

**COUNCIL
19 SEPTEMBER 2024**

PUBLIC DOCUMENT

TITLE OF REPORT: NOTICE OF MOTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 4.8.12

The following amendment to a motion has been submitted.

Motion on the Two Child Limit to Benefit Payments

In North Hertfordshire, 2120 children in 590 households are currently affected by the two-child limit to benefit payments. That is 7% of all children in the authority area. At the same time, 5270 local children are living in poverty.

Council strongly believes that the two-child limit to benefit payments is a cruel and harmful policy that should be scrapped. Research from the University of York has shown its introduction has had no positive impacts on employment and earnings. Instead, it has dragged thousands of local families into poverty.

Council notes that the Liberal Democrats have consistently opposed the two-child limit to benefit payments since it was introduced – calling for it to be axed in their 2017, 2019 and 2024 manifestos. Council notes with concern the stance of the Labour Government, who are committed to keeping the cap – going as far as suspending the whip from MPs who rebel against this position. Council welcomes the new Labour government setting up a child poverty task force, and looks forward to working with central government to ensure its recommendations are effectively implemented.

Council resolves to:

Instruct the Leader of North Herts Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister indicating North Herts Council's strong belief that the two-child limit to benefit payments should be scrapped – which would help 2120 children living in North Hertfordshire.

Further instruct the Council Leader to write to all MPs covering the district of North Hertfordshire, asking them to commit their public support to the campaign to end the cruel two-child limit to benefit payments and ensure the number of children a family has is considered when a hardship grant is given out by the Council.

Proposed by: Councillor Chris Lucas

Seconded by: Councillor Tim Johnson

Amendment proposed by: Councillor Nigel Mason

Amendment seconded by: Councillor Daniel Wright-Mason