

COUNCIL – 2 DECEMBER 2020

Motion received from Councillor E Atkins:

This Council recognises the great burden placed on underprivileged families - especially in the current troubling times - and fully supports the efforts of Marcus Rashford MBE to persuade the Government to introduce free school meal vouchers for use by children during school holidays.

This Council further expresses its regret that the House of Commons recently turned down a motion to introduce free school meal holiday vouchers.

Bearing in mind the overwhelming need for this measure, backed by massive public support, this Council will move to set up its own free school meals holiday vouchers scheme without delay

Motion proposed by Councillor J Innes

This council calls upon government for an end to abuse, both verbal and physical, against shop workers and public facing workers. We urgently need new legislation to provide these workers with more protection and we need the means to enforce it. We need stiffer penalties for those who do assault workers.

Abuse should not be part of the job for these people who deserve our respect as they perform their duties. Ensuring these people are protected requires action by politicians as well as employers and the police. We need to work together to provide practical solutions to prevent abuse and violence to these workers. Last year every minute of every of day a shop worker was verbally or, even worse, physically abused. Just for doing their job!

This government asked for evidence of these abuses and it is well over a year since the closure of the call for evidence. Nothing has been done.

Now these key workers have been at the frontline during the pandemic and have faced even more abuse to ensure the public has food on the table. They have asked customers to keep to government guidelines regarding social distancing and panic buying, all within government guidelines. But this same government has let them down.