

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10

COUNCIL – 23 NOVEMBER 2022

QUESTION J

Councillor Sandison to ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lowe:

“Further to the Liberal Democrat motion in the name of Cllr Jerry Roodhouse, seconded by Cllr Neil Sandison on 28 September, what progress if any has been made on points 1, 3, and 4 regarding energy efficiency and our request for a monthly progress report from the Leader and Chief Executive to all Members?”

[For information – motion, as approved, detailed below:

*“Council requests that the **Scrutiny Committee** considers all strategies drive towards helping residents and reduce fuel poverty in the Borough.*

*This **could** be achieved by:*

- 1. continuing to improve the energy efficiency of all the Borough’s housing stock*
- 2. stronger enforcement of existing regulations on energy efficiency and property standards, particularly in the private rented sector*
- 3. publishing a statement of intent and setting locally appropriate eligibility criteria to access Energy Company Obligation funding via the Local Authority Flexibility arrangements (as managed by Ofgem)*
- 4. seeking and leveraging in extra funds to improve the energy efficiency standards of all housing*
- 5. maximising the incomes of low-income households through the efficient delivery of Council-administered benefits, sensitive recovery of debt and the provision of advice and support*
- 6. holding a summit with all partners including other local authorities to put in place an action plan that supports residents who are struggling with the increased costs.*
- 7. working in partnership with local community groups in supporting vulnerable residents.*

*We also request that the **Scrutiny Committee** reports on progress on tackling the cost-of-living increases on residents to all Members.”]*

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

“A Special Scrutiny Committee was held on 14th November to consider the Cost of Living crisis. I would refer Cllr Sandison to the report considered by the Committee which outlined the work undertaken by officers in supporting residents and businesses in respect of the cost-of-living crisis. As set out within the resolution by Scrutiny Committee, a cross party sub group will be formulated to support the present work streams and action plan and this group will provide regular updates to the Scrutiny Committee and wider members.”