

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10

COUNCIL – 22 FEBRUARY 2023

QUESTION A

Councillor Willis to ask the Growth and Investment Portfolio Holder, Councillor Picker:

"In light of the substantial number of applications for Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) that have been considered by the Planning Committee in recent months, and the clear concern from residents in terms of the concentration of HMOs in some parts of Rugby, most notably in the urban wards around the town centre, can the Portfolio Holder please clarify the Council's proposals to introduce a policy on this matter?"

Councillor Picker, Growth and Investment Portfolio Holder, to reply as follows:

"Previous questions about HMOs were raised at Council in November 2019 and November 2021. In response to those questions, the council commissioned a report to understand the issue and to consider methods by which Rugby Borough Council may manage that issue going forwards. The report utilised both qualitative and quantitative data. The report was presented to Planning Services Working Party (PSWP) in January 2022.

The report considered a range of options. In the absence of a current local plan policy on HMOs, those policy options would need to be carried forward through an update to the local plan. The PSWP in January 2022 identified that a long-term aim could be to incorporate an agreed policy in the next local plan review.

On 14 December 2022 Council approved the recommendation of Cabinet that a full review of the Rugby Borough Local Plan be undertaken and adopted a new Local Development Scheme. The scope of that review will include a policy on HMOs. Therefore, the council proposes to take forward a policy on HMOs as part of the new local plan. The specifics of that policy will be determined based on evidence, including the report previously commissioned."