SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Council **DATE:** 26th September 2024

CONTACT OFFICER: Shabana Kauser

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WARD(S): All

PART I FOR DECISION

MOTIONS SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 14

The following motions have been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14:-

A) WINTER FUEL ALLOWANCE

(Moved by Councillor O'Kelly, seconded by Councillor Smith)

"Council resolves that:

- The Chief Executive be instructed to write, on behalf of Slough Borough Council, to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, calling for the policy on linking Winter Fuel Payments to Pension Credit receipt to be immediately paused and for the introduction of a new threshold to determine eligibility for Winter Fuel Payments.
- The Chief Executive be instructed to write, on behalf of Slough Borough Council, to all MPs covering Berkshire, asking them to give their formal support to halting the changes to the Winter Fuel Payment eligibility.
- All group leaders within Slough Borough Council be invited to sign a joint letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer calling for the new Winter Fuel Payment policy to be suspended and reviewed.
- The Council raise awareness, via social media, council noticeboards, promotion in local press and if possible, give consideration to targeted letters to those who may be eligible, to maximise uptake of pension credits."

B) IMPACT OF GAMBLING WITHIN THE BOROUGH

(Moved by Councillor Tomar, seconded by Councillor Dauti)

"Slough Borough Council acknowledges:

- a) The increasing concern regarding the adverse effects of gambling on families and communities, the rising number of gambling establishments in the town, the upsurge in gambling advertising since the implementation of the Gambling Act in 2005, and the growth of online gambling.
- b) The potential impact of gambling on the demand for council services, including those for children, families, adults, treatment, early intervention, homelessness, and housing.

As such, the Council resolves to:

- a) Review licensing policies for gambling businesses to consider the above concerns, conduct regular compliance visits, and map specific gambling-related risks to assist in council-level decision-making.
- b) Provide training for staff to address gambling-related harms, work in collaboration with local partners to establish referral pathways, and gather data to comprehend the extent of detrimental gambling and its consequences."

C) CLEANLINESS IN SLOUGH

(Moved by Councillor Mann, seconded by Councillor Hulme)

"The Council notes;

- a) Residents value, and deserve, a clean and attractive local environment.
- b) The correlation between neglected and dirty streets and higher levels of crime and resident's perception of safety and pride in our local environment.
- c) Our council staff do their best, under very difficult circumstances, but the service is failing and residents have lost confidence. We are seeing increasing complaints to councillors, dirty and overflowing bins, increasingly smells across the town, an increase in fly-tipping and a collapse of the street cleaning routine across the town. The Conservative administration's claim their £71,000 cut to street cleaning this year would not result in a reduction in service is demonstrably untrue.
- d) The performance metrics for the service are woeful; with the number of ASB and environmental services requests being resolved within 90 days currently 260% over target and missed bin collection rates also above target levels.

The Council resolves to;

- a) Instruct the lead member for environmental services to provide a written update to all members on the supposed positive impact of his 'environmental hit squads'.
- b) Resist any reduction in staff headcount in the service, as a lack of staff has contributed to the current failures.
- c) Undertaken a bin audit across the borough, reporting back to members within 3 months, identifying hotspots of litter, need for additional bins and mapping of bins across the borough.
- d) Initiate a street cleaning taskforce, with members and councillors, to review and refine the schedule of street cleaning across the borough.
- e) Instruct the Corporate Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise, amongst other issues, the performance of the service, current policies of street cleaning, vegetation clearing and enforcement, adherence to response rates and make recommendations."