

## **LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**TO: CABINET - 13 March 2014**

**FROM: COUNCIL – 27 February 2014**

### **MOTION REFERRED TO EXECUTIVE – Yes to Homes**

1. At the meeting of Council held on 27 February 2014, and in accordance with the provisions of Rule 14.6, a Motion falling within the remit of the Executive was referred by the Council to the next meeting of the Executive as follows:

This Council notes:

- We are not building enough homes in the UK.
- Rising house prices mean the dream of home ownership is beyond the reach of millions and the size of a mortgage deposit alone stops many would-be-first-time buyers from getting on the housing ladder.
- More and more people are therefore being pushed into the private rented sector and as demand rises there, so too do rents.
- One in 12 families in England is now on a social housing waiting list.
- The average semi-detached house in Harrow is now £390,000, with the average flat costing £210,000.
- Using a conservative estimate, the gross household annual income needed for a mortgage in Harrow is over £70,000.

This Council believes:

- The solution to the housing shortage is simple. We need to build more of the right homes, in the right place, at the right price.
- All too often the people who actually need homes are missing from local debates.
- Councils need to take an active role in making the case for building more homes locally.
- The Council believes that everybody has a right to live in a home and therefore that it is a tragedy that Harrow Council has to house over 100 families in B & B's due to a shortage of affordable homes.

This Council resolves:

- Support the Yes to Homes campaign and commits to increasing the delivery of the right homes, in the right place, at the right price in Harrow.

- Organise Housing Hearings to help local people, community groups and businesses to give evidence on the need for more homes, and will report the finding of these hearings to the Council.
- Work with Yes to Homes supporters, local groups and organisations to actively make the case for new homes and explain the benefits of new homes for the whole community.
- To pro-actively pursue policies that will lead to the construction of more affordable homes in the borough.

## **FOR CONSIDERATION**

### Background documents:

1. Motion submitted to the Council meeting – 27 February 2014.

### **Contact:**

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