

The Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
Department for Work and Pensions

Letter sent via email to : secretaryofstate@dwp.gov.uk

Dear Secretary of State,

Reference: Council Motion on the Cost-of-Living and Food Insecurity

Bury Council at its Full Council meeting on 16 March 2022 debated a notice of motion in relation to the Cost-of-Living and Food Insecurity.

The Council recognised that:

1. Households across our borough are bracing themselves for the biggest drop in living standards in thirty years.
2. The cost-of-living crisis includes steep price increases in everyday and essential food items, making the situation worse for the 10% of households already living in food insecurity across our borough and risking more people experiencing food insecurity
3. The incredible work done by food banks and pantries across our six towns to support those most in need and the dedication and hard work of the volunteers who run them.

The Council regrets that:

1. The Government is making the cost-of-living crisis worse through tax hikes, low growth, falling real wages, and a failure to tackle the energy crisis.

The Council resolves to:

1. Write to the Government urging Ministers to set out a national strategy for food including how it intends to ensure access to high quality, sustainable, affordable food for all and meet the United Nations goal to end hunger by 2030.
2. Establish a Lead Member for Food Poverty to drive forward our local efforts to end hunger in our borough.
3. Further develop our Food Plan for Bury to identify local food insecurity challenges and put in place steps to tackle them.
4. Strengthen our work with the voluntary and community sector and statutory agencies to tackle food poverty through our Food Partnership and Food Network.
5. Continue our efforts to alleviate all forms of poverty and tackle the root causes by investing in our people and places; ensuring our residents have access to high quality education, training and lifelong learning; delivering the Real Living Wage for our staff and contractors; regenerating our town centres and attracting businesses to create more well paid jobs; improving our housing stock and building more high quality affordable homes; and working with our partners in the NHS to tackle health inequalities.

I look forward to your response so that an update can be provided to Members of Bury Council.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "G Little". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Geoff Little OBE
Chief Executive