

## **RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10**

**COUNCIL – 22 SEPTEMBER 2021**

#### **QUESTION B**

**Councillor Mrs Allanach to ask the Growth and Investment Portfolio Holder, Councillor Mrs Simpson-Vince:**

“Many planning applications are under-pinned by complex diagrams, topological drawings and the like. Residents and lay councillors like myself find them difficult to view on screen and even more difficult to interpret. Does the portfolio holder have any plans to restore the service of being able to see printed plans and have their details explained by a member of her planning team?”

**Councillor Lowe, Leader of the Council (in the absence of Councillor Mrs Simpson-Vince, Growth and Investment Portfolio Holder), to reply as follows:**

“As with many services the Council now undertakes, Planning Services has gone digital and uses a web-based provider for the displaying of planning applications with no hard copy of documents. For the last two years Planning Services has operated on this basis, however, should Councillors or members of the public seek assistance with interpreting the plans they can contact the individual case officers directly via telephone or email, that will have been provided on their consultation letter, who will happily assist. To introduce printed plans and documents would be a retrograde step. It is understood that this would be contrary to the Council’s digitalisation programme and result in a significant cost to the Council, especially since virtually all plans and documents are now submitted via the Government’s Planning Portal website. In addition, the production of hard copy plans and documents would have a negative impact on the environment.”