

Amendment to Motion A: Winter Fuel Payments, (Proposed by Councillor Alaric Smith, Seconded by Councillor Andrew Prosser).

Amendment with changes shown:

- *Words added are in red text;*
- *Words removed are in ~~strikethrough text~~*

This Council ~~deplores~~ **notes** the government's decision to ~~cut~~ **means-test** Winter Fuel Payments (WFPs). Age UK estimates that the government's changes to WFPs could hit 2 million people across the country, ~~who~~ **some of whom** badly need the money to stay warm this winter. **This Council also notes the parlous state of the Public Finances that the new Government has inherited.**

This Council resolves to:

1. Request that the Executive considers a report from officers with proposals for ~~launching~~ **promoting** a District awareness campaign working with our local NHS partners, **Parish Councils** and charitable, civic and religious groups, to encourage elderly residents who are eligible for means-tested benefits such as Pension Credit to register and claim them to ensure that they continue to receive WFPs this Winter **and to ensure that those in need are sign-posted to the continuing Household Support Fund;**
2. Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging a ~~review~~ **an impact assessment** of the government's ~~precipitous~~ decision to means test WFPs ~~without public consultation~~ and asking HM Treasury to **examine transitional measures** to ensure that vulnerable pensioners, particularly those who are eligible for, but who do not – or cannot – claim, other benefits under current thresholds are protected from fuel poverty.

If the amendment was passed, the amended motion would read as follows:

This Council notes the government's decision to means-test Winter Fuel Payments (WFPs). Age UK estimates that the government's changes to WFPs could hit 2 million people across the country, some of whom badly need the money to stay warm this winter. This Council also notes the parlous state of the Public Finances that the new Government has inherited.

This Council resolves to:

1. Request that the Executive considers a report from officers with proposals for promoting a District awareness campaign working with our local NHS partners, Parish Councils and charitable, civic and religious groups, to encourage elderly residents who are eligible for means-tested benefits such as Pension Credit to register and claim them to ensure that they continue to receive WFPs this Winter and to ensure that those in need are sign-posted to the continuing Household Support Fund;
2. Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging an impact assessment of the government's decision to means test WFPs and asking HM Treasury to examine transitional measures to ensure that vulnerable pensioners, particularly those who are eligible for, but who do not – or cannot – claim, other benefits under current thresholds are protected from fuel poverty.