

# Council 10 October 2024

Meeting recording: [Council - Thursday, 10th October, 2024 6.00 pm (youtube.com)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aa_3flF3p18&t=3001s)

## Agenda item 8b. Motion – Cutback of Winter Fuel Payment

The Council is deeply concerned by the financial failures of the last Conservative government which has resulted in a £22bn black hole in our nation’s finances.

Council notes the recent announcement by the Labour Government to end universal winter fuel payments and restrict eligibility to only those in receipt of Pension Credit and other benefits. In addition, the council acknowledges that the decision to award the winter fuel payment to pensioners receiving pension credit was a difficult decision that nobody wanted to make.

Though many agree that universal Winter Fuel Payments are not necessary for them, Council is deeply concerned that many pensioners on lower and middle incomes who need the payments will now not receive them. Across England and Wales the number of people eligible for winter fuel payments will fall by 10 million (from 11.4 million to only 1.5 million).

In Cambridge the number of pensioners affected by the change in eligibility criteria is 13,468. That means 89.7% of pensioners currently eligible for winter fuel payments will no longer be able to claim the payment from this winter onwards.

The council welcomes the government’s commitment to protect the most vulnerable in our society by delivering the £150 Warm Home Discount for low-income households from October, extending the Household Support Fund with £421 million, to ensure local authorities can support vulnerable people and families, ensuring around 1.3 million households in England and Wales will continue to receive up to £300 in Winter Fuel Payments.

Council resolves to:

* Continue the Council’s partnership work with Citizen’s Advice Bureau to send out personal letters to local pensioner households, those claiming housing benefit and/or Council Tax reductions to maximise uptake of pension credits.
* Highlight the national DWP campaign to promote Pension Credit over the next few months, targeting 120,000 of the estimated 850,000 pensioners not claiming, and call on the government to increase the number of people targeted to the full 850,000.
* Offer all tenants in sheltered accommodation the opportunity to meet with the Independent Living Service to conduct an income maximisation check, particularly for tenants who don’t currently access Council support services.
* Share all the relevant information with other stakeholders in the city including landlords and GP surgeries.
* Continue developing support for residents over the winter period, including through the provision of warm spaces in the winter and emergency food support.