

## **Council 17<sup>th</sup> October**

### **Amendment - Notice of Motion:**

### **Pensioners Winter Fuel Payment**

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The Chancellor has announced the Winter Fuel Payment will now be provided only to those in receipt of Pension Credit, or eligible to claim.

With the Energy Price Cap rises meaning an annual increase in energy costs of around £150 a year, members are concerned how this will affect pensioners and Adult Services in Southend.

#### **This Council therefore resolves that:**

1. It urges all pensioners to check whether they are entitled to receive Pension Credit and notes that the Council has introduced LIFT (low-income family tracker) software which has already identified over 700 pensioners (by 30<sup>th</sup> September) in Southend who are entitled to Pension Credit but not currently claiming and urges Cabinet to be proactive and encourage pensioners to claim it.
2. The Leader of the Council writes to the Chancellor alongside other group leaders urging her to a) reinstate the Winter Fuel Payment for this winter, and b) review the thresholds - where national finances allow - for those who would qualify for Pension Credit and those who may just miss out on those credits and the Fuel Allowance under the current rules.
3. It welcomes the government's continuation of the previous government's £150 Warm Home Discount for low-income households from October, continued extension of the Household Support Fund (HSF) with £421 million, to ensure local authorities can support vulnerable people and families, and not removing the Winter Fuel Payment from those on Pension Credit around 1.3 million households in England and Wales.
4. While it acknowledges the administration's proactive response by ring-fencing of £250,000 of HSF for the purpose of supporting pensioners who fall just outside of Pension Credit eligibility, it is concerned for those families who will now miss out from essential grants diverted from the HSF.

Proposed by: Cllr James Courtenay

Seconded by: Cllr Lesley Salter

