



Council
19 October 2021

WORTHING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Ward(s) Affected: All

Motion on Notice

Report by the Director for Communities

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The report before Council sets out a motion received from Councillor Margaret Howard which has been seconded by Councillor Emma Taylor.
- 1.2. Council is asked to deal with the motion under provisions set out in paragraph 14 of the Council Procedure Rules (under part 4 of the Council Constitution - Rules of Procedure).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the motion, upon being moved and seconded, be noted by Council and referred without debate to the Joint Strategic Committee.

3. Context

- 3.1 A motion on notice has been received from Councillor Margaret Howard, (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 affects the Borough.
- 3.3 The motion before Council contains a subject matter that is within the remit of the Joint Strategic Committee, as defined in para 14.4.1 of the Council's Procedure Rules. Therefore, it shall be moved and seconded, immediately noted by the Council and referred without debate to the Joint Strategic Committee for consideration and determination.
- 3.4 If a motion on the agenda at Full Council is to be referred automatically to the Executive, a Regulatory Committee or another Council Committee, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.4, the proposer of the motion will confirm to the Chairperson their proposal of the motion as set out in the report before Council **without** a speech.
- 3.5 Where a motion has been referred by Full Council to the Joint Strategic Committee, the mover, or the seconder in the absence of the mover, shall be entitled to attend the relevant meeting and explain the motion.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 Motions considered by Full Council are done so under part 14 of the Council's Procedure Rules.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The motion has subject matter that comes within the remit of the Joint Strategic Committee and should the Joint Strategic Committee determine that the motion be accepted there may be financial implications in the future.

6. Legal Implications

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

Background Papers

None.

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Annex A

We note that the Universal Credit uplift of £20 per week has been removed and claimants have received notice that they will receive £86 per month less to live on, which equates to £1040 per annum.

Furlough has ended and many more will lose their jobs as furlough support ends.

In addition, energy prices are going up drastically.

The impact of these changes will have a profound effect on Worthing residents.

In June this year there were 7372 claimants of Universal Credit in Worthing West and another 7475 in East Worthing & Shoreham, of those claimants 6284 were in work. That's 42% of Universal credit claimants being in work and many more having disabilities or caring responsibilities and unable to work.

Trussell Trust estimates that 1.2 million people will be forced to skip meals if this cut in Universal Credit goes ahead.

Worthing Food Foundation are already preparing for an increase in requests for food support, this is in a time when donations are going down due to supply issues.

Recent research estimates that 16000 people living in Worthing face food insecurity and this number will increase in the coming months.

Arrears are set to increase in Council Tax, rent, mortgages and utilities as people will have to choose between paying their bills, heating their homes and food. This will result in further hardship and inevitably increased evictions and homelessness.

To mitigate the effects of the removal of the uplift in Universal Credit, the end of Furlough and the increase in Energy bills, this motion calls on the Cabinet to write to the Secretary of State to request the retention of the £20 per week uplift in Universal Credit.

Proposed: Margaret Howard

Seconded: Emma Taylor