Notice of Motion Social Housing for Rent

This Council has committed to build 11,140 new homes between 2016 – 2026 to help tackle the housing crisis in Southend, 62% of which (6,875) homes would have to be either social or affordable housing. [1. p5]

In nearly three years since that target was set, just 1,000 homes have been built. If the Council keep up this performance then they will fall short of their target by a massive 7,740 homes.

The Council's own Affordable Housing Policy requires developers to build a minimum of 20% affordable homes on residential proposals for 10-49 dwellings or up to 1.99 hectares or less, and 30% for those of 50 dwellings or more and above 2 hectares. [2. p3] Since 2001, only around 12% of homes built in Southend have been affordable by the council's own definition [3. p44]

If the Council truly intends to meet its housing commitments and seriously address the chronic housing problems faced by this town, then radical measures need to be taken to address this situation and in order achieve those goals.

Motion to Council.

This Council recognises the above points and resolves to:

Explore all avenues for building social housing for rent (particularly through its Local Housing Company, Southend Housing Ltd.) at the former NHS land at Fossetts Farm (currently owned by Homes England) by investigating potential funding options and calculating the potential benefit, both financial and social, to Southend's residents.

Proposed by Cllr Helen McDonald Seconded by Cllr Ian Gilbert

- SBC Housing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018-2028 Pages 140 -161 Cabinet Papers 9/11/18 https://democracy.southend.gov.uk/documents/g3109/Public%20reports%20pack%2006th-Nov-2018%2014.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10
- SBC Interim Housing Report Sept 2016
 http://www.southend.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/4735/interim_affordable_housing_policy_september_2016.pdf?fbclid=lwAR2ySv68AlpNolOh7UnQCKbHlxM-ZbmmhX2gCKkOiQV7e35kmgynfuysx9U%EF%BB%BF
- SBC Annual Monitoring Report 2017
 http://www.southend.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/5481/annual_monitoring_report_2017.pdf?fbclid=lwAR1OIeU5OvBE7fTZ8fiYUpn6WUbUPbnYuYRfnlZQjx33m7naGAUjvo0QHBU%20)