

Notice of Motion

Motion to be moved by Councillor Wareing:

Council notes:

The Financial Times on the 6th of March stated “Chancellor Rachel Reeves will this week submit plans to Britain’s official forecaster for billions of pounds of spending cuts, with a focus on slashing the welfare bill to shore up the country’s weak public finances. “

ITV news revealed the package of measures are likely to be:

- £5bn in savings by making it harder to qualify for Personal Independence Payments - a benefit not linked to work that is meant to help people with the additional costs of their disability
- Further savings by freezing PIP payments next year, so they do not rise with inflation
- Raising the basic rate for Universal Credit paid to those searching for work, or in work, while cutting the rate for those who are judged as unfit for work.
- A billion pounds of savings ploughed into a major investment for employment support for those who are looking for a job.

In response the Joseph Rowntree Foundation have produced a Health Related Benefit Cuts Fact Sheet which states.

- 50% of people receiving the health-related element of Universal Credit (LCWRA) are either unable to heat their home, behind on bills, or have low or very low food security, compared to 11% in households not receiving any UC or Personal Independence Payments (PIP).
- There are 900,000 children living in a household where someone receives LCWRA, the main health-related benefit for those receiving UC.
- Recipients of health-related benefits are disproportionately at risk of food insecurity:
- Almost a quarter (24%) of working-age adults in a family receiving health-related UC have had to use a foodbank in the last year, compared to 3% of all working-age adults and 17% of working-age adults receiving non-health-related UC.
- Almost half (48%) of adults in a household where someone claims health-related UC are also in a household without reliable access to enough affordable, nutritious, healthy food, compared to 11% of all working-age adults.
- People receiving health-related benefits already face some of the highest rates of material deprivation in the population, meaning these cuts are set to damage the living standards of some of the poorest people in our society.
- Reducing PIP expenditure by £2.0 billion in 2029/30 would require at least 310,000 fewer people to be receiving PIP in that year, or for the average PIP award in 2029/30 to be 7% lower in value than planned.

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- Reducing PIP expenditure by £4 billion would mean at least 630,000 fewer people receiving PIP, or a 15% cut in real terms to projected PIP values for 2029/30.
- The latest analysis from the Department for Work and Pensions itself, published in January 2025, showed that 30% of the growth in incapacity benefit caseload between 2018 and 2023 is explained by the rise in State Pension Age, demographic changes and structural differences between Universal Credit and its legacy benefit equivalents. This would go against the idea that this increase is solely down to people now claiming benefits as a lifestyle choice.
- Between 2018/19 and 2022/23, the approval rate for PIP fell from 55% to 51%.
- The OBR also forecasted that the previous Government's announced WCA criteria restrictions would result in 424,000 fewer people receiving LCWRA by 2028/29, yet only 15,400 more people (or 3% of those affected) moving into work.

Council resolves to request the Chief Executive write to the three Labour MPs representing the City of Hull to express the Council's deep unease with the proposals and ask them what support and advice they can give those who continue to suffer from this shameful decision.

Council requests the Chief Executive write to the Members of Parliament for Hull North and Cottingham; Hull West and Haltemprice, and Hull East informing them of this Council's position and requesting them to work to withdraw the Labour Governments proposed spending cuts.

Sources:

<https://www.ft.com/content/c479320f-dc85-4ff5-90c3-0bc21dc21102>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/welfare-cuts-labour-plans-benefits-spending-reeves-b2709304.html>

<https://www.itv.com/news/2025-03-07/government-to-make-6bn-welfare-savings-with-benefits-shake-up>

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/news/factsheet-health-related-benefit-cuts>