

**COUNCIL MEETING – 6 DECEMBER 2017
NOTICE OF MOTION**

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NOS. 53-60

MOTION NO.	PROPOSER	SECONDER	MOTION
127	Councillor Rostron	Councillor Thompson	<p>'Middlesbrough achieved Fairtrade Town status 2007. The Council reaffirms its support for Fairtrade and recognises the role of the Middlesbrough Fairtrade Group in promoting Fairtrade in Middlesbrough. Middlesbrough Council remains fully committed to using Fairtrade products, including tea, coffee and sugar, in meetings and at events. Furthermore, the Council will continue to encourage local organisations to join the campaign and will continue to promote and participate in the town's programme of Fairtrade events and activities.'</p>
128	Councillor D Rooney	Councillor G Purvis	<p>"There is a rise in the use of food banks across the country, this is linked to welfare reform and the roll out of Universal Credit. The Trussell Trust report that many people are having to choose between buying food or fuel. We know that welfare reform is affecting many people, including people in work and low paid jobs. Austerity is affecting women more and therefore period poverty is a reality and forces many women to choose between putting food on the table and buying sanitary products. This affects both adult women and girls, in a recent survey by Plan International UK, it was found that 10% of 14-24 year olds surveyed had been unable to buy sanitary products and there are girls missing out on their education because they cannot afford sanitary protection. Women and girls do not have a choice whether to have a period or not. For a family where there is a mother and two daughters who have periods, the average cost per month of buying sanitary products is £20. Where women cannot afford sanitary products they are using socks, toilet roll and napkins from fast food restaurants.</p> <p>Scotland are leading the way and piloting a scheme in Aberdeen, where women can have an S-Card, similar to the C-Card scheme for condoms. The S-card enables a woman to go into a pharmacy and exchange for free sanitary products. Some food banks and community hubs may have sanitary products women can access but these are not open seven days a week. There needs to be a system where women in need can easily access free sanitary products to meet a basic</p>

			<p>need, maintain dignity and hygiene.</p> <p>Middlesbrough Council believes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that no woman in the Tees Valley should be forced into poverty due to her periods. • no girl should miss school because of her period • no woman should miss work or college because of her period <p>This Council pledges its full support for the Tees Valley Free Period campaign.</p> <p>This Council will commit to further work and explore how a similar scheme to Scotland would operate and be funded in Middlesbrough.”</p>
129	Councillor T Harvey	Councillor N Walker	<p>"This Council recognises the detrimental impact that Universal Credit will have on the over 18,000 people in Middlesbrough who already are or will be impacted by the move to Universal Credit. Research from Citizens Advice indicates that over half of claimants of universal credit are in debt, putting huge anxiety and stress onto families. Social security should seek to prevent people falling into debt. Universal Credit in its current form encourages debt, as people take out loans in desperation to look after themselves and their families whilst waiting for their benefit.</p> <p>While this Council welcomes the decision by the government to delay the roll-out of Universal Credit in Middlesbrough until July 2018, it believes that a longer pause is needed to re-examine its timescales for recipients of Universal Credit and to fix the wider issues of the scheme. This Council calls on the Government to halt the Universal Credit roll-out until such issues are resolved."</p>