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## **SPECIAL MOTION NO. 3 – CALL FOR A SEA-CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT’S TREATMENT OF DISABLED PEOPLE**

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Standing in the names of:

- (i) Councillor Ben Coleman
- (ii) Councillor Patricia Quigley

This Council supports the Labour administration’s aspiration for Hammersmith & Fulham to be the most inclusive borough in the country.

The Council welcomes the Labour administration’s commitment to continuing to provide free home care and reduced prices for meals on wheels - a commitment matched by no other council.

The Council welcomes the report of Hammersmith & Fulham’s Independent Disabled People’s Commission and supports the administration’s commitment to the full implementation of the report’s recommendations - despite severe cuts in government funding. Those recommendations include:

- Taking a human rights approach to policy and services, using the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as the framework for change.
- Working in co-production with Disabled residents on the development, implementation and monitoring of policy.

The Council notes that:

- The UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has identified the British government as failing to uphold disabled people’s human rights.
- The Department for Work and Pensions has confirmed that more than 4,500 Disabled people were wrongly stripped of their Personal Independence Payment in the switch from the previous Disability Living Allowance.
- The DWP has confirmed that 180,000 Disabled people were underpaid £970 million in an earlier switch from incapacity benefits to the Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) between 2011-2014 but Disabled people are now being required to fill out a 45-page form to win back their ESA benefits.
- The government has confirmed that almost 100,000 Disabled people were forced last year to wait longer than two weeks for their benefit payments.
- The Ministry of Justice has confirmed that nearly three-quarters of PIP assessments by the private firms to which the government has wholly outsourced this task are now being overturned.

The government's approach to Disabled people has evidently created a cruel and hostile environment and caused Disabled people unnecessary stress, anxiety, depression and loss of independence.

This Council therefore calls on the government to change radically its approach to Disabled people and for all councillors to lobby the government to adopt the recommendations of Hammersmith & Fulham's Independent Disabled People's Commission.