

## **Motion 498 submitted by Shirley Boyt**

‘This Council values the contribution of all key workers. The pandemic highlighted those who provide an invaluable service to our community and who should be regarded as key workers.

Key workers in our community are suffering hardship caused by a combination of low pay and the high cost of living in this borough. Many are in receipt of means tested benefits and qualify for Council Tax Relief.

Many are using foodbanks and/or other help provided by the Hardship Alliance.

The cost of living in the borough means that there are shortages of key workers. A Google search in the first week of January revealed 73 local NHS vacancies, 72 care worker vacancies and more than 100 vacancies for teachers and/or classroom assistants.

This Council seeks to address this issue by:

Undertaking a full review of Key Worker Housing Provision including but not limited to:

1. Setting a more realistic income threshold
2. Reviewing the list of eligible occupations
3. Working with Preferred Registered Partners and developers to provide a range of Key Worker Homes suitable for families as well as single occupants.
4. Using S106 agreements to ensure that all new developments include Key Worker Homes for ‘social’ rather than ‘affordable’ rent.’

## **Statement from Chief Finance Officer**

The supply and availability of affordable housing is a limited and costly resource, whilst the Council has numerous objectives and obligations to meet through affordable housing provision. One of these is the prevention of homelessness and limiting the reliance on temporary accommodation, which if not addressed, can have significant ongoing Revenue implications for the Council. The prioritisation of any particular nature of need should be considered in this context and the financial implications of this would need to be carefully worked through.

## **Additional comments from the Chief Finance Officer**

A review of the policy would not in itself lead to any financial implications, however the agreement of any changes would need to be considered and approved by Executive along with their financial impact.

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