

Motion to East Lothian Council 23 April 2013 *SC*

Bedroom Tax in East Lothian

- 1) Council wishes to express its concern regarding the impact that the range of Welfare Reform measures is having on people in East Lothian.
- 2) Specifically the Council is concerned that, from April 2013, measures to reduce housing benefit for tenants of local authorities and housing associations (Bedroom Tax) have not taken account of the acute shortage of one bedroom homes. This will lead to significant hardship for the tenants affected and increase the risk of homelessness.
- 3) Council is further concerned that these measures may have an adverse impact on Council and Housing Association landlords' rental income and their ability to invest in improving their own stock and in building new, affordable to heat, homes.
- 4) Council agrees:
 - (a) That where council officers are satisfied that tenants who are subject to the under-occupancy charge have done all they reasonably could to avoid falling in to arrears, then all legitimate means to collect rent arrears should be utilised except eviction.
 - (b) To establish a joint working group that will include elected members, officials from Housing and Revenues and Benefits, Registered Social Landlords and tenants representatives. The role of the working group shall be to monitor the implementation and impact of various benefits changes and to contribute to consideration of further measures to support tenants.
 - (c) To support calls by campaign groups to scrap the Bedroom Tax.

Proposed: *Stuart Currie* 11/4/13
Cllr. Stuart Currie

Seconded: *John Williamson* 11/4/13
Cllr. John Williamson

EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL
SUPPORT SERVICES
11 APR 2013
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