CABINET – 8 MARCH 2023

MEMBER QUESTIONS

Cllr Peggy Mullock

As we move towards the end of winter, many residents continue to be concerned about their energy bills and cost of living. Indeed, some households are yet to receive the £400 support from Central Government.

When can residents expect to receive this payment, and what wider support is available around energy bills and the Cost of living in Shropshire, particularly as we move into Spring?

Cllr Bernie Bentick

Background:

1. A Report in the Journal of The Royal Society of Chemistry revealed that insufficient capacity was the Water Companies' reason for 80% of all CSO spills, with exceptional weather accounting for 1.3% and blockages for less than 1%.
2. In 2021, there were 1559 recorded spills for 23,293 hours (970 days) into the River Severn locally, either directly or via its tributaries.

3. The Shropshire Water Cycle Study 2020, commissioned by Shropshire Council stated:
- The Shropshire Water Cycle Study scored Shrewsbury RED on a RAG score for overall sewerage network, with 2510 anticipated new houses and 7304 new employees at that time (Page 161)
- Significant wastewater infrastructure upgrades would be required for all of the Strategic Sites and for a number of settlements in Shropshire, including Shrewsbury, Bridgnorth, Shifnal, Ludlow and Albrighton.
- Early engagement with Severn Trent Water and Welsh Water is required, and further modelling of the network may be required at the planning application stage (Pages 162 and 163).

4. Shropshire Council aims to deliver 30,800 new dwellings between 2016, when deterioration in our local watercourses became noticeable, and 2038, with no demonstrable improvement in local sewerage system to date.

Question:

Would Shropshire Council's Cabinet please supply the result of its engagement with Severn Trent Water Company and details of the recommended significant wastewater upgrades, including any reports, recommendations, actions and timescales, following the Shropshire Water Cycle Study 2020?