

Agenda Item 13c

Ordinary Council Meeting of: 11 October 2022
Holder/Ashmore

AGENDA ITEM 13c - Notice of Motion - Tackling child poverty during the cost of living crisis

Amendment:

1. Insert in Council notes new Point 11

That the Director of Education, at the request of the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services, wrote to all Heads in the city on 9 September as follows:

"As the cost of living crisis deepens we are aware of a growing demand from parents for help with school uniform.

A reminder therefore about the statutory guidance from the Department for Education that was published last year requiring schools and their governing boards to have regard to it when developing and implementing their school and trust uniform policies. [New rules to drive down cost of school uniform for families - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-rules-to-drive-down-cost-of-school-uniform-for-families)

It should be read alongside the non-statutory guidance on school uniforms. The purpose of this guidance is to ensure the cost of school uniforms is reasonable and secures the best value for money.

Families that are struggling to afford school uniform can get support from The HIVE Portsmouth [Uniform Share Store | HIVE Portsmouth](#) which operates from Central Library, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth.

Parents seeking additional items of school uniform can email uniform@hiveportsmouth.org.uk or phone 023 9261 6709 with their requests, uniform can be collected from the Central Library.

The project has supported around 700 families since April 2022, mainly with donated clothes, but also using a small amount of funding from the Covid support grant. The Hive has been very busy with requests for school uniform over the last few weeks and completed over 350 orders in August alone. This is an increase on August 2021 of nearly 100 completed orders.

Schools or parents wishing to donate outgrown uniform can arrange to do so by dropping off to the HIVE, Central library, phoning 023 9261 6709 or by contacting Hive Portsmouth via the [website](#). They currently have a good supply of generic uniform items. For secondary schools the main items they receive requests for are blazers, ties, skirts with logos and PE kits with the logo or in house colours. For infant, junior and primary schools the gap tends to be for jumpers, cardigans and polo necks with the school logo on it."

Under 'Full Council Resolves'

1, Add 'again' after 'schools' in line two.

Recommendation to now read:

To ask the relevant Cabinet Portfolio holder to write to all Portsmouth schools again, requesting they stop the use of mandatory branded school uniform items where unbranded items can be bought at more affordable prices.

2. Replace "To ask Cabinet to consider extending" with "To ask Cabinet to call on Government, in light of the current constraints to council budgets - a cut in real terms - to extend"

Recommendation to now read:

To ask Cabinet to call on Government, in light of the current constraints to council budgets - a cut in real terms - to extend Free School Meal provision to children in households

experiencing financial hardship but who do not meet the restrictive national criteria.

Proposed by (Name) Councillor Ian Holder

Signed _____

Seconded by (Name) Councillor Dave Ashmore

Signed _____

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