

COUNTY COUNCIL: 15TH JULY 2025

Agenda Item No. 13d) – Motion from Councillor Tong

Proposed by Councillor Mike Black

Seconded by Councillor

Additions in bold and deletions shown in strikethrough

The council notes:

- in the wake of the debate surrounding the Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment Bill, Bill 267 2024-25, our current Labour government has ~~recently backtracked on its~~ **listened and responded to representations from Labour MPs and removed from the Bill** proposed cuts to disability benefits that would have harmed residents across Cambridgeshire and put extra pressure on county council services.

~~— similar cuts are likely to return in some form following a review.~~

- Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payments are benefits considered in a financial assessment to determine what a person should contribute toward the cost of their social care. Reductions in these benefits mean that for some people their contribution toward the cost of their care is reduced, which reduces income to the council to support services.
- the disability cuts previously proposed would likely have had an adverse impact on vulnerable and disabled residents and their families, and likely to have had wider adverse impacts on our county. These include increased pressure on adult social care services, which are chargeable and based on a means-tested assessment. The county council has the same statutory responsibilities under the Care Act 2014 and funding toward adult social care must be prioritised by law, so a reduction in residents' ability to contribute to care costs means funds are reduced from other council services toward adult social care.
- the previously proposed cuts would not have saved money, but instead would have transferred costs to hard-pressed county council services.

The council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to ~~write to~~:

- **write to** the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Liz Kendall) and Chancellor of the Exchequer (Rachel Reeves):
 - **welcoming proposals to help disabled people find work and welcoming the abandonment of** ~~asking for~~ any plans to cut access to Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payments ~~to be abandoned~~;
 - to reference the potential impact of proposed cuts and implications it has on the local authority; and
 - asking if any future cuts will result in savings or transfer costs from central government budgets to those of the NHS and local authorities.

- **send copies of the letter to local MPs, asking for copies of any letters they have already sent to ministers opposing the bill, and asking for clarification as to whether their party can commit to opposing any cuts to benefits** ~~local MPs to send their own letters of support to this motion, following on from the Chief Executive's letter, reflecting the council's position as a result of this motion.~~