

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10

COUNCIL – 14 DECEMBER 2022

QUESTION H

Councillor Slinger to ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lowe:

“In light of recent scrutiny of the procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during the Covid-19 pandemic, can the Leader of the Council provide a statement that sets out:

- a) an audit of the procurement, including recipients of contracts, sums paid, dates of payment, dates of delivery; and
- b) an assessment of value for money, efficacy of PPE procured, and the decision-making process used for said procurement?”

Councillor Lowe, Leader of the Council, to reply as follows:

“During the Covid-19 pandemic our teams were on the front line dealing with the crisis; including infectious disease control, patrols of our open spaces, supporting the Police, acting as Covid Marshalls, supporting Public Health and the NHS with Covid testing and vaccine rollout and door to door vaccination campaigns, providing on site Covid safety guidance and advice to businesses, whilst continuing to provide critical services to our residents such as waste collections, food bank management, delivery of food to vulnerable people, cremations and burials, and council house repairs. The overarching priority was the protection of our staff and the public, therefore ensuring an adequate supply of PPE was available to maintain business continuity and continue our key worker service provision was a necessity. This included working with local authority colleagues across the county to ensure the supply of PPE to staff who required it.

During 2022/23 an audit of the Covid-19 PPE procurement will be built into the audit plan and will reported to Audit and Ethics Committee.

It should also be noted that the Council is participating in the Covid-19 Inquiry which has been set up to examine the UK’s response to and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and it is expected this will include the procurement of PPE.”