

COUNCIL

3 APRIL 2013

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1. ADAM ROSE

Will Bury Council adopt a "No Evictions" policy for people who are not able to pay the Bedroom Tax, as has been done by Dundee Council, Brighton Council and Islington Council?

2. NICOLE HAYDOCK

Will Six Town Housing proceed with evictions proceedings for arrears due to cuts in Housing Benefit of 14 and 25% respectively for the 1500 tenants or so in social and private rented accommodation deemed to be " under-occupiers ?

A. Thank you for your question. I'm sure that every right minded person in this Council Chamber would join me in condemning this iniquitous and immoral policy. It is unworkable, unfair and unreasonable. It is so badly thought out, and the absurdities so vast, that I can't work out whether the coalition is extremely careless or actively cruel but either way no reasonable government should behave in this way.

Bury Council is determined to do everything it can to help those people who are the victims of this policy and we will look at using all the powers and policies we have at our disposal to do what we can to ease the burden on such people. However we also need to be careful that we act in a way that is fair and reasonable to all our tenants and also in a way that doesn't limit our help to Council tenants alone. We also need to ensure that whatever help we give people doesn't make their situation even worse.

I'm therefore not in a position to commit to a 'no evictions' policy but I can reassure you that we will continue have the appropriate policies to help people who struggle to pay their rent to keep a roof over their heads.