

COUNCIL MEETING – 20th July 2022

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper Amendment	A2 to WP3	19/7/22	19/7/22

Submitted by:	Councillor Conrad Hart-Brooke
Relevant Board/Regulatory Panel:	Executive Board
Executive Member/Chair:	Executive Member (Communities)
Relevant Director	Director of Communities, Housing and Environment

Replace all after "This Council" with:

"notes that:

On 1 April 2022, Ofgem increased the energy price cap by 54 per cent.

In light of the increased 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 increased National Insurance by 1.25 percentage points, which is projected to cost the average family in Leeds an additional £600 a year.

The Government has suspended the pensions 'triple lock' for 2022/3, meaning Leeds pensioners will see a rise of 3.1 per cent this year (instead of 8.3 per cent under the triple lock formula). This year, this will cost pensioners in Leeds hundreds of pounds.

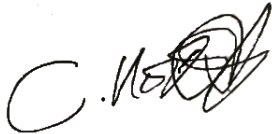
Council notes the decision taken in June 2022 to impose a 'Windfall Tax' on the super-profits of oil and gas companies and to redistribute this as a one-off payment of £400 to households later this year. Council notes that the Windfall Tax was first proposed by Sir Ed Davey MP, leader of the Liberal Democrats, in May 2022. Though the Windfall Tax is welcome, Council believes it does not go nearly far enough and the Government should be doing much more to support local people through the Cost of Living crisis.

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 Leeds a further £600 this year.
- Immediately re-introduce the pensions triple lock to support Leeds pensioners.
- Immediately restore the Universal Credit supplement of £20 per week, 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.



Cllr Conrad Hart-Brooke

Deadlines for submission

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| White Papers | - 10.00 am on the day before the issue of the Summons |
| Questions | - 10.00 am on Monday before the meeting |
| Amendments
(including references back) | - 10.00 am on the day before the meeting |

(All submissions should be made to Governance Services for receipt to be recorded and distribution made)
