

Agenda Item 5(b)

Amendments to Motions

	Document	Proposer of Amendment and Pages
1.	Councillor K Bradburn – 18 February 2022 Recruitment of Foster Carers	None
2.	Councillor Marland – 21 February 2022 The Cost of Living Crisis and the Right to Food	Councillor Walker 2 – 5
3.	Councillor R Bradburn – 22 February 2022 Great British Rail Headquarters	None

Notes

Changes to, or withdrawal of amendments must be submitted by 12 noon on Monday 7 March 2022.

Enquiries

Please contact Roz Tidman on 01908 254589 or roslyn.tidman@milton-keynes.gov.uk

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2. The Cost of Living Crisis and the Right to Food

Councillor Marland (21 February 2022)

Councillor Walker moves the following amendment:

- “1. That clause 1.(c) be amended by adding the words “according to the Office for Budget Responsibility” to the beginning of the clause and the words “the 1950s” be added after the word ‘since’.
2. That the words “World War Two and that the Conservative Government have consistently increased the direct and indirect tax burden on families;” be deleted from clause 1.(c)
3. That a new clause 1(d) be added as follows:
“despite a huge increase in spending to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic, the UK is still taxed relatively lightly compared with most other Western countries such as France and the U.S. “
4. That the wording in clause 1.(f) be deleted and replaced with:
“the government ended the temporary uplift in Universal Credit, which it introduced to support households during the pandemic and cut the Universal Credit taper rate from 63% to 55%, benefitting 1.9 million households who will gain on average £1000 per year.”
5. That a new clause 1.(j) be added as follows:
"the government have delivered a £150 council tax rebate for 80% of households in the country to help offset some of the rise in gas and electricity costs”
6. That a new clause 1.(k) be added as follows:
“the government is providing a £200 discount on energy bills this autumn as part of the Energy Bills Rebate”
7. That a new clause 2.(e) be added as follows:
“but recognises the Council has raised Council Tax every year for eight years with the average band d household now around £500 a year worse off than they were in 2014”
8. That a new clause 2.(f) be added as follows:
“the Labour and Liberal Democrat coalition has not published a credible economic recovery plan to help grow businesses and nurture new start-ups, which is likely to have a negative effect on our employment market and reduce the Council’s business rates revenue”
9. That the wording in clause 3.(a) be deleted and replaced with the following:
“the independent National Food Strategy was published on 15 July 2021”

10. That the wording in clause 3.(b) be deleted and replaced with the following:
 “the report outlined a series of recommendations for government to consider”
11. That the wording in clause 3.(c) be deleted and replaced with the following:
 “the government is yet to deliver on its commitment to publish a white paper in response to the independent National Food Strategy. “
12. That the wording in clause 4.(b) be deleted and replaced with the following:
 “more needs to be done to tackle food poverty in the UK;”
13. That the word “Conservative” be deleted from clause 4.(e)
14. That the words “that the right to food should and National Food Strategy be enshrined in law” be deleted and replaced with “for the white paper in response to the National Food Strategy be published as soon as possible” in clause 4 (f)
15. That a new clause 4.(h) be added as follows:
 “the Cabinet should do everything it can to keep Council Tax low to ease the local tax burden on residents”
16. That a new clause 4.(i) be added as follows:
 “Cabinet consider what additional funding could be needed as we go through the budget year to help residents most impacted by the cost of living crisis”

The motion, if amended would read:

- “1. That this Council notes:
 - a) the pandemic has highlighted the significant health, wellbeing and the economic inequalities in our city;
 - b) the increase in the cost of living will impact on that vast majority of residents of the borough;
 - c) **according to the Office for Budget Responsibility** the tax burden is the highest today than at any point since **the 1950s** ~~World War Two~~ **and that the Conservative Government have consistently increased the direct and indirect tax burden on families;**
 - d) **despite a huge increase in spending to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic, the UK is still taxed relatively lightly compared with most other Western countries such as France and the U.S.;**
 - e) those on the lowest incomes will be hardest hit as incomes are squeezed by inflation and increased taxation;

- f) the government ended the temporary uplift in Universal Credit, which it introduced to support households during the pandemic and cut the Universal Credit taper rate from 63% to 55%, benefitting 1.9 million households who will gain on average £1000 per year ~~the government ended the uplift in Universal Credit and that the changes to the taper will not compensate for the reduction in income of the poorest and most vulnerable people in society;~~
- g) an estimated 11 million people in the UK live in food poverty;
- h) an estimated 4000 households in MK go without food once a week and 10,000 households are eating smaller meals; ~~and~~
- i) if you cannot afford food, you will be unable to buy clothes, pay bills and have less money to spend supporting the wider economy;
- j) the government have delivered a £150 council tax rebate for 80% of households in the country to help offset some of the rise in gas and electricity costs; and
- k) the government is providing a £200 discount on energy bills this autumn as part of the Energy Bills Rebate.

2. That this Council also notes:

- a) the support the Progressive Alliance is giving residents living in poverty through its crisis support helping with food, rent and fuel bills, but that the Conservative Group voted against an additional £500,000 to help those in the worst fuel poverty;
- b) the support the Progressive Alliance has given to children in school holidays;
- c) the support the Progressive Alliance has given to partners to help tackle food poverty; ~~and~~
- d) the amazing work that other organisations such as Food Banks, Community larders, parish and town councils and charities do to help people eat;
- e) but recognises the Council has raised Council Tax every year for eight years with the average band d household now around £500 a year worse off than they were in 2014; and
- f) the Labour and Liberal Democrat coalition has not published a credible economic recovery plan to help grow businesses and nurture new start-ups, which is likely to have a negative effect on our employment market and reduce the Council's business rates revenue.

3. That this Council further notes:
- a) ~~the independent National Food Strategy was published on 15 July 2021 the National Food Strategy was a wasted opportunity to tackle this issue;~~
 - b) ~~the report outlined a series of recommendations for government to consider the plan lacks a clear vision and strategy on how to improve the crisis; and~~
 - e) ~~the government is yet to deliver on its commitment to publish a white paper in response to the independent National Food Strategy. that opportunities to set out legal ways to enforce the strategy have been missed and need to be enshrined in law.~~
4. That this Council agrees:
- a) no one should go hungry in Milton Keynes;
 - b) ~~more needs to be done to tackle food poverty in the UK food poverty in the United Kingdom is disgraceful and a shaming indictment of the policies of the Conservative government;~~
 - c) it is time to enshrine the human right to food into law;
 - d) to continue efforts to reduce and mitigate the impact of food poverty;
 - e) to express concern that the ~~Conservative~~ Cost of Living Crisis will increase the levels of food poverty, hungry children and malnutrition in Milton Keynes;
 - f) to write to government to ask ~~for the white paper in response to the National Food Strategy be published as soon as possible that the right to food should and National Food Strategy be enshrined in law; and~~
 - g) to continue to work with local partners to support the campaign for the national right to food;
 - h) ~~the Cabinet should do everything it can to keep Council Tax low to ease the local tax burden on residents; and~~
 - i) ~~Cabinet consider what additional funding could be needed as we go through the budget year to help residents most impacted by the cost of living crisis.~~
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