In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 12, Councillor Richards will move the following motion:

This council notes:

• 1.3 million pensioner households nationally are missing out on pension credit benefit that they are entitled to.
• £3 billion is returned to the treasury because many pensioners are not aware or do not claim the Pension Credit, a benefit that they are entitled to.
• Pension Credits are a lifesaver for the least well-off pensioners and provide vital help with council tax and dental bills.
• Pensioners in receipt of Pension Credit are also exempt from paying their TV licence.
• The government has ceased funding over 75's TV Licences. Since August 2020 the BBC is now charging over 75's for their licence.
• For over a million of the oldest people in our country, television is their main form of company.
• This change will harm millions of older people who rely on their TV and the most vulnerable will be forced to cut back on essentials to make ends meet or lose out on TV altogether.
• Removing older people's access to TV would be an unthinkably cruel blow when many are already facing huge challenges.
• Half of all over 75s are living with a disability or an enduring illness, and many rely on their TV for companionship and entertainment and for those who don't have the internet, TV lets them stay up to date with what's happening in the world.
• Loneliness is already a problem in the UK – new figures show two thirds of people rely on the TV for company in lieu of real social interactions.
• Removing the free TV licence for Over 75s in the middle of a pandemic is particularly cruel. Many older people have been left isolated and frightened by lockdown and it is vital that they have access to the news and public health announcements

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

"Start a local public information campaign targeting retired and above working age residents of the District, in order to encourage them to submit eligible claims for Pension Credit and signpost them to organisations that can advise and assist."