

## **District Councillor report Lighthorne Parish Council 9th August 2022**

### **Cost of Living Payment**

Millions of people on means-tested benefits will receive the first of two cost of living instalments totalling £650 from 14 July 2022, as part of a £37 billion government package to help families with cost-of-living pressures. The first £326 instalment for qualifying low-income households in England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland by their usual payment method from 14 July 2022, continuing to the end of the month. For those eligible, the rest will follow in a second instalment in the autumn. People receiving tax credits and no other eligible benefits will receive their first payment from HMRC in autumn and the second in winter. In total, millions of vulnerable households will receive at least £1,200 from the Government this year to help cover rising costs. There are specific payments for those on means tested benefits, for pensioners, those on disability benefits and to help people with energy bills.

Check eligibility here: [Cost of Living Payment – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/cost-of-living-payment)

There is also helpful information about further support available on the [Cost Of Living campaign website](#).

### **Stratford-on-Avon District Council submits plans for £3.5 million Shared Prosperity Fund**

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has submitted an **Investment Plan** for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which if approved by the Government, would see £3.5 million national funding brought into the District as part of the UK Government's Levelling Up programme.

The District Council has conditionally been allocated just over £3.5 million to be drawn down in annual stages and invested over a three-year funding period until March 2025. In order to 'unlock' and receive its conditional allocation, the District Council was tasked with developing and submitting an Investment Plan. This sets out how the District Council, as a lead authority, proposes to use and or allocate the fund over the designated funding period against the three investment priorities set by the Government.

1. Communities and Place
2. Supporting Local Businesses
3. People and Skills

The proposed approach for Stratford District has been to invest the budget evenly across the priority areas with specific reference made to 19 interventions over the 3-year funding period. The District Council expects to receive an update on its Investment Plan submission and subsequent allocation later this year during the Autumn, after it has been assessed by Central Government officials.

The UK Shared Prosperity fund (UKSPF) is a £2.6 billion funding pot, announced as part of the Government's Levelling Up programme, to be invested in communities by March 2025.

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)  
[UK Shared Prosperity Fund \(UKSPF\) | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

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### **Minor Injuries Unit at Stratford Hospital planned to re-open in August 2022**

South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust and Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) have been working closely to make arrangements to safely re-open the Minor Injuries Unit at Stratford Hospital.

The Minor Injuries Unit is planned to open on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August in a phased approach with the service available initially on Saturdays and Sundays between 9am-5pm.

If you need treatment for a serious accident and emergency, such as unconsciousness, heavy blood loss, suspected heart attack, stroke, broken bones, please visit the Emergency Department at Warwick Hospital.

South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust are running a number of recruitment drives and staff development programmes to support the current staffing challenges that are being felt across the NHS nationally.

## **Leisure Centres set to launch Free Membership for children in care and experienced young people**

Leisure centres in Stratford-on-Avon District are set to offer free membership to children in care and care experienced young people from this month.

Stratford Leisure Centre, Southam Leisure Centre, Shipston Leisure Centre, Studley Leisure Centre and The Greig Leisure Centre, run by award-winning operator Everyone Active in partnership with Stratford-on-Avon District Council, are taking part in the new initiative to reduce the barriers between children and young people participating in sport and physical activity.

The free membership will give them access to a range of facilities depending on their age, including gym, swim, soft play and group exercise.

According to latest figures from the [Department for Education](#) for children looked after (CLA) in England, the number of children in care is at an all-time high, at more than 80,000 children or 67 in every 10,000.

For further information, visit: <https://www.everyoneactive.com/about-us/what-we-offer/health-and-wellbeing/>

## **Don't lose your vote – residents in Stratford-on-Avon District are urged to check voter registration details**

Stratford-on-Avon District residents are being urged to check their electoral registration details or risk losing their chance to vote on decisions that affect them. With elections taking place in Stratford-on-Avon District in May 2023, this is an opportunity for residents to make sure they can take part. The annual canvass allows the District Council to keep the electoral register up to date, to identify who risks losing their voice at elections, and to encourage them to register before it's too late.

Residents with questions about their registration status can contact their local council's electoral services team at [elections@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:elections@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

Chris Mills  
District Councillor

