

Council 16th March 2022

Item 18: Motion: “Review decision to impose a charge on testing kits for COVID 19”

Amendment from the Opposition Conservative Group

Proposer: Cllr Matt Hartley. Seconder: Cllr Nigel Fletcher.

Delete everything between “This Council” and “We also believe” and replace with “believes”.

Delete the final three paragraphs and replace with:

“This Council therefore resolves to use part of its £4.998 million of ‘Recovery and Renewal’ one-off capacity, created from unallocated central Government funding for the 2022/23 financial year, to set up a Greenwich Covid Testing Fund - providing free testing kits to Greenwich households on low incomes or in vulnerable circumstances.

“This Council believes that motions simply calling on other stakeholders to act on issues affecting residents of our borough - without at least, also, committing the Council to take action itself within its resources and capabilities - amount to a wasted opportunity to serve the residents we were elected to serve. This Council is a local authority, not a debating club.”

If amended, motion will read:

“This Council believes that families on local incomes, those who already rely on support through Foodbanks and those who are vulnerable should automatically continue to receive free testing.”

“This Council therefore resolves to use part of its £4.998 million of ‘Recovery and Renewal’ one-off capacity, created from unallocated central Government funding for the 2022/23 financial year, to set up a Greenwich Covid Testing Fund - providing free testing kits to Greenwich households on low incomes or in vulnerable circumstances.

“This Council believes that motions simply calling on other stakeholders to act on issues affecting residents of our borough - without at least, also, committing the Council to take action itself within its resources and capabilities - amount to a wasted opportunity to serve the residents we were elected to serve. This Council is a local authority, not a debating club.”