

Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for
Housing, Communities and Local Government
The Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP



Chief Executive

Letter sent by email to angela.rayner.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Deputy Prime Minister,

Bury Council at its Full Council meeting on 11 September 2024 debated a motion on Government Funding Streams.

In debating this motion, the Council noted:

- That the previous government had provided funding up to the 30 September 2024 in respect of the Household Support Fund (HSF). This fund was aimed at providing targeted support and did not affect people who received any benefits.
- The Chancellor of Exchequer has announced that the Labour Government would be scrapping winter fuel payments for those pensioners not on pension credit or other means-tested benefits.
- The previous Government in the 2024/25 Local Government Policy Statement, published on 05 December 2023, confirmed that they remained committed to improving the local government finance landscape in the next parliament.
- That a fair funding review of Local Government has been promised since 2016 and Bury Council voted against a Conservative Group proposal to lobby direct the then Secretary of State for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities to give a commitment as to when such a review would take place.
- Notwithstanding the above in recent years the Local Government Settlement has resulted in this Council's Core Spending Power (CSP) being higher than the overall Core Spending Power for the rest of the country.
- The scrapping of the winter fuel payments (other than for those pensioners on pension credit or other means-tested benefits) is likely to result in a significant number of pensioners living in Bury struggling to stay warm this winter.
- That the Labour Government, although announcing an extension to the household support fund, are yet to announce the level of funding for Bury.

The Council resolved to:

- Write to you to kindly implore that the CSP for Bury is again higher than the national average;
- Write to you to kindly ask when a Fair Funding Review take place;
- Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer asking what level of HSF this Council can expect for the remainder of this financial year and for the 2025/26 financial year bearing in mind the impact of scrapping winter fuel payments other than for those on pension credit or other means-tested benefits.

I am therefore writing to ask you to consider the issues raised. I look forward to hearing your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynne Ridsdale".

Lynne Ridsdale
Chief Executive
Bury Council