



## ORDINARY COUNCIL

27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	Public Questions
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	Claire Mayhew – Director – People & Governance & Monitoring Officer

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, a member of the public resident within the Borough may ask a maximum of two questions relating to the business of the Council providing notice has been received by 10.00am two clear working days before the relevant meeting.

Every question asked pursuant to rule 11.1 of the Constitution shall be put and answered without discussion but the Member to whom the question has been put may decline to answer. An answer may take the form of a direct oral answer at the Council meeting or where there has been insufficient time to research an answer, a written answer will be sent to the questioner. Time for all questions from members of the public shall be restricted to 15 minutes in total. At the expiration of that period of time, any questions which have not been asked shall be answered in writing and the answer placed with the minutes.

Mrs Jan Gearon-Simm has submitted two questions:

- 1. As responsible landlords, Brentwood Borough Council (BBC) will know how many and how habitable the properties they rent to Brentwood residents are.*

*When I was a private landlord from 2004 to 2016, it was my responsibility to ensure that my property was in good condition and habitable.*

*However, the only privately owned properties, which are legally required to be registered with BBC are Housing of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) and they are, of course, liable to a list of regulations.*

*Does BBC know how many privately owned rental properties there are in Brentwood?*

*Does BBC monitor any privately owned properties, which are not HMOs, in order to ensure they are fit for human habitation and are included in BBC Key Performance Indicators list.*

- 2. Housing is a human need and “market forces” do not necessarily prevail in all areas of life.*

*In order to encourage home ownership, there is a part rent/buy scheme.*

*When tenants of council properties leave their home those properties remain in Council ownership.*

*If those tenants, who have engaged in a part rent/buy contract, choose to leave their homes, they are given back the amount of money they have saved during their tenancy.*

*Such council-owned properties can then be rented to other tenants.*

*Will Brentwood Borough Council instigate the part rent/buy scheme for council properties?*

Mrs Pat Smith has submitted two questions:

- 1. If I understood him correctly Cllr Hossack denied that Brentwood Council Housing Department use fixed term tenancies when he responded to a previous public question of mine. Was that information correct please?*
- 2. Is there a forum for people with HIDDEN disabilities (such as autism) & their parents / carers in Brentwood where the Council (as represented by officers and councillors) can meet local people & properly productively discuss services & local issues affecting this group of people?*

*Who is the contact please, (and will they just ignore me & parent / carers like me?)*