

MOTION ON NOTICE

City Council



Cost of Living Emergency Declaration

Significant numbers of people living in Plymouth were already struggling to make ends meet before the announcement that the energy price cap is being raised by Ofgem to £3,549 per year in October.

This is against a backdrop of the Conservative government removing £20 a week from Universal Credit which is received by over 22,000 households in the city - the vast majority of whom are in work. This is coupled with inflation at 10.1%, the highest since February 1982, and the Bank of England raising interest rates a number of times in 2022.

The situation has been exacerbated by the Conservative government's disastrous mini-budget which has led to almost immediate increases in thousands of people's mortgages and recent research by Kantar and More In Common revealed that more than 50,000 people in the city have skipped meals, more than half of Plymothians have had to cut down on electricity and gas and 21,027 people have been forced to use foodbanks.

With all of this and ongoing uncertainty about future energy costs it is clear that a significant number of people, families and businesses in the city will soon find it impossible to pay for their energy bills as well as all their other outgoings.

Some academics are predicting more than half of UK households will be in fuel poverty - defined as having to spend over 10% of net income on fuel - by the end of the year.

The council is requested to:

- Declare a cost-of-living emergency
- Request the chief executive writes to the new Chancellor and Prime Minister urging them to create a Local Government Cost of Living Emergency Fund to help local authorities, including Plymouth, to tackle the crisis

Proposed by: Councillor Jemima Laing

Signature: Approved by email.

Seconded by: Councillor Zoe Reilly

Signature: Approved by email.