



CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMITTEE SUMMONS

C Hanagan
Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
The Pavilions
Cambrian Park
Clydach Vale CF40 2XX

Meeting Contact: Julia Nicholls - Democratic Services (01443 424098)

YOU ARE SUMMONED to a virtual meeting of **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL** to be held on **WEDNESDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY, 2021** at **5.00 PM.**

AGENDA

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No's**

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

To receive disclosures of personal interests from Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct

1. Members are requested to identify the item number and subject that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest; and
2. Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of prejudicial interest they **must** notify the Chairman when they leave.

2. UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME

To receive representatives from the RCT team and the UBI Lab Wales, providing Members with opportunity for discussion in respect of a local and a Wales-wide perspective.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

4. MINUTES

To approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the Council Meeting held on:-

- 25th November 2020
- 16th December 2020

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OPEN GOVERNMENT:

5. STATEMENTS

In accordance with Open Government Council Meeting Procedure Rule 2, to receive any statements from the Leader of the Council and/or statements from Cabinet Portfolio Holders:

6. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

To receive Members questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.2.

(**N.B** a maximum of 20 minutes shall be allowed for questions on notice.)

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7. STATE OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH DEBATE

In accordance with Rule 13 of the Council's Procedure Rules (Part 4 of the Council's Constitution) to engage in the Leader's debate.

COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME - FOR MEMBERS INFORMATION

[Council Work Programme 2020/21](#)

8. UPDATE IN RESPECT OF THE CORONAVIRUS IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

To receive a position statement in respect of the Coronavirus in the County Borough.

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

A. To consider the under-mentioned Notice of Motion standing in the name of County Borough Councillors M. Forey, J. Bonetto, L. M. Adams, D. R. Bevan, H Boggis, S. Bradwick, J. Brencher, A Calvert, G. Caple, A. Crimmings, A. Davies-Jones, L De- Vet, J. Edwards, J Elliott, S. Evans, M Fidler Jones, , A. Fox, E. George, M. Griffiths, J. Harries G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, G. Jones, R. Lewis, W Lewis, C. Leyshon, A. Morgan, S. Morgans, M. A. Norris, D. Owen Jones, S Pickering, S.M. Powell, S. Rees, A. Roberts, J. Rosser, G Stacey, M Tegg, G Thomas, W Treeby, R K Turner, M. Webber, D. Williams, T. Williams, C. J. Willis and R. Yeo.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on communities, businesses and

families across the country are significant and have been discussed in a number of forums and across a spectrum of platforms. Millions of people have suffered from financial loss through job losses or collapsed trade, whilst lengthy periods of restrictions have been placed on their daily lives.

At the start of the pandemic, the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer claimed they would “put their arms around” everyone at a time of national emergency, and introduced a number of state support packages. One of these measures was to increase the amount of Universal Credit by £20 per week, benefiting almost six million claimants across the UK either on low incomes or out of work. This provided significant relief to those in the most need of support during these unprecedented times, with charities and organisations calling the rise “a lifeline” and some of those in receipt of the Universal Credit saying it meant they went from “having to go without to having barely enough.”

Now, almost a year on – with the pandemic still very much dominating daily life, the Conservative UK Government are said to be reviewing the increase with the Prime Minister alleged to be minded to remove it. The potential withdrawal of such support highlights once again that the Westminster Government put families second at a time when the picture has, in fact, worsened for many with further job losses coming by the day as the effects of the pandemic continue.

In Rhondda Cynon Taf alone, approximately 21,000 people (as of December 2020) claim Universal Credit and the removal of the weekly payment will only serve to hit many in our communities at a time when state support is so vital.

This Council notes:

1. That the extra £20 per-week payment to Universal Credit is an essential boost for millions that should not be removed during the pandemic. The removal would hit hardest on communities such as Rhondda Cynon Taf

and resolves:

1. For the Council Leader to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister ahead of the March 3rd Budget to outline this Council’s opposition to the proposed removal of the £20 per-week increase in Universal Credit whilst the pandemic is still ongoing

B. To consider the under-mentioned Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors M Powell, L Walker, P Howe, G Williams, M Diamond, K Jones, W Jones and W Owen:

This Council requests that an Officer report is presented to a meeting of

the Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee, setting out the following proposal for consideration:

That any Members questions submitted for answering at council that the answers to are readily available on the council's website or have been included in information supplied by Members Services to Members in the previous six months shall be rejected. And the Member directed to the relevant and easily available information

10. URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items which the Chair, by reason of special circumstances, is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.

Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication

To: All Members of the Council