

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

16 SEPTEMBER 2014

ITEM 6 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR D DE LACY TO COUNCILLOR R D BAYLISS

Would the Portfolio Holder update Council on the progress being made in identifying those residents who have their Housing Benefit reduced wrongly as a result of the legislation on under occupancy of properties, commonly known as the bedroom tax?

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR R D BAYLISS

To find out who might qualify for a refund we needed to know peoples' circumstances going back to 1996. Changes to our IT systems meant that we were unable to identify people immediately who qualified so to be on the safe side we included everyone who could possibly qualify. After a number of computer programs were run we narrowed down the number to 168.

We wrote to all 168 and received 47 responses. Through further reminders, telephone calls and a second letter which included a prepaid envelope this increased this to 101 responses. Of these 38 were eligible for a refund.

Two additional people have since been found to be eligible for a refund following further phone calls and examination of paper records, bringing the anticipated final total to 40.