

RESOLVED that Kettering Borough Council welcomes the UK-wide campaign to end 'legal loan sharking' which has included the collection of Borough residents' signatures on a petition in Kettering Town Centre. We believe that the lack of access to affordable credit is socially and economically damaging. Unaffordable credit can cause a myriad of unwanted effects, such as poorer diets, colder homes, rent, council tax and utility arrears, depression (which impacts on job-seeking behaviour) and poor health.

We are concerned by the targeted advertising used by loan companies, which target members of the armed forces, students and those receiving tax credits and child benefit. We note that unaffordable credit is extracting wealth from our most deprived communities and believe it is the responsibility of all levels of government to try to ensure affordable credit for all.

We therefore pledge to:

- (i) use best practice to promote financial literacy and affordable lending to ensure wealth stays in the Kettering economy;
- (ii) continue to promote credit unions in the Borough which offer access to affordable credit and which encourage saving;
- (iii) refer this issue to a task and finish group of the Research and Development Committee to enable the Council to consider all the implications, form a better understanding of the role the Council can play in supporting our residents and develop a clear policy; and
- (iv) recommend that the task and finish group considers how the Council can lobby Government to strengthen the rules governing the issue of lending licences and address the lack of affordable credit and how the Council can promote financial literacy and affordable lending.

(Voting 28 For, 0 Against, 1 Not Voting)