

RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION



Decision taken by individual Cabinet member

(All sections must be completed (mark "N/A" as applicable))

DECISION MAKER *(Name and designation)*

Councillor Gareth Williams, Leader of the Council

DECISION AND THE REASON(S) FOR IT

The decision is to submit a formal letter and consultation response to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Liz Kendall MP, and Alex Baker, MP for Aldershot regarding the Government's Green Paper: 'Pathways to Work: Reforming Benefits and Support to Get Britain Working'. This response reflects the views of the Council, informed by a local consultation with residents, community organisations, and disability advocacy groups.

The reason for this decision is to ensure that the voices of vulnerable resident, particularly those with disabilities, long-term health conditions, and mental health challenges are represented in national policy discussions. The Council has received significant feedback expressing concern about the potential negative impacts of the proposed reforms, including:

- **Increased financial insecurity** due to potential reductions in benefits such as Personal Independence Payment (PIP).
- **Barriers to employment** caused by delays in Access to Work assessments and inadequate support structures.
- **Lack of accessibility** in government communications, particularly for non-English speakers and disabled residents.
- **Insufficient consultation** with young people and underrepresented groups.
- **Concerns about the effectiveness** of the Disability Confident scheme and the need for stronger employer accountability.

DATE DECISION TAKEN

26 June 2025

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

(Those examined by officers and generated by consultation, etc)

The Leader and Councillor Jules Crossley, Policy, Performance & Sustainability Portfolio Holder, consulted with relevant portfolio holders in making this decision. A cross-party working group made up of councillors and local organisations was formed to be able in order to inform the response. Additionally, survey results and findings were discussed at a Policy and Projects board meeting on Tuesday 10 June.

The only alternative option would have been not to respond to the proposed reform. However, this would have limited our ability to comment on certain areas, as the government only invited

responses to specific fields. Given the significance of the expected impacts on the council and residents, this was not considered an appropriate option.

ANY CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

(conflict of interests of any executive member who is consulted by the officer which relates to the decision. A note of dispensation should be attached).

N/A

Signed

(Decision maker)

Designation: Leader of the Council