

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR FULL COUNCIL

UNDER PARAGRAPH 11.1 OF THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

The following Motion to be submitted to Full Council on the date indicated below:-

- The Government's recent decision to restrict the Winter Fuel Payment to only pensioners in receipt of means-tested benefits like Pension Credit may result in more than 11,000 of our residents in Rossendale, who badly need the money to stay warm this winter, not being eligible to receive the payment.
- Many of our residents do not claim Pension Credit despite being eligible, further exacerbating their financial hardship.

Council resolves to:

- Bring forward a Council-led local awareness campaign to alert those eligible of Pension Credit which in some respects will help access to the Winter Fuel Payment for those most in need.
- Request 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.
- Write to all members offering them the opportunity to sign the 'Save the Winter Fuel Payment for Struggling Pensioners' petition being run by Age UK themselves.
- Encourage local efforts to promote Pension Credit uptake through council services and partnerships with local charities and community organisations to ensure that all eligible pensioners in Rossendale are supported in claiming their entitlement.

Date of Council Meeting:-

2nd October 2024

Notice submitted from

Councillor S Smith

Date: 19th September 2024

Councillor A Woods

Date: 19th September 2024

Notice received and validated by the S151 Officer: Chris Warren

Comments:

There has been an announcement of an extension to the Household Support Fund until March 2025 which may allow some older people access to a source of funding which may help alleviate some of the winter heating pressures.

However, the administrative barriers similar to the pension credit arrangements are relevant.

Date: 23rd September 2024

To add to this the future of this funding stream beyond March 2025 is unclear.	
Notice received and validated by the Deputy Monitoring Officer: Yasmin Ahmed	
Comments: No additional legal comments.	Date: 23 rd September 2024
Notice received on behalf of the Head of the Paid Service and entered in the book open to Public Inspection	
Received by: Rob Huntington	Date: 19 th September 2024