

HARROW COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 9 JULY 2009

Amendment to Item 17

Motion 6 – “Seeking Abolition of the Tenant’s Tax

Proposer: Cllr Phillip O’Dell

Seconder: Cllr Margaret Davine

“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”;
- f. that this system was set up by a Conservative Government.

This Council:

- (i) congratulates the Housing Minister, John Healey, for his recent announcement for the radical reform of council housing finance, which will enable councils to keep all their rental income and gain the freedom to manage their housing to meet local needs,
- (ii) further notes that the Minister will also be consulting on these proposals during the summer, and instructs the Chief Executive to ensure that the Council responds to this consultation after fully consulting cross-party and with all relevant groups.”