

**Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council**

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11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester  
Elected Member

Via email: [Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester

**Question at Council – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Thank you for raising a question, at the Council meeting on 29 November 2023, regarding demand for temporary accommodation.

I can confirm that there has been a significant increase in demand for temporary accommodation in Rotherham over the last few years, reflected in the increase in the size of the Council-owned stock of temporary accommodation (now 113 homes), and continued use of hotels. This trend is in line with the national rise in homelessness and use of temporary accommodation. Overall, Rotherham still makes less use of temporary accommodation, compared to its size of population, than many authorities, but sadly we are not immune to the factors that drive national rates.

Recent flooding in Catcliffe and elsewhere has exacerbated this situation. 16 households displaced by flooding were accepted as homeless and a number of these required temporary accommodation. The Council also provided 'decant' properties for our own tenants who were displaced. To support this level of rehousing, ten additional Council properties have been set aside as temporary accommodation. These will be returned to the general needs housing stock as soon as they are no longer needed for flood-related rehousing.

The Council has begun to plan the future needs for temporary accommodation, based on the homelessness demand for the last 3 years. In line with the Council's Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy, this includes exploring whether the portfolio of Council-owned temporary accommodation should be increased permanently.

I hope that my response is helpful.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Chris Read**  
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