

COUNCIL MEETING 9 MARCH 2022
AMENDMENT TO THE NOTICE OF MOTION AS SET OUT IN ITEM (17A) 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, A. Cox, J. Williams, H. Fychan, E. Griffiths, E. Webster, S. Evans, A. Chapman, M. Weaver, S. Rees-Owen, L. Jones, E. Stephens, J. Davies, J. Cullwick, G. Davies, K. Morgan, D. Grehan:

This Council notes that when the UK Government negotiated its exit from the European Union, a commitment was given to matching the level of funding provided to local areas from the European Union and accepted the assurances by UK Ministers, that Wales would not lose “a single penny” of EU funding as a result of this process.

A recent cross-party Commons’ Treasury Committee found in a report on October’s Autumn Budget and Spending Review, that the Shared Prosperity Fund will be worth 40% less a year than the EU funding schemes it will replace. The report also expressed its surprise that the “size of the Fund is being reduced to such an extent”.

In context, the EU Structural Fund programme was worth £2.5bn a year and Wales received a disproportionate share of this funding at around £400m a year, or four times the UK average on a per-person basis. In November, the Welsh Government highlighted that the £46m Wales would receive through the Community Renewal Fund – the ‘precursor’ to the Shared Prosperity Fund - fell short of that promised amount of funding and that anything less than £375m in new funding per year from the UK Government would be a failure to honour that commitment.

Furthermore, the inordinate delay in getting the UKSPF programme up and running has left vulnerable individuals at risk of long-term unemployment at risk because of the cuts and delays.

This Council therefore:

- Recognises the vital contributions that EU Structural Funding delivered to the West Wales and the Valleys region in particular.
- Calls on the U.K. Government to make good on its promise to replace European Union funding in full.

And resolves to:

- Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Prime Minister to convey this Council’s view: ~~{Delete: and request that the disparity in funding under the Shared Prosperity Fund be addressed as a matter of urgency.~~
{Insert:
(1) That the disparity in funding under the Shared Prosperity Fund be addressed as a matter of urgency.
(2) That the UK Government in any event, should repatriate the authority to invest such funds to the democratically elected Welsh Government.}
- Request our local Members of the Senedd & Members of Parliament to support this Council’s calls to address this disparity in funding.
- Request that the Council communicates the response of the Prime Minister to this Council representations.

The motion amended will read:-

This Council notes that when the UK Government negotiated its exit from the European Union, a commitment was given to matching the level of funding provided to local areas from the European Union and accepted the assurances by UK Ministers, that Wales would not lose “a single penny” of EU funding as a result of this process.

A recent cross-party Commons’ Treasury Committee found in a report on October’s Autumn Budget and Spending Review, that the Shared Prosperity Fund will be worth 40% less a year than the EU funding schemes it will replace. The report also expressed its surprise that the “size of the Fund is being reduced to such an extent”.

In context, the EU Structural Fund programme was worth £2.5bn a year and Wales received a disproportionate share of this funding at around £400m a year, or four times the UK average on a per-person basis. In November, the Welsh Government highlighted that the £46m Wales would receive through the Community Renewal Fund – the ‘precursor’ to the Shared Prosperity Fund - fell short of that promised amount of funding and that anything less than £375m in new funding per year from the UK Government would be a failure to honour that commitment.

Furthermore, the inordinate delay in getting the UKSPF programme up and running has left vulnerable individuals at risk of long-term unemployment at risk because of the cuts and delays.

This Council therefore:

- Recognises the vital contributions that EU Structural Funding delivered to the West Wales and the Valleys region in particular.
- Calls on the U.K. Government to make good on its promise to replace European Union funding in full.

And resolves to:

- Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Prime Minister to convey this Council’s view:
 - (1) That the disparity in funding under the Shared Prosperity Fund be addressed as a matter of urgency.
 - (2) That the UK Government in any event, should repatriate the authority to invest such funds to the democratically elected Welsh Government.
- Request our local Members of the Senedd & Members of Parliament to support this Council’s calls to address this disparity in funding.
- Request that the Council communicates the response of the Prime Minister to this Council representations.