

Wiltshire Council

Full Council

18 May 2021

Item 8 – Public Participation

From Melanie Boyle

To the relevant Cabinet member

Question (P21-15)

Please can we have confirmation the housing figures have now had the 5,000 houses over Government figures removed?

What number will be removed from Chippenham, bearing in mind the current 20% of the allocation for the whole of Wiltshire in one historic market town is unsustainable?

Response

The recent consultation on the Wiltshire Local Plan Review closed on 9 March 2021 and sought comments on the overall level of housing that should be planned for in Wiltshire as well as its distribution. All comments received (and the different views made) are now being considered and further work undertaken in order to make a considered response to meeting the future housing needs identified for Wiltshire. This will involve further evidence gathering and the development of draft policies before Wiltshire Council is able to confirm the overall housing numbers for Wiltshire and at Chippenham. Furthermore, all councillors have just been involved in elections at which many views were strongly expressed on this matter on the doorstep. The re-elected administration has listened to these views and has taken note of them.

The next stage of the process is for the draft Local Plan to be considered by Cabinet and Council for approval before a final stage of public consultation which will take place later this year.

Question (P21-16)

I believe the funding originally through the green grants is going to be processed through Council's, please can some thought be given to helping people on low wages and getting no benefits so not eligible for any of the schemes currently available and are priced out of things like solar panels and garden waste collections which could help the climate Emergency and lower their fuel bills?

Response

As set out in this [announcement](#), additional Green Homes Grant funding in the form of the Local Authority Delivery Scheme and Social Housing Decarbonisation

Fund will be made available to local authorities for spending in their area via a competitive process.

We have successfully bid for funding under the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme phase 1b. The £550,000 grant is being used to target improvements to 100 council homes with some of the lowest EPC ratings with residents on low incomes by September 2021.

For Green Homes Grant phase 2, funding of £300 million has been allocated to the five Local Energy Hubs who will work with their regional local authorities to continue to deliver energy efficiency upgrades to up to 30,000 homes across England to those most in need, until December 2021.

The Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund is anticipated to launch in the autumn. Further information on the next phase of the Local Authority Delivery Scheme is also expected at this time.