## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

#### **REPORT TO:** Council **DATE:** 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025

CONTACT OFFICER:Shabana Kauser(For all enquiries)Principal Democratic Services Officer<br/>07821 811 259

WARD(S):

All

#### PART I FOR DECISION

## MOTIONS SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 14

The following motions have been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14:-

# A) <u>Housing</u>

(Moved by Councillor Hulme, seconded by Councillor Matloob)

"The Council:

- a) Endorses the Labour Government's Renter's Reform Bill, finally giving greater protection to renters in Slough and instructs the housing department to ensure active readiness to make use of the increased enforcement powers for local authorities contained within the bill by setting up a Renter's Taskforce to tackle the illegal practices by a minority of rogue landlords operating within Slough.
- b) Acknowledges the increase in residents presenting with housing distress and the decrease in the availability of front-line officers to provide compassionate care and advice. As such, enhanced training on the new Renter's Rights legislation should take place alongside a refreshed protocol for initial point of contact for residents presenting as homeless.
- c) Expresses its disappointment that the administration has failed to prioritise future property licensing schemes in Slough, which was initially due to go before Cabinet in September 2024, leaving Slough residents further at risk of unscrupulous landlords. The administration should urgently bring forward renewed recommendations for future licensing schemes at the earliest opportunity.
- d) Formally notes the Tory administration's failure to follow the Full Council's decision in November 2023 to produce an annual 'State of Housing' report at the start of each financial year. The council reminds the administration that council's decisions are not to be blindly ignored and reiterates its demands for the production of an annual State of Housing report at the start of each municipal year."

# B) LIBRARY SERVICES

(Moved by Councillor Muvvala, seconded by Councillor Mann)

"The Council resolves to;

- Dismiss proposals to close existing library services and ensure the continued provision of library services in Britwell, The Curve, Langley and Cippenham.
- Oppose any further reduction in staff numbers in the library service with a view to increase staffed hours in all library service areas.
- Formally recognise that the libraries are often the only fully accessible community spaces in our neighbourhoods, providing a warm, safe and social space for residents. The council should seek partnerships with local organisations, businesses, and educational institutions to expand the social offering at each location.
- Develop a strategic plan to ensure the long-term sustainability and relevance of library services in Slough."