

COUNCIL – 3 APRIL 2013

NOTICES OF MOTION

The following Notices of Motion have been received:-

1. Bedroom Tax

“That this Council:-

(a) is appalled that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has announced that a further £10billion will be cut from the welfare budget;

(b) is concerned that the bedroom tax is likely to affect approximately 6-7000 residents in Bury, and that many residents will have to leave family homes as they will be unable to afford to stay. This will place a further strain on Council resources given the shortage of affordable housing in the Borough. This 'strain' may come in the form of greater numbers of people being made homeless and an increase in the number of children being taken into care.

(c) That the bedroom tax will have a disproportionate effect on vulnerable people with its aim to produce a crude form of social engineering whereby people on lower incomes will be granted no entitlement to a two bedroom property irrespective of their of individual circumstances.

This Council resolves:-

That as part of the campaign for a Fair Deal for Bury, a request shall be made to the MPs of Bury North and South to lobby the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for a financial boost to the local Discretionary Housing Payment Fund ("DHPF"), which will be used to support those tenants that are unable to meet of the financial burden imposed by the Bedroom Tax. Currently the local DHPF only has enough funding to last only three months if called upon by all the Housing Benefit claimant's in Bury that will be affected by the Bedroom Tax. An increase in the DHPF will enable the Council to ameliorate the impact on the most vulnerable in our community.”

In the names of Councillors A Audin, K Audin, D Bailey, M Bailey, N Bayley, J Black, S Briggs, P Bury, G Campbell, S Carter, D M Cassidy, J Columbine, M Connolly, A J Cummings, E FitzGerald L Fitzwalter, J Frith, S Haroon, P Heneghan, T Holt, A Isherwood, M A James, D Jones, J S Lewis, A K Matthews, N A Parnell, A Quinn, K Rothwell, R Shori, A Simpson, S Smith, J Smith, S Southworth, T Tariq and S Walmsley.

2. Condition of Roads in the Borough

"This Council notes the effect of the continuing adverse wintery weather on the state of the Borough's highways.

This Council also notes the healthy level of usable reserves that is currently held on behalf of the people of Bury.

Therefore, this Council resolves to take immediate action to help address the dreadful state of our highways and agree to transfer 2 million pounds from useable balances into the roads maintenance and repair budget for 2013/14."

In the names of Councillors I Bevan, R Caserta, J Daly, I Gartside, D Gunther, M Hankey, K Hussain, S Nuttall, B Vincent, R Walker, J Walton, M Wiseman and Y Wright

3. Pupil Premium

"Council notes the vital importance of education in providing a fair start in life, and tackling inequalities.

Council therefore welcomes the Pupil Premium, and notes the £3.45 million going to Bury schools in the current year, and that this is rising each year.

Council resolves to:

- ask the Cabinet Member for Children and Families to bring a report to the Executive, before 31 December 2013, detailing how Bury schools are making use of Pupil Premium funding to improve education, in particular education for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

- ask the Cabinet Member for Children and Families to address within this report any issues of lack of take up of Free School Meals, and ways the Authority could work with schools to increase Free School Meals take up in the future."

In the names of Councillors O'Hanlon and Pickstone.