

DEPUTATION TWO
TENANTS OF MOOR GRANGE COURT

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon and welcome to today's Council meeting. Please now make your speech to Council, which should not be longer than five minutes, and please begin by introducing the people in your deputation.

MS W HOLLIDAY: My Lord Mayor and fellow Councillor, my name is Wendy Holliday. With me are Barbara Glover, Tony Deering, Peter Grayson and Terry Tieron, and collectively we are the tenants of Moor Grange Court, Leeds 16.

We are the tenants of Moor Grange Court and we are here today to highlight some of the current issues that collectively we are facing.

Prior to ALMOs taking over the management of this block and the introduction of Choice Based Letting (CBL), this block had an unwritten arrangement with Leeds City Council that prospective tenants should be over a certain age. Therefore we have a lot of tenants who are elderly and infirm and whom have lived in the block since it was built in the 1960s.

We understand that the CBL policy is to award points to prospective tenants. The criteria as we understand it is if you had connection with the criminal justice system, been in prison, experienced drug and alcohol addiction, are a single parent or have mental health problems requiring support from outside agencies, then you are likely to gain more of the necessary points to be placed higher on the priority list and receive more assistance in moving into any property.

However, in recent years it has become apparent to long-term tenants of this block that the calibre of new tenants has altered and we are now experiencing increasing incidents of anti-social behaviour. We now have to endure loud music, all night parties, broken windows, criminal damage to cars, bottles, cans TVs and fridges launched from balconies. Two of our tenants have now moved from the block for fear of intimidation and violence; one is living in a caravan, the other in a hostel.

We have noticed an increase of young children living on high level floors, which we believe is unsafe. These flats have balconies and we would not wish a parent to experience the pain of having a child fall from a great height. Also, individuals who have had contact with the criminal justice system seem to be give more points. It appears that the criminal element now have a legitimate reason for being in the block, as they are visiting ex-offenders who now live there.

Because of this we, the hardworking, law-abiding citizens of Moor Grange Court, are concerned for our safety while in our own homes and for our possessions while we are out. Living in close proximity with 61 neighbours, to the side, below and above, requires awareness, consideration and compromise which at the current time is not happening with all tenants.

We therefore believe that it is time to look at a change, from a Choice Based Letting policy to a Local Lettings Policy with an age restriction on prospective tenants and we have presented a petition to West North West Homes. We, the tenants of Moor Grange Court, are

willing to work and compromise with any agency to resolve this problem and to ensure that all tenants of this block are made to feel welcome, safe and happy in their homes.

We thank you for your time. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Gruen.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Lord Mayor, I move that the matter of the deputation be referred to the Executive Board.

COUNCILLOR LOBLEY: I am very pleased to second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I call for the vote? (*A vote was taken*) There are none against. Thank you for attending and for what you have said. You will be kept informed of the consideration which your comments will receive, and good afternoon to you. (*Applause*)