



**COUNCIL MEETING**

**21 July 2022**

**GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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## **NOTICE OF MOTION**

Councillor Vicky Anderson will move the following motion:

This Council notes that:

- On 1 April 2022, Ofgem increased the energy price cap by 54 per cent.
- In light of the increase energy price cap, the average standard tariff energy bill will increase by £693 per year. The average pre-pay meter energy bill will increase by £708 per year (Ofgem, 2022).
- On 6 April 2022, the Government increase National Insurance by 1.25 percentage points, which is projected to cost the average family in Gateshead an additional £600 a year.
- The Government has suspended the pensions 'triple lock' for 2022/3, meaning Gateshead's pensioners will see a rise of 3.1 per cent this year (instead of 8.3 percent under the triple lock formula). This year, this will cost pensioners in Gateshead hundreds of pounds.
- Between April 2020 and March 2022 Gateshead Foodbanks distributed 17,972 food parcels (Trussell Trust, 2022)

This Council therefore declares a 'Cost of Living Emergency' and calls on the Government to:

- Immediately reduce the standard rate of VAT from 20 per cent to 17.5 per cent for one year, saving the average household in Gateshead a further £600 this year
- Immediately re-introduce the pensions triple lock to support Gateshead's pensioners.
- Immediately restore the Universal Credit supplement of £20, which was cancelled by the Government in September 2021.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to express the Council's demands for VAT to be cut to 17.5%, for the re-introduction of the pensions triple-lock and for the £20 Universal Credit supplement to be restored.

Finally, Council calls for a local Cost-of-Living Emergency Summit, with stakeholders, including Citizens Advice, Food Banks, Local Trades Unions, and Chambers of Commerce and will invite local MPs to attend this hybrid meeting.

Proposed by: Councillor V Anderson

Supported by: Councillor R Beadle  
Councillor P Diston  
Councillor D Duggan  
Councillor J Mohammed  
Councillor A Ord  
Councillor M Ord  
Councillor I Patterson  
Councillor J Wallace  
Councillor A Wintcher