



COUNCIL – 19TH JULY 2022

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF MOTION – GOVERNMENT CUTS

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Council is asked to consider the Notice of Motion as set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report and make an appropriate recommendation. In accordance with Rule 11(3) of the Constitution, the Mayor has agreed to allow the motion to be dealt with at Council without being first considered at an overview and scrutiny committee in order to expedite business.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 A Notice of Motion has been received from Councillor S. Morgan and is supported by Councillors J. Pritchard, N. George, E. Stenner, C. Andrews, J. Simmonds, S. Cook, E. Forehead, P. Leonard, and C. Morgan.
- 2.2 The Notice of Motion meets the criteria set out in the Council's Constitution and in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure is now referred to the Council for consideration.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Council are asked to consider the Notice of Motion as outlined in paragraph 5.1 and make an appropriate recommendation.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 Notice of Motion

In his Notice of Motion Councillor Morgan asks Council to: -

Write to the UK Government on behalf of Elected Members to ask for a full increase in funding support for Local Authorities, commensurate with a real terms increase for staff in order to restore some sustainability back into the system. Because without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the Council services our residents rely on would not be delivered.

- 5.2 Councillor Morgan provides the following information in support of his notice of motion and asks Council to note that: -

The Local Government Association (LGA) has identified a decrease in UK Government funding of almost 60 per cent for Local Authorities in England and Wales between 2010 and 2020.

Over the last two years, Councils have led the way in efforts against the Covid-19 pandemic, providing a huge range of services and support for our communities. Local Government has shown more than ever how indispensable it is. But Covid has led to a massive increase in expenditure and loss of income, and as we emerge from the pandemic, Local Authorities and schools need far more financial support from Westminster.

Council and school workers kept our communities safe through the pandemic, often putting themselves at considerable risk as they work to protect public health, provide quality housing, ensure our children continue to be educated, and look after older and vulnerable people for example.

Since 2011, the Local Government workforce has endured years of pay restraint. Whilst the pay cap was removed in 2018, by autumn 2017 public sector pay had fallen behind private sector pay for comparable work. Staff are now facing the worst cost of living crisis in a generation, with RPI forecast by the Office for Budgetary Responsibility (OBR) to average at 9.8% across 2022 and currently running at 11.1%. Many staff are having to make impossible choices between food, heating and paying for other essentials. This a terrible situation for everyone to find themselves in.

At the same time, workers have experienced ever-increasing workloads and job insecurity. [The Local Government Chronicle](#) has indicated that between 2010 and 2018 there were more than 220,000 redundancies of Local Authority employees and nearly £4 billion was spent on redundancy payments.

Unison advise that recent research shows that if the Government were to fully fund the Unions' 2022 pay claim, around half of the money would be recouped thanks to increased tax revenue, reduced expenditure on benefits and tax credits, and increased consumer spending in the local economy.

This Council is now asked by the Joint Trade Unions of GMB, Unison and Unite to support this Notice of Motion.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 As a notice of motion is a procedural matter and must be dealt with in accordance with Council's Constitution, no assumptions have been made.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 This report does not require an Integrated Impact Assessment as it relates to a procedural matter under the Council's Constitution.
- 7.2 The procedural rules regarding a Notice of Motion are contained within Council's Constitution as adopted in May 2002. The Council's Constitution sets out the framework for the decision-making roles and responsibilities.
- 7.3 However the outcome of the Notice of Motion and any subsequent reports arising from it may require an Integrated Impact Assessment.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 There has been no consultation undertaken as a notice of motion is a procedural matter and has met the criteria as set out in the Council's Constitution.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Act 2000

Author: Emma Sullivan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Signed copy of Notice of Motion.