

Notice of Motions Better Rented Homes for Torbay Residents (Mayoral Decision)

This Council notes that Torbay has:

- 8.1% of Social rented housing compared to England and Wales at 18.5%;
- significantly higher numbers of Private rented housing at 23.2% compared to England and Wales at 17.4%; and
- no current housing Strategy.

This Council welcomes the Shelter report 'Safe and Decent Homes' and its findings and recommendations such as proposing bold solutions to drive up standards and ensure everyone can access a decent, secure private rented home. Over the past year we have worked with renters, local authorities, landlords and housing and health experts to identify common-sense reforms that will strengthen the existing legislation. The report argues that we need to:

- Improve knowledge and understanding in the sector
- Improve renters' consumer bargaining power
- Increase the power of local authorities

It also suggests a range of proposals that national Government should consider, including changes to the tax regime and the role of Lenders.

That the Mayor be recommended to instruct the Interim Director of Public Health to:

- review the findings of the Shelter report 'Safe and Decent Homes' and report back to members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board in June 2015 with an action plan;
- develop a know your rights campaign for Tenants in Torbay; and
- consider what additional effective actions could be taken to tackle rogue landlords and letting agents.

Proposed by Councillor Stocks
Seconded by Councillor Darling