

Appendix B

Council Meeting Wednesday, 20 July 2022

Agenda item 13: Proposed Amendments to Motions received by the Monitoring Officer prior to 12 noon

Underlined text = proposed additional wording

~~Strikethrough text~~ = proposed deletions

13a Cost of Living Crisis (Labour Party Amendment)

This Council calls on the Government to introduce an Emergency Budget to take urgent action to protect the people of Hackney from the cost of living crisis.

Council notes that:

- Energy costs have risen by an average of £693 per household – and are set to rise even further, with Ofgem setting the energy price cap at £2800 from October
- Food prices are soaring, some basic staples by as much as 20%
- Inflation has hit 9% – its highest level in 40 years
- Personal Taxation is now at its highest level in 70 years
- 48% of children in Hackney live in poverty and 16.5% of local residents are claiming out-of-work benefits
- Meanwhile £11.8bn of public money has been lost to fraud through the Governments covid support schemes

Council therefore resolves to write to the Prime Minister urging him to:

- Introduce an immediate Emergency Budget to protect children, families, and pensioners from the worst fall in living standards in generations
- Cut business rates for small businesses
- Cut the VAT rate on energy bills
- Increase the support available to all claimants through the welfare and benefits system
- Deliver on the calls made by UNISON, the NEU and other education unions to expand the free school meals programme to all families receiving universal credit or an equivalent benefit
- Fund Hackney Council's Green Homes programme to retrofit homes, helping to reduce home energy consumption and cut energy bills.
- Keep benefit payments in line with inflation, in a system similar to the state pension 'triple lock'

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The Council believes that the Emergency Budget must include real help for residents and local businesses in Hackney.

Amendment proposed by: Cllr Adejare

Amendment seconder: Cllr Samatar

13a. Cost of Living Crisis (Green Party Amendments)

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Council also resolves to:

1. Support the development of a 'Pledge My Check' type scheme, where beneficiaries of the £400 relief grant who do not need the additional financial support can donate it to organisations that do, and promote this scheme through the Council's social media and websites.
2. Build on our work as a Living Wage borough, by encouraging businesses throughout Hackney to end the use of zero-hour contracts and instead give employees secure, fairly paid employment.
3. To agree to undertake a consultation to remove the 15% contribution by residents eligible for full council tax support
4. Continue to protect children's centres and nurseries as a priority when faced with real-terms Government funding cuts to Local Authorities.

Amendments proposed by: Cllr Binnie-Lubbock

Amendments seconder: Cllr Garbett