

## **Motions for Full Council, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

### **Motion 1) Councillor Jones to propose and Councillor Oxley to second:**

- i) Rutland County Council declares a climate emergency and commits to appointing Rutland's Climate Change Champion (to mirror the Armed Forces Champion) at Annual Council.
- ii) Rutland County Council commits to achieving zero carbon activity by 2030.
- iii) Rutland County Council will include a standard paragraph "impact on the climate and the Council's aim to reduce carbon emissions" in every Council and Cabinet report.
- iv) Rutland County Council will report annually, through the Annual Governance Statement, progress made to achieve net zero carbon emissions.

### **Motion 2) Councillor Burrows to propose and Councillor MacCartney to second:**

#### **Stand Up for Carers**

#### 1. Council notes that:

- a. Carers – paid and unpaid, young and old – do a remarkable and important job. They are an integral part of our Rutland community, and whilst we acknowledge the excellent support many receive from our social services teams locally, we know that they often feel alone and undervalued.
- b. Carers in Rutland and across the country face big challenges every single day; challenges that have been made even harder by the Covid-19 pandemic. Most are having to spend more time looking after loved ones during the pandemic; most haven't been able to take a single break since it started; and most are simply exhausted.
- c. Situations provoking care interventions can happen with little warning. Often those giving care have to reduce their working hours or give up work to juggle competing demands.
- d. The pressures on young carers can negatively impact on their experiences and outcomes in education, having a lasting effect on their life chances.
- e. Many carers are unaware of their entitlement to financial support, a carer's assessment or break, and the support services available.

#### 2. Council further notes that:

- a. Approximately 491 full-time unpaid carers in Rutland are entitled to receive Carer's Allowance, with around 286 currently relying on it.  
(Source: DWP Stat-Xplore)
  - b. At just £67.25 a week, Carer's Allowance is the lowest benefit of its kind.
  - c. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government increased the Universal Credit standard allowance and the Working Tax Credit basic element by £20 a week above the planned uprating in April 2020, but it has not increased Carer's Allowance.
  - d. Many unpaid carers are facing extreme financial hardship. A recent survey by Carers UK found that more than a third of those on Carer's Allowance are struggling to make ends meet. Many have been struggling for months, often relying on foodbanks to feed themselves and the people they care for.
  - e. The Carers UK survey found that "43% of carers felt that a rise in Carer's Allowance would help them, given the financial pressures they are facing."
3. Council resolves that:
- a. We must stand up for carers, do more to support them, and build a more caring society as we emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic.
  - b. We will review how carers in Rutland are made aware of existing support that is available and to bring back any recommendations to the full council.
  - c. Promote Young Carers Action Day on March 16th 2021 as widely as possible on an annual basis, particularly to young carers and their families.
4. Council calls on the Leader of the Council to:
- a. Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, urging them to raise Carer's Allowance by £20 a week immediately, in line with the increase in Universal Credit, and copy in our local MP, asking for their support.