

**Cabinet – 10 March 2022**

**Written question from Cllr Daryll Pitcher to the Leader, Isle of Wight Council**

1. What action are the Isle of Wight Council taking to mitigate the looming energy affordability crisis that could plunge the majority of the island population in to fuel poverty?

**Energy affordability is an international issue linked to the availability of gas and oil in the main which is significantly impacted by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the economic sanctions imposed on it.**

**Therefore, the council is limited in the direct action it can take to support its residents, much as it would like to and it must look to the national government to take the lead in response to the significant challenges the community will face.**

**In the short term we are doing all that we can to issue the government provided £150 energy grant to all households in council tax bands A to D as quickly as possible. Although this will be even quicker if we already have people's bank account details – so I would encourage anyone in need of this grant to get these details as soon as possible.**

**We are also waiting for the final information from government to confirm how we will allocate discretionary funding for energy grants to support vulnerable people and individuals on low incomes that do not pay council tax, or that pay council tax for properties in Bands E-H.**

2. What steps are the Isle of Wight Council taking to support the Ukrainian people in their hour of need?

**I and my Cabinet colleagues stand with the people of Ukraine and abhor the invasion by Russia that has denied the people of Ukraine their human right to a peaceful and dignified life.**

**The council is prepared to respond to whatever opportunities are developed by the government to support the people of the Ukraine.**

**Unfortunately there is only one scheme operational – the Ukrainian Family Scheme, for people with relatives in the UK. Another is still being designed - the Humanitarian Sponsorship Pathway, which will allow communities to bid to host Ukrainian refugees, the government has pledged to liaise with local authorities on the development of this scheme.**

**Officers are in constant contact with the South East Strategic Partnership for Migration so that we can be prepared for an ask that may be made of the council.**