

## **Motion 1 - Birthing Centre**

### **Accepted reworded motion from the published agenda pack**

*To be moved by Councillor Rana, seconded by Councillor Zaheer that:*

“This Council warmly congratulates the Pennine Acute Trust for listening to local residents and agreeing to set up a birthing centre at the Rochdale Infirmary.

The Council further congratulates the Friends of Rochdale Maternity Care for leading the campaign to return maternity services to the borough.

The midwife-led birthing centre is expected to open soon and will be important facility for expectant mothers who do not have the space or privacy for a home birth.

The Council supports continued investment in NHS maternity services to provide the most expert and safest care for mothers and babies during childbirth. However it also recognises the need to provide local facilities for uncomplicated births for those mothers who would like to give birth at home but are unable to do so.”

## **Motion 2 - Recover, Retrain, Rebuild**

### **Conservative Group Amendment to “Recover, Retrain, Rebuild” Motion**

*To be moved by Councillor Dearnley, seconded by Councillor Sullivan that:*

“The Council notes the scheme announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 24/09/2020 whereby the Job Retention Scheme in place since March 2020 and October 2020, where the Government covered 80% of wages if workers could not work due to Covid-19 will cease, and a new scheme where 22% of wages will be covered as long as at least one third of normal hours are worked.

The Council believes that while the Job Retention Scheme was a historic investment of taxpayers' money to avert widespread job losses, this massive, unprecedented investment will, essentially, go to waste as millions of people, including thousands in the Borough of Rochdale, who have suffered throughout the Covid-19 crisis, now face the very real prospect of unemployment as their jobs are not viable to return to at this moment in time under Covid-19.

This Council believes we need a strategy that focuses on recovering jobs, retraining workers and rebuilding our country. This strategy must involve:

- 1) A job Recovery Scheme that allows staff to work reduced hours, with the Government subsidising a proportion of wages for the rest of the week. The scheme should be designed to reward companies who bring back more workers part-time, rather than bringing some back full-time and letting others go.
- 2) A nationwide Retraining Strategy for the unemployed and those facing unemployment. This strategy must help those whose hours have been cut to increase their skills to retrain, and enable people who have lost jobs to transition into new work.

- 3) A business Rebuilding Scheme which must give businesses, who have taken advantage of Government loan schemes, the payments for which start in March, the confidence and security that they will be able to continue operating past March 2021, or else a whole new set of businesses and workers may well be pushed back underneath then. ***The Council supports the Prime Minister, Chancellor and local civic leaders working together and constantly revisiting and improving their schemes, in partnership with business and trade unions to ensure that our Borough and country recovers, retrains and rebuilds.***