

MOTION ON NOTICE



Date of Council Meeting: 02 June 2025

Title of Motion: Oppose Cuts to Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

The Labour Government’s proposed £5 billion cuts to Personal Independence Payment (PIP) would strip away vital support from up to 1.2 million disabled people by 2029/30, including many of the most vulnerable residents in Plymouth.

These cuts would have devastating consequences:

For individuals, PIP is a financial lifeline that covers essential costs related to living with a disability — such as mobility aids, personal care, transport, and specialist equipment. Removing this support will force many in Plymouth into poverty, isolation and worsen their physical and mental health. At least 250,000 people (including 50,000 children) nationally are expected to be pushed into poverty if these changes go ahead.

For their families, the cuts threaten eligibility for Carer’s Allowance. Over 150,000 unpaid carers are at risk of losing this support if the person they care for no longer qualifies for PIP. In Plymouth, families already stretched by the cost-of-living crisis may be forced to give up work to take up more caring responsibilities or seek emergency support from our already stretched local services.

For local authorities, the costs will be immense. The Disability Policy Centre estimates that for every £1 lost in disability benefits, councils will face £1.50 in additional care costs. In Plymouth — where adult social care is under extreme pressure — this cost-shifting exercise could jeopardise Plymouth City Council’s ability to deliver essential services and fulfil its statutory duties.

For the NHS, the long-term strain will be severe. An estimated £1.2 billion in additional NHS costs is expected due to deteriorating health among disabled people losing PIP. This will mean more hospital admissions, delayed discharges, and increased demand on GPs and mental health services — the impacts in Plymouth, where NHS resources are already overstretched, would be strongly felt.

This council believes:

- Disabled people have the right to live with dignity and respect.
- PIP is essential for many to live independently and to participate in work, education and society. Removing it will deepen hardship and cost more in the long run.

- These cuts are not meaningful reform — they are a short-sighted attempt to offload national costs onto people with disabilities, councils and the NHS.
- Disabled people must not be made to pay the price for a broken and underfunded care system.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Request the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, urging them to withdraw the proposed PIP cuts, citing their damaging impact on health, wellbeing, and local government finances in Plymouth.
2. Request that the Leader of the Council writes to Plymouth's Members of Parliament, calling on them to oppose these proposals in Parliament and stand up for the needs of their constituents.
3. Commit to supporting Plymouth residents affected by the changes, including:
 - Ensuring access to advice and guidance,
 - Signposting to financial support,
 - Working with local voluntary and community organisations to respond to rising needs.
4. Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer regarding:
 - the upcoming Local Government Spending Review, using this opportunity to advocate for increased financial support for Local Authorities with pressures in their Social Care budgets.
 - the implementation of a modest Wealth Tax on individuals with assets over £10 million, as a fair and sustainable way to fund essential disability support and beyond — so that those with the least are not forced to bear the cost of a failing system.

Proposer: Cllr Lauren McLay

Seconder: Cllr Ian Poyser