

MOTION - £20 UPLIFT

To maintain the income of low and middle income families, the Council notes that:

- Next April the UK Government plan to cut the benefit level for millions of claimants by ending of the time limited increase to the basic rate of Universal Credit (and the tax credit equivalent).
- The £20 a week boost reflected the reality that the level of benefits was not adequate to protect the swiftly increasing number of households relying on them as the pandemic crisis hit. The increase was a very significant and welcome move to bolster low and middle-income families living standards, and its removal will be a huge loss.
- Pressing ahead would see the level of unemployment support fall to its lowest real-terms level since 1990-91, and it's lowest ever relative to average earnings.
- The increase in benefits have had a positive effect on the lives of thousands of local claimants who are better able to pay for life's essentials such as food, clothing and utilities.
- The local economy has also benefited from the increase in benefit levels as claimants spend their money locally thereby supporting local businesses and jobs.
- There has been no such increase in carers allowance with many unpaid carers facing extreme financial hardship.

The Council resolves to:

- Write to the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak and to the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson demanding that the £20 increase to Universal Credit is made permanent and extended to claimants on legacy benefits.
- Work with other local government organisations to form a coalition to pressure the government to make the £20 increase to Universal Credit permanent.
- Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, urging them to raise Carer's Allowance by £20 a

week immediately, in line with the increase in Universal Credit, and copy in the local MP, asking for his support.

- Promote Young Carers Action Day on March 16th 2021 as widely as possible on an annual basis, particularly to young carers and their families.