

Questions from Councillor Ernie Clark, Hilperton Division

In the written answer to my question at the 9th February meeting of this committee, it was stated 'There is no budgetary provision within the Development Service for cost awards ...'

At the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Select Committee Meeting held on 10th February, Cllr. Fleur de Rhe-Philippe (Cabinet member for Finance, Performance and Risk) stated that there was budgetary provision within Wiltshire Council for the awarding of costs against Wiltshire Council.

Could you please explain why the response, whilst referring to the Development Service budget, omitted to mention the provision by the council as a whole?

Response:

To clarify the Council does not have budgetary provision either within Development Services or any other budget line to meet the specific cost of awards.

The Council does however hold a provision within its overall balance sheet to cover potential costs arising for various legal reasons within the Neighbourhood and Planning Department; this was the provision that was referred to by the Portfolio holder for Finance, Performance and Risk at the Scrutiny meeting held on 10 February 2011.

Movements between this provision are controlled and administered by the Chief Finance Officer in his capacity as Section 151 Officer.