

## Notice of Motion

<b>General Subject:</b> Credit Crunch		
<b>Proposer:</b> Cllr S Doubell <b>Seconder:</b> Cllr D Allen	<b>Date proposed at Council:</b> 24/02/09	<b>Minute No:</b>

This Council is aware of the problems caused to residents and small businesses in North Wiltshire caused by recent high inflation, the "credit crunch" and subsequent economic recession, and resolves to minimise their impact through the following actions in the period up till March 31<sup>st</sup>:

- *Paying due invoices without delay, noting with regret that this Council has been given a 'poor' rating for paying invoices on time, in the performance information for the 2009/10 Wiltshire budget*
- *Being understanding and flexible where residents and local businesses are having difficulty making payments to the District Council;*
- *Referring residents in financial difficulties to debt advisory services;*
- *Running a good neighbour campaign to encourage residents to keep an eye out for their neighbours to ensure they have enough food and heat, particularly the elderly and vulnerable;*
- *Providing a hotline number for people to call if they are having problems, or know of people having problems, staying warm or getting appropriate balanced meals;*
- *Working with the voluntary sector to support those who find themselves in difficulty, including advice on benefits entitlement, energy advice, staying warm and accessing affordable food;*
- *Investigating participating in a mortgage rescue scheme that would enable housing associations to take an equity share in the homes of owner-occupiers who are having difficulty meeting their mortgage payments;*

Furthermore this Council commends these actions to the Implementation Executive for the period in which they will have responsibility for the welfare of the citizens of North Wiltshire, and commends them as good practice to the successor Wiltshire Council.