

COUNCIL MEETING – 22 FEBRUARY 2010

Amendment to Motion U (2009/10)

(Amendments are shown in bold & italics, deletions have been struck through)

Cold Weather Payments

“Council notes that:

- Cold Weather Payments of £25 per week are paid to people on low incomes who receive a qualifying benefit, such as Pension Credit.
- ***A customer does not need to apply for Cold Weather Payments; a Cold Weather Payment will be paid automatically as long as the customer qualifies.***
- *The form to apply for Pension Credit is 18 pages long. The advisory notes on how to fill it in are 19 pages long.*
- ***Customers do not have to fill in a form or visit an office to obtain pension credit. They can call a free phone number and the form will be filled in by an operator and posted back to the customer. All the customer needs to do is check it, sign it and post it back.***
- ***The Pensions Service also offer visits. If a customer prefers someone to visit them to help with claiming, they can request this by calling or contacting their local benefits office.***
- ***There is also a facility to go to [The Pension Service](#) website and fill in the form there and print it out and post it.***
- Last year 1.7million pensioners missed out on an average of over £1700 each of pension credit
- The Government has saved £17.5billion in 11 years that has not gone to struggling pensioners in pension credit payments.

Delete all, substitute with:

~~This Council is concerned that the complexity of the system to claim Pension Credit has put so many people off claiming the credit and that consequently they also do not receive the additional cold weather payments.~~

~~This Council therefore resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State expressing Councils wish to see the system for claiming pension credit simplified.~~

This Council is concerned that not all pensioners have claimed the Pension Credit that they are entitled to

This Council therefore resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State to see the system for claiming pension credit can be

simplified further, or there is anything else that can be done to encourage uptake of Pension Credit.”.

Propose: Cllr Pat Egan

Second: Cllr Gideon Bull