

# MOTION ON NOTICE

City Council 25 January 2021



## Supporting Student Renters and Student Landlords

Plymouth City Council notes that many students had arranged accommodation with Plymouth student landlords to attend university, but are unable to live in this accommodation due to most courses having switched to online learning and due to travel restrictions barring travel to Plymouth.

The council further notes that these restrictions, as part of a national lockdown, are necessary to slow the spread of coronavirus and protect the capacity of the NHS.

Noting that students, like many other people, have suffered profound economic consequences due to the necessity of these public restrictions, the Council will ask the Cabinet member for Education, Skills and Transformation to write to the UK Government, asking relevant departments to work with student landlords, both university-owned and private, to:

- reduce student rent by forty percent for the rest of the academic year,
- enable students who cannot occupy their accommodation to exit their contracts without penalty,
- reimburse students who have paid in advance and cannot occupy their occupation,
- reimburse lost income for student landlords whose tenants cannot occupy their accommodation
- consider allowing students who cannot work due to lockdown to claim Universal Credit

The council notes with gratitude that Marjon University has waived rent for students that have been unable to travel to the university due to lockdown, thanks the University for this action, and hopes that the University of Plymouth follows suit.

The council also asks the Cabinet member for Education, Skills and Transformation to write to universities throughout the UK which host students from Plymouth, calling on them to adopt similar measures to support those, and all, students.

**Proposer:** Cllr Margaret Corvid

**Signature** "By email"

**Seconder:** Cllr Sarah Allen

**Signature** "By email"