

## **Notice Of Motion Amendment re: Changes to the Winter Fuel Allowance**

This council notes the Labour government's recent decision to restrict the Winter Fuel Allowance only to pensioners in receipt of means-tested benefits such as Pension Credit, as announced recently by Chancellor Rachel Reeves.

Chorley Council recognises that this decision was taken as part of measures to tackle to £22bn 'black hole' in the public finances left by the previous Conservative government.

The council acknowledges the significant role that Winter Fuel Allowance played in helping older residents in Chorley and across the UK to afford their heating bills during the winter months and the additional strain the removal of this allowance will place on vulnerable pensioners and those who do not claim or are not entitled to Pension Credit.

Therefore the council resolves to undertake the following in support of our residents:

- Bring forward a council led local awareness campaign to alert those eligible for Pension Credit, working with partners, charities and community organisations to ensure all eligible pensioners claim their entitlement.
- Continue Chorley's Council's ongoing work to support people with their fuel bills and assist those who are vulnerable during the winter months through schemes such as the
  - Affordable Warmth Grants,
  - Warm/Welcome Spaces Scheme,
  - UKSPF Cost of Living Grants
- The Leader of the Council is to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to outline the concerns of councillors and members of the public in Chorley about the impact of this decision and urge the government to extend further targeted financial support to the most vulnerable groups who are impacted by this decision.