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**COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**



**MEETING OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Tuesday 2nd May 2017**

**MOTION NO.6**

**MOTION: Councillor M. Ward**

This Council is opposed to the policy of requiring those in need of emergency accommodation to self-accommodate. We call on the Chief Executive to raise this matter with the Dublin Homeless Executive and the Minister for Housing and to introduce a policy whereby emergency accommodation is sources by SDCC staff directly. If additional resources are required then the Chief Executive should apply to the Department for this.

**REPORT:**

The Council is understanding of the difficulties facing families experiencing homelessness at this time. Due to the continued growth in the numbers of families presenting as homeless this Council does not have the required number of emergency accommodation placements available and those that are available are fully occupied at present.

Therefore, the only option available was to give families presenting as homeless the option to self accommodate. This enabled families to source their own accommodation in location more suitable to their needs as opposed to be placed in a designated location and also gives families the option to source accommodation outside the County if necessary and should they wish to do so.

Families who present as Homeless are given advice on how the Self Accommodation option operates by staff in the Homeless Unit. This is a practice that is being phased out. The Council does not have the required resources to source emergency accommodation for families who present as homeless in all cases. Current staffing levels are under significant pressure in dealing with presentations and co-ordination of services and case profiling. Sourcing accommodation would be a significant additional resource issue and would have to be funded from within existing budgetary constraints.

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