

Motion to Council pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12
submitted by Councillor Peter Harris in relation to the proposed
cut to the Winter Fuel Payment

(a) This Council notes that:-

- (i) the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rachel Reeves MP, has indicated that the winter fuel payment will be cut completely from all pensioners except those receiving pension credits.
- (ii) this will likely disproportionately affect the District of Tendring as we have the highest average age population in the UK.
- (iii) this removal has happened to coincide with the recent announcement by the OFGEM Regulator that the fuel price cap has risen, resulting in bills increasing by 10% on average, meaning some pensioners maybe a reported £500 worse off when combined with the removal of the Winter Fuel Payment.
- (iv) many of our pensioners are already deeply concerned at these announcements and may worry about the affordability of winter fuel, and that putting it simply some may have to decide between heating or eating.

(b) Therefore, this Council requests that:

1. the Leader of Tendring District Council, Councillor Mark Stephenson, writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rachel Reeves MP, to request that the Government rethink and halt its plans to cut Winter Fuel Payment for pensioners.
2. the Leader of the Council also writes to Sir Bernard Jenkin MP and Nigel Farage MP to lobby their support for the urgent review of this Government action.
3. if the Government carries out its intention to remove the Winter Fuel Payment from pensioners, the Leader of the Council and his Cabinet urgently review how Tendring District Council with the inclusion of its partners and other local organisations, can offer support and advice to pensioners living in this District who may suffer or be in the position of fuel poverty or difficulty as a result of this Government decision.