

MOTION TO EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL
27 June 2023

Motion: Support for ‘Guarantee Our Essentials’ Campaign

East Lothian Council:

Notes the significant increase in assistance being provided by foodbanks across East Lothian and commends all the staff and volunteers who support the most complex and vulnerable lives in our communities.

Notes that 90% of low-income households receiving Universal Credit are going without at least one essential like food, a warm home or toiletries, all of which evidences that the increased costs of living are not adequately reflected in uprating to social security support.

Supports the promotion of the joint Trussell Trust and Joseph Rowntree Foundation Campaign calling on the UK Government for an ‘essentials guarantee’ to make sure the basic rate of Universal Credit is sufficient to afford the basics each of us needs to live for which more details are available at: <https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-involved/campaigns/guarantee-our-essentials/>

Therefore instructs the Leader of the Council to write to the Trust/Rowntree Foundation to express the Council’s support for their campaign and also to the UK Government to express the Council’s support for the campaign, highlighting what we know of poverty, the efforts being coordinated across East Lothian and the extent to which this still does not meet the needs within our communities, and call for the basic rate of Universal Credit to be enough to afford the essentials we all need, such a food, energy and basic household goods – and that deductions can never pull people below this line.

Proposed by (name): Councillor Lyn Jardine
Date: 13 June 2023

Seconded by (name): Councillor Cher Cassini
Date: 14 June 2023

Received by (name of officer): Linda Gillie, Team Manager, Democratic and Licensing
Date: 14 June 2023