

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10

COUNCIL – 14 JUNE 2023

QUESTION A

Councillor Slinger to ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Poole:

“Will the Leader of the Council support flying the flag of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) community from the Town Hall during this month of June 2023, which is Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month? Does the Leader agree flying their flag from the Town Hall, as has been done by other Councils, will help show publicly that: we celebrate the GRT as an integral part of Rugby Borough's community with whom we wish to work more closely; we encourage people to learn about their history; and we assert our condemnation of prejudice or racism against them?”

Councillor Poole, Leader of the Council, to reply as follows:

“I am immensely proud of the work of this Council to ensure that our services are accessible to all our communities, and that all our communities feel safe and supported. Until last month I led this work as Chair of the Council's Equality and Diversity Steering Group. As we know the Equality and Diversity Steering Group comprises of Members across all political parties and it is a key forum to provide a lead on all Council E and D matters.

The month of June is Pride month, and we are proud to fly the Pride Flag in support of our LGBTQ+ communities. We fly this flag to assert our condemnation of prejudice against them; but the main reason we fly this flag is based upon the engagement with the LGBTQ+ communities and the subsequent Action Plan taken via the E&D Steering Group in 2019.

The Council has developed a strong and productive relationship with Warwickshire Pride and are committed to the 2019 Action Plan.

As part of the Council's Corporate Objectives, the E and D Steering Group will be moving towards the formulation of an E and D Strategy and a consideration will be the engagement of all communities and the GRT community will be one of them.

I look forward to the E and D Steering Group continuing its work and bringing forward its proposed E and D Strategy for all Members' consideration.”