



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Agenda Item 10

Member Question to Housing Committee – 24 January 2017

QUESTION FROM	QUESTION TO
Councillor Debbie Young	Councillor Mattie Ross
<p>Are Officers aware of the Community Housing Fund and explain to members what is about?</p>	<p>The Community Housing Fund is intended for Councils to help support community-led housing initiatives. The award was made by DCLG, based on the number of second homes in the district and the relative affordability of housing for local people.</p> <p>The award to the council will total £149,000. Half of this has been received to date, with the other half to follow once DCLG is satisfied that the initial tranche has been committed to support community housing.</p> <p>The initial meeting of the new Housing Review Panel, due to meet in February, will discuss how the funds are spent. This could take the form of providing enabling support to communities, or provide direct grant funding to community-led housing schemes.</p>
<p>Supplementary Question: How do SDC stack up relative to other authorities in Gloucestershire</p>	<p>In Gloucestershire only Cotswold, Forest of Dean and Stroud were allocated funds. The allocations were based on the number of second homes in the district, taking into account the affordability of housing to local people. Cotswold received £882,272 and Forest of Dean received £111,128.</p>

<p>Could Cllr Ross please clarify her written response to Cllr Julie Job about the need for village halls and sheltered housing communal kitchens?</p>	<p>Where a kitchen is used for small scale events, such as tea and coffee mornings, etc., as most of our sheltered schemes are, they do not need to be assessed and rated. This applies, to sheltered sites and, as I stated before in response to Councillor Job's third question to Housing Committee on 20 December 2016, also to church and community halls for example.</p>
<p>Supplementary Question: When an event is held, is there an assumption that it is up to the committee/trustee of village halls to apply to Environmental Health for approval.</p>	<p>Where the event involves the preparation of food, be it a community hall or commercial property, and whether a charge is being made for the food or not, the venue will need to be inspected. I would encourage anyone in doubt to always contact our environmental health team for advice.</p>
<p>Could Cllr Ross please explain why as a Council going paperless prevents tenant representatives doing their voluntary role?</p>	<p>The Council has no plans to go totally paperless. All tenants and the wider public may have access to information held by the Council whether on line, by inspection of documents at the Council Offices or, on request to the Council for paper copies. The Head of Housing Management advises that members of the tenants' forum, which is independent to the Council, have been sent paper copies by the Council's housing service when they have been unable to access them online.</p>
<p>Councillor Young asked for assurance that the tenant representatives could continue to receive papers copies.</p>	<p>Assurance was given that tenant representatives would not be disadvantaged and paper copies would be supplied as necessary.</p>