

CONSERVATIVE AMENDMENT TO LABOUR MOTION

In 2010 60,000 people were using food banks in the UK, in 2023 2.9 million people had to use foodbanks. Over 13500 children qualify for free school meals in the Bury borough alone. Many residents are struggling with recent high inflation, high mortgage interest rates and a doubling of fuel bills in the last 2 years. The government's household support fund went part of the way to enable councils to support the worst hit residents when it was introduced in 2021. Now, the Government's Household support fund is set to end on 31st March, 2024.

This council believes that everyone is entitled to the basic physical needs, to be warm, dry, clean and fed.

This council recognises that in the last ~~12 months~~ 3 years the Household support fund, (HSF) provided by the conservative government to local authorities generally including administered by Labour ran Bury council;

Provided free school meals in the holidays for those who need it

Payments to those in food and fuel poverty

Grants to our Bury food support network

Community grants to organisations tackle the cost of living crisis

Discretionary housing payments for those at risk of homelessness

funded the Citizens advice bureau

and many more projects supporting those who most needed it.

~~Withdrawal of this grant, at a time when council's face such financial hardship, will only leave 1000s of bury residents to struggle even more.~~

None continuation of this grant will require councils such as this to deliver much improved financial management if it chooses to continue to support the activities listed above

This council resolves to

~~Continue to execute our Cost of living and Anti-poverty strategy.~~

Review our cost of living and anti-poverty strategy in light of the encouraging economic improvements

Work with communities and partners to make sure we help those most vulnerable in the borough

~~Call for a reinstatement of the HSF in our boroughwide Let's fix it campaign~~

~~write to our two local MPs asking them to support our calls to keep the HSF~~

~~Write to the Prime Minister and the chancellor of Exchequer asking them to keep the fund in their budget in March.~~

Write to the chancellor of the exchequer and seek his view as to whether due to the improving economic situation and local financial settlement the household support fund needs to be continued.