



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Joint Strategic Committee
9 November 2021
Agenda Item 8

Key Decision: [Yes/No]

Ward(s) Affected: All Worthing

Referral of Motion on Notice from Worthing Borough Council

Report by the Interim Director for Communities

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This report sets out a motion (attached as Appendix 1) referred from the meeting of Worthing Borough Council on the 19th October 2021.
- 1.2. Members of the Joint Strategic committee are asked to consider and determine the Motion.
- 1.3. Members can either support the motion and ask for further work to be carried out in this regard, or, members can reject the motion.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the Joint Strategic Committee support the motion and determine how further work is carried out; or,
- 2.2. That the Joint Strategic Committee reject the motion.

3. Context

- 3.1. At its meeting on the 19th October 2021, Worthing Borough Council received a motion from Councillor Margaret Howard, seconded by Councillor Emma Taylor, details of which can be found at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The motion submitted to Council contained 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 was moved and seconded, immediately noted by the Council and referred without debate to the Joint Strategic Committee for consideration and determination.
- 3.3 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 of the Executive and explain the motion. Councillor Margaret Howard has been made aware that the motion has been referred to this Committee.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 The Joint Strategic Committee can either support or reject the motion.
- 4.2 Should the Joint Strategic Committee support the motion, then the Committee should ask Officers to prepare a further report on the substantive issues to be presented at a future meeting of the JSC.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There may be direct financial implications in future depending on the course of action the Joint Strategic Committee wishes to take.

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

Motion to Worthing Borough Council on the 19th October 2021

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Motion from Cllr Howard regarding Universal Credit Uplift

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 by Margaret Howard
Seconded by Emma Taylor