

## **Notices of Motion submitted under Standing Order B36**

### **1. By County Councillor Tomlinson**

This Council extends its sympathies and condolences to all our residents and families who have lost loved ones in the COVID-19 pandemic. Council commends everyone across the County, including many of our own staff, who have stepped forward during the last twelve months to provide help, assistance and support to all in our community in such difficult times. In doing so, this Council supports the efforts of South Ribble resident Rachael Lidgett's campaign to mark March 23rd as a day of national remembrance of all those who have died as a result of COVID-19. This Council further commits to provide publicity to the ongoing campaign and petition via its normal communications outlets.

### **2. By County Councillor Gibson**

This Council notes that between January and August 2020, there was a 74.05% increase in households in Lancashire applying for Universal Credit (figures from the meeting of the External Scrutiny Committee, 12 January 2021).

This Council notes the percentage of unemployment claimants in Lancashire at November 2020 stood at 5.9% (43,430 people) an increase from 5.7% (42,440 people) in October (figures from NOMIS ONS website) and that most of these claimants will have applied for Universal Credit for the first time.

This Council recognises the introduction of the £20.00 uplift by the Chancellor which was introduced to help with the worst effects of the pandemic.

This Council questions why this vital uplift is to be removed in April when Lancashire, along with many other areas, is still in the middle of one of the worst pandemics.

This Council therefore resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, The Right Honourable Therese Coffey MP to:

- (i) Highlight the rising cases of Universal Credit applications across Lancashire.
- (ii) Ask her to retain the £20 per week uplift in Universal Credit permanently.

### **3. By County Councillor Rear**

Council is concerned that notwithstanding the countywide 20mph speed limit in residential areas, there is mounting concern amongst residents of increased incidents of speeding traffic.

In addition to the 20mph areas, the county council has introduced other safety features at speeding 'hotspots' such as our Community Concern signs, etc. Through the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership (LRSP) we will soon be deploying four Variable Messaging Signs (VMS) Trailers that have been purchased by the county council. These four mobile units along with the two already deployed by the police will give clear messages urging motorists to slow

down. This will also give us much better coverage of the road network, with the partnership being able to cover more sites and giving us the capability to show different messages.

However, ultimately, the responsibility for controlling speeding traffic rests with the Police and the county council is concerned that more could be done to control this problem. The county council wants to continue to work in partnership, especially given the additional investment we are making, to do everything we can to keep our roads safe.

Council therefore resolves to request the Chief Executive and Director of Resources to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner asking him to seek assurances from the Chief Constable that Lancashire Constabulary is treating the problem of speeding traffic as a priority and to inform the county council what measures he proposes to minimise the risk to the people of Lancashire, including how we can work in partnership to continue to further raise awareness.

#### **4. By County Councillor Foxcroft**

Special Guardianship Orders now make up 13% of the permanency arrangements for children leaving care - greater than adoption at 12%. Special Guardianship Orders, and other less formal arrangements for looking after children who may otherwise be received into care, offer the children concerned opportunities to remain within their extended families or with close family friends. If you adopt you are entitled to statutory adoption leave which is equivalent to maternity leave. If you become a special guardian then, despite the benefits it has for the children involved, you are entitled to no statutory paid leave. Council believes the council could do more to encourage and support the uptake of Special Guardianship Orders and resolves to:

- (i) Request that the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services advocates nationally for better national standards on leave for parents undertaking Special Guardianship Orders.
- (ii) Request that the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services, in conjunction with the Director of Corporate Services, explores how the council, as employer, might support staff who are considering becoming Special Guardians and to report proposals to the Corporate Parenting Board and thereafter the Employment Committee.