

Question Number	Question asked by:	Subject
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR HOME &amp; GATEWAY SERVICES</b> <b>Councillor Alison Butler</b>		
CQ043-19	Councillor Fraser	Affordable Housing
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT &amp; REGENERATION</b> <b>Councillor Stuart King - Job Share (Non-Acting)</b>		
PQ007-20	Micky LeVoguer	Climate crisis and food shortages

---

## CQ043-19 from Councillor Fraser

### Councillor Butler

*"1. In terms of funding for affordable housing delivery - can the Cabinet Member confirm the level of public funding received for new build affordable housing, through the Mayor London, and ultimately Homes for England, and how that translate into new affordable homes delivered either through Housing Ass/RSL led schemes, and or Brick by Brick Schemes, particularly in terms of affordable rented homes, programmed for:*

- (a) the current financial year 2019/20?*
- (b) the following financial 2020/21?*
- (c) subsequent financial years*

*2. Can the Cabinet member comment on the disparity of public funding, as set out in Homes for England Strategic Plan 2018 to 2023 between - supporting market housing through ""help to buy"" at £13.8 Billion, compared to £3.6 Billion for affordable housing/ i.e. a ratio of almost 4 times as much money being spent on supporting private market housing, as opposed to affordable Housing.*

*Does he think this is money well spent, and if the ratio was reversed - what does he think the impact of the provision of affordable housing would be for Croydon?"*

### Reply

1. Croydon Council has been awarded funding via the Mayor's Building Council Homes for Londoners grant programme. The council have been awarded £32,600.00 towards the development/purchase of 326 new affordable rent (AR) homes funding of £100,000 per property to be delivered 2019-2024.

- 2019-2020 – 114 AR Homes
- 2020-2021 – 144 AR Homes
- 2021-2022 – 68 AR Homes

The GLA will split the payment of the grant and make 50% funding available upon development start on site and 50% on completion.

Brick By Brick (BBB) operates independently from the council but have provided the following information in response to the query:

BBB has been awarded funding from the Mayor of London through the GLA via two distinct mechanisms.

The first funding stream is via the Mayor's London Affordable Homes 2016-21 Programme, through which BBB have been awarded £23,082,000 towards the

development of 674 shared ownership units. These units will be completed during the period from 2019-2024. This funding represents £28k per unit for the first tranche of the programme (253 units) and £38k for the pipeline programme representing 421 units.

Due to the site conditions experienced on many of the development sites, BBB have also been awarded grant funding under the Mayor's Small sites x Small Builders programme. The purpose of this funding is to unlock sites that may have previously been unviable. Total funding awarded to BBB amounts to £1,926,171. Again, this will be applied to schemes delivered in the period 2019-2024.

2. One of the potential issues with Help to Buy is that in attempting to address the issue of affordability in new house purchases, it tries to solve the problem of unaffordable house prices by making it easier for potential buyers to access a mortgage. Yet the amount of mortgages issued are a it can sometimes key drive up house prices by increasing competition for certain types of homes. driver of house prices, therefore this schemes will push house prices and rents up and we'll see At it's worst, the impact of this can lead to further other negative consequences s, and families being pushed into poverty by housing costs.

Low-cost home ownership products supported by government have also been extensively reviewed and evaluated. Research has shown that the Help to Buy equity loan scheme is not expanding home ownership to lower income households that are otherwise unable to buy, but is instead assisting households who would may be able to buy at some point without support.

London's housing market is increasingly unaffordable for those on low to middle incomes and it is clear that the governments needs to investment invest at on scale in a social homes building programme to deal with the crisis around lack of supply and affordability. Truly affordable housing caters for those in the greatest housing need, and any new investment in these tenures has the best chance of helping the people who need it most.

If the government funding was revised based on a ratio of 4x our current build programme the council would be able to deliver four times as many new homes over the next 3 years. This would drastically reduce our council home waiting and provide our residents with high-quality, adaptable homes that can meet the needs of young families and older people alike.

---

**Councillor Stuart King**

**PQ007-20 asked by Micky LeVoguer:**

*The Climate Crisis is likely to cause food shortages in the foreseeable future. What actions will the Council take to ensure that communities are resilient to this possibility?*

**Response**

This is a very important issue and one of the many ways this climate crisis will affect every one of us.

The response to food shortages on the scale likely to be experienced will need to be coordinated on a national scale by the Government rather than individual local authorities. However, we are already working in a number of areas locally with activity that will support greater resilience to such threats. This includes reducing food waste, support for foodbanks & grant funding to VCS organisations working in this area.

I am also looking forward to the work of the soon to be instituted Climate Crisis Commission which will help develop or thinking and policy in matters of resilience, adaptation and mitigation.