Date: Wednesday, 22 March 2023

Time: 1.30 pm

Venue: Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

Contact: Emily Marshall, Committee Officer
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COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

TO FOLLOW REPORT (S)

5 **Member Question Time** (Pages 1 - 2)
To receive any questions of which members of the Council have given notice. Deadline for notification for this meeting is 5.00 p.m. on Thursday, 16th March 2023.

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Communities Overview Committee

22 March 2023

Question from Cllr Julia Evans:

'Residents in Shrewsbury have expressed concern that the rising number of short-term lets is decreasing the availability of homes for rent. Does the council have figures on the number of properties being used for short term lets, and how this has changed over recent years?

Given that short term let properties are often exempt from business rates, and do not attract council tax, what strategies does the council have to ensure services like waste collection are properly charged for?

Other councils in England have required 'material change of use' planning permission to be granted for short term lets in some cases. Has this option been investigated for Shropshire?'

Response:

'The Council does hold information regarding the number of households that are in private rented accommodation in Shrewsbury, and this has increased by 34.1% in the period 2011-2021, an increase of 1,632 properties.

In addition, there may be short term lets such as Airbnb's, which we do not hold the information on. In terms of Council tax and Business rates, the Council can only collect these within the legislation, i.e. If properties are exempt, then there will be no charge.

Furthermore, if there is no material change of use in the property, planning permission is not required.'

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