

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10

COUNCIL – 23 NOVEMBER 2022

QUESTION L

Councillor Edwards to ask the Communities, Homes, Digital and Communications Portfolio Holder, Councillor Mrs Crane:

“In light of the recent Coroner’s decision regarding damp homes and the rented sector, including Housing Associations, could the Portfolio Holder update this Council as to what actions have been taken to strengthen Rugby Borough Council’s Private Rented Sector Charter and what actions are being taken to strengthen communication between this Council and Housing Associations within the Borough?”

Councillor Mrs Crane, Communities, Homes, Digital and Communications Portfolio Holder, to reply as follows:

“The impact of mould on health in all housing is well known and is an existing priority for Council staff dealing with our own housing, the private rented sector, Registered Providers and owner occupiers. A search of our website will show the advice we already provide. The Private Rented Sector Charter, or more specifically the guidance published with it, is regularly reviewed and updated. It is of great concern that it has taken the death of a child to bring this to public awareness, and we send our most heartfelt condolences to the family of the child. However, it is important to say that we already work closely with housing providers and tenants and will monitor new recommendations e.g. the Housing Ombudsman’s recommendation for the government Decent Homes Standard to be improved, and the improvements planned in the government’s Social Housing (Regulation) Bill. If improvements in the service can be identified, we will work to meet them. Officers have already met internally to start drafting an action plan to improve mould prevention and improved responses to complaints in our own stock.”