

COUNCIL – 18 JANUARY 2017

COMPOSITE MOTION – LABOUR AND LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUPS (AGENDA ITEMS 15 AND 17)

To consider the following Composite Motion;

‘This Council is extremely concerned about the on-going crisis in Social Care and Health (via the NHS). This has been caused by unprecedented demand, and unprecedented, chronic underfunding by this Conservative Government.

Starving our social care system of resources puts lives at risk and destroys the quality of life of countless residents of Kirklees.

As local representatives it is our duty to stand up for Kirklees residents and express our deep concern.

The Motion asks that the leaders of all our political groups sign a joint letter to the relevant Secretaries of State, and campaign through local MPs and the LGA, for an adequate funding of social care and the NHS.’

This Council;

(i) notes the Local Government Finance Settlement announcement in December 2016, which will allow councils to raise council tax by up to 1.99 percent in 2017/18 to fund local services without the need for a referendum, and also allows England’s social care authorities to increase council tax by a further 3 percent in 2017/18, with income from the precept being used to spend on social care.

(ii) acknowledges that the additional council tax income will not significantly alleviate the pressure on social care now and in the long-term and the measures outlined in the Settlement fall well short of what is required to protect care services for elderly and vulnerable people.

(iii) is disappointed that the government has not given councils additional money to tackle the shortfall in social care funding, with social care now a national crises.

(iv) notes that the additional flexibility to vary the council tax precept over the remaining years of the Spending Review is not new money and does not address the £2.6 billion funding gap facing social care by the end of the decade. The estimated shortfall in the social care budget in Kirklees is £21million over the next two financial years.

(v) notes that the announcement of additional funding for social care from the New Homes Bonus is not new money, and is instead a redistribution of funding already promised to councils.

(vi) supports the Local Government Association's argument that increasing the council tax precept 'raises different amounts of money for social care in different parts of the country unrelated to need and will add an extra financial burden on already struggling households.'

(vii) is concerned that by bringing forward council tax raising powers in the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement, the government has simply shifted the burden of tackling a national crisis on to councils and their residents. This will increase the tax burden on Kirklees residents by approximately £9 million over two years.