



Homes
England

Date: 17 March 2023

Our Ref: RFI4070

Tel: 0300 1234 500

Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk

Making homes happen

██████████
By Email Only

Information Governance Team
Homes England
Windsor House – 6th Floor
50 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0TL

Dear ██████████

RE: Request for Information – RFI4070

Thank you for your request for information which was processed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You requested the following information:

Further your news article (now withdrawn) first published 24 October 2019

[\[Withdrawn\] £38 million Homes England funding to speed up development of over 2,000 homes - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) and a historic Freedom of Act enquiry RFI2830.

1. *May I please ask, of the £14, 677,800 allotted to Cheshire West and Chester Council to build 737 houses across 5 sites how much money was allotted specifically to site ACo12-07 LAPA Fields in Chester and how much money has been paid to this Council for this specific site to date ?*
2. *If this money has not yet been paid out for this site (partially or in full), is the allotted amount still available for the Council to take at a future date please?*
3. *Please can you tell me how was the site at LAPA Fields was described by the Council in their application for this funding ?*
4. *Has Cheshire West and Chester Council made any other bids under any scheme that you administer to Homes England for funding in Chester and if so, could you please provide brief details ?*

We asked for clarification as to the timescale you were seeking the information for question 4 in your request and you advised you were seeking this information from October 2019 to date.

Response

We can confirm that we do hold information in scope of your request. We will address each of your questions in turn.

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1. May I please ask, of the £14, 677,800 allotted to Cheshire West and Chester Council to build 737 houses across 5 sites how much money was allotted specifically to site ACo12-07 LAPA Fields in Chester and how much money has been paid to this Council for this specific site to date?

The funding allocated to Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council for this site was £3.06 million.

According to our records no funding has been paid out by Homes England to Cheshire West and Chester Council for this site.

2. If this money has not yet been paid out for this site (partially or in full), is the allotted amount still available for the Council to take at a future date please?

The funding was provided under the Local Authority Accelerated Construction (LAAC) Programme. The terms of the funding were set out in the Grant Funding Agreement between Homes England and Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council.

The funding availability period detailed in the Grant Funding Agreement was up to and including 31 March 2021. The LAAC programme is now closed and no new bids for funding are accepted.

3. Please can you tell me how was the site at LAPA Fields was described by the Council in their application for this funding ?

The application was to use the funding to develop the site for residential housing. The number of units proposed was 90 residential units, 50% of which were to be affordable housing.

4. Has Cheshire West and Chester Council made any other bids under any scheme that you administer to Homes England for funding in Chester and if so, could you please provide brief details ?

Please see the table below that details bids made to Homes England funding programmes by Cheshire West and Chester Council in the period October 2019 to date.

Local Authority	Funding Scheme	Project/Site Name
Cheshire West & Chester	Local Authority Accelerated Construction (LAAC)	Verdin Centre & Land to Rear
Cheshire West & Chester	LAAC	Handley Hill
Cheshire West & Chester	LAAC	Acorns and Rivacre
Cheshire West &	LAAC	Wharton Green



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Chester		
Cheshire East	Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) – Marginal Viability Fund	Growth and Infrastructure Package
Cheshire East	HIF – Forward Fund	The Garden Village - Handforth
Cheshire East	HIF – Marginal Viability Fund	South Macclesfield Development Area
Cheshire East	HIF – Marginal Viability Fund	North West Crewe Growth and Infrastructure Package

Advice and Assistance

We have a duty to provide advice and assistance in accordance with Section 16 of the FOIA. To comply with this duty we are able to provide in the links below further information regarding the funding schemes detailed.

LAAC - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/accelerated-construction-local-authorities-expressions-of-interest>

HIF, Marginal Viability Fund & Forward Fund - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/housing-infrastructure-fund>

Right to Appeal

If you are not happy with the information that has been provided or the way in which your request has been handled, you may request an internal review. You can request an internal review by writing to Homes England via the details below, quoting the reference number at the top of this letter.

Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk

The Information Governance Team
Homes England – 6th Floor
Windsor House
50 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0TL

Your request for review must be made in writing, explain why you wish to appeal, and be received within 40 working days of the date of this response. Failure to meet this criteria may lead to your request being refused.

Upon receipt, your request for review will be passed to an independent party not involved in your original request. We aim to issue a response within 20 working days.



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You may also complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) however, the Information Commissioner does usually expect the internal review procedure to be exhausted in the first instance.

The Information Commissioner's details can be found via the following link:

<https://ico.org.uk/>

Please note that the contents of your request and this response are also subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Homes England may be required to disclose your request and our response accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

The Information Governance Team
For Homes England

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