

Full Council

16 OCTOBER 2024

AMENDMENT 1 – NOTICE OF MOTION 2 – PROMOTION OF PENSION CREDITS

Mover Councillor Ramsay and

Seconder Councillor I Khan

*(Those words in **Purple** and crossed through to be removed)*

~~This Council notes the pressures on the nation's finances caused by the £22 billion black hole created by the previous Conservative Government and the difficult choices this has created, including restricting those pensioners eligible for the Winter Fuel Allowance to those in receipt of pension credits.~~

This Council ~~further~~ notes that official figures from the ONS estimate that there are approximately 1,500 eligible households who are not currently claiming the pension credit in Crawley Borough.

The Council recognises the efforts already being undertaken by Crawley Borough Council officers to spread awareness, including the successful 'Money Worries' page on the council's website containing a 'Help for Pensioners' section specifically addressing Pension Credit take up, the Winter Warmer Event at K2 on Thursday 17 October between 11am and 3.30pm where staff will be on hand to help submit an application, and regular drop ins at the Town Hall doing likewise.

Whilst much is being done, we are keen to go even further.

Therefore, this Council calls on our officers to use any other effective measures, including:

- a) working with other partners such as Citizens Advice, and voluntary and community groups within the Borough, to assist with applications and to maximise the number of eligible pensioners in Crawley taking up their entitlement to Pension credits,
- b) increase publicity on this issue including through the winter edition of Crawley Live,
- c) investigating if a targeted campaign would be feasible based on previous successful take up efforts for other methods of assistance, and
- d) helping signpost any pensioners on low incomes to other sources of help that may be available, such as the Household Support Fund, to mitigate any shortfall.

Proposed Amended Notice of Motion 2 – Promotion of Pension Credits, If approved, now reads:

This Council notes that official figures from the ONS estimate that there are approximately 1,500 eligible households who are not currently claiming the pension credit in Crawley Borough.

The Council recognises the efforts already being undertaken by Crawley Borough Council officers to spread awareness, including the successful 'Money Worries' page on the council's website containing a 'Help for Pensioners' section specifically addressing Pension Credit take up, the Winter Warmer Event at K2 on Thursday 17 October between 11am and 3.30pm where staff will be on hand to help submit an application, and regular drop ins at the Town Hall doing likewise.

Whilst much is being done, we are keen to go even further.

Therefore, this Council calls on our officers to use any other effective measures, including:

- a) working with other partners such as Citizens Advice, and voluntary and community groups within the Borough, to assist with applications and to maximise the number of eligible pensioners in Crawley taking up their entitlement to Pension credits,
- b) increase publicity on this issue including through the winter edition of Crawley Live,
- c) investigating if a targeted campaign would be feasible based on previous successful take up efforts for other methods of assistance, and
- d) helping signpost any pensioners on low incomes to other sources of help that may be available, such as the Household Support Fund, to mitigate any shortfall.