

Notice of Motion

Motion to be moved by Councillor Bridges:

Council notes with grave concern the recent proposals from the Labour Government to reform welfare, including damaging changes to benefits that enable individuals with a disability to work and/ or meet the costs of their additional needs because of their disabilities. These proposals have rightly provoked widespread public outcry and a rebellion among Labour backbench MPs.

Council welcomes the limited U-turn forced upon the Government following this backlash but is deeply disappointed that it required pressure from within the governing party to prevent what would have been an immediate and devastating blow to hundreds of thousands of disabled people. The decision to delay the changes pending the outcome of the Timms Review offers only temporary reprieve, not genuine reassurance. Council remains unconvinced that the Government has abandoned its intention to impose punitive cuts on those least able to bear them.

This Council condemns any attempt, by any Government, regardless of political party, to scapegoat disabled people and other vulnerable groups for the challenges facing our welfare system. It is unacceptable that a Labour Government is pursuing policies that mirror the austerity-driven logic of previous Conservative administrations: targeting the poor while failing to confront pandemic profiteers, corporate tax evaders, and the ultra-wealthy.

Council notes that in Hull's three Parliamentary Constituencies, there are approximately 25,100 PIP claimants, with an additional 10,997 in the East Riding, representing over 36,000 individuals who stand to be affected by these proposals. Council affirms that people with disabilities should not be treated as a financial burden to be managed, but as citizens with equal rights to dignity, security, and support.

Council further recalls its previous unanimous support for a motion urging the Government to raise revenue by taxing the wealthiest in society and recovering public funds lost to Covid-era fraud and waste, rather than by cutting support to those most in need.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Publicly condemn the Labour Government's current approach to welfare reform as unjust, regressive, and fundamentally incompatible with the principles of social justice.
2. Instruct the Chief Executive and the Leaders of all political groups on this Council to write to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Hull's three Members of Parliament expressing in the strongest terms our opposition to the Government's welfare reform agenda, and calling for a full reversal of any policy that undermines the rights and protections of disabled people.

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3. Reaffirm this Council's unwavering commitment to stand in solidarity with all disabled residents and benefit claimants in Hull and beyond, and to resist any attempt to weaken the welfare safety net under the guise of reform.

Sources:

[pip hull - Google Search](#)

[How the DWP makes a decision on PIP claims - Citizens Advice](#)

[Starmer facing growing backbench rebellion over planned disability benefit cuts | Politics News | Sky News](#)

[15% of East Hull residents on PIP as rebel Labour MPs seek to scupper Government's welfare reforms - Hull Live](#)

[Disability benefit cuts to hit 700,000 families already in poverty, DWP forecasts show | Poverty | The Guardian](#)

[No 10 climbs down over welfare bill in move to win over Labour rebels | Welfare | The Guardian](#)

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