

MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION

Except for motions which can be moved without notice under Rule 4.01.13 of the Constitution, written notice of every motion signed by at least two Councillors must be delivered to the Proper Officer not later than 12 noon, eight working days before the date of the meeting. These will be entered in a book open to public inspection.

COMMITTEE	FULL COUNCIL	DATE	23/10/20
DATE RECEIVED		SUBMITTED BY	Cllr Andrew Barry

MOTION:

We the undersigned, motion that Council present the following correspondence to the Welsh Government on the subject of Coronavirus Business Support.

RE: Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's Response to the Current Financial Assistance for the Business Community

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council would like to thank Welsh Government for their tremendous hard-work reacting to the Covid-19 pandemic and specifically the associated business support via previous funding schemes that helped stabilise the economy during the spring and summer periods.

In Merthyr Tydfil we are in constant dialogue with our business community, all of which are experiencing a variety of different challenges. One particularly concerning trend is of businesses that go into a 'state of hibernation' because they simply cannot start trading again, needing to reduce staff levels and making people redundant. In addition these enterprises still have overheads to pay without any subsequent income coming in and, as a result, we are seeing ever increasing business closures.

With regards to the current climate and the new tranche of support available / being proposed by Welsh Government, whilst welcomed, it is judged that the assistance is insufficient in scope and incompatible with our business community's current need.

In specific relation to the third Economic Resilience Fund Grant, is incredibly difficult to justify that businesses, at this stage of their Covid-19 operations, should be asked to diversify and add/explore alternative

methods of trading as per the 5 themes set out in the criteria. Whilst it is acknowledged that there have been some additional elements added to broaden these themes, it is simply the case that businesses need a level of financial assistance just to continue to exist.

Further to the immediate need for business aid, we have faced numerous questions from local enterprises regarding what long-term financial support packages will come from Welsh Government and what milestones are businesses required to work toward to get through the pandemic.

Each local authority has its number of mainstay businesses, large employers that are integral drivers for local and regional supply chains. These businesses should be a priority going forward, finding additional financial packages to support them through this economically challenging period as the ripple effect of any closure would heavily decrease the commercial viability of an area.

In conclusion, the current suite of financial support from Welsh Government does not go far enough to support the majority of businesses in Merthyr Tydfil and it is respectfully urged that there is a review of the current level of support. Furthermore, it is requested that the criteria in order to unlock funding should be the responsibility of Local Authorities, who are best placed understand their business communities and reach positive solutions for their local economies.

Councillor Andrew Barry

Councillor Geraint Thomas



