

## **Council – 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

### **Notice of Motion under Standing Order No 10**

That the Council :

- Confirms its opposition to the reduction in winter fuel allowance which will have a significant impact on the elderly residents of the Borough and that the Leader of the Council writes to the Government setting out this Council's opposition to this decision;
- Endorses the work of the Financial Inclusion team with those residents who may be eligible for Pension Credit but who are not currently claiming it, as reported to September's Executive Board;
- Resolves to repurpose the remaining money in the Hardship Fund to assist elderly residents impacted by heating costs this winter by way of a direct payment of £100 to residents who are over 66 years old, will not receive the winter fuel payment, that are unable to qualify for pension credit or universal credit but are on a sufficiently low income so as to be in receipt of Council Tax Support and who have less than £3000 in savings;
- That an additional sum of £35,000 be made available from the New Burdens funding reserve for projects proposed by Councillors in Wards that have yet to use their full allocation under the existing Financial Hardship Fund scheme;
- That a Member Panel consisting of 3 Conservative Members, 2 Labour Members and 1 Dordon Independent Member be established to consider bids to that Fund;
- That revised criterion be considered by that Panel in order to ensure the Fund is used directly for the relief of financial hardship; and
- The Council acknowledges that these will have to be one off payments given the Council does not have the finances to permanently rectify the extremely regrettable decision to remove Winter Fuel allowances to so many elderly residents of the Borough

Proposer – Councillor D Wright