

Notice of Motion (Full Council)

Title of Motion: **Sandwell's Charity Partners Under Pressure**

Date of Council meeting the motion is to be submitted to: 4 November 2025

Proposer: Councillor Richard Jeffcoat

Seconder: Councillor John Tipper

Motion:

“Council recognises with admiration the work of 200 registered charities across our borough and continues to support those charities that provide partnership services for our council, in areas such as health and care, at a time of continuing financial uncertainty.

Council notes that the November 2024 UK Budget raised the minimum wage, and adjusted National Insurance Employers' Contributions. These changes had a big impact on small and medium sized businesses, whose contributions increased in April of this year. While charities whose turnovers are less than £1 million are exempt, several larger charities that deliver services using grant funding provided by Sandwell Council were adversely affected. Further adjustments that might ultimately affect the services these charities deliver to Sandwell residents are expected in next month's Budget.

Council calls on the Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation as part of the ongoing review of voluntary and community sector support to introduce an annual review mechanism in cases where the Council has commissioned services for a period of several years. This mechanism to explore options to take account of factors such as inflation rates or changes arising from UK national Budget announcements to ensure the consistent delivery of the excellent services these charities provide to Sandwell residents, subject to this being contained within approved budget allocations”