

Notice of Motion

Mover: Cllr Gary Hewson Seconder: Cllr Pat Vaughan

This Council notes that Britain is experiencing the worst recession for over 300 years and has the fifth highest number of deaths in the world due to Covid 19. The failure of this Conservative government to contain the virus has caused too many deaths and worsened the economic impact.

The alarm bells on the devastating impacts on people's lives of this unfolding economic disaster are growing louder.

The effects are being felt in the City of Lincoln, especially among households already in low paid employment, with one in four children in the City in households below 60% of the national average household income, and having increasingly to resort to Food Banks in the city to survive.

The Council, along with its partners has been working hard to protect our residents from the worst effects of the pandemic, playing an active role in public health measures, together with action to support our communities, and to help our businesses survive.

The Council believes that further levels of unemployment and hardship are not inevitable if urgent action is taken now to avert the worst effects of the pandemic. This must include further action from government, to include the following measures:

- **An increase in Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) to £320 a week, the level of the current living wage, and make it available to all workers so people can afford to self-isolate.** The current £96 a week is a fifth of average weekly earnings and 2 million who earn less than £120 a week are not even entitled to that. Even while the vaccine is being rolled out people will still need to self-isolate to prevent the virus spreading.
- **An improvement to furlough arrangements so that no one is paid less than the minimum wage,** it is unacceptable there are many of our lowest paid residents in Lincoln receiving only 80% of the minimum wage.
- **No cutting Universal Credit in April** - cutting UC back £20 a week amounts to taking away £1000 a year from many of our low-income households in Lincoln
- **An increase to public service wages and raising the minimum wage to £10 an hour.** A pay cut in real terms – after a decade of real cuts - is a grave insult to millions of public service workers who cared for our loved ones during this crisis. Raising their wages and the minimum wage to £10 per hour would greatly assist in the fight against in-work poverty in our City

- **Protect and create jobs;** the TUC has shown investing £85 billion in green infrastructures would create 1.2 million jobs in 2 years and investing the resources public services need would create 600,000 jobs. This investment, alongside giving the packages of support sectors and businesses need will assist our residents in Lincoln with improved opportunities for employment
- **These basic measures are the foundation to making sure we can build a better recovery from the impacts of this pandemic and begin to address the long term structural problems we have in Lincoln of low wages, and deep inequalities in income and wealth.**