

Council

20 June 2022

Motions (2 total)

Motion A	Proposed by: Councillor Max Wilkinson	Seconded by: Councillor Peter Jeffries
	<p>This Council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 1 April 2022, Ofgem increased the energy price cap by 54% • In light of the increased energy price cap, the average standard tariff energy bill will increase by £693 per year. The average pre-pay meter energy bill will increase by £708 per year (Ofgem, 2022) • On 6 April 2022, the Government increased National Insurance by 1.25 percentage points, which is projected to cost the average family an additional £108 per year • The Government has suspended the pensions ‘triple lock’ for 2022/23, meaning that Cheltenham’s pensioners will see a rise of 3.1% this year (instead of 8.3% under the triple lock formula). This year, this will cost Cheltenham pensioners on the full new state pension an average of £487, and those on the full basic state pension an average of £373 (TUC, 2022) • Last year Cheltenham Foodbank distributed 3,777 three-day emergency food supplies given to people in crisis. <p>• Council notes the news that following calls by the Liberal Democrats last October for a windfall tax on energy companies, the Government has belatedly introduced one.</p> <p>This Council therefore declares a ‘Cost of Living Emergency’ and calls on the Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Immediately reduce the standard rate of VAT from 20% to 17.5% for one year, saving the average household a further £600 this year. 2. Re-introduce the pensions triple lock to support pensioners. 3. Immediately use revenue from the windfall tax on energy companies to help Cheltenham families with their energy bills. <p>Further, Council asks officers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue this authority’s excellent track record of promptly distributing emergency funding to those in need. • Investigate how to further support existing initiatives aimed at supporting those in need, including the Cheltenham Food Network and No Child Left Behind. • Investigate with partners, including The Cheltenham Trust, Cheltenham Borough Homes and others, what can be done to further support struggling Cheltenham people. 	

Motion B	Proposed by: Councillor Martin Horwood	Seconded by: Councillor Victoria Atherstone
<p>This council</p> <p>Welcomes the recent return of Pride Gloucestershire to Cheltenham on 15 May and congratulates the organisers on a wonderful day out in Pittville Park</p> <p>Would also warmly welcome EuroPride to the town should Cheltenham's bid to host this event succeed</p> <p>Notes that the public realm can be used by local authorities to promote inclusivity and community cohesion, to advance the opportunity of equality and foster good relations between those who share protected characteristics and those who do not</p> <p>Believes the creation of a colourful and inclusive 'progress flag' pedestrian crossing would help to foster this relationship, enhance the public realm and provide an interesting and safe place to cross the road.</p> <p>This council</p> <p>Would welcome a 'progress flag' crossing incorporating the six rainbow colours of the standard pride flag and the additional colours of black, brown, baby blue, baby pink and white, representing diversity and the transgender community.</p> <p>Notes that a motion was passed in September 2020 by Gloucestershire County Council (Motion 866) included open discussions with regions within the county to have crossings installed by Gloucestershire County Council following the example already in existence in Gloucester City Centre.</p> <p>Notes a possible location identified for the Progress Crossing between the Brewery and the NCP Car Park (already a crossing in place) on St Margaret's Road.</p> <p>This council requests that Gloucestershire County Council, as per GCC Motion 866 and following the precedent set by their co-operation with Gloucester City Council, funds and delivers the crossing through Gloucestershire Highways to help celebrate and protect diversity and inclusion within Cheltenham and the county.</p>		