



Council  
15 October 2024

# WORTHING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Ward(s) Affected: All

## Motion on Notice

### Report by the Director for Sustainability & Resources

#### Officer Contact Details:-

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## Executive Summary

### 1. Purpose

- 1.1. The report before Council sets out a motion received from Councillor Carl Walker which has been seconded by Councillor Ian Davey.
- 1.2. Council is asked to consider, debate and determine the motion under provisions set out in paragraph 14 of the Council Procedure Rules (part 4 of the Council Constitution - Rules of Procedure).

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Council is asked to consider and determine the motion as set out in Annex A to this report.

### **3. Context**

- 3.1 A motion on notice has been received from Councillor Carl Walker, (attached as Annex A).
- 3.2 The content of the motion is relevant to a matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties and which specifically affects the Borough.

### **4. Issues for consideration**

- 4.1 Motions considered by Full Council are done so under part 14 of the Council's Procedure Rules and are debated under rules set out under part 16 of the Council Procedure Rules.
- 4.2 The Council is asked to consider, debate and determine the motion under these rules accordingly.

### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are no direct financial impacts arising from the motion as it is declaratory.

### **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 Rules concerning motions are set out in the Council's Constitution under section 14 of the Council's Procedure Rules.

### **Background Papers**

None.

**Motion to Central Government to address the cost of living crisis in Worthing**

Between April 2022 and April 2024 the cost of a basic weekly food basket has increased by 25%. It is estimated that, should the two child benefit cap be lifted, at least 300,000 children would be lifted immediately out of poverty, and a further 700,000 children would be in less deep poverty, according to the CPAG. The Resolution Foundation goes further and suggests that 490,000 children could be lifted out of poverty. A significant number of families in Worthing are directly impacted by this policy.

Whilst energy bills were set to fall by 7% from July the Ofgem price cap is expected to rise again by around 10% in October, meaning bills stay 50-60% above pre-crisis levels. Nearly 24,000 people in Worthing have been in receipt of the Winter Fuel Allowance. However, 10 million people will lose the payment nationwide as a result and this will undoubtedly have a significant impact on many pensioners in Worthing. According to the government's own assessment, around 780,000 of these people are expected to be eligible for Pension Credit but not to apply for it, meaning they are among the poorest people in the country. Thousands more older people have incomes fractionally above the Pension Credit cut-off of £218.15 per week and will also be dropped into dangerous fuel poverty. The High Level Equality Analysis from the Department for Work and Pensions found that 1.6 million disabled people – 70% of disabled people currently receiving the Winter Fuel Payment – will lose it under the new rules. This means that some of the most vulnerable pensioners in Worthing will be directly impacted by this policy.

In advance of the October budget, Council calls on the new Labour Government to:

- Abolish the two-child benefit cap immediately.
- Reinststate the universal winter fuel allowance until a rigorous impact assessment on predicted death and illness rates among low-income pensioners just above the threshold is published.

The motion, if passed, is to be sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the two Worthing MP's.

**Proposer - Councillor Carl Walker**

**Seconder - Councillor Ian Davey**