

Wiltshire Council

Full Council

21 May 2024

Item 16 - Members' Questions

From Cllr David Vigar - Trowbridge Grove Division

To Cllr Richard Clewer - Leader of the Council

Question (24-02)

How many Ukrainian individuals and households are now living in Wiltshire under the Homes for Ukraine programme, according to the figures held by the Council?

Response

1672 individuals have come to Wiltshire to date. Of those, 412 have returned to Ukraine/ travelled to another country.
381 guests remain in sponsorships.

Question (24-03)

How many Ukrainian households have progressed from a sponsorship arrangement into rented accommodation in Wiltshire?

Response

670 guests are in independent accommodation (private accommodation or social housing)

Question (24-04)

How much has the Council now received from central Government as a result of the 'tariff' payments of £10,500 per Ukrainian in 2022 and £5,900 since 1 January 2023?

Response

We have received £14.699m. However, we are due to repay £0.464m due to data cleansing.

Question (24-05)

How much of that tariff funding has been spent?

Response

Provisionally, as of 31 March 2024, £3.038m has been expended. However, this is before the finalisation of capital financing and the application of funding to house acquisitions undertaken during 2023/24. In the planning of house acquisitions in 2024/25 nearly £5m of the remaining grant funding has been earmarked to assist in funding the acquisition of 25 two and three bed houses in the County.

Question (24-06)

What have been the top three uses of the tariff funding in Wiltshire?

Response

Staffing
Council tax reduction scheme
Transport for schools

Note: house acquisitions have not been listed at this time as the finalisation of the financing of the capital programme for 2023/24 is yet to be determined and the £5m use of grant funding for 25 acquisitions during 2024/25 is planned.

Question (24-07)

In November 2022, the Council said that some of the Government funding would be used to enable the Stone Circle Housing Company to purchase homes that can be used for Ukraine nationals now and for wider use into the future. How many homes have been purchased by Stone Circle for this purpose?

Response

No homes have been purchased via Stone Circle, this may change following the finalisation of the capital financing year end process.

We have earmarked the grant funding to purchase 25 Ukraine homes that will form part of the HRA stock, of which 4 properties are in the acquisition process and 5 properties have been identified and are in the negotiation stage. These are not currently reflected in the budget.

LAHF properties are not part of the H4U budget.

Question (24-08)

How many caseworkers is the Council now employing to support Ukrainian refugees as members of the Refugee Resettlement & Migration Service team?

Response

9 Caseworkers

1 Senior Caseworker

2 Development Officers

1 Assistant Team Manager

Question (24-09)

How many caseworkers is the Council now employing to support Ukrainian refugees in finding independent housing?

Response

In addition to the 9 caseworkers listed above, Ukrainians are also supported by 2 specialist officers within the housing teams. There is also a current vacancy for an additional specific post to support with access to the private sector.

Question (24-10)

How many caseworkers is the Council now employing to support Ukrainian refugees in finding employment?

Response

In addition to the 9 caseworkers within the H4U team, we also employ one employment specific officer.