

## **Councillor Questions for Cabinet 17 May 2022**

### **Question 1 from Cllr Paul Kimber**

I have had a complaint from a senior resident of Dorset regarding the accompanying Council letter advising householders of the new council tax, and as you know, we had another letter telling us that we would get a council tax rebate during April for £150 towards the cost of living crisis.

We were asked to contact the Dorset Council to find out when this sum would be paid into our bank accounts during April.

Question is when will this benefit be paid? I look forward to your advice.

### **Leader of the Council to respond on behalf of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy**

Thank you for your question.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that the first payments to Dorset Council residents were made on 11 and 12 May.

We have made over 78,000 individual payments amounting to more than £11.7m to council taxpayers in bands A to D who pay their council tax by direct debit.

This week we will be writing to the 44,000 other residents who are entitled to the payment, but who do not currently pay by direct debit. The letter will explain to residents how to apply. The scheme will close on the 30 September 2022.

### **Question 2 from Cllr Brian Heatley**

At the Full Council meeting on 15 July 2021 the Chief Executive, taking account of the discussion by members, took the following minded to decision

With the acknowledgement of the staff workload and with grateful thanks to them, it is proposed that a review of the DC governance take place over this current term with a vote to be taken before the 2024 election.

Time is moving on. This will be a complex review. When will the Leader be in a position to set out proposals for terms of reference, an account of how and by whom the review will be carried out and a timetable?

### **Response from the Leader of the Council**

On 1 September 2021 I shared with the Group Leaders a proposed timeline for the work of a Governance Executive Advisory Panel. That timeline was to enable work to

be completed on the ongoing Community Governance Review before we begin the work of the Governance Executive Advisory Panel and still enable a decision to be made by the Full Council before the election in May 2024.

The main points of the timeline are these

April 2022 - Officer research to identify other Councils of similar size operating a Committee system, investigating different committee arrangements and governance options

September 2022 - Governance EAP – first meeting of EAP to agree Terms of Reference, frequency of meetings and any other relevant governance arrangements for the panel –

September 2023 – Full Council to make in principle decision on whether to implement a Committee system informed by a detailed report from the EAP.

This timeline provides a full year between September 2022 and September 2023 to complete the review and for the Panel to arrive at a recommendation.

In July 2022 I intend sharing proposed terms of reference with Group Leaders and inviting nominations to serve on the Panel.