

**NOTICE OF MOTION****LABOUR & CO-OPERATIVE GROUP****SUPPORT EXTRA FUNDING FOR THE  
LOCAL DISCRETIONARY SOCIAL FUND**

“This Council notes that the government, as part of its welfare reform programme, will abolish the Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants scheme from April 2013, thereafter delegating responsibility and implementation to Local Authorities of a new scheme, the Local Discretionary Social Fund.

This Council also notes that the government is to dramatically reduce the amount of money available to local authorities for this new scheme with funding based on 2005/2006 levels of demand for the current Crisis Loan programme. As household budgets are squeezed across the city and the government’s welfare reforms become a reality, the fear is that more and more people will turn to legal and illegal loan sharks in order to make up the shortfall in the help available.

This Council therefore calls on the Chief Executive to write to the Minister for the Department of Work and Pensions to ask that more money is available for the new scheme, based on current demand and the anticipated increase as a result of the government’s welfare reforms.”

Proposed by Cllr Fitch

Seconded by Cllr Farrow

Supported by: Cllrs Mitchell, Morgan, Hamilton, Pissaridou, Meadows, Marsh, Carden, Gilbey, Wilson, Lepper and Robins.

