

# NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING WINTER FUEL ALLOWANCE

<b>Council:</b>	10 October 2024
<b>By:</b>	Ingrid Brown, Head of Legal and Democracy and Monitoring Officer
<b>Cabinet Portfolio Member:</b>	Councillor Everitt, Leader of the Council
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Decision classification:</b>	Unrestricted
<b>Call in status:</b>	No
<b>Ward:</b>	All

## Purpose of the Report

This Council will consider a notice of motion requesting that the Council requests a Council led local awareness campaign on winter fuel allowances, and encourage local efforts to promote pension credit uptake through the councils partnerships and schemes.

## Recommendation(s):

With reference to the options in section 3.0 of the report, Council is invited to consider the motion.

### 1. Summary of Reasons

- 1.1 This report ensures that the Council complies with Council Procedure Rule 14.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 The following motion has been received from Councillor Fellows in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 3:

*“Changes to the Winter Fuel Allowance and protecting pensioners from fuel poverty.*”

*The Labour Government’s recently decided to restrict the Winter Fuel Payment to only pensioners in receipt of means-tested benefits like Pension Credit.*

*In Thanet alone 26,648 pensioners will lose the winter fuel allowance. In my village 60% of our residents are retired so this is something that I’m concerned about.*

*Motion:*

*• Requests to Bring forward a Council-led local awareness campaign using TDCs communication channels and social media platforms to alert those eligible of Pension Credit which in some respects will help access to the Winter Fuel Payment for those most in need.*

*• Requests that the Council Leader write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging a review of the decision to means-test the Winter Fuel Payment and asking the government to ensure that vulnerable pensioners, particularly those who do not claim Pension Credit, are protected from fuel poverty.*

*• Commit this Council to signing the ‘Save the Winter Fuel Payment for Struggling Pensioners’ petition being run by Age UK and write to all council members offering them the opportunity to sign the petition themselves.*

*• Encourage local efforts to promote Pension Credit uptake through this councils partnerships with local charities and community organisations to ensure that all eligible pensioners in Thanet are supported in claiming their entitlement.”*

### **3. Relevant Issues**

3.1 Council could decide to:

3.2 To debate the motion,

3.3 Not to debate the motion, in which case the motion will fall

3.4 If the motion is debated, at the end of the debate a vote will be taken to agree the motion or not. As only Council can agree to this motion, if the motion falls then it will not be referred to any other committee.

### **4. Consultation**

4.1 There is no public law duty or statutory requirement to consult on this matter.

### **5. Corporate Implications**

#### **5.1 Financial and Value for Money**

5.1.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

#### **5.2 Legal and Constitutional**

There are no particular legal implications arising from this report and the relevant part of the constitution are referred to in the body of this report.

### **5.3 Council Policies and Priorities**

5.3.1 This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- To keep our district safe and clean
- To deliver the housing we need
- To protect our environment
- To create a thriving place
- To work efficiently for you

### **5.4 Risk**

5.4.1 There are no risk implications arising from this report.

### **5.5 Climate Change and Biodiversity**

5.5.1 There were no implications for Climate Change and Biodiversity.

## **6. Equality, Equity and Diversity Implications**

6.1 Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

There are no specific equality issues arising from this report.

## **7. Crime and Disorder Implications and Community impact**

7.1 There are no crime and disorder implications to this report.

## **8. Subject History**

8.1 N/A

## **Appendices**

None

## **Background Papers**

None

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**Report Sign Off**

**Legal** Ingrid Brown (Head of Legal and Democracy & Monitoring Officer)

**Finance: Greg Dungan (Finance Manager)**