

**COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 5 – QUESTIONS**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8**

**QUESTION 1**

**MR N HARTIN** will ask the following question:

"Is there any reason to prohibit the Council extending its Council Tax payment options to allow payments over a 12 month period as well as the existing 10 months?"

This could surely be implemented from the start of the next financial year at minimal or no additional cost. This would, in a time of economic uncertainty, provide hard pressed families with more flexibility to enable them to spread the cost of payments over a more sensible term which would assist in setting family budgets since most other Direct Debit payment options are offered on a monthly basis."

**MR K BARROW** the Leader will reply:

"The legislation provides for Council Tax to be paid over 10 months and that is the Council's standard approach. However, the Council does have discretion in cases of hardship to offer payment over 12 months. Residents are urged to raise any issues with the Council Tax department who will make the necessary adjustments to instalment plans."