

Council 20th June 2022

Item 6 refers

Questions submitted by Members

6.a QUESTION TO THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HOUSING AND WELLBEING

Submitted by Councillor Nunn

Question:

Can you provide me with an update on the situation within the Harborough District regarding sponsorship and ongoing support for Ukrainian people? Specifically, I would like to know the following information:

1. Numbers of those who have registered an interest to sponsor
2. Numbers of those who have applied for visas
3. Numbers of those who have already welcomed families/people into their homes.
4. How well we are meeting targets to complete home checks?
5. Have there been any homes who have not passed, if so, what were the reasons why and how are we supporting them to achieve the required standards?
6. What support are we offering to both sponsors and families/people going forward?
7. How many hours have been spent by officers completing home checks and supporting families?
8. Has funding been received from Leicestershire County Council? If not;
 - (i) When is it due?
 - (ii) How much are we expecting to date

6.b QUESTION TO THE LEADER

Submitted by Councillor Knowles

Question:

On Wednesday March 2nd 2022 Members of this Authority who were attending the Audit and Standards and who were seated in the gallery in order to listen to the debate on Report 6 were ordered from the Chamber.

This when a Recommendation for Exclusion of All Members other than Members of the Audit and Standards Committee was carried by a majority not unanimous vote. I believe that exclusion of members in this way may be unprecedented or at the very least very exceptional.

Could the Leader tell me please, on how many occasions, since the formation of HDC, have members who are attending to hear a debate been excluded from the chamber in this way ?.

6.c QUESTION TO THE LEADER

Submitted by Councillor Graves

Question:

A Settlement Agreement, also known as a Compromise Agreement, is defined by the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development (CIPD) as:

Settlement agreements (previously known as compromise agreements) are legally binding contracts used to end employment on agreed terms that include the employee making binding promises not to sue the employer, in return for a payment.

The rules governing settlement agreements are contained in the Employment Rights Act 1996, especially section 203.

Employers and employees can try to reach a settlement (either before or after a tribunal claim has started) by:

- *negotiating directly and entering into the agreement, although the employee will need legal advice to make that agreement legally binding.*
- *agreeing to an Acas conciliated settlement*
- *using a private mediator*
- *using judicial mediation by an employment judge where tribunal proceedings have been issued.*

In the last 4 years from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2022 Harborough District Council have entered into eleven separate Settlement Agreements as follows: (Information obtained under Freedom of Information)

Four settlements were under £10,000

Two settlements were between £10,000 and £20,000

Three settlements were between £20,000 and £30,000

Two settlements were above £30,000

A prudent estimate for the total amount of money involved would be somewhere above £200,000 over the four-year period.

The average number of Settlement Agreements for all other Districts in Leicestershire - also including Rutland CC - during the same four year period is only four each.

For a small District Council, the number of Settlement Agreements appears to be around three times the average for the rest of Leicestershire.

What does the Council Leader think about this surprising and worrying information?

6.d QUESTION TO THE LEADER

Submitted by Councillor Sarfas

Question:

The negative traffic impact on surrounding homes and residents from the potential of the huge quarry development at Misterton is raising major concerns in the wider community.

Does the Leader agree that this quarry with its huge negatives on the daily lives of the community should be vigorously opposed ?'

6.e QUESTION TO THE LEADER

Submitted by Councillor Dr Bremner

Question:

Can you confirm that Councillors who have moved from their original ward address when first elected, but remain living and/or working in the Harborough District are still able to claim allowances, including travel to/from official meetings; and would this also be the same for any member that for example was no longer living or working in Harborough District - would they still be able to claim travel costs from, for example: Surrey, a round trip of 200 miles ?