

# MOTION ON NOTICE



**Date of Council Meeting:** 24 November 2025

**Title of Motion:** Two-child benefit cap

**Motion Narrative:**

The two-child benefit cap, announced in 2015 by the then Conservative Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne, restricts means-tested benefits like Universal Credit.

The policy was intended to improve employment rates, increase working hours and reduce fertility rates; according to House of Commons Library research there has been no significant change to any of these areas.

Campaigners at the Child Poverty Action Group forecast the number of children living in poverty will rise to 4,700,000 by the end of this Parliament, in large part because of this policy.

The Institute for Public Policy Research has argued that the Government should increase taxation on online gambling; the former Prime Minister Gordon Brown, along with others, has argued that this increased income from taxation should be used to fund changes to the two-child benefit cap.

Council believes that tackling child poverty is vital not only for the wellbeing of children today but also to ensure this for children of future generations.

**Action Required:**

Council requests that the Leader of the Council writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer encouraging them to tackle child poverty by lifting the two-child benefit cap.

**Proposer:** Councillor Maria Lawson

**Seconded:** Councillor Jaime Bannerman