



The Rt Hon. Rachel Reeves, MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London. SW1A 2HQ

**Elmbridge Borough Council**  
Civic Centre  
High Street  
Esher  
Surrey KT10 9SD

**Date:** 14 October 2024  
**Reference:** EBC123456788

Dear Chancellor,

### **Elmbridge Borough Council Motion - winter fuel allowance**

Since its introduction, the Winter Fuel Payment to pensioners has been a vital support to help older people stay warm.

Elmbridge Borough Council notes that the Labour Government plans to end universal winter fuel payments. It also notes that the Government plans to raise the Energy Price Cap by 10% this month.

Cutting the Winter Fuel Payment, with very little notice and no compensatory measures to protect poor and vulnerable pensioners, is the wrong policy choice, and one that will potentially jeopardise the health, as well as the finances, of thousands of older people this winter in Elmbridge.

Our Council believes that the Labour Government has set the threshold too low.

In Elmbridge, ending the universal winter fuel payment will:

- affect up to 23,000 pensioners, many of whom are vulnerable or on low incomes,
- reduce payments to Elmbridge pensioners by over £6 million pounds,
- impact around 1400 households in receipt of pension credit; and,
- impact around 2000 households in Elmbridge in receipt of housing benefits, who are not on pension credit.

In recent years, Elmbridge Borough Council has been actively supporting our vulnerable residents in coping with the rising cost of living, including addressing fuel poverty, which we know impacts many, including pensioners. However, given the Government's stance, we're particularly worried about:

- those on low incomes who just miss out on Pension Credit,

- those who have unavoidably high energy needs because of disability or illness,
- the residents who don't receive Pension Credit even though they're eligible for it,
- the choice that residents will have to make between heating the house or putting food on the table. This should not be a choice in 2024.

At the Elmbridge Borough Council meeting on Wednesday 2 October 2024, the Council carried a motion that all Group Leaders would sign a joint letter calling for the new Winter Fuel Payment policy to be suspended and reviewed. A copy of the motion agreed by Full Council is attached to this letter.

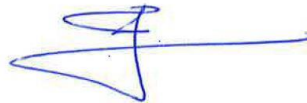
As part of the Council's motion, Elmbridge will continue to promote Pension Credit to eligible residents through an awareness campaign. We believe this is a realistic and practical action to help mitigate the costs of the fuel payment allowance cut to pensions this winter.

We urge the Government to immediately halt the proposal to cut the winter fuel allowance.

Yours sincerely



Mike Rollings  
Liberal Democrats Group Leader  
Leader of Elmbridge Borough Council



Simon Waugh  
Residents' Association Group Leader  
Deputy Leader of Elmbridge Borough Council



John Cope  
Conservative Group Leader  
Leader of the Opposition



Janet Turner  
Hinchey Wood Residents' Association

### **Motion 1 – Winter Fuel Allowance**

Council notes the Labour Government plans to end universal winter fuel payments, in Elmbridge this will affect 23,000 pensioners, many of whom are vulnerable or on low incomes. They also plan to raise the previous Conservative Government's Energy Price Cap by 10% in October.

Council believes that the Labour Government has set the threshold too low.

Council requests:

- all group leaders to sign a joint letter to the Chancellor calling for the new Winter Fuel Payment policy to be suspended and reviewed;
- the Council Chief Executive to write similar;
- officers start an awareness campaign to maximise uptake of pension credits.

**Proposer: Alan Parker**

**Seconder: Alistair Mann**