

COUNCIL 14 December 2022

Item 14 – Questions: Written Responses

2 Cllr Clowes

Written Response

The Council have already received the first instalment of the CEC funding allocation (£1.2m in total out of the £200m for local authorities, with the first instalment received being £483,566).

It has been agreed with finance colleagues locally in Health that all of their share of the allocation will be physically paid across to the Council once received and will be accounted for within the ring-fenced Better Care Fund (BCF) arrangements. We will then arrange reimbursement of all the listed schemes once expenditure has been physically defrayed. (both internal CEC schemes and those where the Lead Commissioner is in Health).

In terms of the further £600m for next year we understand this will be allocated through the Better Care Fund to get people out of hospital on time into care settings. Local government's 50% share is £300m in 2023-24 and £500m in 2024-25). Labelled as "Discharge Funding" on the provisional local government finance settlement doc. This funding is allocated using the Relative Needs Formula (we receive approximately 0.6% of the national allocation normally in Cheshire East) adjusted for our expected Precept Yield – resulting in an allocation of £1.2m for 2023/24 for the Council, before the appropriate share for the Cheshire East Place is added by the ICB.

The New Homes Bonus (NHB) funding is used to support the wider revenue budget as a whole and forms part of the overall funding envelope, for 2023/24 we had assumed no NHB income when the MTFS 22-26 was approved in Feb 2022. The provisional settlement announced a further one year of the NHB for 2023/24 which equates to £3.794m for CEC.

3 Councillor L Anderson

Written Response

The Planning and Energy Act 2008 allows local planning authorities to set and apply policies in their local plans which require compliance with energy efficiency standards for new homes that exceed the requirements of the Building Regulations. In a Written Ministerial Statement in 2015 it was stated that local planning authorities should not set energy efficiency standards for new homes higher than the energy requirements of Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes (equivalent to a 19% improvement on the Part L 2013 standard). This requirement was incorporated into Policy ENV7 (Climate change) within the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD). To avoid an overlap and potential conflict between planning policy and building regulations requirements, the Policy ENV 7 also says that the '19% improvement' standard should be applied unless it is superseded by an updated building regulations requirement requiring a higher standard.

The building regulations to improve the energy efficiency of new homes. The Standard is being brought forward in two stages. The first stage was implemented this year

(2022) requiring all new homes to produce 31% less carbon emissions. The second stage proposes that all new homes built from 2025 will produce 75-80% less carbon emissions. The Government has said that the 2025 standard will mean:

- new homes will not be built with fossil fuel heating, such as a natural gas boiler;
- homes will be future-proofed with low carbon heating and high levels of energy efficiency; and
- no further energy efficiency retrofit work will be necessary to enable them to become zero-carbon.

The Government intends to consult on the full technical specification for the Future Homes Standard in 2023 and then introduce the necessary legislation in 2024, ahead of implementation in 2025.

In terms of the '19% improvement' sought in SADPD Policy ENV 7, this has now been superseded by the requirement for a '31% improvement' within the building regulations.

It is also noteworthy that SADPD Policy ENV 7 looks for all 'major' residential development schemes to provide for at least 10% of their energy needs from renewable or low carbon energy generation on site.

Policy SE 9 (Energy Efficient Development) encourages high energy efficiency standards in non-residential development. The policy also expects non-residential development over 1,000 square metres to provide at least 10 per cent of its predicted energy requirements from decentralised and renewable or low carbon sources.

Looking ahead, the urgent need to reduce and ultimately eliminate the borough's impact on climate change will be a central theme in the Council's new local plan. This will run through its policies including those addressing how and where new development takes place, transportation and movement, and energy generation.

5 Councillor R Bailey

Written Response

The Digital Cheshire team have confirmed that one-third or 997 of all connections in this phase relate to premises in Cheshire East. The remaining two thirds were connections in Cheshire West and Chester premises in line with the contracted programme.

The deployment work for the next phase is underway and this is exclusively in Cheshire East. Currently the work is focussed on building the network backbone and the installation and connecting new cabinets. Actual new premises connections are expected to commence sometime in the new year, (late January /early February).

7 Councillor A Gregory

Written Response

The National Park Management Plan is published on the Peak District National Park's website and can be viewed from this link - [National Park Management Plan: Peak District National Park](#)