



WORTHING BOROUGH  
COUNCIL

Council  
22 February 2022

Ward(s) Affected: All

**Motion on Notice**

**Report by the Director for Communities**

**Officer Contact Details:-**

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**Executive Summary**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1. The report before Council sets out a motion received from Councillor Cathy Glynn-Davies.
- 1.2. Council is asked to deal with the motion under provisions set out in paragraph 14 of the Council Procedure Rules (under part 4 of the Council Constitution - Rules of Procedure).

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. That the motion, upon being moved and seconded, be noted by Council and referred without debate to the Joint Strategic Committee.

### **3. Context**

- 3.1 A motion on notice has been received from Councillor Cathy Glynn-Davies, (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 affects the Borough.
- 3.3 The motion before Council contains a subject matter that is within the remit of the Joint Strategic Committee, as defined in para 14.4.1 of the Council's Procedure Rules. Therefore, it shall be moved and seconded, immediately noted by the Council and referred without debate to the Joint Strategic Committee for consideration and determination.
- 3.4 If a motion on the agenda at Full Council is to be referred automatically to the Executive, a Regulatory Committee or another Council Committee, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.4, the proposer of the motion will confirm to the Chairperson their proposal of the motion as set out in the report before Council **without** a speech.
- 3.5 Where a motion has been referred by Full Council to the Joint Strategic Committee, the mover, or the seconder in the absence of the mover, shall be entitled to attend the relevant meeting and explain the motion.

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

- 4.1 Motions considered by Full Council are done so under part 14 of the Council's Procedure Rules.

### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 The motion has subject matter that comes within the remit of the Joint Strategic Committee and should the Joint Strategic Committee determine that the motion be accepted there may be financial implications in the future.

### **6. Legal Implications**

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

**Background Papers**

None.

## Annex A

Yesterday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, the Chancellor announced a £200 'rebate' on the cost of energy. The money on offer is a levy, not a rebate, and will need to be repaid as an extra charge on future bills. The New Economics Foundation have performed modelling which demonstrates that the poorest 10% of families will still be £450 worse off on average, even after the £150 Council Tax Rebate also announced yesterday. This ploy benefits the energy suppliers and maintains their profit margins.

Polly Toynbee, in The Guardian, points out that the Council Tax rebate 'does nothing more than shift the payment of this temporary relief to local authorities'. It may result in this Council having to agree a substantial increase in Council Tax charges in the next financial year, or cut services, already under pressure, to the bone.

I have been contacted by a resident incensed at this underhand ploy to put their household in debt to the Government. A petition has been created as follows:

*'A loan towards the increase in fuel prices will put me in debt to this government. I do not have credit or loans and do not wish to be in debt to this government. Whilst this will obviously be a short-term fix for the millions of people who can't afford the increases. It's being misleadingly reported as a rebate. There needs to be a different approach. My petition to the Government is to ask them to rethink their proposal so that those of us who can afford the increase pay it, and the savings can be GIVEN to those most in need.'*

The French Government is taxing energy company EDF £8.4 bn to cover the increase in the cost of energy to consumers in France. It is also capping electricity costs at 4%. It is a fact that energy companies such as EDF are making record profits and are paying out record dividends.

I propose that this Council reject the Chancellor's proposal and refuse to pay the £150 Council Tax Rebate unless funds are forthcoming from the Exchequer to cover it. I also call upon this Council to ask the Chancellor to reconsider the energy loan system, and instead place a tax upon energy companies to subsidise energy to those most in need and place a cap on energy costs in this country.

**Proposed: Cathy Clynn-Davies**