

# Meeting of the City Council

## 20 March 2024

<b>Report title</b>	Motions on Notice	
<b>Referring body/person</b>	Councillor Stephen Simkins Councillor Celia Hibbert	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Cabinet Member with lead responsibility</b>	N/A	
<b>Accountable director</b>	David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer	
<b>Originating service</b>	Governance	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
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### Recommendation for decision:

The Council is recommended to:

Consider the motions received in accordance with the Council's procedure rules for a maximum of 50 minutes.

## 1.0 Purpose

1.1 For Council to consider the motions received:

### a. Household Support Fund

Councillor Stephen Simkins will move the following motion:

*“Whilst we welcome the six-month extension by the Chancellor in the Spring Budget, it still falls well short of the 2-year extension ask from charities who are dealing with the impact of the cost of living crisis across the country.*

*This decision will have a long-lasting effect on our struggling families in Wolverhampton and across the country, who now face an uncertain future – one where they are at risk of falling into financial crisis, destitution, and homelessness. These families will be looking to the Council for as much assistance to help with their daily living costs.*

*As we’ve seen in the Spring Budget, no such assistance will be given to local councils after the 6 months. This will be a damning testament of an uncaring government.*

*Council therefore calls upon the Conservative government to recognise the need of struggling families and extend the Household Support Fund for at least another 2 years.*

*Furthermore, Council calls upon the government to improve its wider cost of living support offer to ensure it is adequate in meeting the needs of families struggling with cost of living pressures in our city.”*

### b. Recycling Bin Collection

Councillor Celia Hibbert will move the following motion:

*“The Council Notes that:*

*There is a great concern by well-meaning residents of our city, regarding the “major rule-change” of recycling bin collection which came into effect on the 29th of this January.*

*The rule change, which is meant to improve recycling, has in fact resulted to a staggering 2,370 grey bins refused by collection teams in the first week, of this “major rule change”.*

*Roughly 1 in every 15 bins in our city was not collected in the first week alone following the “rule change”.*

*This Council notes that the campaign for 'check before you chuck' began only in December and this "major rule change" commenced barely a month after.*

*This Council notes that there has been significant amount of anxiety, frustration and panic caused in our community, which has resulted to several complaints, online comments, calls, and emails to both Councillors and staff. In addition to having a negative impact directly on residents, our streets are now an eyesore with several bins left uncollected on a whim.*

*This Council notes that it wasn't that long ago the tip opening times were drastically reduced. This Council notes that there has been a reduction in the frequency of both recycling, and general waste bin collection, plus introduction of charges for purple bin waste. Yet, on the other hand council tax is continually increasing.*

*This Council notes that there is only so much sacrifice residents can make before their resilient spirits start to completely disintegrate, especially with the additional stress from the on-going cost of living crisis.*

*This Council notes that tackling contamination of recyclable waste is a top priority for this Council but this, CANNOT be achieved by draconian measures. This can only be achieved by building mutual trust and cooperation between this council and the residents of our city.*

*This Council believes that:*

*This rule change is unnecessarily punitive, it will only lead to trust breakdown and make it almost impossible for the aims and objectives to be realized.*

*Believes that this Council must first, exhaust all corporative, positive, and proactive measures such as, but not limited to:*

- 1. Examining behaviours linked to increasing recycling.*
- 2. Extensive Education; Like regular reminders of what items are recyclable, where residents can order bins/bags/boxes to recycle; this will help to build residents psychological capabilities towards recycling.*
- 3. Enthusiastic/Sustained Campaigns; Adverts for recycling in different parts of the community, electronic and non-electronic billboards, jingles in local radios, adverts on newspapers, regular posts on online platforms, create interactive and accessible website, etcetera.*
- 4. Incentivization or rewards; A local park bench made from recycled wood from the community. Congratulations and praise for the Wards which are topping the charts for the most recycling - every quarter or twice a year. Rewards can come from the Council, Council's ceremonial mayor or green investments in our city.*

5. *Modelling; Locals or celebrities can be asked to take part in a live challenge in the middle of the town centre to recycle a pile of items into the correct bins as quickly as possible.*

*These are just a few examples.*

*This Council believes that; mutual understanding, trust and respect between this Council and its residents are fundamental to achieving our collective goals, targets, and ambitions for our City.*

**THE COUNCIL RESOLVES THAT:**

*This Council must immediately call off this "major rule" change and go back on the drawing board.*

*This Council agrees that the Cabinet Member launches a public consultation and must liaise with ward Councillors, so that they can enable robust participation of their respective constituents who have been affected and who are prone to being affected sooner or later.*

*That this Council focuses the public consultation on the drivers and barriers to residents recycling in order to properly inform our next steps.*

*And finally, this Council puts out a sincere statement, regretting the leadership of the Cabinet Member for Environment over this matter and gives assurances to never again, advertently or inadvertently, cause unwarranted panic, distress, or confusion to Residents in our City of Wolverhampton."*