



Local Government Act 1972

I Hereby Give You Notice that an **Ordinary Meeting** of the **Durham County Council** will be held in the **Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham** on **Wednesday 25 September 2024** at **10.00 am** to transact the following business:-

1. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2024 (Pages 5 - 16)
2. To receive any declarations of interest from Members
3. Chair's Announcements
4. Leader's Report
5. Questions from the Public
6. Petitions
7. Report from the Cabinet (Pages 17 - 22)
8. Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2025/26 - Report of Corporate Director of Resources (Pages 23 - 40)
9. Review of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy - Report of Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change (Pages 41 - 178)
10. Zero-Tolerance to Abuse Policy - Report of Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer (Pages 179 - 196)

11. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24 - Report of Director of Legal and Democratic Services (Pages 197 - 220)
12. County Durham Youth Justice Service, Youth Justice Plan 2024 - 2025 - Report of Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services (Pages 221 - 266)
13. Request for Dispensation Under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 - Report of Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer (Pages 267 - 270)
14. Motions on Notice

Councillor M Wilkes to Move

Council notes and is deeply concerned by the Government's decision to end universal Winter Fuel Payment. Across County Durham, 89,275 pensioners will be financially worse off due to this change.

Council is concerned that around 37% of those eligible do not take up Pension Credit, which will now be required for entitlement to Winter Fuel Payment. This could potentially push thousands of County Durham pensioners into fuel poverty. Furthermore, many pensioners not entitled to pension credit but on low and middle incomes will also be affected.

Council resolves to:

- Request that the relevant portfolio holders write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and County Durham's MPs, calling for the policy on linking Winter Fuel Payment to Pension Credit receipt, removing 89,275 County Durham pensioners from eligibility to be immediately scrapped.
- Request all Group Leaders within Durham County Council sign this letter to indicate their support.
- Urgently commence a significant awareness campaign to maximise uptake of Pension Credit.

Councillor R Crute to Move

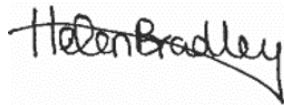
This council has concerns about the impact on some County Durham pensioners of the government's decision to withdraw the Winter Fuel Payment to those pensioners not in receipt of Pension Credit.

Consequently, this council calls on the government to reverse its decision to withdraw the Winter Fuel Payment from non-Pension Credit pensioners pending the outcome of an options appraisal and a comprehensive equalities and impact assessment.

15. Questions from Members

And pursuant to the provisions of the above-named act, **I Hereby Summon You** to attend the said meeting

Dated this 17th day of September 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Bradley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Helen Bradley
Director of Legal and Democratic Services

To: All Members of the County Council