

**Wiltshire Council**

**Full Council**

**16 May 2023**

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**Item 15 – Members' Questions**

**From Cllr David Vigar – Trowbridge Grove**

**To Cllr Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for  
Economic Development, Military-Civilian Integration, Heritage, Arts, Tourism,  
Health and Wellbeing**

**Question (23-06)**

How many Ukrainian individuals and families are now living in Wiltshire under the Homes for Ukraine programme?

**Response:**

643 individuals (297 units/families)

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**Question (23-07)**

Does the Council know how many Ukrainian households have progressed from a sponsorship into rented accommodation in Wiltshire?

**Response:**

392 individuals (168 units/families) inc. both social and private accommodation

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**Question (23-08)**

Does the Council have a known total or estimate for the total number of Ukrainians living in Wiltshire who have arrived since February 2022?

**Response:**

1437 individuals inc. 85 arrivals since Jan 2023

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**Question (23-09)**

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 in 2023?

**Response:**

The total tariff funding for 2022/23 is expected to be £14.182m with £13.051m already received and an additional £1.131m due. No payments have been received in 2023/24 financial year.

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**Question (23-10)**

How much does the Council expect to receive in the future from central Government as a result of the ‘tariff’ payments of £5,900 per Ukrainian?

*[Note: Tariff funding referenced in question 23-09]*

**Response:**

25 individuals have arrived since 1st April 2023 and we would expect to receive £147k funding to support them. We are not able to forecast future income as this is dependent on how many more people will arrive under this scheme. We have seen an average of 20 people per month arrive since January 2023 but it is not clear whether this level of uptake of the scheme will continue.

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**Question (23-11)**

How much of that tariff funding has been spent?

*[Note: Tariff funding referenced in question 23-09 and 23-10]*

**Response:**

£1.243m of tariff funding has been spent in 2002/23 and to date for 2023/24 £78k has been spent.

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**Question (23-12)**

How much of the tariff funding does the Council expect to use to buy homes through the Stone Circle Housing Company – in monetary terms and as a percentage of the tariff funding received?

*[Note: Tariff funding referenced in questions 23-09 to 23-11]*

**Response:**

The amount that will be used in the acquisition of housing cannot be calculated as it is dependent on the volume and cost that is expended through the application of the revised Government guidance. These measures will be prioritised first and the balance will then be used to leverage the funding of housing acquisitions.

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**Question (23-13)**

How much does the Council expect to borrow for by leveraging that part of the tariff funding set aside for Stone Circle's home-buying programme?

*[Note: Tariff funding referenced in questions 23-09 to 23-12]*

**Response:**

As per the response to (23-12) as the amount being used cannot at present be calculated equally the amount being leveraged cannot be provided. It is anticipated that there will be differing levels of leverage applied rather than a set %, with a likely range of between 10% & 40%.



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**Question (23-14)**

How many homes does the Council expect Stone Circle to acquire through use of the Ukrainian tariff funding?

*[Note: Tariff funding referenced in questions 23-09 to 23-13]*

**Response:**

The Council will be lending money to Stone Circle as per its normal business plan operation, Stone Circle will not receive any tariff funding. The number of homes will be dependent on level of tariff funding that will be applied in the financing by the Council, which cannot at this moment be calculated.

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**Question (23-15)**

How much has Wiltshire Council been granted from the Government’s £500 million Local Authority Housing Fund to obtain housing for those fleeing conflicts including in Ukraine and Afghanistan?

**Response:**

£4m was awarded to the council as part of the original £500m Local Authority Housing Fund; £2.6m for Ukrainian housing (24 homes) & £1.4m for Afghan housing (6 homes).

We are still awaiting details following the announcement in March 2023 of an additional £250 million added to this fund. The Home Office are planning to run regional workshops on the new funding, these will likely take place later this month.

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**Question (23-16)**

How many homes does the Council expect to acquire with its share of the Local Authority Housing Fund?

**Response:**

30

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**To Cllr Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Military-Civilian Integration, Heritage, Arts, Tourism, Health and Wellbeing**

**Question (23-17)**

Will the Council act as a guarantor for Ukrainian families’ rentals given that Government guidance issued on 16 January <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/private-rented-accommodation-and-alternative-accommodation-homes-for-ukraine> stated that “as per the Local Government Act 1988, it is possible for a local authority housing or social services department to act as a guarantor for someone they have a duty or a power to accommodate.”

**Response:**

As per Government guidance, we were asked to consider various guarantor options, one of which being the council acting as guarantor. Upon consideration of this option, the risks did not make this a viable option. Risks include no clear end date of H4U scheme, lack of clarity on reconciliation to the Minister (at scheme end), lack of security of future funding and lack of ability to plan budgetary spend on unpaid rents. Therefore, we are unable to effectively plan tariff spend on long term sustainable solutions.