

To consider Notices of Motion submitted under Standing Order B36

1. By County Councillor Barnes:

This council notes:

That we are seeing a crisis of food poverty born out of the political choices and systemic failings created over the past four decades, which have now reached a tipping point for so many in our communities. The figures are devastating for one of the richest nations in the world and highlight the inequality of the UK in 2022.

Need for food banks is already at a record high. Food banks in the Trussell Trust network gave out 2.1 million emergency food parcels between April 2021 and March 2022, a 14% rise on the year 2019/20. This comes on top of year-on-year increases in need. With inflation at a record high and the worst cost of living crisis in living memory the pressures on many families will be unbearable across Lancashire. The cost of living crisis will lead to a massive increase in child poverty across Lancashire.

Recycling Lives, a charity that works across Lancashire and Cumbria, has gone from delivering 4,000 trays of food per week during lockdown to 6,500 now. In West Lancashire alone, 4,580 households experience food insecurity, with over 2,000 children under 16 living in food insecure households. Food banks in Chorley and East Lancashire are reporting increases in demand from 30% to 50%, whilst donations are down by as much as 80%, and it's the same picture across the whole County.

We also note the Government's National Food Strategy which reported in July 2021 and was the first independent review of England's entire food system for 75 years, and its subsequent response. The 'Right to Food' campaign believes that the 11 million people currently living in food poverty must be central to the response from Government.

This council further believes:

Enshrining the 'Right to Food' into law would clarify Government obligations on food poverty and would introduce legal avenues to hold Government bodies accountable for violations.

This council resolves:

- (i) To call for the Right to Food to be incorporated in the Government's White Paper in response to the National Food Strategy. We ask the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister to further this request.
- (ii) To formally declare as a Right to Food Council and join with other councils across the country to continue to push for a Right to Food enshrined in law.
- (iii) To appoint a food security champion for Lancashire County Council.

2. By County Councillor Gibson:

This Council notes the recent decision of the Department for Transport to reject the latest bid for infrastructure funding for Skelmersdale Railway Station.

This Council further notes the long-term cross-party support for this project alongside West Lancashire Borough Council and West Lancashire MP, Rosie Cooper.

This Council believes that a new railway station in the heart of Skelmersdale linking with both Liverpool and Manchester would open-up a world of opportunities for Skelmersdale residents to access wider education, training, employment and social opportunities and that inward investment would be drawn to the new town centre benefitting the whole of the West Lancashire and wider Lancashire economy.

This council also believes that government support for the Skelmersdale Railway Station project would be a significant indicator of the government's 'levelling up' agenda and that the campaign for a Station must continue. It rejects the Department for Transport's statement that this project is 'poor value for money' - a direct contradiction to the principle of levelling up.

This Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Transport, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Prime Minister to ask them to honour their 2019 commitment to funding Skelmersdale Railway Station.

3. By County Councillor Oakes:

Lancashire County Council recognises most junior schools in Lancashire have formed eco or green councils made up of pupils from across the age range to help ensure they are doing all in their power to initiate projects to help reduce their carbon footprint and promote biodiversity both at school, traveling to and from school, and at home.

Many schools are now looking at ways in which they can help towards hitting the Government target of providing over 300,000 Electric Vehicle charger units across the country by 2030.

To this end:

- (i) Lancashire County Council commits to identifying ways it can support every school in Lancashire that indicates a wish to provide single or multiple Electric Vehicle charger points on school premises, for the use of both staff and visitors alike.
- (ii) Lancashire County Council will provide a single point of contact to co-ordinate and support this objective and let it be known this service and support is available.
- (iii) Lancashire County Council is delighted with the many environmental initiatives, of which this is just one being promoted and led by young people across Lancashire and will write to every school governing body setting out the support available.
- (iv) Lancashire County Council's electrical vehicle strategy will include a section working and supporting schools.

4. By County Councillor Dowding:

This Council notes:

- (i) That the Government introduced a moratorium on fracking on 2 November 2019 due to evidence of the relationship between hydraulic shale gas fracturing ("Fracking") and seismic events in Lancashire.
- (ii) The moratorium was hugely welcomed by large numbers of people of Lancashire following years of disruption including not only earthquakes, but noise, traffic, and distress caused by the risks to health and environment associated with the Fracking industry as it tried to set up in Lancashire.
- (iii) The lack of support for Fracking by local communities in Lancashire.
- (iv) That the new Prime Minister has lifted the ban on Fracking but has said resumption of fracking in England would also be dependent on "where there is local support for it".
- (v) That Lancashire County Council has committed to pursuing measures to combat the climate emergency.

Therefore, Lancashire County Council:

- (i) Resolves to follow examples of good practice in climate policy in its review of the Lancashire Minerals and Waste Plan due for review this autumn. The Plan will, subject to statutory obligations, advice and guidance, and to agreement with Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen, include a commitment that any application to extract hydrocarbons would have to fully reflect the "net zero impact on climate change" objective, in line with commitments the Government made in the 2008 Climate Change Act and as signatories to the Paris Climate Agreement.
- (ii) Asks the government to engage with Lancashire and other local authorities as soon as possible to clarify the criteria for determining "local support".

5. By County Councillor Williamson:

Lancashire County Council is deeply saddened by the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and extend our deepest sympathy to His Majesty King Charles III and the royal family for their loss.

Lancashire County Councillors express their gratitude to HM Queen Elizabeth II, Duke of Lancaster, for her long service to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. Her reign was the longest in British history and her duty and dedication has been an inspiration, bringing constancy through 70 years of change.

The Council commends the reforms to the monarchy during the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, including abolishing the Civil List and giving equal inheritance rights to women to the crown and fully supports the continuation of the ancient institution of the monarchy.

Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to pass on the thanks of councillors to officers of the council across Lancashire for their work during the mourning period to support the proper protocols and enable councillors, staff and residents to pay their respects to HM Queen Elizabeth II.