EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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The Rt Hon John Healey MP
House of Commons
London
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Via email: john.healey.mp@parliament.uk

Enquiries to: Richard Millard
Email: Richard.Millard@easthants.gov.uk
Date: Thursday 12th November 2026

Dear Chancellor,

Household Energy Payment: councils need the funding and guidance now

I am writing to you about the Government's new £100 Household Energy Payment which was announced in the budget.

I absolutely support putting money back into residents' pockets and East Hampshire District Council will do everything it can to deliver the scheme successfully. But councils are being asked to prepare at speed without yet knowing how much we will receive to administer it, when that funding will arrive or precisely what delivery will require.

The Government has confirmed that eligible households in Council Tax bands A to D will receive £100 from January 2027. It has also confirmed that funding for eligible payments will be provided in advance, with reconciliation after the scheme, and that councils will be fully funded for the new burdens they incur. Those commitments are welcome.

However, councils still do not have the new-burdens assessment, individual administration allocations, allocation methodology or detailed delivery guidance. A commitment to cover our costs is important, but councils need to know what that means in practice before we commit staff, systems and money.

This will involve more than simply pressing a button. It is likely to require software changes, thousands of resident contacts, application and identity checks, payment processing, additional customer enquiries, fraud prevention, assurance and reconciliation.

The timing adds further pressure. January to March is already the busiest time of year for revenues teams, as councils set their Council Tax bases, finalise budgets and issue annual bills.

Every hour spent administering this national scheme is an hour taken from existing work. The Government's commitment to full funding must therefore cover the real cost of delivering this scheme.

I am asking the Government to:

- publish the new-burdens assessment, allocation methodology and individual council allocations without delay;
- confirm when administration funding will be paid and that councils will not have to carry the cost while waiting for reimbursement;

- cover the full and reasonable cost of delivery, including software changes, additional staffing if needed, payment processing, assurance and reconciliation;
- publish detailed guidance urgently, including a clear legal basis and safeguards for using residents' existing payment information and;
- confirm how fraud and overpayments will be treated where councils have followed Government guidance correctly

Councils have repeatedly stepped up to deliver national support schemes quickly, and we will do so again. But national policy must come with the funding and guidance needed to deliver it properly.

East Hampshire taxpayers should not be left to subsidise the administration of a national Government scheme.

I would welcome your urgent confirmation of when councils will receive their administration allocations and detailed delivery guidance.

Yours Sincerely,



Councillor Richard Millard
Leader of East Hampshire District Council