.8 million.

There is a high number of people applying to the council for permanent housing through the council’s allocations policy, as well as temporary accommodation required for homeless applicants to enable the council to discharge the council’s statutory homeless duty to provide suitable accommodation for anyone who is homeless.

The impact of moving to set a time limit of 6 months and then for the temporary accommodation to be offered as a permanent let creates an almost impossible range of strategic and operational issues for the council.

This measure would result in a reduction in the temporary accommodation the council has to meet our statutory obligations to future homeless applicants and a resulting increased reliance on Bed and Breakfast/Hotel

accommodation and additional cost pressure for homeless applicants. Changes to local connection would significantly compound these issues.

This would effectively result in fast-tracking homeless clients in temporary tenancies into mainstream housing, which would be contrary to the Council's Allocations Policy which aims to match the location and type of property to those with greatest need

Applying a 6-month time limit on temporary tenancies would also mean that those who have more points but are living in non-council accommodation would almost likely be bypassed for a council tenancy, which would most likely result in a legal challenge.

Council is asked to agree to maintain current management arrangements for assisting homeless people."

- Moved by Councillor Paul and seconded by Councillor McGuire

An electronic vote was conducted. The result was as follows :-

Motion

Willie Boyle
Diane Calder
Janet Campbell
Pauline Clark.
Robert De Bold
Jim Dickson
Mary Dickson
Carl John
Lynda Kenna
Maria MacAulay
Moirá McKee Shemilt
Andrew Miller
Pauline Orr
Veronica Smith
Pauline Stafford

Amendment

Alison Adamson
Stuart Borrowman
Harry Cartmill
Tom Conn
Angela Doran-Timson
Damian Doran-Timson
Lawrence Fitzpatrick
Peter Heggie
Danny Logue
Andrew McGuire
Anne McMillan
Craig Meek
Cathy Muldoon
Sally Pattle
George Paul
Tony Pearson
Kirsteen Sullivan

Decision

Following a vote the amendment was successful by 17 votes to 15 and it was agreed accordingly.