



Council – 27 January 2022

Notice of Motion – National Energy Crisis.

Notice of Motion from Councillors A S Lewis, R C Stewart, D H Hopkins, J P Curtice, D W W Thomas, S Pritchard, M B Lewis, W G Lewis, C Anderson, M C Child, R Francis-Davies

This council recognises the unprecedented energy crisis facing many households across Swansea, Wales and the UK. In the coming months more and more households will see increases of a magnitude never seen before as the price cap is removed or energy deals come to an end.

This comes on top of a cost of living crisis created by the Impacts of Brexit and the Covid Pandemic which have already seen an unprecedented squeeze on peoples incomes.

Inflation remains very high which is putting huge pressure on household budgets as earnings have not kept pace with prices, leaving family budgets squeezed and people worse off.

The additional costs of day to day living are already impacting negatively on every household across Swansea but even more so on families who are living close to the bread line many of whom still need to visit food banks and will now be faced with the terrible choice of heating their home or or putting food on the table.

As a Council, we will continue to do everything within our power to help mitigate energy costs by signposting residents to the number of financial support options available to improve the energy efficiency of residents homes as home owners as well as our significant investment in our Council homes to make them cheaper to heat and live in.

WG are also giving many households £100 each and we welcome this contribution in the interim with the Council processing up to 30,000 such payments to households in Swansea.

However, the help families need to deal with the cost of living crisis can only be fixed by decisive action by the UK Government

This Council therefore calls upon the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer and call for the immediate implementation and action for the following :-

- A reduction in VAT for Energy Bills to help families and householders
- An introduction of a new lower price cap on energy bills to protect households from excessive price rises

- Increasing the availability of grants or interest free loans to encourage the take up of renewable energy solutions such as domestic Solar / PV for private home owners and local businesses
- A windfall tax on energy companies to fund a UK wide grant scheme for qualifying households to complement the work started by the WG £100 scheme

Acronyms

IPBES – Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems (body of scientists equivalent to the membership of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)).

LNP – Local Nature Partnership – all-Wales body of organisations working for nature

NGO – Non-Governmental Organisation

RSPB – Royal Society for the Protection of Birds