

**Amendment submitted by Councillors LeCount, Criscione, Smith, Pavitt and Gregory**

**Member Motion: Call on Government to retain the £20 per week Universal Credit Uplift, as proposed by Councillor Khan and seconded by Councillor Caton - Full Council, 5 October 2021**

*To insert and remove wording as follows (bold italics denotes additional wording – wording to be removed has been struck through):*

**Amended Motion:**

This Council recognises the positive impact of the £20 uplift on Universal Credit implemented **by the Government** in April 2020.

It is now increasingly likely that the ~~Government will withdraw the~~ **temporary** £20 Universal credit uplift **will be brought to an end** meaning **there are** many families in Uttlesford **who** are potentially facing a loss of £1,040 a year to their incomes overnight.

Official statistics from the Local Government Association indicate that 4,806 people were claiming Universal Credit in Uttlesford in August 2021. 2,078 were in employment.

At the end of the month, two of the major protections to ~~protect~~ household finances in Uttlesford during the pandemic are scheduled to end. These are:

The Job Retention Scheme and

~~The~~ £20 a week increase in Universal Credit.

October will also see a 12% rise in the maximum amount energy providers can charge which will see people having to pay more to heat their homes.

Therefore:

The Council calls on the UK government to **continue to support those in need through the benefits system, but to also prioritise investment and support into employment and skills to further help families in Uttlesford as the country emerges from the Covid-19 pandemic.**

- I. ~~help families in Uttlesford by retaining the £20 uplift.~~
- II. ~~The Council agrees to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and our MP Kemi Badenoch, who is now a Minister in the Department for Levelling Up, requesting they retain the £20 uplift on Universal Credit. This will send a clear message to our residents following the pandemic which has resulted in acute financial pressures, job losses and increased debt, that we believe in fairness.~~

***Furthermore, this Council believes in immediate, positive and direct action which will have an effect on people's lives. Accordingly, Council resolves;***

***a. To invite all Councillors to donate to the Uttlesford Food Bank during the month of November 2021, up to the extent of their Councillor's allowances for the month of November 2021, such monies to be used collectively to provide additional support and comfort during the Christmas and winter period to those of our residents in greatest need, through the Uttlesford Food Bank.***

***b. That Cllr Le Count report back to the first full Council of 2022 on the actions undertaken and extent of the additional support provided to residents and that the Director of Finance be requested to monitor the expenditure undertaken."***

Amendment put forward by Cllr LeCount and seconded by Cllr Gregory

Supported by

Cllr Pavitt  
Cllr Criscione  
Cllr Smith