

Labour Group Amendment to Conservative Motion - The Budget Challenge

Moved by Councillor Abdul Jabbar.

Seconded by Councillor Colin McLaren.

Delete

Insert

The **first woman to serve as** Chancellor of the Exchequer, **Rachel Reeves MP**, has delivered a budget which will impact the people who live in the Oldham Metropolitan Borough **for the better**.

Delivering a budget that will restore stability, protect working people, fix the NHS and rebuild Britain.

Fixing the foundations of our economy following fourteen years of failed Conservative austerity.

Restoring fiscal responsibility following Conservative economic mismanagement including Liz Truss's 2022 mini budget and an inherited £22 billion spending black hole.

This Labour budget invests in Britain and the public services so vital to our residents, the Chancellor has delivered:

- **A pay rise for 3 million workers**
- **A freeze on fuel duty**
- **New funding to deliver an extra two million NHS operations, scans and appointments a year.**
- **No tax increases for working people.**
- **£30million for breakfast clubs.**
- **£240million package to Get Britain Working again.**
- **£1.4billion to rebuild 500 schools.**
- **£500m investment to build thousands of new social homes.**
- **£1billion boost to the Household Support Fund.**
- **£1.3billion extra funding for Local Government, including £600m for social care.**
- **An increase in the state pension by up to £470.**
- **The biggest increase to Carer's Allowance eligibility since its introduction.**
- **40% relief on business rates for hospitality and leisure sectors.**
- **Non-dom tax status abolished.**
- **£500million to fix roads and fill potholes.**
- **Increased the employment allowance to support small businesses.**
- **A crack down on fraud, waste and tax avoidance.**

This Council notes that:

- Universal Winter Fuel Payment had been a neglected and overlooked benefit payment during the period of the last Conservative Government having sat statically at £200 and £300.
- Between 2010 and 2023 state pensions have risen from £97.65 a week to £221.20, and average combined energy bills have risen from £1076 to £1,834.
- The effective spending power of the Winter Fuel Allowance due to this has been greatly eroded.
- Maintaining the Triple Lock means State Pensions will rise further to £235.25 a week in April 2025.
- It is regrettable that those over 75 who sit just above the Pension Credit cut-off suffer additional financial hardship due to the Conservative Party's broken manifesto commitment to protect free TV licences, limiting it instead to just those on Pension Credit.
- The government's approach understands there are barriers and stigma that prevent eligible pensioners from claiming Pension Credit, leaving many without the support they desperately need.

This Council resolves to:

1. Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to congratulate her on being the first woman to deliver a budget in our Country's history.
2. To write to Oldham's three MP's, ~~the relevant government departments and agencies to reinstate Winter Fuel Payments for all pensioners, without any means testing. All pensioners, regardless of income or other financial factors, should receive this payment automatically in recognition of their lifelong contributions to society through taxes.~~ asking them to give their support to a new threshold to determine eligibility for Winter Fuel Payments be considered.
3. That the Council will do all it can to help alleviate those struggling paying for winter fuel bills this winter, given the Energy Price Cap has increased by 10% also adding £150 to the average fuel bill, **including implementing the agreed Awareness Campaign.**

Amended motion to read:

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