

NOTICE OF MOTION

Title:	A motion to protect the Council taxpayer, DCC staff and council services against the current cost of living crisis.
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Proposer of motion:	Councillor Joan Dixon
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Background/supporting information:

This council notes:

Derbyshire County Council, as well as other local authorities, has endured central government funding cuts of more than 50% since 2010. Between 2010 and 2020, councils lost 60p out of every £1 they have received from central government.

Over the last two years, Derbyshire County Council staff have led the way in efforts against the Covid-19 pandemic, providing a huge range of services and support for our communities. Local government has shown more than ever how indispensable it is in being able to respond with speed and agility in the face of an unprecedented modern-day pandemic, using local knowledge and expertise to target services and resources to those in most need.

Council staff and school workers kept our communities safe through the pandemic, often putting themselves at considerable risk as they worked to protect public health, ensured our children continue to be educated, and looked after older and vulnerable people.

At the same time the same frontline council workers, like many other workers in both the public and private sectors, have endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing 27.5 per cent of their value since 2009/10.

Staff are now facing the worst cost of living crisis in a generation, with RPI forecast by the Office for Budgetary Responsibility (OBR) to average at 9.8% across 2022 and currently running at 11.1%.

Council staff are having to make impossible choices between food, heating and paying for other essentials.

At the same time, they have experienced ever-increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Some DCC staff have been TUPE'd out to Teckal

companies. Others have faced uncertainty due to the closure of services such as care homes and day care centres.

Local government workers deserve a fair pay increase to help with the cost of living crisis. The Government must take responsibility and fully fund any increase; it should not put the burden on either the council taxpayer or local authorities.

Motion to be proposed:

That Council recognises the cost of living crisis in Derbyshire and that the council has both a responsibility to council tax payers and its staff. This council calls for a fair pay rise for council workers, especially those on the lowest pay, to help them cope with rising costs. The financial burden for a pay rise should not fall upon the taxpayer or be at the expense of cuts to council services. Rather central government should fully fund the pay rise. Therefore, this motion calls upon the Leader to write to government to ask for additional financial support to fully fund a fair pay rise.

Date and time received:
(for completion by Democratic Services)

29 June 2022 – 10.50am