

HARROW COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 9 JULY 2009

Amended Motion by Original Proposer and Seconder Motion 6 – “Seeking Abolition of the Tenant’s Tax”

Proposer: Cllr Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Seconder: Cllr Yogesh Teli

“This Council notes:

- a. That from the total council rents to be collected in 2009-10, £6,213,840 will be paid out of Harrow’s HRA to other parts of the country, as “Housing Revenue Account negative subsidy”;
- b. That this payment amounts to roughly £1 of every £3 of rent collected in Harrow;
- c. The ongoing pressures on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), specifically around responsive repairs, capital works and the external decorations programme;
- d. That Harrow’s £6-7million annual HRA negative subsidy payment, were it to be retained in Harrow’s HRA, would significantly improve the quality of service that Harrow’s tenants rightfully expect – and pay for;
- e. That Harrow’s payment of “Housing Revenue Account negative subsidy” therefore amounts to a “tenants’ tax”;

This Council resolves:

- (1) To campaign, including working with all other relevant organisations, for the abolition of the “HRA negative subsidy” or “tenants’ tax” for the benefit of Harrow’s council tenants;
- (2) That while the Government consultation on this issue – promised by new Housing Minister John Healey – is welcomed, a meeting with him will also be sought to express Harrow’s grave concerns at the poor deal for our tenants of the current HRA negative subsidy regime, and to press for the abolition of the Tenants’ Tax as part of the government’s review of the Housing Revenue Account.”