



**Council – 3 December 2020**

## **Notice of Motion – Basic Income**

**Notice of Motion from Councillors Mary Sherwood, Rob Stewart, Andrea Lewis, David Hopkins, Jan Curtice, Mike Lewis, Mark Child, Des Thomas, Sam Pritchard, Wendy Lewis, Lesley Walton, Robert Francis-Davies, Louise Gibbard, Alyson Pugh & Ceri Evans**

That this Council:

- a) believes that the current benefits system is failing citizens and is causing hardship to many communities in Swansea;
- b) notes the concept of a Universal Basic Income (UBI) where citizens are paid a non means tested sum from the state to cover the basic cost of living, which is paid to all citizens individually, regardless of employment status, wealth, or marital status;
- c) believes that testing a UBI is needed, as a UBI has the potential to address key challenges such as inequality, poverty, precarious employment, and loss of community through:
  - i) giving employers a more flexible workforce whilst giving employees greater freedom to change their job;
  - ii) valuing unpaid work, such as caring for family members and voluntary work;
  - iii) removing the negative impacts of benefit sanctions and conditionality;
  - iv) giving people more equal resources within the family, workplace and society.
- d) notes the work of the UBI Lab network in developing proposals for pilots to test a UBI;
- e) believes that the success of a UBI pilot should not be measured only by impact upon take-up of paid work, but also the impact upon communities and what the people within them do, how they feel, and how they relate to others and the environment around them;
- f) believes that, given its history of social innovation, wealth of expertise, and active networks across community, business and public services, Swansea is ideally placed to pilot a UBI;
- g) resolves to work with UBI Lab Swansea & Wales to prompt discussions within and beyond the city around a basic income;
- h) resolves to send a copy of this Motion to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Chancellor, the leader of the party in Government, their counterparts in all opposition political parties in Parliament, the First Minister of Wales and to all Swansea MPs.