

Amendments to Notices of Motion

The Council is requested to consider the following amendment, submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12(1) and (9)

(1) Notice of Motion No. 2 – EASTHAM WALK-IN CENTRE

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Wendy Clements

Seconded by Councillor Adam Sykes

Delete paragraphs 4 and 5, and insert:

“Council welcomes the additional £55.98 million announced in April, and the further £20.74 million of government funding announced on 15th June 2017, to help A&E Departments deal with winter pressures – of which £990,667.00 has been awarded to Wirral University Teaching Hospital.

Council urges the Trust’s Chief Executive and Board to ensure this money, together with the extra investment in the NHS since 2010, is used to continue the improvement in patient care for all residents of Wirral, including Eastham.”

(2) Notice of Motion No. 4 – CARE LEAVERS COUNCIL TAX EXEMPTION

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Janette Williamson

Seconded by Councillor Bernie Mooney

To be added:

“Council would like to acknowledge the hard work over the last year of its officers on amending Wirral's Council Tax Base to exempt Care Leavers up to the age of 25 from paying Council Tax. As a Labour Council we recognised the importance of such a move, after the issue was highlighted to us by the Children's Society's 'Wolf at the Door'. We have acted on that and are pleased to announce that as from April 2018 our amended policy will be implemented.

We note that our Care Leavers will already face significant financial barriers as a result of this Conservative government's cruel austerity programme, which disproportionately affects young people. Cuts to working age benefits, proliferation of zero hours contracts and the increase in sub-standard rented housing mean our vulnerable young people are not given the same life chances previous generations were at the same age.

We further note that austerity has pushed more young people into statutory intervention each year - a direct result of Tory Government policies which have hit

the least well-off most harshly. This was highlighted by Alison Michalska, president of the Association of Directors of Children's Services recently when she said that austerity policies and an increasingly fragmented approach to public services by this government were taking a toll on communities and punishing the most economically fragile households. She further said "the unintended consequence of the government's austerity programme has been to drive up demand for child protection services as more and more families find themselves at the point of crisis with little or no early help available".

Despite facing relentless cuts to Wirral's funding from central government, we have made a choice to help our vulnerable young people and ensure that as they learn to budget independently they are free from the fear of Council Tax debt.

Wirral is prepared to fulfil its pledge to look after the most vulnerable and we call on the Conservative government to do the same by:

1. reversing its cruel and harsh austerity programme
2. providing young people with a an economically and emotionally secure future
3. a fairer funding formula for Wirral Council to provide the services its residents expect and need"

(3) Notice of Motion No. 5 – DISABLED WORKERS AND THE NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Moira McLaughlin

Seconded by Councillor George Davies

Delete everything after the first paragraph and insert the following:-

“Council welcomes the ambitious Government target to assist a further one million people with disabilities into employment, but recognises that progress in achieving this has, so far, been slow and that there are substantial challenges involved, as set out in the work of the eleven contributors, including Frank Field M.P. in the report “Opportunities for All -Transforming Employment For All Disabled People And Those With Health Problems,” recently produced by the Learning and Skills Institute and the Shaw Trust.

Council regrets that the findings of the Parliamentary Work and Pensions Select Committee, as set out by its Chair Frank Field have been distorted by some to indicate that a reduction in the National Living Wage is advocated, and notes with concern the distress this misrepresentation may have caused to people.

Mr Field has clearly stated that though the impact of the National Living Wage for disabled people and those seeking to employ them has been examined by the

committee, there is no suggestion that any disabled person should receive less than the National Living Wage and that his preference is that it should remain sacrosanct.

In fact, Frank Field's contribution recognises that to achieve the ambitious Government target will require a change of culture and attitude in society as a whole, and will need to put the experience of those with disabilities at the centre of developing the right policies.

It also recognises that some disabled people, particularly those with severe disabilities, do require extra support in their work environment, with their health needs and to meet their extra financial needs.

The report also acknowledges that potential employers will need encouragement and incentives to help them to provide for employment for those people with disability.

Council therefore concludes that this report and the further work of the Work and Pensions Committee will be useful in informing the implementation of our local strategy to help people with severe disabilities achieve the aim of gaining and keeping a job."

(4) Notice of Motion No. 7 – NEW FERRY

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Adam Sykes

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Hodson

*Paragraph 1: **delete**: 'expresses its outrage that it is over' **and insert** 'notes that in the'*

*Paragraph 1: **delete**: 'Government has still provided no financial assistance' **and insert**: 'Cabinet has agreed that the costs of recovery would be met from the Councils own resources (Cabinet, 17th July 2017, p.9 Revenue Monitoring 2017/2018 to June 2017 refers).'*

'Council further notes that in the Strategic Regeneration Framework agreed by Cabinet on 2nd October 2017 that "High level discussions with Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government have taken place to secure investment for the area."

*Paragraph 2: **delete** 'its scarce' **and insert** 'reserves of £9.4 million allocated for emergencies and unforeseen circumstances'*

*Paragraph 4: **delete all after** 'Council' **and insert** 'notes the contents of the letter from the Leader of the Conservative Group to the Leader of the Council concerning New Ferry which included the paragraph: "While you continue to have all-Party support to seek assistance from the DCLG, I would hope that you will now proceed, without delay, to ensure the needs of people in New Ferry are met using the funds that your Administration has for this purpose." Council regrets that the Leader of the*

Council has rejected the offer from the Leader of the Conservative Group to work with him on this issue.'

(5) Notice of Motion No. 8 – UNIVERSAL CREDIT

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist
Seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

Delete paragraph 1 and replace with...

Council notes that the speed and manner of the roll-out of Universal Credit is causing considerable concern amongst residents entitled to help with their housing costs and caught in the changing administration of benefits.

Council welcomes the detailed analysis of the problems experienced with the roll-out reported in the House of Commons Library Research Paper of 3 October 2017 as set out here...

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06547/SN06547.pdf>

Council is aware that the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions announced some limited changes to the system at the recent Conservative Party Conference and was closely questioned by MPs in the Commons on 9 October as referenced here...

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2017-10-09/debates/85FA4177-36D2-4D64-876F-B072176F962B/UniversalCredit>,

...including a question from Frank Field MP.

Council appreciates and recognises...

1. the contribution to the debate in the considered view of Sir John Major that *'universal credit, which, although theoretically impeccable, is operationally messy, socially unfair and unforgiving'*
2. the practical steps outlined by the Liberal Democrats at their recent conference which not only called for more substantial reform of the system but included these practical steps:
 - a) *removing the seven waiting days at the start of a claim, to reduce the amount of time people have to wait for their first payment.*
 - b) *monitoring the impact of payment one month in arrears, and changing it if this results in rising debt and destitution.*
 - c) *making sure everyone moving to Universal Credit is told they can get an Advance Payment to help them while they wait for their first payment.*
 - d) *making the Universal Credit Helpline free of charge, at least until the roll-out is complete.*
 - e) *allowing people to adjust to Universal Credit by offering everyone options in how they would like the benefit to be paid.*

f) putting in place a comprehensive support package before Universal Credit roll-out accelerates, to make sure people get advice to manage their money and deal with any complications in the application process.

Insert new paras after 2f

Council notes that the Government has highlighted an increase in the number of 'advance payments' but the burden is placed on recipients to request this. Council notes that arrangements appear to have been offered and agreed with the Scottish Government and for Northern Ireland whereby much faster payments, available from the first fortnight, are being set up.

Council is concerned that the practical problems with a system have created harsh outcomes and place cruel burdens on those needing help. People face having to make high cost telephone calls and waiting periods when they have few resources to fall back on. The overhauled system was supposed to help by helping people navigate their way through the system and help the transition into work.

Insert at the beginning of original para 2...

Council, in the light of all the concerns raised, requests that the Leader writes to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions calling upon the Government not only to pause the roll-out and consult widely on further changes to the system but...
(continues with "...further, Council calls on the government)

Delete original para 6 ("Whilst declaring profound opposition.....)