

MOTION TO EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL 23 August 2022

Alleviating the Worst of Fuel Poverty Crisis

The Council has been in Business Continuity since the COVID pandemic struck in 2020 and is now moving back to business as usual. This is being made very difficult due to the combination of Brexit and ongoing impacts from the COVID crisis that has seen our national GDP drop by over 4% in recent months.

As these unprecedented times unfold, residents have also had the energy price cap increased by 12% in October 2021 and 54% in April 2022 with further rises planned for October.

Bold and empathetic action is required from this Council. We have a chance to make a marked difference to vulnerable people's lives and we must act immediately to ensure we offer that help at the time it is most needed.

Council is called upon to produce a full report of costs, and operational implications, of making all open and functioning Council owned buildings (except those that require PVG membership) Warmth Refuges, allowing members of the public to enter these publicly owned and paid for buildings to warm up and escape the cold during opening hours and to make available the facilities so the public can make themselves a hot beverage and truly take refuge in our public buildings.

This report should be brought back to the next meeting of Council in October and, if approved, that the Council implement this measure from October to April 2022/2023 and revisit in 2023 to assess the impact and plan for winters going forward.

Proposed by: Councillor Lyn Jardine
Date: 11 August 2022

Seconded by: Councillor Liz Allan
Date: 11 August 2022

Received by (officer): Jill Totney, Team Manager, Democratic & Licensing
Date: 11 August 2022