



Council
20 October 2022

ADUR DISTRICT C O U N C I L

Ward(s) Affected: N/A

Motions on Notice 3

Report by the Director for Communities

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The report before Council sets out a motion received from Councillor Catherine Arnold and seconded by Councillor Jeremy Gardner
- 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 Sub-Committee (Adur)

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 affects the District.

- 3.3 There is nothing substantive within the motion that would cause its rejection under the terms of the Constitution.
- 3.4 The motion before Council contains part of the subject matter that is within the remit of the Joint Strategic Sub-Committee (Adur) as defined in para 14.4.1 and 14.4.3 of the Council's Procedure Rules. The motion includes a proposal for the Council to take any substantive action (Para 14.4.4). Therefore, it shall be moved and seconded, immediately noted by the Council and referred without debate to the Joint Strategic Sub Committee (Adur) for consideration and determination.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 Where a motion has been referred by Full Council to the Joint Strategic Sub Committee (Adur), 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 Sub-Committee (Adur) and should the Joint Strategic Sub-Committee (Adur) 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

Cost of business motion

For many of Adur's 2,200 businesses, simply surviving these last 2.5 years has felt like winning. This Council must do everything in its power to support our local businesses and prevent them from closing their doors.

The recent 6-month cap on price per unit of energy is a welcome government intervention for businesses. However, this will do little to tackle the other variables that are pushing businesses out of the marketplace. These include higher supply chain costs, business rates payments, delays in payment, difficulty recruiting staff and the cost-of-living crisis reducing spending in stores, cafes and on services.

Like individuals, businesses cannot reduce their fixed costs of: rent, business rates, employment costs and insurance. In a lot of cases, business owners are scaling back investment and expansion and reducing their take home pay, rather than passing on higher costs to customers. This means lower growth, less employment, reduced local spend and a smaller local economy.

May's 22 ONS statistics showed that 40%, or 2 million, of the UK's small businesses had less than three months' worth of cash left to support their operations. Of those 2 million, the Federation of Small Business's chairman said about 10% – or 200,000 – were in "serious trouble", and that another 300,000 "have only got weeks left".

In addition, the ONS showed that input price inflation for products (prices of goods bought and sold by UK manufacturers) rose to 24.0% in the year to June 2022 – the highest rate since records began in January 1985.

Businesses need the council's support as strategic partners, fundraisers and promoters through the council communications team. They need to be involved in a comprehensive plan of events, better signposting of

businesses around the district and access to rescue packages for businesses to survive.

We note the good work the council is already undertaking through the small business grant programme.

On behalf of business we ask this Council to:

- ensure the take up of the small business grants to Adur is commensurate with that of Worthing
- urge central government to increase the business rates threshold
- examine the feasibility of establishing of a Town Centre Manager role to create a strategic programme for events to promote our high streets
- sign up to the Federation of Small Business's Good Business Pays movement and encourage contractors to do so. This is a campaign to stop late and slow payments
- improve signage for visitors to our high streets and town centres
- support our traders associations with funding applications to Save The High Streets
- encourage Council staff to shop local
- promote more widely the business support already on offer
- investigate the potential for bulk buying of energy with local businesses

Proposer: Cllr Catherine Arnold

Seconder: Cllr Jeremy Gardner