



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

10th March, 2026.

Our Ref: March26 – 17/JC/AC

Dear Meetings Administrator,

At the March meeting of the Council, the members passed the following resolution:

“As elected members of this Council, we are deeply conscious of the financial pressure facing many people in our communities. For disabled people, that pressure is significantly greater.

Disabled people incur additional and unavoidable costs every single day. These include higher heating and electricity usage, transport costs, the running of essential equipment, personal assistance, and the practical realities of living in environments that are not fully accessible. These costs rise further during winter months.

These are not discretionary expenses. They are structural costs linked directly to impairment and to systemic barriers.

Across our county, disabled people are making impossible choices: between heating and participation, between mobility and food, between independence and debt. This is not acceptable in a society that claims to value equality and inclusion.

While local authorities do not determine national social protection policy, we are the closest tier of government to our communities. We see the impact of poverty in housing applications, in requests for supports, and in the growing strain on families.

We are therefore calling on this Council to formally request that Government introduce an immediate emergency cost of disability payment. This payment should recognise the additional costs borne by disabled people and be delivered in a way that does not exclude those who are in employment.

Disabled people should not be penalised for working. Nor should they be pushed into poverty because of unavoidable additional costs.

A national gathering is planned for 1pm on 28 February at the Garden of Remembrance to highlight this issue. Many would prefer not to have to gather in protest, but to see leadership and action instead.

As councillors, we have a responsibility to stand with our constituents and to send a clear message to Government that this matter requires urgent attention.

We respectfully ask our fellow elected members to support this call.

If successful, please forward this motion to all County Councils as correspondence.”

Yours sincerely,

John Corry,
Senior Executive Officer,
Corporate Services & Governance,
People & Culture, Corporate Services & Governance, ICT & Digital Services

An Rannóg um Sheirbhísí Corparáideacha agus Rialachas

Áras Contae an Chláir, Bóthar Nua, Inis, Co. an Chláir, V95 DXP2

Corporate Services and Governance Department

Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2