

The amended motion, approved by the council reads:

Council notes that:

- Students make a positive contribution to our city.
- Student landlords do not pay for the local public services their tenants use as student accommodation is currently exempt from business rates and student households are exempt from council tax.
- Student landlords have tenants who generate much need of local authority-funded public services, eg extra street cleansing, waste management, and environmental health demands (noise abatement and poor housing conditions).
- Councils currently effectively receive funding to cover the cost of these services through the Revenue Support Grant (RSG), but the Government's intention is to phase out the RSG by 2020.
- As at December 2015 there were 8,827 properties in Liverpool exempt from council tax as student households with a relief value of £10.6m and that halls of residence had a relief value of a further £0.28m, giving a total relief value of £10.88m. After 2020 when the RSG is phased out, this amount will effectively be cut from the city.

Council believes that:

- Students are a very welcome part of our community and our local economy, but live in concentrated areas of the city in densely populated conditions. This has a big impact on services in these parts of the city.
- Student households should continue to be exempt from council tax, as students are on low (and loaned) incomes.
- Student landlords are profit –making businesses, and should pay properly for the demands their tenants make on public services.

Council resolves to ask the Mayor to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Local Government Association and the Liverpool MPs to outline the contents of this motion and to request that councils should be given powers to bring student landlords within the scope of business rates in the same way that hotels, self-catering and holiday lets are within the scope of business rates.

Council also resolves to establish a working group chaired by the Cabinet Member for Housing with representatives of the universities, landlords and student unions to consider the operation of such a scheme in Liverpool to ensure that it is designed in such a way so that it does not undermine the city's wider housing strategy and that the costs of such a scheme are not passed on to students.