

11 October 2022



Department for Corporate Core Services

The Rt Hon Liz Truss MP
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

Letter sent via email to:

Dear Prime Minister,

Reference: Freeze Energy Prices With A Windfall Tax On Oil And Gas Companies

Bury Council at its Full Council meeting on 21 September 2022 debated a notice of motion in relation to freezing energy prices by implementing a windfall tax on oil and gas companies.

The Council recognised and noted that:

1. The announcement that the Government will now cap energy bills for typical a household to £2500, nearly £1500 higher than two years ago.
2. That this cap will still leave households facing significantly higher bills and steep financial pressures.
3. That this change of policy will not be funded by a windfall tax on excessive profits within the oil and gas industries
4. That extortionate price hikes will still hit businesses, schools, local Councils, and hospitals which are excluded from the price cap and there are still reports that many vital local small businesses like small retailers, pubs and fish and chip shops may be forced to close.
5. That all of this come at a time when oil and gas companies are making enormous profits off the back of this crisis, giving out billions of pounds to shareholders.

This Council welcomes:

1. The Labour Party's plan to freeze the household energy price cap, halting a massive hike in energy bills and saving every household in Bury £1,000 this winter, and that this will be paid for by a windfall tax on excess profits from oil and gas companies.
2. The Labour Party's package of support to help businesses facing spiralling energy costs, including an increase in the Business Rates threshold for small businesses saving high street businesses up to £5,000.
3. The Labour Party's broader plan for energy sustainability and security as part of a £28 billion Climate Investment Pledge which includes proposals to upgrade energy efficiency in 19 million homes - saving families in Bury an average of over £1,000 a year off their energy bills - double our onshore and offshore wind capacity, triple our solar power production and end the delay on nuclear power.

The Council resolved to:

1. Write to the new Prime Minister urging them to adopt Labour's plans to save households in Bury £1,000 this winter through a windfall tax, start insulating millions of homes to save households money in future years and address our long-term energy needs through investment in sustainable, renewable energy.
2. Include in the letter our concerns about the rising cost of energy for public services, including schools, hospitals and local authorities – as well as local businesses – who are not subject to a cap.

3. Continue to do all we can as a local authority, through our new Anti-Poverty Strategy, to support those residents most in need through the cost-of-living crisis, with £2.5 million targeted support this year for households in Bury.

Accordingly, I am writing to you in relation to this matter. I look forward to your response so that an update can be provided to Members of Bury Council.

Yours sincerely



Geoff Little OBE
Chief Executive