



Item 9.2

Full Council – 19 September 2024

Liberal Democrats Group Motion

Stop the betrayal of Brent's elderly residents

This Council believes:

The new Labour Government has launched an attack on the ability of elderly people to keep their homes warm over this and future winters, at a time when gas and electricity prices are rising yet again.

Sir Keir Starmer and his Chancellor made no mention of scrapping the Winter Fuel Allowance during the recent election campaign and are now betraying thousands of Brent residents who voted for them in good faith.

The current macroeconomic situation is dire, after years of Tory mismanagement and incompetence, however, it is cruel to be targeting elderly members of society to fill the black hole in our public finances - of which all parties were warned about prior to the election.

Last week, 100% of Liberal Democrat Members of Parliament voted to reject the government's cruel plans, because elderly residents should not be the first target of Labour's austerity.

Once again it is now down to local authorities to pick up the mess created by the Labour Government and assist the most vulnerable residents as best we can.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor to make them aware of the number of Brent residents who will lose out as a result of their actions.
- Lobby the Labour Government to provide additional funding for local Councils and Citizens' Advice Bureaus to carry out targeted outreach work to help elderly residents claim what they are entitled to.
- Lobby the Labour Government to change the current system so Pension Credit is paid automatically to eligible residents, without the need to apply.
- Work with the Department of Works and Pensions to identify residents in receipt of Universal Credit, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support, for a targeted

campaign to ensure that all those entitled to receive help in claiming Pension Credit get it, so they can heat their homes this winter.

Cllr Anton Georgiou
Liberal Democrat Group