

**RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10**

**COUNCIL – 24 SEPTEMBER 2020**

**QUESTION D**

**Councillor Brader to ask the Communities and Homes Portfolio Holder, Councillor Mrs Crane:**

“Could the portfolio holder update the council on the application for additional funding for homelessness support, mentioned by the portfolio holder for Corporate Resources in her report to Full Council on July 21<sup>st</sup>?”

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

“Following the announcement of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, bids have been submitted to the Next Steps Accommodation Programme to assist with the provision of accommodation for those who were rough sleeping and those who have been accommodated during the pandemic.

It was announced last week that Rugby Borough Council has been awarded £212,000 towards the cost of short-term emergency support that continues to be provided for clients whilst we assist them to move into more settled accommodation. As the availability of Council accommodation is limited, the funding will be used to explore and support other alternatives, like moving into private sector accommodation through the provision of grants to cover the cost of rent in advance, alongside support with the provision of basic items of furniture for their new home etc.

Decisions on applications for longer term funding throughout the life of this parliament are still awaited for two projects.

The first project would see an increase in the number of clients with low/medium support needs provided with accommodation and intensive support via our Rugby Housing Pathway model. Support is provided by council officers, and working with our external partners. This scheme has been recognised as a model of best practice and is currently being adopted throughout the remainder of the County.

The second project is to extend our Private Sector Leased Accommodation Scheme, which will assist clients to move into affordable temporary accommodation until we can assist clients to secure longer term settled accommodation. This reduces the need for commercial hotels which are expensive and do not provide a stable environment for clients to receive the level of support required.

We continue to liaise with government advisors to understand timescales for a decision on the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the bid.”