

Councillor Sarah Allen – Cabinet Member for Housing

Riverside House

Main Street

Rotherham

S60 1AE

Tel: (01709) 255821

Email: sarah.allen@rotherham.gov.uk

*Email the Council for **free** @ your local library*

Our ref

SA/LH

Please Contact

Councillor Sarah Allen

Direct Line

01709 255821

24th May 2024

Mr John Strawinski

Dear Mr Strawinski

Question to Council – Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Thank you for the question your raised to Council on 22nd May 2024. I have set out the question and my response below.

Council Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy says they will end use of hotels. What plans and timescales can we expect?

The Council's Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2023-2026 aims to end the routine use of hotels as temporary accommodation by March 2025. I should say though that the demand for emergency and temporary accommodation has increased over the last year. These pressures are not unique to Rotherham and are being felt regionally and nationally. All Councils are receiving unprecedented demand from households losing their homes.

To give you an idea of the pressure on services, in Rotherham there were 175 households living in all types of temporary accommodation at the end of March, which is a 25% increase from the previous year.

In line with the strategy we agreed, the Council is doing everything it can to minimise the use of emergency accommodation including hotels. Over the past 3 years, the Council has increased its portfolio of self-contained temporary accommodation

properties from 64 units to 115 and a further 13 additional properties ring-fenced for homeless people who have experienced domestic violence.

The Housing service recently secured funding to add 16 properties to the Council's in-house temporary accommodation portfolio, and in March's budget we agreed funding for a new service to provide additional support to those living in emergency accommodation, to assist with moving on to more settled accommodation.

I hope that my response is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Allen', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Councillor Sarah Allen
Cabinet Member for Housing