
MOTIONS ON NOTICE

1 FROM COUNCILLORS MRS M S VINCE, C R MORGAN AND D A WEIR

- 1.1 The Proper Officer reports that, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12, the following motion has been received from the above Councillors:-

“Tenancy Deposit Scheme

Shelter and the Citizens Advice Bureau have launched a campaign to safeguard the money tenants put down as a deposit when they first move into a privately rented home. One in five tenants say private landlords unreasonably withhold all or part of their deposit when they move out.

Previously, the Government has encouraged landlords to join a pilot voluntary Tenancy Deposit Scheme or voluntary accreditation schemes, but only a small minority of landlords have accepted this responsible advice.

Shelter and the Citizens Advice Bureau are supporting the clear and unanimous recommendation that a statutory Tenancy Deposit Scheme should be included in the forthcoming Housing Bill and the cross party support for the signatories to Early Day Motion 843 have gained wide support within Parliament.

It is hoped that this Council supports a statutory Tenancy Deposit Scheme and agrees that the forthcoming Housing Bill provides the perfect opportunity to bring forward the necessary legislation.

Rochford District Council so determines:-

To support the introduction of a statutory Tenancy Deposit Scheme.

That the forthcoming Housing Bill provides the perfect opportunity to bring forward the necessary legislation.

That Rochford District Council offers written support to the Shelter Campaign.

That a letter is sent to the ODPM Select Committee who are backing the scheme's inclusion in the Housing Bill.

That letters are sent to our local MPs to encourage them to sign the Early Day Motion 843.”

2 FROM COUNCILLORS P F A WEBSTER AND T G CUTMORE

- 2.1 The Proper Officer reports that, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12, the following motion has been received from the above Councillors:-

“Central Government Funding

Rochford District Council congratulates the Audit Commission on its report on Local Government funding which was published at the beginning of December. As the Commission has highlighted, it is flaws in the system of Central Government’s funding of Local Government which lie at the core of many of the current problems we experience.

As James Strachan, the Chairman of the Audit Commission, has said,

“ . . . the complexity of the system and its lack of transparency hinder the tax payer’s ability to understand it. And the funding structure, with only 25% raised locally, heightens the difficulties ”

This Council has suffered for many years from the funding formula imposed by Central Government, even in its so called “revised form” and supports the Audit Commission’s recommendation that the further review of Local Government funding already underway should lead to greater transparency as to how Government calculates the annual grant.

This year, Rochford District Council will be looking at a council tax increase which is required simply to fund a number of new initiatives arising out of Central Government legislation and guidance – for example, licensing and the implications of the Freedom of Information Act. And yet from the grant information we have available, grant funding specifically for these initiatives is not being given.

The Audit Commission’s damning report detailing the fundamental flaws in the funding system represents a refreshing contribution to the council tax debate.”

Sarah Fowler

Head of Administrative and Member Services

Background Papers:

Notices received

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