



Motions on Notice – Full Council Thursday 12 September 2024

Motion one - Winter fuel allowance

Submitted by Councillors Berry, Vincent, Bridge and Amos:

This council regrets the decision taken by the Labour government to end universal winter fuel payments for all pensioners.

The latest available data confirms that Wyre has 30,288 state pension claimants of whom 3,022 claim pension credit meaning 27,266 of our pensioners have had their winter fuel payment removed by the Labour government. This decision risks placing thousands of Wyre pensioners into fuel poverty and causing them significant financial hardship.

We call on the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor urging a review of the decision to restrict eligibility to those in receipt of pension credits and other benefits. This is to ensure that vulnerable pensioners, particularly those that do not claim pension credits, are protected from financial hardship.

This council notes that many pensioners eligible for pension credits do not apply for them and will lose winter fuel payments as a result. Therefore, we resolve to undertake an awareness campaign to encourage residents in Wyre to check their availability and that of their loved ones to mitigate the impact of this decision.

Motion two - Planning

Submitted by Councillors Vincent, Cartridge, Bowen and McKay:

This council condemns the Labour government's plan to change the standard method of calculating the mandatory housing requirement so as to require this council to allocate a minimum of 637 dwellings per annum.

This council acknowledges the need for new housing and the Planning Committee and Planning Policy Group will, of course, remain open to listening to all arguments on all future matters that come to committee, but the proposed policy is unworkable and will likely place too high a burden on public services and infrastructure in Wyre.

On 6th July 2023 this council unanimously resolved that it "is against any change to the national planning policy that would make it easier to build on Green Belt" and so condemns the Labour government's proposal to allow for land within the green belt to be allocated as grey belt and built upon. Should this ill thought-out policy be

implemented, it is likely that this council will have to allocate sites within the existing green belt for development in future local plans.

This council also condemns the Labour government's proposed change in policy to require this council to agree that neighboring authorities may allocate sites within our boundaries potentially increasing the number of dwellings even further.