

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

**COUNCIL
18 MAY 2010**

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

**QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR PETER COLMER
CRICKLADE, LATTON & MARSTON MEYSEY DIVISION**

**TO COUNCILLOR JOHN THOMSON, DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET
MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE, COMMUNITIES AND LIBRARIES**

Question 1

What is the total annual cost in administering the Area Board process (excluding the grant funding sum of circa £1m)?

Response

The total cost of the Area Boards Team is £1.2m per annum or £63k per community area. This includes the Head of service, team leaders, 18 Community Area Managers, administration team, sound technicians and all associated administrative, transport and support costs.

The total cost of Democratic Services Support to the Area Boards is approximately £250,000. The costs are approximate as budgets such as premises hire and refreshments cover all formal meetings not just Area Boards. Estimates have therefore been made as to the proportion of these costs that are attributable to area boards. The costs however do not include the printing and distribution of agenda.

**TO COUNCILLOR JOHN BRADY, CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND HOUSING**

Question 1

How is the Homes 4 Wiltshire data base audited to remove applicants that no longer require affordable housing and how often is this process carried out?

Response

It is part of our policy that we should have a rolling programme with all Homes 4 Wiltshire applicants being written to once a year on the anniversary of their joining the register. If there is no response; their circumstances have changed and they are no longer entitled, or people tell us they are no longer in need of housing they should be removed from the register. Unfortunately as a result of the review and other work commitments we have not been able to carry out that filter. However we are taking on additional staffing resource to work in this area, with the Homes 4 Wiltshire review now being completed, we expect to commence this work within the next couple of months.

Once people have been adequately housed through the system they are shown as adequately housed and no longer form part of the register. We also send out a newsletter and where these are returned "gone away" we will remove the applicant from the register.