



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023 - 2024

COUNCIL

24 APRIL 2024

NOTICES OF MOTION

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &
COMMUNICATION**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Council is asked to consider the Notice of Motion (NOM) as set out below for which the necessary notice has been provided and make an appropriate recommendation in accordance with Rule 10.1 of the Constitution.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Consider the Notices of Motion as outlined in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 and make an appropriate recommendation; and
- 2.2 Request that the Service Director Democratic Services & Communication makes the necessary arrangements to record the NOMs and provide any updates through the publication of 'information reports' on the Council agenda, as formerly agreed.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution.

4. NOTICES OF MOTION

- 4.1 To consider the under-mentioned Notices of Motion which have been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.1 and received by the Proper Officer, standing in the names of County Borough Councillors:
- 4.2 A. Morgan, M. Webber, 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, R. R. Lewis, 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, J. Smith, G. Stacey, L. A. Tomkinson, W. Treeby, J. Turner, G. L. Warren, K. Webb, D. Williams, G. E. Williams, R. Williams, T. Williams, R. Yeo.

In July 2022, this Council agreed a Notice of Motion that called for the Conservative Westminster Government to fully fund a proper pay rise for Local Government workers. Since then, funding from Westminster for our struggling public services has continued to follow an unsustainable path that has pushed many services towards the brink.

As part of this, our loyal and integral local government staff have had to increasingly go over and above in order to keep services running. The protection afforded to Welsh local authorities by the Welsh Government is diminishing as the impact of the massive and sustained funding cuts are now increasingly apparent and very real.

Despite leading the response against the pandemic and the Conservative Westminster Government's cost of living crisis, local government staff have not been given the recognition they deserve.

Instead, since 2010, local government workers have lost an average of 25% from the value of their pay, framed in the midst of the ongoing cost of living crisis.

Over the same period, the cost of living has risen by 60%, more and more local government workers have been pushed into debt, and their basic spending has overtaken their income, with 1 in 5 households having less than £100 to spare each month. This is a terrible situation for anyone to find themselves in.

At the same time, workers have experienced ever-increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Across the UK, the local government workforce has fallen by 30% as a result of job cuts. This has had a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than three-quarters of the local government workforce.

Local government continues to show how indispensable it is. But staff are increasingly leaving the sector for better paid jobs elsewhere, for example in retail, leaving local authorities with a massive skills gap, and vacancies in a range of key services, including in social care, education and youth services.

Local government finance is in an enormously difficult state, facing an estimated funding gap of more than £3.5 billion for 2024/25. Here in RCT we are also facing the most difficult period of budget setting since the Council was created, despite our careful and prudent financial management.

Recent research shows that if the Government were to fully fund the unions' 2024 pay claim, around half of the money would be recouped thanks to increased tax revenue, reduced expenditure on benefits and tax credits, and increased consumer spending in the local economy.

This council believes:

Our workers are public service super-heroes. They keep our communities clean and safe, look after those in need and keep our, neighbourhoods, towns and cities running.

Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.

Local government workers deserve a proper real-terms pay increase, which will only be affordable alongside UK Government funding. The Government needs to take responsibility and fully fund this increase; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding has been cut to the bone.

This council resolves to:

- Make representations to the Westminster government to ensure that our staff get the best possible pay deal, with recognition of the current financial situation facing local government.
- Call on the Local Government Association and Welsh Local Government Association to make urgent representations to the Westminster government to make 100% of the funding available to support the NJC pay claim, working with the unions to present a united front in defence of the local government workforce.
- Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be wholly funded with new money from central government.
- Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and consider practical ways in which the Council can reasonably support the campaign.
- Encourage all local government workers to join a union.

4.3 W. Jones, W. Owen, P. Binning

This Council notes the important role notices of motion can play in providing the opportunity for Elected Members to present policies proposals or for Members collectively to take a view on important issues.

This Council notes the positive difference Notices of Motion have made; however, Council acknowledges they can sometimes inevitably create an

adversarial discussion in respect of a particular topic, due to the political environment in which we operate.

This Council notes that following the introduction of live broadcasting, the mechanisms to discuss motions may seem complex to residents and the public viewing our meetings.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Request that the Head of Democratic Services, in discussion with the Presiding Member, brings forward an officer report, through the most appropriate process, to enable Elected Members to consider potential revisions or other options, to enable Elected Members to discuss important matters, in a most relevant and co-operative way.
- Kindly request that this report presents best practice and the arrangements provided by other local authorities for Members to discuss and consider.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

6.1 The report has been prepared in accordance with the Council's Constitution

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no Equality and Diversity implications arising from this report and no Equality Impact Assessment is deemed necessary for the purposes of this report as it relates to a procedural matter under the Council's Constitution.

7.2 The procedural rules regarding a Notice of Motion are contained within Council's Constitution which sets out the framework for the decision-making roles and responsibilities.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 This report presents for Members' consideration the Notices of Motion submitted to Council for the period April 2024 for which the necessary notice has been given.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

as amended by

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

COUNCIL

24th APRIL 2024

NOTICE OF MOTION

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