

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**12 September 2018**

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**The following Notices of Motion have been received:-**

(a) Notice of Motion received from Councillor I Ratcliffe:

This council notes that:

1. Last year young Derbyshire people left the care of the County Council and began the difficult transition out of care and into adulthood.
2. A 2016 report by The Children's Society found that when care leavers move into independent accommodation they begin to manage their own budget fully for the first time. The report showed that care leavers can find this extremely challenging and with no family to support them and insufficient financial education, are falling into debt and financial difficulty.
3. Research from The Centre for Social Justice found that over half (57%) of young people leaving care have difficulty managing their money and avoiding debt when leaving care.
4. The local authority has statutory corporate parenting responsibilities towards young people who have left care up until the age of 25.
5. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 places corporate parenting responsibilities on district councils for the first time, requiring them to have regard to children in care and care leavers when carrying out their functions.

This council believes that:

1. To ensure that the transition from care to adult life is as smooth as possible, and to mitigate the chances of care leavers falling into debt as they begin to manage their own finances, they should be exempt from paying council tax until they are 25.
2. Care leavers are a particularly vulnerable group for council tax debt.

This council, therefore, resolves:

1. To use the county council's convening powers and expertise in corporate parenting to work with all council tax collecting authorities to exempt all care leavers in the county from council tax up to the age of 25, sharing any arising costs proportionately.

(b) Notice of Motion received from Councillor J Coyle:

This council notes that Derbyshire schools budgets will be cut by nearly £30million in the five years from 2015 to 2020.

This is putting enormous strain on school staff and affecting the life chances of Derbyshire children.

This council resolves to:

- Write to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Education demanding that these damaging cuts are halted in the Autumn Budget
- Write to Derbyshire MPs requesting their support in persuading government to cease these cuts
- Write to all Derbyshire schools informing them of this resolution and requesting that they also lobby for the cuts to be halted.

(c) Notice of Motion received from Councillor B Lewis:

Across the East Midlands, Councils of all sizes and scales are facing significant on-going budget pressures and recognise there is a need to work together to find solutions to ensure we deliver services for the public benefit on a more efficient footprint. Upper tier Councils, including cities, have been exploring the idea of an East Midlands Strategic Alliance, which has the potential to deliver savings, transform Council services, deliver jobs and growth and therefore business rates uplift, and most critically ensure that our collective and single voice is powerful to call for more infrastructure investment across the region.

This Council resolves to explore and support, in principle, a Strategic Alliance comprised of East Midlands upper tier Authorities, LEPs and Chambers of Commerce. This will:

- Deliver further jobs and economic growth benefiting the economy by focusing resources and developing co-ordinated strategies by all the partner organisations across the region to underpin the work of the Midlands Engine.

- Develop a co-ordinated strategy and approach to lever-in Government investment in areas such as infrastructure, transport and ensuring, by working with all partners, the ambitious housing targets for the region are delivered.
- Allow Local Authorities across the region to further explore shared services and delivery, where prudent, and to look at new more efficient ways of delivering Council services to ensure best value for money for council taxpayers.
- Explore closer working and efficiencies with other services and partners such as the police, the fire authorities, health partners, including CCGs, the ambulance service and others.

This Council notes that in Derbyshire, our approach will focus on working with all partners, including businesses and relevant organisations such as Midlands Engine, Midlands Connect, HS2, East Midlands Airport, regional universities and FE colleges, Derbyshire Economic Partnership, and District and Borough Councils by utilising existing structures such as relevant boards, the Derby and Derbyshire Joint Prosperity Board (D2) and East Midlands Councils and further dialogue where needed.

This Council agrees to mandate officers to do the necessary background work and to develop a business case to report to a future Cabinet meeting.

This Council recognises that there is a clear need and ambition by all concerned to work in a more focused and co-ordinated way to deliver a Strategic Alliance to overcome significant lack of investment in infrastructure and services across the East Midlands and ensure the region has a clear and powerful voice.

**Janie Berry**  
**Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer**