



ADUR DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Council
14 December 2023

Ward(s) Affected: All

Motion on Notice

Report by the Director for Sustainability & Resources

Officer Contact Details:-

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Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The report before Council sets out a motion received from Councillor Catherine Arnold which has been seconded by Councillor Sharon Sluman.
- 1.2. Council is asked to consider and debate the motion prior to it being referred to the Joint Strategic Committee for determination under provisions set out in paragraph 14 of the Council Procedure Rules (part 4 of the Council Constitution - Rules of Procedure).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Council is asked to debate the motion, as set out in Annex A to this report, prior to its referral to the Adur Joint Strategic Sub-Committee for consideration and determination.

3. Context

- 3.1 A motion on notice has been received from Councillor Catherine Arnold, (attached as Annex A).
- 3.2 The content of the motion is relevant to a matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties and which specifically affects the District.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 Motions considered by Full Council are done so under part 14 of the Council's Procedure Rules and are debated under rules set out under part 16 of the Council Procedure Rules.
- 4.2 The Council is asked to debate the motion under these rules accordingly.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The financial implications associated with this motion will be considered by the Adur Joint Strategic Sub-Committee following its referral.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 Rules concerning motions are set out in the Council's Constitution under section 14 of the Council's Procedure Rules.

Background Papers

None.

Support for people with a disability

This council notes that:

In a report submitted to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Britain's Equality and Human Rights Commission warns that many disabled people continue to face discrimination in this country and that the situation continues to worsen, particularly in light of current cost-of-living pressures.

The report assessed the extent to which the previous UN recommendations from 2016 have been implemented.

The report found there had been no progress in monitoring the impact of welfare reforms or access to justice for disabled people. Its report also found gaps in 'meaningful engagement' between governments and disabled people across many parts of the UK.

It said there continued to be a disproportionate number of disabled people living on low incomes or in poverty with some facing long waits for decisions on eligibility for benefits.

The autumn budget announcement places further concerns within the disabled Community.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt stated this was the "biggest welfare reform in a decade". He stated claimants who do not find a job within 18 months will be forced to undergo "mandatory" work placements.

Those failing to comply with the rules face having their benefits cut off completely. He said "If they choose not to engage with the work search process for six months, we will close their case and stop their benefits".

In addition, fit-note and work capability assessments changes have been announced by the Chancellor, yet the detail of how this affects the disabled community is unclear and has caused severe concerns about finances and ability to pay bills and heat their homes.

A West Sussex Citizens Advice AGM on 22nd November 2023 determined from their data, that the disabled were three times as likely to suffer hunger than other people, also that benefits and tax credits were the top of the issues that users went to Citizens Advice for at 29%.

This council resolves to:

- Work with and support local disability groups and charities to understand the impact of the benefit changes due to be implemented in 2025;
- Implement changes in process necessary to mitigate disability benefit issues within the TellJo project; and
- Require project bids for future Adur Community Grants to have associated pre and post impact assessment reports on disabled benefit advice.

Proposed by Councillor Catherine Arnold

Seconded by Councillor Sharon Sluman