

# COUNCIL

15<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024

## MOTIONS

### **(A) Fight for a fair funding settlement for local government**

**Proposed by Councillor Chloe-Jane Ross and seconded by Councillor (?)**

Council Notes:

- London Boroughs like Bromley have suffered from chronic underfunding for too long. London boroughs' overall resources remain 18% lower in real terms than in 2010. Whilst costs to provide services have risen exponentially, so has the demand for services (due, in part, to high inflation and the cost-of-living crisis).
- A report from the Institute for Fiscal Studies think-tank (in August 2023) found London local government funding is 17% lower than its estimated relative need – by far the largest gap of any region in England.
- The funding gap is particularly acute in Bromley, where we had the second lowest level of settlement funding per head of population in London last year. The borough is facing a projected budget gap of around £17m in 2025/26 increasing to £39m in 2027/28. However, since the Council Tax report was produced, further cost pressures have arisen, as reported to the Executive in May of £9m per annum, which will increase the budget gap even further.
- Long-term planning for local authorities remains difficult as the previous Conservative Government gave local authorities six one-year settlements in a row. This uncertainty around funding hampers strategic financial planning, making it especially challenging to set a medium-term financial strategy for the prosperity of our borough.
- Fixing a fair funding settlement must be a priority for the new Government to stop the crisis in adult social care, children's social care, SEND provision, social housing and homelessness - so that Bromley Council can afford to provide vital support and homes for our residents that need it.

Therefore, this Council calls on the Leader to:

- Work with all Bromley Council parties and groups to call upon our new MPs to make the cause of adequate funding for the London Borough of Bromley their top priority in the first year of the new Government.
- Call upon the new Government to urgently address the acute financial challenges affecting local authorities in order to protect the local services our communities rely on.
- Back the Local Government Association's (LGA) in their calls for sufficiently higher funding; a minimum of 3 years funding settlements; reform to the distribution of funding to better reflect local need; and to increase funding flexibilities and freedoms allowing local authorities to spend funds where they are needed most.
- Write to the new Secretary of State and our MPs to lobby for a fair funding settlement for all local authorities, noting the unfair funding settlement for outer London boroughs like Bromley specifically.

**(B) Section 21 Notices - No Fault Evictions**

**Proposed by Councillor Kathy Bance MBE and seconded by Councillor Chris Price**

The Renters Reform bill was first announced by the previous Conservative Government six years ago, but the bill was not given time to pass before this month's election was called, despite support from opposition parties.

Noting that;

- (1) all the major parties in England have committed to reforming renters' rights,
- (2) the recent rise in residents presenting as homeless following service of section 21 eviction notices and
- (3) the continued growth of temporary accommodation costs to the council,

Bromley Council resolves to lobby the incoming government to finally pass a bill to end Section 21 No Fault Evictions.