

# Notice of Motion – 29 October 2024

**Motion Title: Removal of the Winter Fuel Allowance**

**Proposer: Councillor Dunn**

**Secunder: Councillor Weston**

“Council notes the Government announcement of July 2024 confirming withdrawal of the Winter Fuel Payment from all pensioners not receiving pension credit or other eligible benefits, beginning this winter (2024). This change will affect around 10,000,000 pensioners across the country, including many pensioners in Sandwell.

Council further notes that, even after reductions in the energy price cap earlier this year, this decision will mean millions of pensioners facing higher bills from October 2024, despite prices falling for all other households.

Council acknowledges research undertaken by Age UK showing some 800,000 pensioners across the country are eligible for Pension Credit but do not claim it. These pensioners are likely to be disproportionately affected by the withdrawal of the payment. This research also estimates that around 2,000,000 pensioners need the payment to help meet their winter fuel costs, but the restrictive eligibility of the revised scheme will leave them struggling to pay their bills.

Council therefore requests the Leader and Cabinet:

1. Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer outlining the terms of this Motion, affirming this Council’s opposition to the withdrawal of the winter fuel payment to pensioners that need it to meet their energy costs in the Sandwell Borough, and requesting the Chancellor of the Exchequer consider an expansion of eligibility include all pensioners living in properties that fall into Council Tax bands A-D.
2. Extend an invitation to Leaders of all Political Groups on the Council to co-sign this letter to show consensus.
3. Arrange a public information campaign to raise awareness of the withdrawal of winter fuel payment to most pensioners and encourage those who may be eligible, to apply for pension credit, as well as provide further advice to those affected residents about available support, to help them pay their energy bills.”