

**Councillor Amy Brookes – Cabinet Member for
Housing Services**

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4th August 2022

Councillor Adam Carter
Elected Member

Via email: adam.carter@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Carter

Supplementary question to Council – 20th July 2022

Thank you for your supplementary question at Council on 20th July 2022 as follows:

In Brinsworth and other wards, there were sites that needed consolidating. Can I have a copy of the Policy, and what were the sites now being used for? The new Council Housing stock could be put there to stop people having to leave Brinsworth to get affordable housing.

I can advise that where garage sites are identified as being unsustainable, options for the future use of those sites will be considered. This includes exploring the option of using those sites for housing development, where such use would be acceptable in planning terms.

Unsustainable garage sites have previously been decommissioned in various locations around the borough and then used to deliver affordable housing, either by the Council directly or working with housing associations. I understand that a garage plot site at Whitehill Drive, Brinsworth was decommissioned and used for new homes a few years ago. More recently sites have been redeveloped at Wickersley and currently in East Herringthorpe, where garage site usage has been consolidated to release an unsustainable site for Council housing development.

When garages sites are redeveloped for housing, a decommissioning process is followed to ensure affected tenants are provided with advance notice of the planned closure and are supported to relocate to more sustainable sites in the area if needed. There is a protocol in place to guide that process, which I have attached for your information. This process is undertaken in consultation with ward members and garage tenants affected by the proposal.

In the Brinsworth area I understand that there are 11 garage sites and most sites in the area are categorised as medium or high demand, mainly due to local parking pressures. In the coming months the Council will be undertaking a review of the Council's garage site portfolio, which will include the sites in Brinsworth. This will identify whether sites are sustainable and have healthy levels of demand and where they are not, how those sites could be used to support future housing delivery.

I hope that my response is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Amy Brookes
Cabinet Member for Housing