

**COUNCIL MEETING 29 MARCH 2023**  
**AMENDMENT TO THE NOTICE OF MOTION AS SET OUT IN ITEM (11B) 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 R Lewis, A Morgan OBE, L. Addiscott, M. D. Ashford, J. Barton, D. R. Bevan, J. Bonetto, S. Bradwick, J. Brencher, G. Caple, J. Cook, A. Crimmings, S. J. Davies, R. Davis, A. J. Dennis, V. Dunn, E. L. Dunning, J. Edwards, J. A. Elliott, L. Ellis, S. Emanuel, R. Evans, A. S. Fox, B. Harris, S. Hickman, G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, W. Hughes, G. Jones, G. O. Jones, W. Lewis, C. Leyshon, M. Maohoub, C. Middle, N. H. Morgan, S. Morgans, M. A. Norris, D. Owen-Jones, D. Parkin, S. Powderhill, C. Preedy, S. Rees, A. Roberts MBE, J. Smith, G. Stacey, L. A. Tomkinson, W. Treeby, J. Turner, G. L. Warren, K. Webb, M. Webber, D. Williams, G. E. Williams, R. Williams, T. Williams, R. Yeo.

This Council acknowledges that child poverty levels in Rhondda Cynon Taf continue to rise and are likely to worsen due to the cost-of-living crisis.

Council further acknowledges the link between child poverty and educational attainment.

Council believes that squeezed Local Government budget settlements are of concern, and risk impacting targeted interventions to tackle both child poverty and educational attainment.

Despite the Welsh Government previously setting targets to eradicate child poverty by 2020, child poverty in Rhondda Cynon Taf continues to increase with some electoral divisions continuously amongst the worse in the UK. Despite the best efforts of teaching staff in RCT there is a clear link between this poverty and educational attainment.

Mitigating the impact of the Cost of Living Crisis, hot on the heels of the covid pandemic and the devastating floods of 2020 across the county borough must now be a priority for the Council, and steps should be taken to address the well evidenced link between poverty and educational attainment. All learners must be given every possible opportunity to receive the excellent education that the Council is eager to deliver going forward.

In order to make early and effective progress on the scourge of increased poverty on our children, the Council resolves to:

***[INSERT] -Note that in the Last 10 years - total schools' budget increased by 28% compared to overall budget increasing by 11%. Equated to an extra £25M provided to schools compared to other Council services***

***-Note that School budget for 23/24 is £187M (7.9% increase) from 22/23 compared to an increase of 6.6% in Welsh Government settlements for RCT.***

***-Note that published comparative data demonstrates that RCT's budgeted expenditure per pupil for 2022/23 at £6,867 is higher than the Wales average at £6,773.***

***[DELETE] Continue to protect [INSERT] continue to prioritise school budgets and ensure [DELETE] they are fully funded for the cost pressures they face and further ensure that children are able to catch up following the impact of the pandemic.***

- Continue to work with the Welsh Government to deliver key poverty interventions as outlined in the Cooperation Agreement between Plaid Cymru and Welsh Labour

which includes the roll-out of Universal Free School-Meals for all Primary School Pupils.

The Council further requests that a report is presented to the appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

- Which proposes options to develop a Child Poverty Strategy, to be implemented across all relevant services including education
- Ensure Children, Learners, Parents, Teaching Staff, Teaching Unions and relevant others, as well as appropriate Scrutiny Committees, are invited to participate in the development and scrutiny of the Child Poverty Strategy prior to adoption.

### **The motion amended will read:-**

This Council acknowledges that child poverty levels in Rhondda Cynon Taf continue to rise and are likely to worsen due to the cost-of-living crisis.

Council further acknowledges the link between child poverty and educational attainment.

Council believes that squeezed Local Government budget settlements are of concern, and risk impacting targeted interventions to tackle both child poverty and educational attainment.

Despite the Welsh Government previously setting targets to eradicate child poverty by 2020, child poverty in Rhondda Cynon Taf continues to increase with some electoral divisions continuously amongst the worse in the UK. Despite the best efforts of teaching staff in RCT there is a clear link between this poverty and educational attainment.

Mitigating the impact of the Cost of Living Crisis, hot on the heels of the covid pandemic and the devastating floods of 2020 across the county borough must now be a priority for the Council, and steps should be taken to address the well evidenced link between poverty and educational attainment. All learners must be given every possible opportunity to receive the excellent education that the Council is eager to deliver going forward.

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-Note that published comparative data demonstrates that RCT's budgeted expenditure per pupil for 2022/23 at £6,867 is higher than the Wales average at £6,773.

-Continue to prioritise school budgets and ensure that children are able to catch up following the impact of the pandemic.

-Continue to work with the Welsh Government to deliver key poverty interventions as outlined in the Cooperation Agreement between Plaid Cymru and Welsh Labour which includes the roll-out of Universal Free School-Meals for all Primary School Pupils.

The Council further requests that a report is presented to the appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

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