



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

13th November 2017

Labour expresses concern as number of homeless families doubles in three years

Bexley's Labour Group of councillors have expressed their concern over figures produced in Shelter's report "Homelessness in Britain in 2017" which show that one in 84 Bexley residents are living in temporary accommodation. The report published last week shows that 2,918 Bexley residents are living in temporary accommodation with a further 11 residents sleeping rough.

When questioned on the figures at the Full Council meeting on 8th November, the Leader of the Council appeared to have no short-term answer to resolve the crisis affecting local families. Figures supplied to the People Overview and Scrutiny committee in October 2017, show the number of Bexley families living in temporary accommodation has doubled since 2014.

Cllr Mabel Ogundayo, Shadow Cabinet Member for Housing Allocations said "Bexley's Tory council has no answer to solving the housing crisis affecting local families. They have consistently refused to take action against private landlords, and removed a reference asking for a tough stance to be taken against landlords and to adopt a landlords' register from a Labour Group motion in July 2016."

Last week's council meeting, also showed Conservative Cabinet Members unable to explain why three planning approvals for developments of 1370 homes in Belvedere, Crayford and Erith had included zero affordable homes.

Cllr Danny Hackett, Shadow Cabinet Member for Regeneration said "Along with a reluctance to take action against rogue landlords, the refusal to build affordable housing has been a key cause of the housing crisis in Bexley. When Boris Johnson was Mayor, this council worked with him to approve a number of developments with no affordable housing which has added to the lack of affordable housing and the cost pressures on the council as local homelessness has doubled."

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