

District Councillor report Lighthorne Parish Council 12th July 2022

Update on the £150 Council Tax Energy Rebate

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has now paid out over £4.26m to 28,445 eligible households for the £150 Council Tax energy rebate. These payments have been made to those residents who currently pay their Council Tax by direct debit. For those eligible households that don't pay their Council Tax by direct debit, they will be receiving a letter providing them with all the information needed to make a claim. Those 9,000 residents will be required to complete an on-line form, which is now available on the District Council's website www.stratford.gov.uk/energyrebate

Stratford District Council feel that it's essential that the residents who are hardest hit receive help, which SDC are delighted to say that they are achieving this rebate to send to thousands of households in the Stratford-on-Avon District

Please note: The District Council will not telephone, e-mail, or text anyone to ask for their bank details

Environmental Health, Food Safety Standards

The Environmental team at SDC have been very active across the District. As an example, in one establishment, hotel guests had been hospitalised due to an outbreak of sickness this resulted in a full scale investigation by the SDC Environmental Health team.

Following advice from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to check smaller retailers for recalled Kinder Eggs, Officers found products still on sale in the retailers they visited. The majority of the smaller retailers that were visited were unaware of the Salmonella outbreak in the chocolate but following the Officers visits the Kinder Eggs were all removed for sale.

Officers are also finding more premises that do not have a working hot water supply. The increase of the cost of energy resources may be a contributing factor for this, along with boilers not being serviced during the pandemic. Officers will now be inspecting gas safety certificates.

The number of Service Requests by SDC's Environmental Health from March to May total 1118. As an example, this includes 232 Food Hygiene inspections, 24 Dog Fouling complaints, 155 Noise complaints.

SDC's Environmental Health Team say, "as we are approaching the tourist season, it is vital that all the business relating to food are of a high standard and it is of great importance that they maintain a high standard of hygiene for our residents across the District"

2021/22 Year end performance

The 2021 Year end Performance was reported at the Cabinet meeting on 20th June. There are 31 Key Performance indicators set to monitor performance in year 2. 18 of these are related to the Council Plan objectives and 13 are Corporate Health Indicators.

As an example, units of Bed & Breakfast in use as temporary accommodation has a paused target due to ongoing effect of the pandemic. However, it has been reported that numbers are decreasing.

County Lines

The percentage of County-Lines high-risk victims in the District reduced the risk to a lower level through coordinated multi-agency interventions within 6 months. The case management approach and process for County Lines has been reviewed. The previous process focussed on a small cohort of up to 12 individuals seeking to put in place bespoke targeted interventions; the process is now focussing on over 100 individuals, so a different approach is being deployed.

Legal/Human Rights Implications

Interestingly, there were no legal/human rights implications arising from the report.

The conclusion/reasons for the recommendation on the report say that 75% of the Council Plan actions have been achieved. 58% of Key Performance Indicators achieved target.

Covid Fund drives District jobs boost

Approximately 850 jobs have been created or safeguarded in the District as part of a £1.2m government funding scheme to help business with their post-Covid recovery plans. The District Council Collaborated with the CWLEP Growth Hub to identify companies in a wide variety of sectors that wanted to accelerate their expansion plans. 703 jobs were safeguarded and 133 jobs created

123+ New refuse Collection

The new 123+ new refuse collection will start on 1st August. Kinton Parish Council will be hosting a representative from Stratford District Council who will be making a presentation on Climate Change and the new 123+ refuse collection system at Kinton Village Hall on 26th July.

Census 2021 first results release

The population of Stratford-on-Avon District, as of March 2021, was estimated by the census to be 134,700. The population of the District is estimated to have

grown by 11.8% between 2011-2021. This is well above the average for both England and the West Midlands. With a growth of 11.8%, Stratford-on-Avon sits in the upper half of all authorities for growth. Rugby at 14.30% Wychavon at 13.3%. As a comparison, Tower Hamlets in London saw the largest growth over the last ten years at 22.1%, with Dartford in Kent second with a growth of 20%.

Residents' Survey 2022

From February to April, the District Council carried out a Residents' Survey which was sent to 6,000 households. For the 1,875 residents who completed the questionnaire their top 3 priorities were:

58% Health Services
57% Level of Crime
41% Access to Countryside

Satisfaction with Services

83% Refuse Collection
72% Doorstep recycling
71% Parks and open spaces 59% Play areas
59% Grass cutting.

Areas for improvement

Roads/pavements 48%
Traffic 43%
Teenage activities 33%
Affordable housing 30%
Public transport 29%

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