

Benefits

Notice of Motion

Motion received in terms of Standing Order No 19 on 5 January 2021, proposed by Councillor Gerry Convery, seconded by Councillor Joe Fagan, as follows:-

“This Council notes that in April this year the Government plan to cut the Benefit level for millions of claimants by ending of the time limited increase to the basic rate of Universal Credit announced by the Chancellor on the 20 March last year as part of his Pandemic response package.

The £20 a week boost reflected the reality that the level of benefits were not adequate to protect the swiftly increasing number of households relying on them as the crisis hit.

Exactly because that increase was a very significant and welcome move to bolster low and middle income families’ living standards, its removal will be a huge loss.

Pressing ahead would see the level of unemployment support fall to its lowest real- terms level since 1990-1991, and its lowest ever relative to average earnings. Indeed the basic level of out-of-work support prior to the March boost was at £73 a week (£3,800 a year), less than half the absolute poverty line.

The increase in benefits have had a positive effect on the lives of thousands of local claimants who are better able to pay for life’s essentials such as food, clothing and utilities.

The local economy has also benefited from the increase in benefit levels as claimants spend their money locally thereby supporting local businesses and jobs.

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Resolves to

Write to the Chancellor, Mr Rishi Sunak, and to the Prime Minister, Mr Boris Johnson, asking that the £20 increase to Universal Credit is made permanent and extended to claimants on legacy benefits.

Work with other like minded organisations to form a coalition to pressure the Government to make the £20 increase to Universal Credit permanent.”