

Member Motion - Full Council, 21 March:

Mould and Right to Buy

Motion:

“The Council believes that this and other councils are tackling the health issue of mould in houses, accruing substantial investigation and remediation costs in the process, which are required by statute to be paid for out of rents from council tenants. The viability of the Housing Revenue Account is degraded by the loss of houses, and their rental income, through Right to Buy (RTB), from which this council loses on average 12 properties a year. A significant burden of rules and restrictions surrounds RTB which means that the Council cannot replace houses sold without adding in additional funds. The resulting loss is not only rental income, but a shortage of homes and a lengthened wait for housing applicants who need to move. This leads to over-crowding which in itself heightens the likelihood of homes suffering from damp and mould.

Therefore, in order to support the financial viability of providing quality homes for tenants in the district, this Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to Government to request that they either:

- i. fully reimburse councils’ Housing Revenue Accounts for losses arising from Right to Buy, or*
- ii. follow the leads of the Scottish Government and Welsh Assembly and abolish Right to Buy entirely”*

Proposer: Councillor Arthur Coote