

To consider the following Notices of Motion:-

(a) Motion received from Councillor A Botham:-

This Council believes that openness and transparency are an integral requirement of all elected members.

Members of the public and other elected members should always be fully aware of any interests a councillor holds when making decisions and debating issues.

To ensure that the integrity of this Council and its members are beyond accusation when acting on behalf of Derbyshire residents, it is proposed that the Members' register of interests be amended to include the requirement to declare membership of pressure groups, trade unions, the Freemasons or other influential bodies.

(b) Motion received from Councillor R Davison:-

This Council:

- Notes that:

1. Post-war social security policy and administration in the UK had always been the responsibility of central government.
2. Over the decades, the means-tested benefits providing a safety net have included a recognition that individuals and families can face exceptional pressures that can only be met by a one-off payment.
3. Since 1988 the Social Fund has provided a system of grants and loans, eg:
 - start-up items (cooker, bed and bedding) for individuals setting up home after leaving institutional care, or
 - emergency support for people affected a crisis such as fire or flood
4. The Welfare Reform Act 2012 ended Social Fund community care grants and crisis loans and passed the responsibility, with reduced funding, to upper tier councils for providing 'local welfare assistance'.
5. Since taking on responsibility in April 2013 the County Council has badged this 'local welfare assistance' as the Derbyshire Discretionary Fund.
6. The ConDem government has now announced that remaining Treasury funding will cease after 31 March 2015.

- Recognises that the proposed cessation of funding would in future leave vulnerable residents in this county and across the country with no place left to turn,

- Resolves to:

1. Work in alliance with other councils, community and pressure groups and
2. Directly lobby central government and the county's MPs

in order to secure the reversal of the ConDem decision and ensure future long term, adequate funding is available to help residents in their hour of need.