

COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS TO CABINET – 12 JANUARY 2023

Question 1

From: Councillor Nigel Shaw, Bromyard Bringsty ward

To: Cabinet Member, commissioning, procurement and assets

In an email of 23rd November 2022 addressed to all councillors, Cllr. Davies confirmed that she “was committed to supporting the (AUGB) group find suitable premises”, following this Council’s decision to evict them from the unit on the Three Elms industrial estate which they have been using to collect, sort and despatch humanitarian aid to the people of Ukraine who continue to suffer under daily attack from Putin’s forces.

Can the Cabinet member please advise whether this issue has yet been resolved and, if not, how she intends to resolve it?

Response

Officers from the Community Wellbeing Directorate have been working with AUGB to develop a longer term plan for the delivery of the much needed aid to Ukrainians both here and abroad. Proposals are progressing well and a plan is being developed for a commercial unit to be made available for the group. Council departments are working together to co-ordinate actions and are continuing to support AUGB and the services it is providing. Whilst there is no specific timeframe for the proposed plan, the Council remains committed to working with AUGB in Herefordshire.

Supplementary question

I very much appreciate the compassion and sympathy of the cabinet member in this matter and the work that officers from the community well-being directorate are doing. I would like to press the cabinet member if possible to give an undertaking that a unit will be identified before the group have to vacate their existing unit.

Response

In the absence of the cabinet member commissioning, procurement and assets the cabinet member health and adult wellbeing confirmed that discussions were ongoing with the group and that they would not be evicted. The council supported the work of the group with refugees.