



**COUNCIL MEETING
19 SEPTEMBER 2024**

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MOTION

Item 14 – Motion on Winter Fuel Payments

Councillor Gannon will move the following amendment:

Remove all after ‘Council’. Replace with:

recognises that the decision to restrict the payment of winter fuel allowance to pensioners in receipt of pension credits or other means tested benefits will have an enormous impact in Gateshead, particularly on those just above the eligibility threshold.

Gateshead Council is determined to ensure that every support and encouragement is given to our pensioners who are eligible but who don’t currently apply.

We want to place on record our thanks to the staff and officers of Gateshead Council and those in our partner organisations in the community and voluntary sector, who have already responded magnificently to this challenge, supporting hundreds of residents to apply.

Whilst the Council recognises that the newly elected Labour government has inherited an extremely difficult legacy as a consequence of 14 years of austerity and economic mismanagement, from both the coalition and Conservative government, we are equally clear that further austerity is not the solution.

This Council will write to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor to express our supports for the new government in its mission to rebuild the UK, to restore sustainable public finances and to invest in our vital public services.

We will express our view that this cannot be achieved through further austerity but through investment in our infrastructure and public services funded through a progressive taxation system that ensures that those most able pay the most.

Proposed by: Councillor Gannon

Seconded by: Councillor Adams