

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 July 2011

Notice of Motion No. 19 – Affordable Credit

To consider the following notice of motion submitted by:

Councillor Jon Hubbard - Melksham South Division and
Councillor Mark Packard - Chippenham Pewsham Division

“This Council notes and welcomes the UK-wide campaign to end ‘legal loan sharking’.

This Council believes that the lack of access to affordable credit is socially and economically damaging with unaffordable credit causing a myriad of unwanted effects such as poorer diets, colder homes, rent, council tax and utility arrears, depression and poor health.

This Council further believes that unaffordable credit is extracting wealth from the most deprived communities.

This Council supports the principle that it is the responsibility of all levels of government to try to ensure affordable credit.

This Council therefore welcomes the various Credit Unions in Wiltshire and ask council to assist all it can in promoting them through council publications and website.

This Council urges residents who may have experienced difficulties in obtaining credit at reasonable rates to contact their local credit union and also encourages other residents to consider supporting the credit union by opening a savings account.

This Council calls on the Government to introduce a cap on the total lending rate that can be charged for providing credit

This Council calls on the Government to give local authorities the power to veto licenses for high street credit agencies where they could have negative economic or social impacts on communities.”

A report is attached to assist Council in its consideration of this motion.