

## **Question from Councillor P Kimber**

Councillors, I'm asking a question as to what provision this Council is making for next winter to support the most vulnerable in our Dorset community?

As you know, Martin Lewis has painted quite a bleak picture on energy bills and food pricing both of which are set to rise dramatically.

*An average families energy bill is forecast to average £3600 this Autumn and rise to £4200 in January 2023.*

*The latest 2021 census results for Dorset show 112,300 people aged 65 and over at 29.6% of the population, compared to 24.6% in 2011. Nationally the figure is 16.4%. If no action is taken to support Dorset's ever growing elderly population our social services will be put under even more pressure.*

What are we the Dorset Council doing? What are our plans to deal with the elderly who will be facing dramatic financial hardship, our residents with disabilities who cannot leave home and need to be kept warm, and Dorset families, all of whom will have difficulty in managing?