

COUNCIL MEETING 10TH FEBRUARY 2021

AMENDMENT TO NOTION OF MOTION AS SET OUT AT ITEM 9.A OF THE COUNCIL AGENDA

In accordance with Procedural Rule 10.4.1 of Part 4 of the Council Constitution the following amendment was received in the names of County Borough Councillors P. Jarman, H. Fychan, D. Grehan, E. Griffiths, J. Williams, A. Cox, S. Rees-Owen, M. Weaver, G. Davies, E. Webster, A. Chapman, S. Evans, J. Cullwick, J. Davies, K. Morgan, L. Jones and E. Stephens:-

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 ~~{Delete: 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 ~~{Delete: whilst the pandemic is still ongoing}~~

The motion amended will read:

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