

The City Mayor
Leicester City Council
City Hall
Leicester

peter.soulsby@leicester.gov.uk

10 September 2024

Dear Sir Peter Soulsby,

RE: Removal of the Winter Fuel Allowance

I am writing on behalf of the Conservative Group to raise our concern regarding the increasing risk of fuel poverty among Leicester's pensioners, particularly in light of recent government decisions impacting energy support policies. The rising cost of fuel, especially in relation to heating, poses a significant challenge to many of our elderly and vulnerable residents, and it is essential that immediate action is taken to alleviate these pressures.

We are particularly dismayed by the decision of Labour's Liz Kendall, MP for Leicester West and Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, to cut the winter fuel allowance for pensioners. This decision will force thousands of our pensioners into a position where they may have to choose between keeping warm or affording food. 31,000 pensioners in Leicester rely on the winter fuel allowance, and this cut has failed them at a time when they need support the most. It reflects a worrying disconnect between this Government's policies and the needs of our most vulnerable citizens.

While we urge the Government to reconsider and reverse these decisions, Leicester City Council must be prepared for the possibility that these policies remain unchanged. It is therefore crucial that the Council takes immediate steps to ensure that all affected residents are fully informed of the benefits and support they are entitled to. This includes highlighting energy-saving measures, financial assistance schemes, and other resources to mitigate the impact of rising fuel costs.

The role of the Council in this matter is critical, and I urge that you act decisively to ensure that those most in need are not left to suffer in silence. Strong leadership is essential to ensure that no Leicester resident is left behind in these difficult times.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Hemant Rae Bhatia

Leader of the Conservative Group