

NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING FOOD POVERTY

Council	15 July 2021
Report Author	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Kup, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Youth Engagement
Status	For Decision
Classification:	<i>Unrestricted</i>
Key Decision	No
Ward:	All Wards

Executive Summary:

This Council will consider a notice of motion requiring the Leader of the Council to write to the head of the National Food Strategy review to ask the review to recommend that the right to food is enshrined within the strategy.

Any motion on notice that proposes the taking of a decision where Council has not received a report from the officers setting out the technical, legal and financial implications of taking the decision in question shall only be debated.

Recommendation(s):

Council is invited to consider whether to debate the motion.

Corporate Implications

Financial and Value for Money

None arising directly from this report.

Legal

Council Procedure Rule 3.7 states that: "the Member whose name appears first on the notice will move the motion during his or her speech and call for a seconder. If seconded, a Member from the controlling political group will be entitled to a reply, after which the motion shall stand referred without further discussion to the Cabinet or appropriate committee for determination or report unless the Council decides to debate the motion in accordance with Rule 16" (*rules of debate*)

Corporate

Council Procedure Rule 3 provides the opportunity for Councillors to give advance notice of motions to be put to Council.

Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

There are no specific equalities issues arising from this report.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- *Communities*

1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 The following motion has been received from Councillor Keen in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 3:

“There is a crisis of food poverty in this country, created by political choices and systemic failings and thrown into sharp relief by the Covid pandemic. The Trussell Trust reports a soaring 81% increase in emergency food parcels from food banks in its network during the last two weeks in March 2021 compared to the same period last year and our local foodbanks tell the same story.

Some 35% of Thanet’s Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are in the top 10% most deprived LSOAs nationally. Almost 22% of Thanet children are entitled to free school meals, the highest in Kent, and this percentage is continuing to rise.

The National Food Strategy is the first independent review of England’s entire food system for 75 years. Its purpose is to set out a vision for the kind of food system we should be building for the future and a plan for how to achieve that vision. It is headed by Henry Dimbleby and next reports to the government shortly.

The Right to Food campaign is arguing that the 11 million people in food poverty should be central to this strategy. Enshrining the “right to food” in law would clarify government obligations on food poverty and introduce legal avenues to hold government bodies accountable for violations.

This council therefore calls for the right to food to be incorporated into the National Food Strategy and instructs the leader to write to Henry Dimbleby to further this demand.”

2.0 Options

- 2.1 To debate the motion and to choose whether to adopt it, if debated but Council does not then adopt it, the motion will fall. As the motion relates to a Council function only Council can agree to the motion it cannot refer it to Cabinet.
- 2.2 Not to debate the motion, in which case the motion will fall.

3.0 Decision Making Process

- 3.1 It is for Council to decide whether or not to debate the motion.

Contact Officer: Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager
Reporting to: Estelle Culligan, Head of Law and Democracy

Annex List

There are no Annexes with this report.

Background Papers

There are no Background Papers with this report.

Corporate Consultation

Finance: Chris Blundell, Director of Finance

Legal: Estelle Culligan, Director of Law and Democracy