

3.12 RESIDENTIAL USE OF SPACE ABOVE SHOPS AND OFFICES (HSG. 13)

3.12.1 The Council is committed, through its corporate housing strategy, to improve the range of housing opportunities in town centres. It supports the principles of widening the range of housing as set out in Structure Plan policy H9 and H10. One area where planning can assist with this aim is through adopting a positive approach to the reuse of space over shops. In such circumstances it may also be appropriate to relax normal planning standards for residential garden areas and parking spaces.

POLICY HSG.13 The Council will permit proposals for the residential use of and refuse proposals resulting in the loss of self contained access to, the upper floors of appropriate premises in town centres. In appropriate cases the normal requirement for car parking provision will be reduced or waived. Requirement for private amenity space may also be reduced or waived.

3.12.2 Proposals resulting in the loss of such units will be supported, in terms of Structure Plan policy H6, only where appropriate provision is made for replacement units.