

## **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**21 JANUARY 2014**

### **ITEM 6 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

#### **QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR J RUFF TO COUNCILLOR R D BAYLISS**

“As a result of the present Government’s reductions in funding many low paid families were required to pay 8.5% council tax.

Now with the removal of the Government’s transitional funding this April 2014 this payment is increasing to 15% nearly double.

Could the Portfolio Holder please give the total number of households in this district who will pay the increased council tax because of these changes.

Could he also inform Council of the total number of households who have had a reduction in housing benefit as a result of the under occupancy charge (bedroom tax)”.

#### **RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR R D BAYLISS**

“The report presented at agenda item 11 explains the background to the proposed revision to the Local Council Tax Support scheme and the need to keep it affordable following the loss of transitional funding.

The Scheme applies to people of working age which is 3,109. People in receipt of pension credit will continue to be protected from paying any extra. The report explains that a Hardship Fund has been established which has been more than adequate in meeting the demand for assistance from eligible claimants.

We have identified 598 households affected by under occupancy charge”.