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Our reference:
Your reference:
Date: 6 January 2014

To all Members of the Council

Dear Councillor

A meeting of the CABINET will be held on Tuesday 14 January 2014 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Pavilion Road, West Bridgford to consider the following items of business.

Yours sincerely

Executive Manager Operations and Corporate Governance

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 3 December 2013 (previously circulated).

Key Decisions

4. Update on Leisure Strategy

The report of the Executive Manager – Finance and Commercial is attached (pages 1 - 35).

5. Development of a Co-operation Agreement for Fleet Maintenance and Garage Service Provision

The report of the Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods is attached (pages 36 - 40).

Non Key Decisions

6. Support for Parishes

The report of the Executive Manager – Finance and Commercial is attached (pages 41 - 45).

7. Establishment of the City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee

The report of the Executive Manager – Finance and Commercial will follow.

8. Green Waste Club Scheme – Renewal Process for 2014/15

The report of the Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods is attached (pages 46- 48).

Budget and Policy Framework Items

None

Matters referred from Scrutiny

None

Membership

Chairman: Councillor J N Clarke

Vice-Chairman: Councillor J A Cranswick

Councillors D G Bell, J E Fearon, N C Lawrence, D J Mason

Meeting Room Guidance

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**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
CABINET
TUESDAY 3 DECEMBER 2013**

Held at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Pavilion Road, West Bridgford

PRESENT:

Councillors J N Clarke (Chairman), D G Bell, J A Cranswick, J E Fearon, N C Lawrence and D J Mason

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors D M Boote, S J Boote, R M Jones, K A Khan and A MacInnes
17 members of the public

OFFICERS PRESENT:

D Banks	Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods
A Graham	Chief Executive
P Linfield	Service Manager - Finance and Commercial
K Marriott	Executive Manager - Transformation
D Mitchell	Executive Manager – Communities
V Nightingale	Senior Member Support Officer
P Steed	Executive Manager – Finance and Commercial
P Randle	Local Plan Lead Officer
D Swaine	Executive Manager - Operations and Corporate Governance

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

There were no apologies for absence

Prior to the meeting starting the Chairman informed Cabinet that the order of agenda had been amended and that items 4 and 5 would now be considered as the final items.

27. Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

28. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 November 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

29. Rushcliffe Core Strategy Proposed Modifications

Councillor Bell presented the report of the Executive Manager – Communities regarding the Council's Local Plan Core Strategy. He stated that it was vital that this process continued in a controlled manner. He informed Cabinet that the Local Development Framework Working Group had met on 31 October and 26 November to consider the modifications and the results of the consultation exercise. He thanked officers for their hard work in producing the document and members of the Group for their thorough deliberations. He

explained that any land allocation had to conform to the National Planning Policy Framework, which was the overarching national policy. The Local Plan, to succeed, had to be proven to be sound, deliverable, sustainable, viable and able to objectively meet the future housing need of the Borough. Also it had to evidence that the Council had co-operated with neighbouring authorities.

Councillor Bell stated that the strategic sites had been considered in detail by the Working Group but he recognised that many communities would not welcome the impact of these developments, however, he assured Members that the Plan would give the Council the control it needed to ensure the impact was minimised as much as possible. He was certain that the developments would occur and if there was no Plan in place the Council would have limited control over the process and the outcome.

Councillor Bell said that the next stage in the process was for Cabinet to consider the recommendations of the Working Group and forward this to Council on 12 December 2013, where there would be a full debate by all Members.

Councillor Fearon stated that this was an important Plan that was needed to control the delivery of future housing. He endorsed the previous comments regarding the difficult work undertaken by the Local Development Framework Working Group.

Councillor Cranswick supported these comments. He said that the Council had worked hard to reduce the number of houses that had to be accommodated in the Borough. However, he believed that not to accept the Plan would be a bad decision. Without this Plan the Council would have no control over developments and would not be able to protect the residents of the Borough in the future.

Councillor Lawrence endorsed his colleagues' comments. He reminded everyone that the Plan only identified areas and not actual developments. Without a Plan he believed that the houses would be built but it would mean that the Council would not be able to negotiate any infrastructure improvements.

Councillor Mason agreed with the comments made.

In conclusion, Councillor Clarke informed the Cabinet that, as part of the process, their duty was to decide whether to refer the Working Group's report to Council for a full thorough debate. He stated that the Working Group had conducted very detailed work over many hours, which had culminated in this report. If agreed the report would be forwarded to Council for a full debate. If accepted by Council the Plan would then be subject to further consultation and a public examination by the Planning Inspector and if approved, the Council would adopt it in 2014. He concurred that Members found the number of houses that had to be delivered incongruous however, it was important that the Council made a responsible decision. Without a Local Plan the Council would be vulnerable and have no control over major planning applications. He stated that this would mean that planning would be decided by the appeal process and would limit the Councillors ability to decide on future applications.

RESOLVED that Cabinet supports the proposed modifications to the Core Strategy and recommends that Council agree:

- a) the proposed modifications to the Rushcliffe Core Strategy Publication Draft, as highlighted at **Appendix 1 and Appendix 2**;
- b) that authority be delegated to the Executive Manager - Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Sustainability, to make further minor modifications or corrections as are considered necessary to strengthen or to provide clarity to the draft Core Strategy;
- c) that the proposed modifications be published for a minimum 6 week period of consultation; and
- d) that the proposed modifications and any consultation responses be submitted to the Planning Inspector for her consideration in examining the Rushcliffe Core Strategy.

30. **Rushcliffe Local Development Scheme**

Councillor Bell presented the report of the Executive Manager - Communities regarding the Local Development Scheme and a revision to the timetable. The Local Development Scheme set out the Development Plan Documents the Council intended to prepare as part of the Local Plan and the programme for their preparation. The existing Scheme was published in 2006 and now needed updating to reflect the current Core Strategy and to extend the time period beyond the existing end date of 2028. Councillor Bell informed Members that the Local Development Framework Working Group had considered this item at its meeting on 26 November 2013 and had unanimously agreed that it should be presented to Cabinet for approval.

In support of the recommendations Councillor Clarke stated that this was a technical document that reflected the changes made to the Local Plan process.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve

- a) the revisions to the Rushcliffe Local Development Scheme to reflect the revisions identified in Table 1 of the report, and
- b) that authority be delegated to the Executive Manager Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Sustainability, to amend the detailed content of the Local Development Scheme to include the revisions identified in Table 1 and to bring it into effect.

31. **Collaboration Agreement**

Councillor Clarke presented the report of the Chief Executive which detailed a proposed agreement between Rushcliffe Borough Council, Gedling Borough Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council. This agreement aimed to formalise the Councils' intentions to work together to maximise partnership opportunities. It was recognised that by working together the three councils

would benefit from more efficient service delivery. He informed Members that this was not proposing a management integration nor did it preclude the Council from working with other authorities in the future. He stated that the political nature and control of the three councils were different and therefore there would be more cross party working. He believed that this was beneficial for the residents of the Borough.

In support of the recommendations Councillor Cranswick stated that the meetings to discuss this collaboration had been non-political and that everyone had seen the benefits of this agreement. He reminded Members that the Council did have close working relationships with both councils already, in fact Gedling Borough Council processed the Council's payroll. Each authority had different skill sets and these would now be used for the benefit of all.

Councillor Mason supported these comments and said that it recognised that partnership working was the best way forward.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- a) adopt the Collaboration Agreement as presented at **Appendix A**,
- b) work towards developing a deliverable work programme which supports the Authority's own efficiency, capacity and resilience agenda, and
- c) reaffirms their current commitment to work with existing partners to maximise efficiencies, outcomes and capacity.

32. **Expansion of Rushcliffe's Garden Waste Collection Scheme into Newark and Sherwood**

Councillor Lawrence presented the report of the Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods regarding an opportunity that officers had identified to expand the Council's garden waste collection service into part of Newark and Sherwood District Council's area. The Council's current scheme had started in April 2011 and cost residents £25 per year for the first bin and £10 for each additional bin. The service had a 71% take up rate with an 85% satisfaction level, however officers had seen that there was some spare capacity and had looked for opportunities to reduce the £150,000 loss that the service generated.

He informed Members that Mansfield District Council provided a service for 2,400 properties in one part of Newark's district. After considering the geographical boundaries of the two boroughs, 3,000 homes had been identified where the Borough Council could provide a service. Following a marketing exercise approximately 400 residents had expressed an interest in the service. He pointed out that both Rushcliffe Borough Council and Mansfield District Council had seen an increase in the numbers following the commencement of their own services.

Councillor Lawrence informed Cabinet that the present take up would generate approximately £1,200 and it would only be run on, at least, a cost recovery

basis in the future. The only outlay the Council would need to make was the purchase of some brown wheeled bins.

In support of the recommendations Councillors Clarke and Cranswick agreed that the estimated take up was conservative and they were confident that once the residents saw what an excellent service was provided, this would increase.

RESOLVED that Cabinet

- a) Agree to offer a garden waste collection service into target areas in the south west of Newark and Sherwood starting on 1 April 2014, and that;
 - i. any such scheme will be operated on at least a cost recovery basis, and
 - ii. invitations should be extended to the Newark and Sherwood District Council Leader, Portfolio Holder and senior officers to an event showcasing the Council's approach to customer service and administrative arrangements for green waste club members.

33. **HS2 - Consultation on the Route To Manchester, Leeds and Beyond**

Whilst presenting the report of the Executive Manager - Communities Councillor Clarke reminded Members that Council had considered the subject of the HS2 on two occasions. On 17 July 2013 the Secretary of State announced the public consultation on phase two of the project. Councillor Clarke stated that the Community Development Group had considered the consultation, especially in relation to the Borough, and had provided a response for Cabinet to consider. He recognised that the proposed station for the area was to be located at Toton, however he was sceptical that the project would come to fruition.

Councillor Cranswick supported the proposed response from the Community Development Group. However he believed that the project would not be progressed for approximately 30 years.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agreed the proposed response provided by the Community Development Group to the HS2 consultation.

34. **Council Tax Reduction Scheme**

Councillor Cranswick presented a report which outlined the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme. This scheme had been adopted on 24 January 2013 for the financial year 2013/14. It was now proposed to adopt the scheme from 1 April 2014.

He also informed Members that the Department for Communities and Local Government had, today, published a draft Statutory Instrument which had made minor amendments to the model scheme upon which the Rushcliffe scheme was based. He said that the final version of this Instrument would be published in December and would include updated benefit figures and a few technical changes to the model scheme.

Councillor Cranswick stated that these changes would not have a material effect on the Council's proposed scheme but would need to be included in the version that was presented to Council on 12 December 2013. The main changes would be

- Changes to a number of criteria relating to non-UK nationals
- To ensure that a non-dependent deduction is not made in respect of a member of the armed forces away on operation
- That certain welfare payments and universal credit arrears are disregarded when assessing an individual's capital

He proposed that the Council continue with this scheme, following the amendments published today, especially having considered the financial implications.

RESOLVED that Cabinet

- i. commends to Council that the Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2013/14, as agreed by Council on the 24 January 2013, be adopted as the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for Rushcliffe Borough Council from 1 April 2014;
- ii. subject to the inclusion of a clause enabling the scheme to be automatically updated to reflect the uprating of national benefits and other technical changes to the model scheme published by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

35. Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring

Councillor Cranswick informed Cabinet that the Corporate Governance Group had considered the Council's revenue and capital budgets at its meeting in November. The budgets were mainly in line with proposals, however, he highlighted some exemptions which included the Cotgrave Master Plan, that was a large project and he had been assured that the money would be spent later in the year. He informed Members that a new customer contact point had recently opened in Bingham and that due to careful monitoring of the Council's fleet officers had been able to make vehicles operate for a longer period of time.

In respect of changes to the Treasury Management Prudential Indicator for interests he stated that, in the present economic situation, officers needed greater flexibility to invest the Council's money to obtain greater returns.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- a) note the current projections for revenue and capital; and
- b) refer to Council the proposed change to the Treasury Management Prudential Indicator "Upper Limits for Fixed Interest Rate Exposure" to 60% (from 35%), for approval.

36. Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item of business pursuant to the above Regulations on the grounds that it is likely that exempt information be disclosed as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

37. Recommendations of the EWM Member Group - Transforming Streetwise into a Social Enterprise

Councillor Mason presented the report outlining the Environment and Waste Management Member Group's recommendations regarding the transformation of the Streetwise service into a social enterprise. She informed Members she had been proud to be the Group's Chairman and that the Group had worked for nearly two years on this project. She thanked the members of the Group for all their hard work, deliberations and thorough investigation of an innovative scheme. She asked the Chief Executive to pass on the thanks of the Group to all the officers involved for their work as they had made the various aspects of the scheme easier to understand.

In response to Councillor Mason's comments the Chief Executive recognised that the Environment and Waste Management Member Group had undertaken a challenging and robust process, through which Councillors had informed and shaped the transformation process. He stated that this was an exemplary piece of work that highlighted how officers and Members had worked together for the benefit of the Borough.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves the following recommendations of the Environment and Waste Management Member Group that:

- a) the principle of transforming the Streetwise service into a social enterprise be supported;
- b) to further that objective a new company be established, with the final legal structure to be determined by the Chief Executive in consultation with the relevant Cabinet portfolio holder;
- c) the new company be awarded the contract to deliver the Council's street cleansing and grounds maintenance functions using the 'in-house' exemption in accordance with EU and domestic law;
- d) the new company also be established with a view to it being able to trade commercially, subject to any legal limitations, in relation to those functions and related services; and
- e) consideration be given to establishing a generic governance structure to operate and grow the business whilst also being flexible to potentially accommodate other public sector partners.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

CHAIRMAN

Report of the Executive Manager – Finance and Commercial

Cabinet Portfolio Holder – Councillor J N Clarke

Summary

At its meeting of 15 October 2013, Cabinet received a report detailing the Leisure Strategy update. It was agreed at this meeting that the proposed implementation of the Leisure Strategy for West Bridgford should be considered by a newly formed Leisure Facilities Strategy Member Group with issues relating to funding and the potential relocation of the Civic Offices being referred to the Corporate Governance Group.

The Corporate Governance Group met to consider these issues on 7 November, with the Leisure Facilities Strategy Member Group meeting on 18 November and 18 December. In summary these Groups were supportive of the proposals but identified a number of issues which they believe Cabinet should consider as the project progresses including financing arrangements for the project, the Arena specification and potential additional capital expenditure, project timelines and the consultation undertaken. These issues are set out in more detail within the body of the report.

Recommendation

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- a) Endorses the draft leisure specification as proposed by the Leisure Facilities Strategy Member Group and detailed at **Appendix 1**.
- b) Notes that any expansion to the specification may result in increased capital requirements for the scheme.
- c) Notes the results of the public, user and stakeholder consultation exercise in **Appendix 2**.

Background

1. At its meeting on 10 January 2012 Cabinet considered a report outlining the findings of the previous Leisure Facilities Strategy Member Group who had identified the desirability of the consolidation of existing leisure facilities within West Bridgford on the Rushcliffe Arena site. On 15 October 2013 Cabinet considered an update on this proposal. This update identified that the consolidation of leisure provision on the Arena site, including the potential relocation of the Civic Centre, now appeared a financially viable option. The update also identified preferred solutions for both the building design and the funding requirements. This solution did, however, vary from the 2012

proposals in that it included the potential retention of some provision at the Rushcliffe School site.

2. As part of its considerations Cabinet requested that scrutiny be undertaken of these proposals. Leisure aspects were considered by a Leisure Facilities Strategy Member Group and issues relating to funding and the potential relocation of the Civic Offices were referred to the Corporate Governance Group. The findings of these groups are outlined below.

Corporate Governance Group

3. The Corporate Governance Group met to consider the relevant aspects of the proposals on 7 November 2013. Their conclusions are set out in the following minute extract.

It was AGREED that, having considered the information reported and the advice of the Council's Section 151 Officer the Group recommends to Cabinet that it supports the business case for the potential relocation of the Civic centre to the arena site, however;

- a. it expresses concern with regard to the use of New Homes Bonus for repayment to reserves and believes strongly that action and measures to mitigate the potential risk associated should be identified and considered by Cabinet as part of its decision making process,
- b. it requests that consideration be given to alternative methods for the repayment of money to reserves in order that these are fully considered by Cabinet in their deliberations,
- c. Cabinet should ensure that necessary action is taken to verify the suitability of the land giving due regard to its historical usage,
- d. it believes that due regard should be given to the advice of the Council's Section 151 Officer in maintaining and sustaining a suitable level of reserves for the Council; and
- e. in its consideration of the potential future uses/disposal of the Civic Centre, Cabinet engages the Corporate Governance Group in this process at an appropriate and timely stage.

Leisure Facilities Strategy Member Working Group

4. The Leisure Facilities Strategy Member Working group met to consider the relevant aspects of the proposals on the 18 November and 18 December 2013. Their conclusions were as follows.
 - The Group was supportive of the suggested amendment to the Leisure Strategy which would see the continued provision of Community Facilities on the Rushcliffe School site.
 - The Group was supportive of the relocation of swimming provision to the Arena site with a facility centred on a six lane, 25 metre pool with separate learner pool. The Group also asked that Cabinet consider the inclusion of family friendly features alongside the main pools

capturing the wider leisure needs of young children and families. Whilst identifying some need, especially for parents observing swimming lessons, the Group did not identify a need for the inclusion of significant levels of spectator seating.

- Subject to facilities remaining available at Rushcliffe School the Group was supportive of the proposal to maintain rather than expand the current four court sports centre at the Arena.
- The Group was supportive of the proposals for an 800m² health and fitness suite at the Arena site supplemented by three studio spaces.
- Due to the low levels of indoor bowling usage the Group felt that it was vital that solutions were found to enable this to become a more flexible space supporting a variety of activities. Having considered the concerns raised by members of the Bowling Club the Group considered that the future viability of indoor bowling on this site would require the provision of a six lane bowling rink but recognised that if space flexibility could not be established then such a solution may not be viable.
- The Group did not support the continued provision of the Run Riot children's' play area but identified that suitable provision could be provided in part through a small dedicated soft play area in the Arena café and through the provision of soft play equipment which could be utilised for dedicated sessions in other areas of the Arena building.
- Should Rushcliffe School choose not to retain the current squash courts the Group considered that this facility should be relocated to the Arena. The Group asked Cabinet to consider whether under such a model a three rather than two court solution could be provided utilising new designs which would enable the dividing walls between courts to be removed providing a small second hall that would represent a more flexible space for other users.
- The Group supported the inclusion of a high quality café at the Arena and the removal of the permanent licensed bar.
- While recognising that there was a loyal user base for the current snooker tables the Group considered that their retention should only be considered if sufficient uncommitted space could be identified in the architect's plans.
- Having considered the impacts of its proposals for swimming, bowling and squash on the resource requirement for the project the Group determined that it was unable to recommend that Cabinet include a climbing wall in the specification for the Arena site. Similarly the Group did not recommend that outdoor facilities such as a gym, bowling green or sports pitches be included in the specification.

Arena Specification

5. **Appendix 1** compares the suggested specification proposed by the Leisure Facilities Strategy Member Group with that previously considered by Cabinet. This comparison identifies that whilst there is broad alignment between both

specifications there are three areas where adopting the proposed changes could result in additional capital costs being incurred these being:

- The inclusion of additional family friendly facilities in the swimming pool area.
 - The extension from a four lane to a six lane bowling alley.
 - The inclusion, if required, of replacement squash courts at the Arena.
6. The outcomes of Cabinet's consideration of **Appendix 1** will form the basis of the outline specification provided to the Council's architects for this project who are expected to be appointed by the end of January.

Project Timelines

7. Work is currently underway to engage Architects to support the Arena redevelopment. As part of this process the project programme has been reviewed to identify opportunities to extend the design phase without impacting upon the planned completion and occupation dates which are scheduled in late 2015 and spring 2016 respectively. As a result it is now anticipated that the design phase will be extended with the decision to seek formal planning permission not being sought until May 2014, a change that will enable more detailed design work to be undertaken whilst not impacting on the planned completion dates.

Consultation

8. Consultation with the public and users ran between the 25 October and 6 December. This comprised an on-line and paper based survey with collection points at a number of locations including the Arena and Rushcliffe Leisure Centres. In addition the Council directly contacted 99 club users and other stakeholders making them aware of the potential changes and inviting them to respond. The results of this consultation were reported to the Member Group on 18 December and are summarised below. Appendix 2 provides a more detailed breakdown of the consultation responses.
9. In total the Council received 316 completed surveys and 48 written submissions. Key messages arising from the consultation are summarised below:
- The majority of respondents indicated that they are current users of the Rushcliffe Leisure Centre (190 users) and / or the Arena (191 users). Of these 85% indicated that they used one or both centres at least once per week. In addition 99 respondents indicated that they utilised one of the four other Council Leisure Centres while 48 utilised other provision either inside or outside of Rushcliffe.
 - 52% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that creating a single modernised leisure centre in West Bridgford was a good idea. This compared to 24% who either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposal. Similarly 38% believed that they would be more likely to utilise the new facilities compared to 25% who considered that their usage would decrease.

- Respondents were asked to indicate which of the proposed facilities they thought they would use in an improved Rushcliffe Arena. The key areas of interest were:
 - Swimming 202 (compared to 143 who currently use the RLC pool).
 - Café 146 (compared to 149 who currently use RLC / Arena).
 - Health and fitness 140 (currently 140).
 - Sports Hall 91 (currently 82)
 - Fitness studios for classes 89 (currently 66)
 - Indoor Bowling 87 (currently 83)
 - Squash 64 (currently 41)
 - Climbing Wall 57 (not currently provided)
 - Outdoor Gym Space 37 (not currently provided)
 - Snooker 32 (currently 24)
 - Function and Meeting Space 32 (current use not captured)
10. It should be noted that whilst users were asked about other elements of their usage such as tennis, outdoor sports and soft play these were not elements included in the proposed specification for the remodelled Arena and so potential future behaviours were not captured for this element of the consultation.
11. These results indicate that there is clear support for the proposed change and that in overall terms respondents believe that the new arrangements would increase the likelihood that they would utilise the Council's facilities in West Bridgford. As outlined these results indicate potentially significant increases in swimming and squash usage and lesser, but important increases, in the numbers of individuals wishing to access indoor sports including bowling and snooker. The analysis also emphasises the importance of fitness and dance studio space which, whilst health and fitness usage remained unchanged, identified a potential increase of 35%. Whilst café usage is down slightly on the current provision across the two sites, the potential usage by 146 respondents compares to just 52 who currently utilise these facilities at the Arena.
12. Respondents were also invited to provide comments on variety of aspects of the proposals. These comments are reproduced at **Appendix 2**. With regard to question 5 *“Are you more or less likely to use the leisure facilities ... if you are less likely to use a combined leisure centre, please tell us why?”* there were some clear themes:
- A number of responses identified the Arena location as a barrier to continued use, in many instances this reflected the ability of current users to walk or cycle to the Rushcliffe Leisure Centre. Concerns were also expressed over the impact of the changes on traffic levels.
 - Proposed reductions to indoor bowling were also identified as a common concern.
 - Whilst not highlighted to the same extent, potential overcrowding of facilities and the loss of squash were also issues identified by a number of respondents.

13. Common themes from Question 7, “*Are there any other facilities you would like us to incorporate into our designs?*” included:
- A desire for the incorporation of a leisure pool and / or family friendly swimming facilities into the design. However, in contrast, a number of respondents also suggested that the pool should be designed to support lane and club usage.
 - Ensuring that Run Riot was retained or replaced by suitable soft play provision.
 - There was also consistent support for the retention of the Evergreen Suite as part of the new Health and Fitness arrangements.
 - Other areas attracting a number of comments included squash, spa / sauna facilities and indoor bowling.
 - A number of responses also identified a desire for additional and / or improved outdoor pitches.
14. As previously indicated the consultation responses were considered by the Leisure Facilities Strategy Working Group on the 18 December, in line with their terms of reference. This Group did not identify any issues or concerns which it wished to raise with Cabinet.

Financial Comments

The Corporate Governance Group was tasked with considering the financial aspects of the proposed Arena development and as part of this process have recommended that, when taking the decision to proceed with the project, Cabinet reconsider the proposed balance of funding between the New Homes Bonus, existing Capital Resources and the Council's Reserves. Once further clarity has been established about the extent of the project (i.e. the extent, if any, of the potential office relocation and the emerging costs associated with the final specification) further information will be provided to Cabinet enabling such a consideration to take place.

As identified at paragraph 5 the specification recommended by the Leisure Facilities Strategy Member Group proposes additional facilities to those included in the original specification considered by Cabinet. Whilst such costs should not impact upon the affordability of the project Cabinet needs to be mindful that any such extensions could lead to additional capital expenditure above that previously reported. Allocations for the build programme will be detailed in the capital programme for 2014/15 to 2018/19 which will be considered by Cabinet on the 11 February.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act

There are no S17 implications

Diversity

The development of new and renovated facilities at the Arena site will enable the Council to ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to meet the needs of disabled users as well as family friendly facilities. The evergreen fitness suite will be refurbished to continue to provide more accessible gym equipment to those residents who may benefit from it.

Background Papers Available for Inspection: Nil

Draft Specification

	Specification Considered by Cabinet		Proposals from Leisure Facilities Strategy Working Group	
Activity	CORE REQUIREMENT	OPTIONAL	Recommendation	Comments
<u>Swimming</u>				
Swimming Pool	6 lane, 25m length	-	6 Lane, 25 Metre Pool	A leisure pool was strongly supported but final conclusion was that a solution centred on a traditional pool with strong family friendly and leisure elements was the best mix for the future. No support for the introduction of movable floors into the pools.
Training pool	Required, size to be finalised	Moveable floor if cost effective	Learner / Training Pool	
Leisure Pool	Not required	Leisure area only if design allows	Family Friendly Leisure Aspects	
Spectator seating	Minimal, unlikely that the Arena will be utilised for large competitive swimming galas.	Café viewing area overlooking the pool	Minimal spectator seating with support for a viewing area linked to the cafe.	
<u>Indoor Sports</u>				
Sports Hall	Sports hall with 4 courts supplemented by retention of indoor sports facilities at Rushcliffe School. Sports hall must be able to cater for sports such as Badminton, Basketball, Handball, Volley ball, Indoor Hockey, Indoor Netball, Tennis and Boxing	Extension to existing sports hall if Rushcliffe School's Hall is no longer available for community use	Retention of Current Provision	Recognition that this position may change if no agreement reached with Rushcliffe School.
Table Tennis Martial Arts	Sports hall and / or other spaces must be able to meet this requirement	-	Sports hall and / or other spaces must be able to meet this requirement	
Indoor athletics	No requirement for athletics as Harvey Haddon is the prime	Not required	<i>Not required</i>	

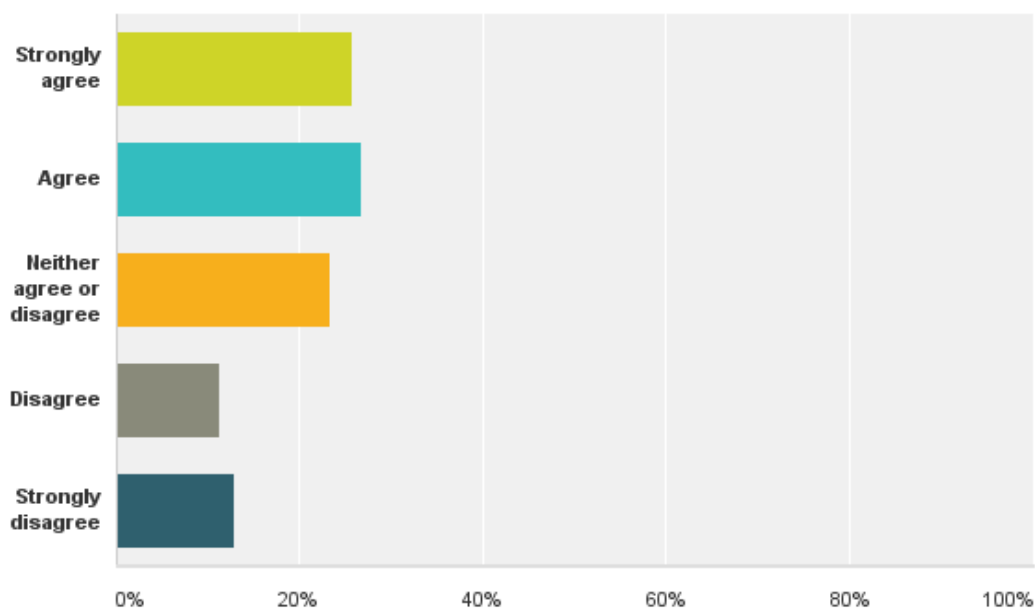
	Specification Considered by Cabinet		Proposals from Leisure Facilities Strategy Working Group	
Activity	CORE REQUIREMENT	OPTIONAL	Recommendation	Comments
	location for such sport in the area.			
Squash courts	Not required.	Maximum of 2 courts	Three court solution including removable internal walls.	Only required if not provided at Rushcliffe School. Members were impressed with the potential delivery of an additional flexible space within the facility which could help meet some of the concerns over future demands.
Climbing wall	Not required	Potential demand to be modelled to understand cost effectiveness of designing as an element of existing spaces.	<i>Not required</i>	<i>Options identified would need dedicated space designed into the building to be viable. The working group therefore prioritised changes to pool, bowls and inclusion of squash over this aspect of potential provision.</i>
<u>Outdoor Sports</u>				
All weather pitch	Not required Other local pitches available include Gresham, Clifton Campus, Rushcliffe School, Lenton.	All weather pitch x 2	<i>Not required</i>	
Outdoor gym space	Not required	Potential demand to be modelled to understand cost effectiveness of inclusion.	<i>Not required</i>	
<u>Gym and Fitness</u>				
Gym stations	Projected allocation of 800m ² would enable the inclusion of 160 stations compared to current 109 across RLC / Arena.	Smaller area allocated reducing flexibility of space and potential for future growth in demand.	Minimum 800m ² Gym	
Fitness Studio	Three multi-use studios	Additional studio space	Three Studios	

	Specification Considered by Cabinet		Proposals from Leisure Facilities Strategy Working Group	
Activity	CORE REQUIREMENT	OPTIONAL	Recommendation	Comments
<u>Bowling</u>				
Indoor Bowling	4 lanes reflecting 50% reduction in usage between 2005/06 and 2012/13.	No bowling provision 6 lanes max	Six Lanes	The Group strongly supported a six lane solution due to concerns of the future viability of the bowls club with a smaller facility. It was recognised however that to make this viable a flooring solution must be found to enable the easy use of the space for alternate purposes.
Outdoor Bowling	Not required. Existing facility no longer used.	Not required	<i>Not required</i>	
<u>Other Facilities</u>				
Cafeteria / Catering	Required. Potential for servicing of Council requirements	-	Café retained and improved	
Licensed bar	Not required on a daily basis with temporary facility available for events.	Not required	No requirement for permanent licensed bar	Support for temporary provision linked to specific events.
Run Riot	Not required	Not required	Run Riot not retained. Possible small play area in café area with oft Play provision using other spaces	The Group identified the need for a pragmatic solution which focussed on the availability of appropriate equipment instead of building a new dedicated facility
Pre-school room	Not required. Party demands to be met through flexible space and cafeteria	Not required		
Snooker tables	Not required	Two to be retained if they can be accommodated in the design	Only if space available in designs	

Summary of Consultation Responses

Q1 Do you agree that creating a single modernised leisure centre in West Bridgford is a good idea?

Answered: 300 Skipped: 16



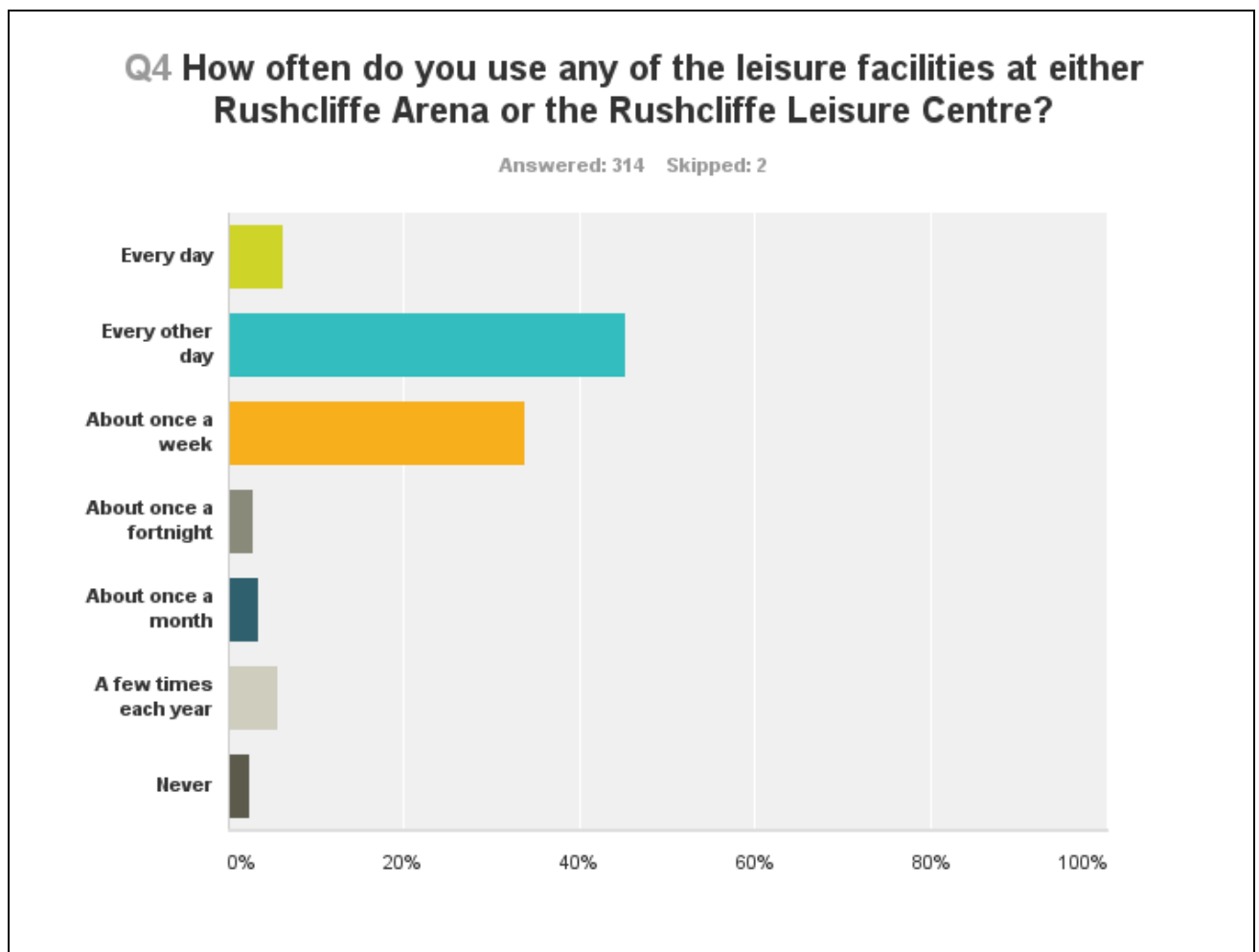
Agree or strongly agree	157 / 52%
Neither agree or disagree	70 / 23%
Disagree or strongly disagree	73 / 24%

Do you currently use (tick as many as apply):

Rushcliffe Leisure Centre on Boundary Road	190
Rushcliffe Arena on Rugby Road	191
A privately-run leisure centre in West Bridgford	21
A leisure centre outside the Rushcliffe Borough boundary	27
Bingham Leisure Centre	15
Cotgrave Leisure Centre	49
Keyworth Leisure Centre	28
East Leake Leisure Centre	7

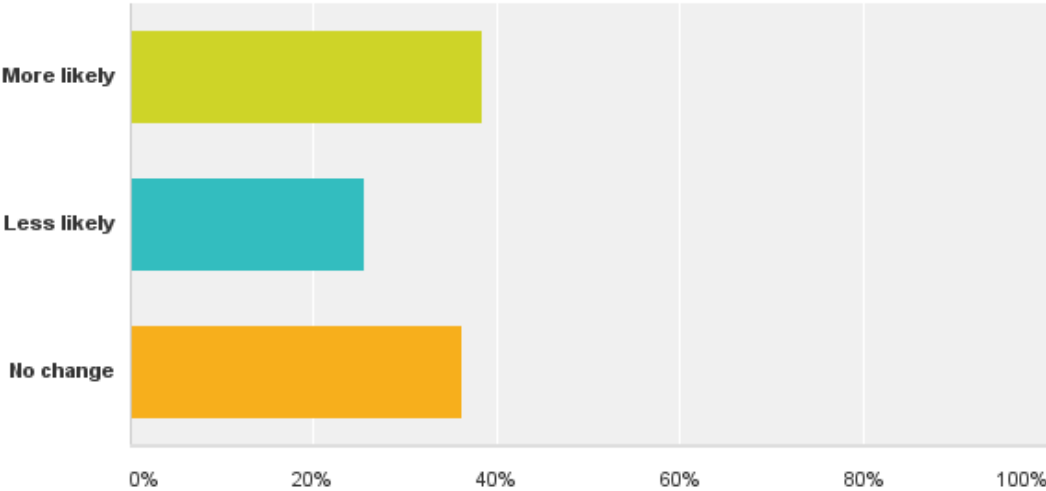
Which of the facilities or activities below do you use when you visit the leisure centre?

	Rushcliffe Leisure Centre	Rushcliffe Arena	Somewhere Else
Gym equipment	61	79	27
Swimming pool	43	N/A	59
Fitness studio for classes	44	22	19
Sports hall	43	39	17
Squash courts	41	N/A	13
Tennis courts	10	1	15
Outdoor courts and pitches	15	N/A	6
All weather pitch	11	N/A	4
Indoor bowling green	N/A	83	2
Snooker tables	N/A	24	1
Soft play area	1	35	4
Cafe	52	97	17
Other	16	25	7



Q5 Are you more or less likely to use leisure facilities at an improved Rushcliffe Arena site?

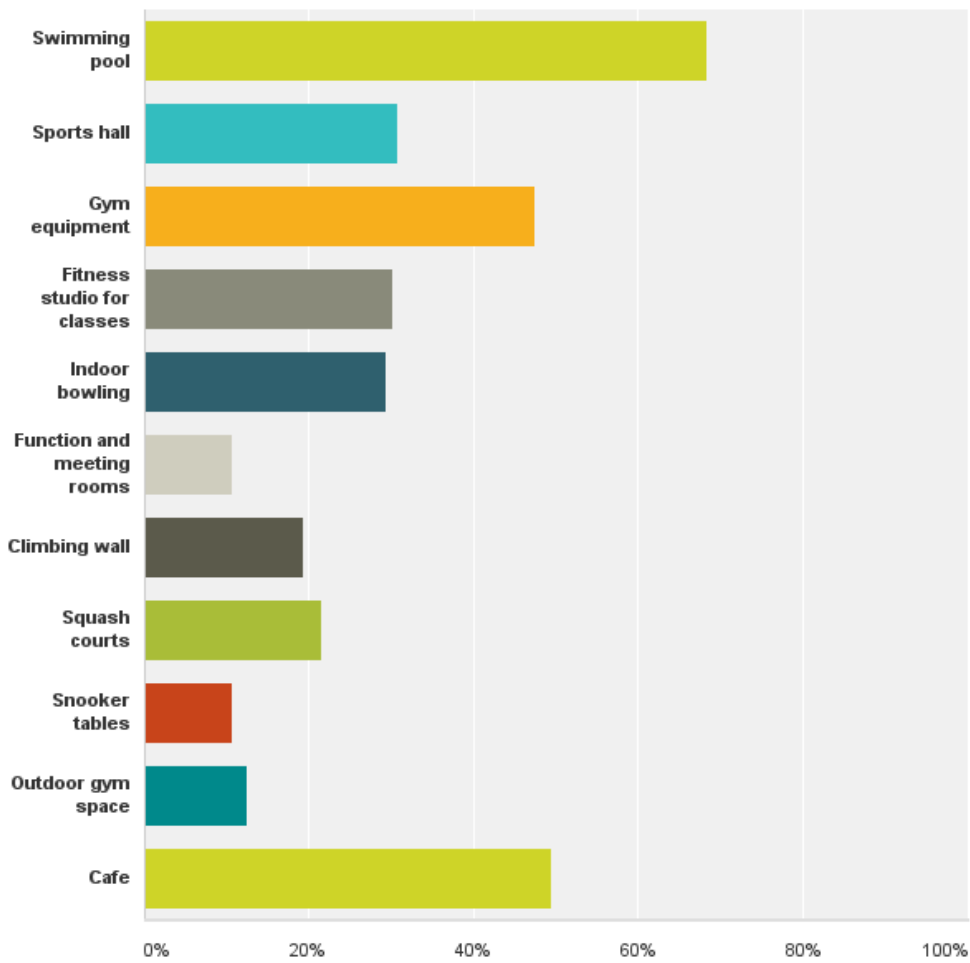
Answered: 310 Skipped: 6



More likely	119
Less likely	79
No change	112

Q6 This is a list of facilities we are considering including in an improved Rushcliffe Arena. Which of these facilities do you think you will use?

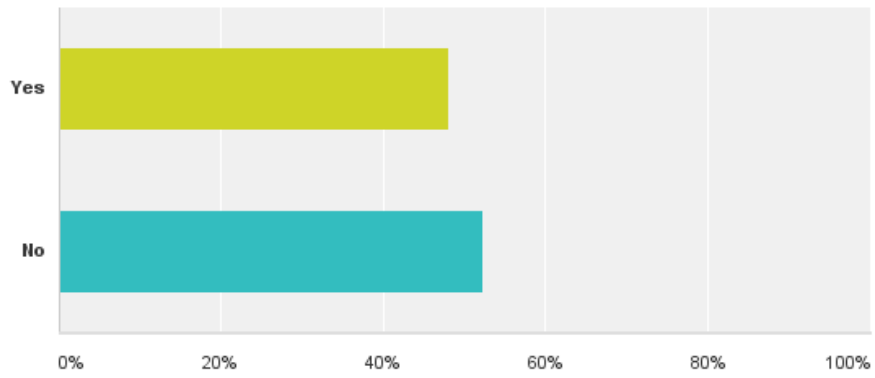
Answered: 296 Skipped: 20



Swimming pool	202
Sports hall	91
Gym equipment	140
Fitness studio for classes	89
Indoor bowling	87
Function and meeting rooms	32
Climbing wall	57
Squash courts	64
Snooker tables	32
Outdoor gym space	37
Cafe	146

Q12 Are you a member of an organised sports group or club currently using Rushcliffe Leisure Centre or Rushcliffe Arena?

Answered: 309 Skipped: 7



Summary Comments on Consultation

Q5. Are you more or less likely to use leisure facilities at an improved Rushcliffe Arena site?

If you are less likely to use a combined leisure centre, please tell us why:

1. Plans for new centre don't look to have facilities I use...e.g. soft play, flumes, squash
2. But depending on style and length of pool. Hoping that a new pool will be at least 25m and open throughout the day, unlike Rushcliffe's limited hours for public.
3. Indoor bowls - Restriction to 4 rinks from 8 at present will reduce league games (many use 5 rinks at present), prohibit county and national games altogether, and Rushcliffe will lose all prestige it has at the moment.
4. I won't on principle. If money is the issue, the Council shouldn't have let the cricket club keep the £800,000 loan. Car parking is bad enough and you want to send all the cars to one place. You won't make the place good enough because you won't spend the money needed.
5. Present site is convenient for me to walk home as part of my exercise regime. If I have to drive I would choose a fitness centre that is cheaper and has more to offer such as a sauna and decent locker space
6. I understand the new pool will not be a combined family pool where all the family can swim together
7. Rushcliffe is the most convenient for me. I like the pool.
8. What is a combined leisure centre?
9. I like Rushcliffe. No need to change
10. It depends on how convenient it is, re times etc
11. Due to the fact that if only 4 rinks for bowls (which you omit to state in the literature) there will be no bowls as it will not be a viable proposition
12. I can walk to Rushcliffe Leisure Centre but would have to cycle or drive to Rushcliffe Arena
13. I live in Keyworth now and come once a fortnight to see my swimming friends. If facilities moved, I can't get there as I don't drive but use the bus
14. This area is already over crowded with traffic. At present problems with the tram traffic which is going to close Wilford Lane every seven minutes, then the schools, as Wilford Lane is becoming a nightmare with Sainsburys being built, a new doctors medical centre in the process of being built, traffic is going to cut through and make traffic hold ups on Rugby Road. How are you going to get in and out The Arena, what about the safety of children on bikes or walking. The whole idea has not been thought out and the people of West Bridgford consulted before spending money on something that's not going to be used.
15. The Arena is not central and not on a direct bus route for us. To use a car to get there is NOT environmentally friendly and increases traffic. The reduction of some of the facilities already there may upset the current users
16. Run Riot is a facility that grandchildren value - I cannot believe that you are intending to close it
17. Although I have not used the Leisure Centre much in the past, I have just retired and was planning to use it much more often in the future. It is important that the centre remains either at walking distance or at *safe* cycling distance. The Arena is too far to walk and is an unpleasant cycle ride. It is likely to become much more unpleasant and much more unsafe once the new Doctor's surgery and Sainsburys are built. It is high time that the council recognises that not everyone lives in a multi-car household and/or is addicted to using a car. The more that facilities become less and less local (in the true meaning of the word), the less they will benefit the health of the population.

18. I live near Rushcliffe Leisure centre and Rushcliffe Arena would be too far.
19. I will have to stop using the facilities altogether as I use the gym for exercise and cannot see the point in driving over a mile to get there and back when at present I walk using this walk as a warm up and warm down. The roads will be over crowded due to the extra traffic cutting through Compton acres to go to the new doctors surgery on Wilford lane. The council is likely to loose membership as I believe between the centres in Rushcliffe they have approximately 1300 members and one site will struggle to cope with these numbers. Parking and public transport in the area already struggles and moving these numbers to one area will cause traffic problems.
20. I regularly use the gym while my children attend the East Midlands Gymnastics Centre. If the gym there closes, I wouldn't be able to do this.
21. Rumours are there's only going to be four rinks for bowling. That isn't good enough for leagues & w.e games
22. If the bowls facility is not available, would not use at all. If it remains the same, would continue to use once or twice a week
23. The announced plans for indoor bowling (4 rinks, 2 years' building) will kill indoor bowling at the Arena - almost the only facility for older people
24. The proposal to reduce the number of bowls rinks will affect leagues and competitions
25. Restricted availability for indoor bowling
26. Don't like loud music in the gym - want to work on cross-trainer & watch tv without loud music videos on main speaker
27. If bowling rinks/facilities are reduced, leagues and competitions will suffer, leading to members at Arena migrating to Gedling and Nottingham indoor centres
28. Less convenient location
29. Rushcliffe School site is far more conveniently located for our family (and many others too). The Arena site is too far to walk to and cycling involves aa awkward busy route. Getting to the Arena for kids' swimming lessons in the early evening would bve hellish by car (rush-hour mayhem). We would most likely give up lessons and Expressions membership
30. The new centre would have to be significantly larger to accommodate the increased numbers of visitors and the predicted increase in population - Sharphill alone will increase number of homes by over 1500. The current set up covers a wide area of Bridgford and Edwalton and people can access either arena or leisure centre by foot, cycle, car or public transport. Access to RLC from outlying villages is more convenient via A60 and A606. Getting everyone to go to RA at rugby road will further exasperate traffic congestion. Having a sports centre linked to the school will encourage children to get more involved in sport. We should be increasing sports facilities not rationalising to save money - the long term health benefits will outweigh short term financial gains. Spend the huge amount of money needed to upgrade true arena on both facilities.
31. I feel that there will be less space initially, causing me to go elsewhere.
32. If you get rid of the snooker tables and don't build squash courts then of course I'll have to try and find somewhere else to go which will be very difficult.
33. "Because it looks like you are determined to remove the snooker tables and it will be even harder to book badminton courts. As far as I am aware there are no other council run snooker tables in Rushcliffe and apart from the Conservative Club and the Embankment Club no other snooker tables south of the river. The Embankment Club tables are not much use as there is limted space at the end of the tables"
34. The plan to reduce the no of bowling lanes from 8 to 4 will severely reduce the facility to hold the daily league competitions and could cause the league bols to close.

35. It depends on what the improvements will be as well as the demand for these and other facilities. whatever version of the Sharphill development goes ahead there will be a demand and that means you need to think about what facilities are needed where and the impact from traffic etc. So Rushcliffe's position is key to Sharphill. not the Arena. Also I would not want to lose the green area between Arena and Asda: this is great to walk over and around in its 'wild' state. The area between Arena and Wilford Lane should be kept 'wild as far as possible. It is such a benefit to be able to walk thru green areas like this uninterrupted by buildings and roads, Winter or Summer.
36. Indoor bowling green must have at least 6 rinks to enable matches to be played. If only 4 rinks for bowls, this is not a viable proposition and can see bowls ceasing
37. If rinks are reduced it will impact on our games. We need to keep fit and active all our lives!!!
38. Depends on facilities for indoor bowls - need at least 6 rinks
39. Definitely need more than 4 bowling rinks. Otherwise there would be no casual bowls.
40. Likely to be busier. Need more gym staff present
41. only if squash were available at the arena
42. We have to cross the road. No zebra crossing. Danger
43. "No bus shelters. Pool was straight up and down? Not good"
44. you are not really creating a combined leisure centre just picking a few sports. a swimming pool may help you attract people to the gym as opposed to going to a private facility but you can hardly call it a combined leisure centre as a result.
45. If combined there is potential for the gym to become over crowded at peak times. The arena gym is better for mixed abilities and rushcliffe leisure centre has lots of teenagers. Would be less classes to choose from potentially
46. If the existing indoor bowling facilities are down-graded to any extent then I would not use the Arena site at all.
47. It's further away and the traffic around the Asda traffic lights is a nightmare! This would put me off on days when I might have popped down to the gym at Rushcliffe Leisure Centre
48. Likely to be more crowded if only one facility, particularly if additional houses are to be built in Rushcliffe.
49. If combining two swimming pools into one means it is busier than it already is (which is occasionally frustrating). If the pool is properly managed (i.e. very slow swimmers are moved out of the faster lanes so that any 'system' actually works), then the above may change.
50. Further away
51. No Squash courts would be an issue as I am a member of an active squash club based at Rushcliffe
52. If the indoor bowling green was to be altered as per the rumours that are passing around at present, in that the 8 rink bowling green would be made smaller to a 4 rink bowling green, then we are certain that many people would not play either at all, or as often as they play now. We are extremely lucky to have such a wonderful indoor bowling facility and it should not be altered size wise whatsoever. If it is considered that other facilities are required, then build for example a new pool and/or other facilities, but do not alter the present size of the bowling green whatsoever. There are no full size bowling greens in the vicinity and to even consider changing the size of this one would be unnecessary and players/members would not play if the green was made smaller. A larger Rushcliffe Arena together with office facilities could be done without changing the bowling green.
53. A reduction in the number of bowling rinks would result in less use for me.
54. If there was a combined leisure centre there would be no choice at all. I would also have to use the car whereas now I can walk.

55. Travel is the main concern. Currently i and my family (wife, 2 children) can cycle or walk, though it takes longer, to Rushcliffe leisure centre. With the increasing volumes of traffic and busy roads (which will become more busy given the Sharp Hill wood housing development) and lack of safe cycle routes across west bridgford to the Arena site, i'd be reluctant to let my children cycle there and would therefore need to take the car which in turn would be subject to the congestion of busy roads, particularly at peak times when many after school clubs are run.
56. I swim at Rushcliffe twice a week and have done for the past 15 years. Whilst I appreciate that Rushcliffe is getting 'tired' I would have thought an area the size of West Bridgford, which includes both Compton Acres and Gamston could do with at least two pool. Only one Leisure Centre for such a large area would create a very crowded environment.
57. less because it is further from my home
58. further away
59. Bowling - my only pleasure
60. Because there is no plan to include squash courts
61. Dependent upon the indoor bowls club still being in existence after the alterations for competitive play
62. Longer journey.
63. No squash courts planned, also difficult to book badminton as sports hall often used for football!
64. Location and parking
65. We live closer to Rushcliffe Arena so would use a pool there more frequently than we currently do.
66. If all leisure facilities are pushed together in one super site this will make it too busy. At peak times the gym is already busy and increasing the volume of people would not help things unless the number of pieces of equipment were dramatically increased. The location of the new centre would also be a factor as I like to be within walking distance of the leisure centre I attend
67. We would use the swimming pool at the new centre, but we have for more than 10 yrs been happy with early morning swimming at Rushcliffe LC
68. Reduction of bowling area will make it impossible to maintain current usage as a bowling club
69. if only one facility, it will be too busy
70. The reducing of the bowling rinks will reduce the no.of days I wish to play by, not able to use the no. of rinks required for competitions and friendly games with other clubs. Also loss of use of club for national and county games
71. As a 4 rink bowls hall can't cater to proper bowls matches, we would have to go elsewhere. Also, parking facilities wouldn't cope with extra members
72. If Evergreen goes, I would not be able to use any other gym equipment
73. I walk to Rushcliffe Leisure Centre. I'll have to drive to the Arena. How does that make sense? The facilities are bound to be more crowded and heavily used than at present. So I won't use your facilities at all.
74. If only 4 rinks available for bowling people will stop coming, as the policy for 2 lanes available for public use cuts any league games to 2 rinks. A minimum of 6 rinks means in the strong leagues there will be no room for 2 rinks for the public to bowl.
75. I love Rushcliffe LC swimming. The building is light and airy not like many of the 'sheds' with swimming pools. The staff are great and the other people who attend early morning

swimming sessions are wonderful. I rely on public transport to get there, WILL ALL THIS CHANGE?

76. It would be far less convenient to get to at the proposed site
77. We are a Primary School and would not be able to afford the bus for transporting our Y3 pupils across to pool at Rushcliffe arena [we can walk to Rushcliffe leisure centre]. Therefore we would have to look at alternatives we can walk to such as pool at WB School.
78. Travel distance
79. If a swimming pool is in, we will be swimming as well as gym.
80. It would be further away from home and I might not make it on some work days.
81. Do not feel that the Council can accommodate everyone, however, new facilities will be good
82. Parking could be a problem. Too many leisure centres in one area e.g. David Lloyd, Roko
83. The Rushcliffe Leisure Centre facilities are convenient. As gym centre users and have pupils at the school, we find it much better to be on the same site
84. I like it as it is , thank you
85. Distance would stop me frequenting. The Arena is less central for me.
86. "Difficult to get to as it is too close to Asda. The traffic is often very busy around the Loughborough Rd/Eton Rd/Rugby Rd junction, and sometimes so busy we avoid it as much as possible. In fact, it would be easier and quicker to travel as far as Cotgrave or Bingham, rather than sit in traffic around Asda. It will also mean traveling to the Arena by car. At the moment, Rushcliffe Leisure Centre is in walking distance. Why don't you keep the Arena, and build a separate leisure Centre with pool etc on Regatta Way? Easier to access."
87. I have answered less likely only so that I can comment in this box. The answer to the question depends largely on the facilities offered at the new leisure centre. Without knowing this it is impossible to say one way or the other.
88. Poor Location - inconvenient
89. I wonder if there will be adequate facilities for all those currently using the two single centres? I agree that Rushcliffe L C is in need of a face lift but have never been convinced that a single facility is the best way to meet the needs of users, it may make the balance sheets look good but often the users are the ones who loose out. At the moment I regularly use the pool when it is available for under 5's and over 60 This is a perfect combination, as I and others fit both categories and can use both parts of the pool with ease, when it is calm and relatively quiet, but hardly underused!
90. "Further away. Children in particular are less likely to use the combined facilities. Note also the big development planned for Sharphill - these people will be much nearer the existing swimming pool. Moving to the Arena will generate a lot more traffic movement."
91. I have heard there are no plans to build squash courts at the Arena. If that is the case I will not use the new facilities.
92. Harder to access
93. further to travel, a lot of people will stop doing sport... is that good ?
94. I Live in Gamston and wish the alternative would be available at the National Water Sports Centre as I will have to travel longer to go to the Arena.
95. Present plans don't include the squash courts. I would have to travel to play elsewhere.
96. I am more likely to use improved facilities but less likely if they are centralised. Competition creates better value. Distributed facilities enable greater access. Centralised facilities create congestion (not just traffic, I mean people).
97. It is further away from where I live. It will be less easy to fit in a short visit to the gym or for a swim as the extra 1.6 to 1.8 miles journey (each way) will inevitably eat in to the time

available. Children's activities will be limited to those which we can drive to, as cycling even for our eldest will not be a realistic option. I have serious concerns about traffic at the Boundary Rd/Loughborough Rd junction at which it's notoriously difficult to turn right. The Junction of Loughborough rd and Eton Rd/Rugby Rd is also already struggling to cope with traffic, particularly at times when ASDA is busy. Parking has been a problem at Rushcliffe Arena when I've attended for kid's parties or to give blood. You will no doubt be aware that this will place Rushcliffe's only public leisure facility between Roko and David Lloyd. Maybe the council's plan is to encourage users to abandon public facilities and use these private ones? Please respond.

98. Having all facilities on one site would be good and we live near the arena

99. "I was a member at Rushcliffe for five years, the drab surroundings and lack of money being spent meant many of the machines were broken and there were few fitness instructors around to support. Also the cost of the gym was not proportionate to the facilities. Due to this I moved to a private gym for a nominal increase in the fee and the facilities are much better I feel that in the current climate to close down a leisure facility in the centre of West Bridgford that is the most used in the area is a strange decision. If I did not have a car, access to Rushcliffe Arena would be difficult and this will be the same for many local residents. Surely if a joint leisure centre was being considered it would be more appropriate to be in the centre of West Bridgford at the leisure centre. How is reducing the numbers of leisure centres going to encourage children to join in with health and fitness - we already have a problem with youngsters being overweight how will this help?"

100. Depends on what you leave out that is currently present. You say you won't have the leisure pool for children play. You say you might not have squash courts - at least that is what you said originally (I haven't read today's docs).

Q7. Are there any other facilities you would like us to incorporate into our designs? And why?

1. Hope you keep the Evergreen chairs
2. Fun & leisure pool, adventure splash zone, including slides, rapids, play facilities in pool. Graduated floor, e.g.. like a beach/shore
3. Flumes, squash courts
4. A room suitable for pilates. We currently use a squash court which is cold, especially in winter. The acoustics make it difficult to clearly hear the teacher.
5. Pool splash facility & seating
6. Keep 8 rink indoor bowling facility
7. Sauna; ab curler to replace the one that is broken
8. Indoor heated swimming pool as Rushcliffe Arena currently doesn't have one
9. Evergreen equipment
10. I play darts with a few friends, so please keep the dart board
11. A decent restaurant - not this 'fast food'. People on their own would use it regularly
12. "Covered cycle parking. I'd like the swimming pool to have a decent area where one can swim lengths in lanes."
13. Outdoor swimming pool
14. A spa, jacuzzi, steam & sauna
15. Driving range
16. I think the climbing wall would be an excellent addition and would mean alot less travelling and difficulty parking for us to reach one. It is brilliant for children to join and I know lots of local parents who would be interested.
17. Save the money on this scheme,build a proper swimming pool,international size at Holme Pierrepont ensure a bus route is provided.
18. NONE
19. "De-caff coffee, Chilled water dispensers (for health reasons), Wi-fi in café, Computer access points for those without internet"
20. Rushcliffe Indoor Bowls - 6 rinks only
21. Tennis courts please.
22. I would like the Evergreen suite to be included as it is brilliant for the disabled, and before and after hip and knee ops, as it build up the muscles for recovery.
23. "Indoor & outdoor tennis, Squash courts "Generous parking spaces. Choice of music/tv in gym. Don't assume everyone wants loud music"
24. Large swimming pool
25. The climbing wall is a good idea but needs to be thought about - not just a couple of routes in a corner. What about athletics facilities? A running track
26. a dedicated trampoline training facility to allow a club to be set up and operate locally
27. Improved parking - If there is only going to be one leisure centre in the borough, more people will be converging on an already busy main road.
28. "Indoor and outdoor cricket nets. To allow training in this sport."
29. Safe and secure bike stands
30. More fitness studios for classes, and more classes
31. Children's swimming pool - not just an adult pool
32. There are sufficient facilities available. It was originally built as 'the Bowling Arena'
33. By the Council. Not private. Not Parkwood
34. No. The bowling green was originally built for bowlers. Without it, many older players will not have recreation and company and incentive which should be afforded them.

35. "Badminton courts - badminton is the largest participation racket sport in the UK. Bike park - i.e. place to lock bike"
36. I think Run Riot is important for parents/grandparents whose children make new friends, freedom of exercise and allowing adults to use other facilities whilst there.
37. "Diving area so children can learn to dive safely in controlled environment. Free water fountains/drinking water points"
38. glass back squash courts is possible please
39. Squash courts are key, but a swimming pool where you could swim properly would be good.
40. "WE MUST HAVE SQUASH COURTS!!! Essential as it is only thing I use there. It is a great sport and if public courts keep closing where will we get our next British world champion from?"
41. A Relaxed area with sofas and tv,s ; bar ; coffee lounge for socialising and meeting even when not participating in activities. There is a big community in this area and without attending private clubs/ pubs there is no community meeting place. Table tennis facilities available at all times. Create a centre of excellence for as many sports as possible. Work in partnership with David Lloyd leisure to create competition with teams and train staff together to give the same level of support at both facilities so that the elite will not just use the private facilities.
42. Rushcliffe Arena is limited in availability of the sports hall for group classes such as circuit training and other group classes. Concerned that removing Rushcliffe Leisure facilities would severely limit the space available for group exercise classes. Would be useful to have facilities not available in the other Parkwood group facilities, eg climbing wall, Steam room / Sauna.
43. Having a room dedicated to spin classes would be a bonus; swimming needs to accommodate lane swimmers as well as leisure swimmers
44. The existing Evergreen facility at Rushcliffe Arena should be retained. In an area with an ageing population there is an obvious need for older people to have appropriate fitness equipment.
45. Sauna & steam room; good quality changing rooms and toilets
46. You have not said anything about showers
47. Nothing mentioned about showers? And size and depth of pool?
48. New spin studio - the facilities at the Arena are not adequate at present
49. Good football pitches
50. Local clubs who use the existing facilities should have their needs considered in the designs. these are very regular users and their income is dependable.
51. Parking at rushcliffe at peak times and when tournaments at a weekend are on, getting parked is a nightmare not to mention unfair on those living nearby.
52. The continuation of a 6-8 lane rink for indoor bowling
53. Decent changing rooms and toilets
54. I like the downstairs gym at Rushcliffe Leisure centre currently. I go early at 7am twice a week and can get on the equipment I want without having to wait, especially Olympic bar. My concern is this would'nt be possible at new site with 'multi purpose' gym. I also like the class in downstairs gym on Thursday evening...concern is this would be lost as quite unique. Happy to discuss further.
55. Upgrade the outdoor football pitches to a 3G or similar surface. The current ones are long past being fit for purpose and are dangerous.
56. Yes - I think it's crazy that the swimming pool proposal is a bog standard pool design and doesn't incorporate a "fun pool" element with slides etc for children.
57. young children's swimming area as at RLC

58. Squash Courts please. A now growing sport with youngsters down to 5 involved, plus racketball for older people. Courts could be multi use eg creche during the day.
59. It is ridiculous to even consider making the indoor bowls facility smaller when many other places would welcome such a magnificent facility with open arms, so no change should be made to the indoor bowling green whatsoever under any circumstances. There is a lot of spare land adjacent to the Arena which would allow other buildings to be constructed which could be attached to the existing arena, and could be made eco-friendly, together with saving gas and electric by building onto the existing facility, rather than totally revamping the whole site. The bowls facilities in particular is excellent and a rare facility throughout the country for which we should be pleased and proud to have. It should remain in its present size, as to make it smaller would ensure that many middle aged and elderly people in particular who play bowls as a social event and also for exercise, would not use a smaller facility and would cease to use the facilities at all.
60. "Good changing and shower facilities. I really detest public showers. I think a swimming pool should include a sauna and jacuzzi pool these days as these are becoming the norm. Table tennis which I use at Rushcliffe Leisure centre."
61. "Rushcliffe Swimming Club must be allowed to continue with their current set-up.
62. What is going to happen to Nottingham Gymnastics/
63. You cannot lose Run Riot.
64. An extra all weather pitch would be beneficial to the area.
65. You have to include a leisure pool. At what age do you expect children to be able to swim in a 25-metre lane? Our daughters, like my wife and her siblings before them some 30 years ago, have been taught to swim by Rushcliffe Swimming Club who hold their lessons at the Leisure Centre. Provision must be made for this vital service to the community to continue to offer lessons at 8am-10am on a Saturday morning, 8am-10am on a Sunday morning and 8pm-9pm on a Tuesday evening. The current design at the Leisure Centre allows for our children to have lessons because of the variety of depths around the central island and I hope that they will graduate to the lanes over the next few years. This type of leisure pool must be considered for a new facility. I really like the idea of having a 25-metre pool. However, how many people actually swim lengths in that way. Have you done a survey of current usage? Whenever I have swam at Roko, Cotgrave or the Leisure Centre very few people are doing lengths at any speed which truly require a 25-metre pool. The leisure pool is far more valuable and could be incorporated if a 20-metre pool is included rather than 25-metre. If a 25-metre pool is going to be incorporated why are you not including stadium seats and timing facilities for galas and events? Surely this is the main advantage of having a gala size pool? I'd also like to see flumes included. Have you done an analysis on the usage of these at Rushcliffe and Cotgrave? The queues are huge every weekend. Would you continue to provide inflatable pool parties? Providing a 25-metre pool won't get kids swimming but providing a fun filled environment will.
66. It will be important to include a sports hall for birthday parties and the like. These events are becoming much more important in children's lives in this era and you have a responsibility to enhance the social capital of our community by allowing children to interact socially.
67. What plans do you have for providing a facility for Nottingham Gymnastics. This is another great club that serves hundreds of children not jusy in Rushcliffe but the Midlands as well. Both my daughters attend and their confidence has increased massively since attending. It is a crucial facility yet isn't mentioned in you plans.
68. You cannot take away Run Riot!! It is one of the best facilities in our community for young children to be active when not involved in a typical sporting club. Every weekend it is full of

active children either attending birthday parties or enjoying a day out with friends. Have you actually done any analysis on the usage of these facilities? All of your calculations appear to be about cost and I think you have done a very good job at looking at all of the financials. However, your responsibility lies in delivering something that is fit for the whole community. If an older sibling is attending a class, a safe soft play arena is great. What other provision is there for this in this area? Dens in Beeston? Escape near IKEA? Do you really want to drive local residents out of Rushcliffe and spending their money in other areas?

69. I also can't see why you'd take away the bar facility. Although I don't actively partake at the Arena, whenever I have been down at the weekends there has always been a good custom to the bar and cafe, mainly from the older gents playing bowls. It is unfair to think that older people can't use this facility. Cutting the bowling lanes is fine if your analysis shows that you are still providing adequate facilities. However, please don't take the other social enjoyment that these guys enjoy.
70. The all-weather pitch at Gresham is one of the best in the area. When I have tried booking the all weather facility at Gresham or Radcliffe school it is always fully booked. This type of pitch is great for injury prevention, for keeping people active when all other pitches are frozen off and for full size football matches at weekends. It would be an excellent revenue stream for the new facility."
71. Cycle parking facilities and cycle routes to the Arena should be improved
72. Our swimming club! We are members of Rushcliffe swimming club. This has been and is a really important facility for our family. We have tried Alternatives, which have not been suitable. Please allow us to keep our club in the new centre.
73. Fencing Salle!
74. My family currently uses Rushcliffe swimming club lessons on sat am and also rushcliffe swimming club's swimming session on sun am. This is very important to us as a family and is allowing my son and daughter to access swimming lessons at a reasonable rate and also to practice what they have been taught in lessons on sun am. My daughter also has pre -school gym lessons at the gymnastics facilities on friday am so it would be important to us that these facilities would be combined into the improved designs.
75. seating at the poolside to encourage use for galas at which spectators can be accomodated and at which parents can sit during club evenings.
76. Within the swimming pool the ability to continue the Rushcliffe swimming club, this has been invaluable for my 2 children (4 & 6) since they were 1-yrs old.
77. "Better quality squash courts - glass backed Encourage more people to play"
78. no
79. leisure pool with slides
80. Facility for archery - Saturday afternoon (as at present at L.C.)
81. Make sure squash is included. Rushcliffe Squash Club has nearly 100 adult members, plus a large junior group.
82. Please keep the Evergreen toning tables
83. Creche
84. Sounds OK as above - keep early swim?
85. Please keep a soft play for children. There is no other bif soft play frame around, you would have to travel to Arnold or Beeston. It is good to have one that charges under £4 as well.
86. A play area for 6-11's
87. Quiet time in the gym - no music!

88. "Leisure pool facility as this would attract young children helping to increase the levels of exercise in young children. Outdoor pool - would attract a lot of people. Football pitches that local boys football teams can hire"
89. Soft play centre
90. New outdoor astro pitch for hockey as both Bingham and Rushcliffe are not fit for purpose.
91. Having looked at the plans I see that leisure pool is not included. I have young children and the leisure pool at Rushcliffe Leisure Centre is of huge benefit in helping them gain confidence in the water and enjoying the process of learning to swim. Whilst I appreciate that a teaching pool is proposed I feel that with the number of young children in West Bridgford a leisure pool is really important. Young children do not get the same level of enjoyment from a simple pool as they do from one that incorporates slides, jets and things to jump off!
92. "you have to include a flume(s) and some sort of leisure pool area for children and families. at the current Rushcliffe pool the flumes, water jets, small animal features and 'mushroom' island make the centre popular with people from all over and make the centre/west Bridgford stand out from other boring square pools! a six lane pool would be ideal for adults, lessons and clubs but I think you are risking losing the one key attraction if that's all there would be for swimming. a steam room, sauna and health spa may be good too?"
93. The current soft play area is really useful.
94. Steam rooms or saunas would be great and the most modern gym equipment affordable
95. At least 6 indoor bowling lanes are needed. for example on Wednesday evening 6th November 2013 5 lanes were in use.
96. Separate pool for toddlers / fun swim big pool for serious swimmers only
97. "Outdoor bowling green, Tennis court, swimming pool"
98. I think that it is important that the evergreen fitness suite continues in existence both for its benefit to disabled people and as a potential meeting place particularly for people living on their own
99. Minimum 6 rinks for bowling. The club cannot operate properly with less
100. "The Evergreen Suite at Arena is used by me every week on several days. I do hope this is to be kept I am happy with the design, but more disabled facilities are needed"
101. A swimming pool at Rushcliffe Arena if the Rushcliffe School pool is to be closed for re-development??
102. Astroturf football pitches
103. Astro turf pitches
104. Soft play area
105. What about Evergreen facility?This helps infirm elderly people to become more independent
106. A replacement for Run Riot - my children & grandchildren have loved it!
107. Creche so I can use facilities in day
108. I hope the Evergreen Suite will still be available for the elderly and disabled. It is a lifeline to us and a great help to our wellbeing
109. No
110. WiFi
111. As a long term member of bowls, we do need 6 rinks to be a viable club. We don't wish to play at another venue. We have bowled at the Arena since opening.
112. Upgrading the wc facilities, stopping childrens parties in the bar area.
113. More than one fitness studio, many fitness classes to cover
114. We love slope in swimming pool, its great

115. Ensure it is a large swimming pool At least 25m
116. Plenty of parking spaces with generously sized spaces as currently at Rushcliffe L.C.
117. Wi-fi
118. Improved / repaired Evergreen suite (i.e. equipment for less able-bodied)
119. The Evergreen suite is used by many disabled and older members (who) would be sad to lose it
120. Sauna & steam rooms; plunge pool
121. "Evergreen room with EX10 machines, fo referrals from hospitals and doctors. Run Riot (soft play) for children"
122. Swimming pool
123. Better soft play; not so dark; more inviting for younger children
124. A nice big pool & spa (sauna/steam)
125. Martial arts room, all weather pitch
126. Leisure pool and improve soft play area at Arena
127. Community areas for sales, get togethers
128. Squash
129. Swimming area for children & learners - not just lane swimming
130. I hope he soft play area will be retained - great idea
131. Badminton
132. Keep soft play, or make bigger. Keep flumes (not a boring pool).
133. Table tennis - they have this at Rushcliffe Leisure centre and it is quite popular. Also more fashionable now (I am told)
134. "A swimming pool which is a full sized 25 metre pool for proper swimming and along side it a separate large fun pool with flumes of different sizes (like the one at Rushcliffe Leisure Centre) for children. And don't have lessons on going in the pool when it is supposedly a public session - so annoying when we turn up to use the pool and half of it s taken over by swimming lessons. A much improved children's play area. The current Run Riot ok, but has very few places for parents to sit and watch children."
135. Good indoor soft play with cafe, and facilities to hold children's parties.
136. how about a running track - or outdoor running route that is well lit & weather proof for the winter
137. I currently use the Evergreen Suite at the Arena. This is an excellent facility that provides those of us who are older and cannot cope with the usual gym equipment a means of exercising our joints and muscles. There is also the provision for GP referrals - how I first started going to Evergreen and cardiac faculties which I have not used. These are unique as no other health centre has such facilities. It is important that Rushcliffe continues to care for the health and fitness of older people when the updated facilities are opened. I would like you to continue to provide a suite such as Evergreen.
138. "Will there still be opportunity for young people to take part in archery, currently available in the far sports hall in winter? Will you be able to meet the needs of the young gymnasts as well as at the moment?"
139. "Outdoor cricket nets. Diving boards."
140. If Rushcliffe Leisure Centre is closed then the Arena needs to have more sports hall space than currently - at least as much additionally as the Leisure Centre has now - so that when the Leisure Centre closes there is not double the pressure on the Arena's current sports hall. The car park at the Arena would also need to expand to accommodate the users of a larger centre. There are also no squash courts at the Arena, so if the Leisure Centre is closed some would need to be built at the Arena. Also, the Leisure Centre has tennis courts,

which the arena does not have, so extra tennis courts would be needed (the current ones at the Leisure Centre are in a sorry state, though).

141. As a coach for the junior section of the squash club I strongly urge you to consider the inclusion of squash courts. There are some 20-25 members of the junior section with ages ranging 6-16
142. Child care facility to compete with other private clubs
143. Please include the squash courts. It's taken a long time to build up the leagues. The social and community aspect of the club relies on the rushcliffe facilities.
144. Outdoor activities (bike trail, skate park, pakour place). More courts of all types. A lane based swimming pool. Sauna.
145. A wave pool for children may encourage more young swimmers.
146. table tennis (presumably included in sports hall facilities)
147. Astro pitch. There is so much sport being played on astro and people like West Bridgford School charge high prices. Apart from people like Boots Hockey. West Bridgford Hockey Club runs 14-15 teams every weekend and trains over 100 youngsters every Sunday morning in the winter and has training on other evenings.
148. outdoor football pitches
149. I USE SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT IN THE EVERGREEN SUITE AT THE ARENA. ALTHOUGH I DO MOST OF MY EXERCISE IN THE GYM BECAUSE I HAVE MS I FIND SOME OF THE CHAIRS VERY USEFUL.
150. Gym facilities suitable for an older generation
151. children play/larking about pool with slides/tubes. Nice to have separate baby pool as well.
152. "two separate weights rooms - the men are always using the weights area at the Arena gym and it can be intimidating for women who want to use them. good quality changing rooms"
153. "Kids crèche so adults can enjoy classes etc climbing wall would be good if designed by climbers for climbers, could included outdoor boulders aswell as indoor facilities"

Q8.. Are there any further improvements you would like us to consider?

1. "Modernise equipment. Have instructors available to ask about fitness programmes."
2. Roller skate arena. Scooter park. Full gymnastic hall (pits, sprung floor, apparatus etc)
3. soft play
4. Car parking will have to be at least double as at present
5. Get rid of junk food, vending machines, and cafes selling junk. Maintain the place eg lighting, car park potholes, broken toilet doors
6. Ensure nifty-fifties remains. Offer off-peak membership or cheaper rates for over 60's
7. Needs to be a lot more modern, and a pleasant environment
8. A good place to play table tennis, complete with good equipment
9. Leave it as it is. It works well
10. More badminton courts at Rushcliffe Arena
11. "Your proposed plan to 'Move and Improve' is not a good idea in some ways. You do not state in the leaflet that only 4 bowling rinks will be available. This is absolutely appalling as there will be no friendly games, no County games, no school of excellence etc. The government keep stressing the need for elderly people to exercise, and bowling is one exercise many people enjoy, not only for the exercise but for companionship. Please think about building the offices above the swimming pool. Surely whilst doing a 'new build' it would be more cost effective than altering an existing building. Please please save our bowling arena."
12. Improved cycling access.
13. We swim with the Rushcliffe swimming club and want to see the club continue to operate as it does, whichever site it is based at
14. "Maintain an outdoor bowling green. We need at least six bowling indoor lanes. Any less would be pointless to continue the bowls league"
15. An improved swimming pool to Olympic standards would be a great asset to the area and could be situated at the Water Sports Centre which would boost that area and facilities. There is plenty of parking. Swimmers of all standards could use that sort of facility along with clubs and leisure swimmers having access.
16. We very much welcome an updated pool facility - We are members of Rushcliffe swimming club, and our daughter has swimming lessons with the club. The club is very important to us and we would hope that if the pool moves to Rushcliffe Arena that the club would still be able to operate as it currently does from the new venue.
17. Better changing/shower facilities
18. "Lane swimming for adults with laminated cards showing fitness programmes would encourage healthy rather than simply leisure swimming. Provision for private showers"
19. Maintain 6 indoor rinks
20. I would like to think that the swimming pool at the leisure centre will not close down prior to the new one being built at the Arena. Will Parkwood Leisure be in charge at the Arena? Is there enough land at the Arena to build all these new facilities + moving the Council offices there, or are you able to buy more land?
21. re thinking your proposal
22. Please ensure that the pool is a decent length. If it could be 50m, that would be fantastic although I realise this may restrict space for other activities. As a minimum, it should be 25m.
23. Anything less than a six-rink bowling surface would be a disaster for domestic, inter-club and county purposes.
24. "In your recent questionnaire regarding the proposed changes to the Rushcliffe Arena you made no mention that the changes would reduce the indoor bowling facilities by four rinks.

This was only made apparent in an article published in the Nottingham Post. By doing this, it will be virtually impossible to to operate the leagues as they require more than four rinks to accommodate all the teams. Also it will be impossible to run the friendly matches against other clubs. I, and intil recently my husband, have been members of Arena bowling since it was first opened and it will be a shame if I, and countless like me, have to look for other venues to carry on playing the sport we love."

25. "Steam clean the toilets every month. Sell less high-fat and high-sugar snacks. If they are there, people will buy them."
26. "Rushcliffe changing facilities are in a poor state. A diving pool as part of a new swimming pool - essential. There's no opportunity for kids to try diving anywhere round here. Secure cycle parking, with CCTV and/or bike lockers"
27. I question the addition of a pool at Rushcliffe Arena. The one at Rushcliffe leisure centre is used by me because it is there - I live locally to it. I am not likely to traipse to the Arena to use one, as it is not easy to get to by bus directly, instead favouring a City one (eg Portland). I would therefore politely suggest considering a partnership with the City Council or the Portland Trust to negotiate a preferential rate to use that pool, or the others in the borough, rather than add another costly inclusion to the proposal. In addition, there are 2 private pools within spitting distance of the Arena as well!
28. Don't close Rushcliffe Leisure Centre until the Arena has been completed.
29. Just regular maintenance of the facilities such as repairing lights in the sports hall which have gone out and repainting court lines which are faded.
30. "I would like to see a breakdown of users by activity. ie How many people purchase time on the Bowls Rinks, use the Gym, etc."
31. A reception with sufficient staff and improved IT booking facility.
32. You must restrict the footprint of the development if it goes ahead - consider underground car parking for example. You must not encroach on other green areas in close proximity.
33. Far better management i.e. people interested in their job
34. Ensure centre is suitable for all age groups
35. The lighting could be vastly improved
36. "Please leave the indoor bowling facilities. Means so much to so many. Please please, give much consideration. Thank you. Founder member - may the indoor bowling continue"
37. Keep Rushcliffe Arena staff - they are polite and helpful
38. "Keep all rinks for indoor bowls. We need and use them. Sport is for all ages, abilities regardless of race, age, sex etc"
39. I currently travel from Attenborough to the Arena where there are facilities I cannot use locally i.e. Evergreen -where, if I have mobility problems, I can still improve my health by exercising. Don't neglect the older community for the sake of money and modernising for the younger generation.
40. Better cafe/bar eating area
41. Run by the Council (not private)
42. better parking please, as the car park is quite small
43. "To retain and supplement the staff who have always been helpful and friendly. Create an exciting and enjoyable for all age groups. Improve the outdoor lighting around the arena. Longer opening hours. Better eating facilities/ variety in provision. A lot more choice in beers/lagers. Recognition for loyal customers who have regularly used this location for a good few years."
44. Efficient air-conditioning/heating in fitness studios

45. Possibly closing Keyworth leisure centre instead of Rushcliffe. It has very poor facilities, no showers, very few classes, and although is my nearest location, I have hardly ever visited.
46. Improved shower/changing facilities; this most times puts me off at Rushcliffe; sharing different sports at the same time on one multi-purpose court facility can also be off-putting so you need to maintain having more than one sports hall as you have at the moment albeit in different locations
47. If the intention is to expand rushcliffe arena then there will need to be significant investment in parking facilities. Eton road is already very busy with traffic so you'd need to give that consideration. The area around the Arena and David Lloyd is one of the decreasing areas of green space in West Bridgford particularly with the proposed Sharp Hill development. One Leisure centre just doesn't seem enough to suit all needs of an expanding population. If the money's available surely the better alternative is to invest in both facilities.
48. How will the potential congestion caused by additional traffic using the arena be managed?
49. "Table tennis? Outdoor tables could provide an additional activity alongside the outdoor gym. A petanque/boule surface? I think these facilities and outdoor gym should be free-like the children's play areas. People could just turn up and use them- it could provide an alternative venue for young people in summer evenings- light it well, put it in a visible place near the courts"
50. Swimming pool to be treated regularly. (Private gyms seem to treat with gentler methods - not so harsh on skin
51. That the price will not go up
52. No increase in charges and allowances for O.A.P and Nifty Fifty
53. Properly heated glass-back squash courts
54. Car parking space to be available
55. "a 50% reduction in use of indoor bowls does not necessarily mean you only need 50% of the rinks. consider how many rinks are used at one time. Consider local club needs"
56. My main frustration as a member is the fitness rooms are fit for purpose. They don't offer air conditioning in most or working conditioning in others. The online system is a nightmare if booking squash with another member, as appears to be no facility for this, so I constantly sit with an unpaid debt on my account. The fitness rooms don't have proper music systems or again if they do then they don't work properly and it disrupts the class a lot. If membership fees go up, which they have, as a member you need to see improvements so you know what you are paying for
57. We do need 6 bowling rinks, not just 4
58. I would really like to keep Rushcliffe Swimming club (on Tuesdays at 8pm) on the same basis as it is now, its really affordable for me - I wouldn't be able to pay any more.
59. Climbing wall would be excellent, my children would use that frequently, and squash courts would be a great addition to leisure facilities in WB which we would use.
60. Re-consider the proposal to have only one leisure centre
61. Number of free weight stations with olympic lifting facilities. So don't have to wait to use equipment.
62. "As mentioned above - actually manage the lane swimming a bit more (as opposed to ignoring it). Currently I swim in either the slow or medium lane. On most occasions I'm going faster than a couple of people in the so called fast lane. These people getting in the way means faster swimmers have to go to the medium speed lane, and basically it ends up with people getting in each others way much more than they need to. Additionally - separate showers are a must, so that you can actually properly shower down before work without fear that you are going to expose yourself to half the female users. Finally, don't

allow people to leave possessions in the larger cubicles while they swim. It's rude and unnecessary and basically means that unless you are quick or lucky you are shoehorned into a cubicle that you cannot even easily raise your arms in."

63. The car park barrier does not seem to work well at all, particularly when a number of people are going in and out and could be improved and the lighting facility for the security key pad does not work and is causing problems at night time in particular.
64. Speeding up the payment on entry.
65. "Having covered cycle facilities and also lockers where you can leave kit. All weather tennis courts. What will happen to the Gymnastics centre at Rushcliffe - my daughters train there 3 times a week."
66. I would like your consultation to include exactly what usage each facility currently gets and what provision there is going to be for these if we lose some facilities when the re-location occurs. A full breakdown is required.
67. The retention of the swimming pool facility at Rushcliffe School is important and the Borough Council should support the School to retain this facility for the health of future pupils of the school and Borough.
68. My family are currently members of the rushcliffe swimming club. This is a fantastic club we have seen fabulous improvements in our childrens ability to swim. We have tried the aqua zone lessons on several occasions and have been bitterly disappointed by the lack of knowledge and experience of your teachers. Within three lessons at the rushcliffe club my daughter was 'swimming' unaided..... We also use the Sunday morning sessions at the club for the whole family. We love the ethos and family feel to this club and we would all be bitterly disappointed if this club had to end.
69. The swimming lessons and family swim with Rushcliffe swimming club have been invaluable for the fitness and health of my family, teaching the children about a healthy and fit lifestyle.
70. "Better quality staff running site People who know how to use computer systems"
71. no
72. Bowling ring
73. Maintain a sufficient bowling area... 6+ rinks
74. At least 3 courts are required, they are always fully booked on week days
75. Male toilet at the Arena. Present condition is disgusting. Gloomy, smelly, urinals and pipework encrusted with scale
76. Don't let Parkwood run it
77. I like the jets at Rushcliffe pool for back massage. Presumably this would disappear.
78. I would like to see more weekend fitness classes at a variety of times. I would like more Pilates classes.
79. Run Roit is looking tired - needs a good clean/refurbishment
80. "good accessible and secure cycle storage please. one of the main reasons too that this is a good idea is that the new centre will be on a main more frequent bus route. getting to boundary rd isn't easy. the new location is more central to west bridgford and other areas. improvements to rugby road may be needed and cycle routes."
81. I would appreciate a wider range of fitness classes to choose from, and would definitely use a swimming pool.
82. no school usage of pool - limits day use
83. Sky Sports on TV screens or other sports channels
84. Squash courts
85. "Hands off our indoor bowling green. We need 8 rinks for our county, national & friendly games as well as leagues. Our bowls green is the best in the county"

86. No, but I would hope you would consider not reducing the bowling green to less than 6 rinks or some of us wouldn't get a game. And most bowlers are older and need to keep active
87. "Dear Sir, Regarding your plan to 'Move and Improve' and with reference to the indoor bowls, I understand that you intend to have only 4 bowling rinks. This is absolutely atrocious as it will mean we can have no county games, no school of excellence and no visiting teams as more than 4 rinks are required. Even for league games sometimes more than 4 rinks are required. Elderly people are incessantly being advised to keep active. This move will certainly mean the end of bowls at the Arena. Perhaps this is what you want??!!!"
88. Minimum 6 rinks for bowling
89. Cleanliness and more disabled changing areas
90. Improved catering and bar facilities, similar to those offered at the Nottm Bowls Club and Gedling. Membership would then improve noticeably
91. Athletics/bmx track
92. Bigger swimming pool
93. Road access
94. Lack of any staff in the gym who are qualified in first aid. This presents a problem if anything happens. Someone should be present at all times
95. Keep changing rooms/ swimming pool clean
96. "A warm swimming pool. I take both my swimming at Rushcliffe and they both get cold very quickly. Don't forget , you need a full size pool and fun pool, not a cheapo Parkwood pool. This pool needs to be designed to be open to 'general swim' every day, all day The pool must accommodate specialist requirements e.g. women's swim and diving The pool must accomodate toddlers. This is easy. Toddler pool needs to be warm. main pool can be used by everyone. I wide enough it will accommodate schools and general swim through use of lanes. Curtain means women can swim even when men are in pool. This would be an equal opp pool."
97. Reduce drastically the volume of sound arising from the cycling spinners. It is socially unacceptable and unbearable
98. I disagree very strongly with the implication that you are making "improvements". You are withdrawing local services.
99. Better air conditioning in gym
100. Jacuzzi/steam/sauna room
101. It would be good to have clean facilities, toilets are not good and carpets need a good clean.
102. Consideration to members of bowls whose 1st year membership went into building the Arena 1 year before it was opened. Also better lighting and cleaner carpets.
103. More done for the indoor bowls
104. I think its unfair on the staff, who are great at Rushcliffe. I think you need to consider them in this move!
105. All leisure centres / facilities should be self funding with no council subsidies of any kind
106. Sufficient car parking
107. Renew the Evergreen suite
108. Bar facilities
109. Toilets/ do repairs on gym machines / keep things in gym and add more
110. Swimming pool
111. Buses from W.B. to new site. Rushcliffe is in walking distance. The Arena isn't
112. Squash

113. Parking
114. "Leisure pool - not just a pool for swimming lessons. Open more hours. Improve soft play at the Arena. Very grubby at the moment"
115. Family pool
116. Do not spoil indoor bowling green. If reduced to 4 rinks, may ruin club altogether.
We could manage with 6
117. Leave it alone
118. Keep gymnastics centre
119. Enough car parking facilities for everyone
120. Yes, if the squash courts at Rushcliffe are not kept open then you should replace like with like ie not reduce the sporting facilities available in Rushcliffe - and build 3 new courts, not 2 as it is proposed (albeit not part of core facilities)
121. "Improve your web site and information availability - the information available is poor, it isn't user friendly (ie cannot download a single timetable and see a full week anymore I have to search by day!). Difficult to find out what clubs etc use the leisure centres so it is difficult to find out what is on, how to join in with sessions, and when sessions are - the web site says ask in the centre for info or information is incomplete, when we do the staff on reception are not well informed and often cannot answer questions, don't have leaflets with times etc and refer people back to the web site (!) or just refer people to the few club leaflets they have. Not helpful but it isn't their fault, they aren't given the information to disseminate. Nottingham City Council Leisure Centres have better information available on the web, with clear timetables for activities and in the centres with very well informed staff. That said, the staff in the gym are great and well informed. They are helpful with good fitness advice."
122. There is a need to do maintenance of the existing building while all these decisions are being discussed. The men's changing and toilets are particularly shabby and have plumbing problems that have not been addressed..
123. The swimming pool needs to have full leisure pool facilities, including an area suitable for babies and young children. This means warmer water than a pool would normally be heated to, as well as shallow and beach areas, and dedicated under-5s sessions. The water in the pool at Rushcliffe Leisure Centre used to be nice and warm but under Parkwood became too cold to take a baby or very young child in. Last time I visited it was warm again, but I don't know if this will last. West Bridgford is full of families with young children and good use would be made of a proper leisure pool, like Waterworld in Stoke, or the Mansfield pool. Recent publicity suggesting that the provision would be a 25m lane pool and a training pool is very alarming.
124. i'd like the 2 facilities kept separate please
125. I think moving the council offices to the Rugby Road site would be a bad idea, it would bring more traffic into the Loughborough Road, Rugby Road area which is already congested due to Asda.
126. The planning document on the web implies that the car parking facilities will be used by council staff in the day and then be available for users of the gym in the evening. This takes no account of the people who use the gym facilities during the day and need a car to get there, in particular the elderly. It is vital that additional parking is provided if the council offices move to the site and the current parking facilities continue to be available for users of the leisure facilities.
127. Also, the roof of the men's toilets at the Arena currently frequently leaks when there is heavy rain - needs urgent fixing.

128. Definitely to include squash courts
129. Don't shut rushcliffe
130. Please consider residents of "Gamston" area as an option. We have either to go Ruscliffe School or the National Water Sports Centre. Why Can't we have one near the Alford Road site/Gamston School?
131. better lighting and environmental control. Better staff. Franchise out a coffee shop
132. Yes, please introduce a system whereby gym members can enter and use facilities without queueing at the counter to book in. This is a pet hate for anyone who feels uncomfortable queue jumping when the swimming queue is busy, and for those standing and waiting whilst the counter staff are busy or the counter is understaffed. Online booking facilities should also be better used.
133. upgrading the facilities at Rushcliffe school not the arena
134. Swimming pool has to be 25m, having a 20m pool is ridiculous. And enough space for children to be separated from adult/lane swimming
135. MAKE SURE THERE IS PLENTY OF PARKING. PEOPLE WILL NOT GO IF THERE IS NOWHERE TO PARK.
136. "Current gym facilities at the Arena feel very tired and need attention. Some popular equipment requires more regular servicing and hopefully will be upgraded and not just left until a new development is completed. Improved media entertainment system. Swipe card entry system for members rather than having to see reception staff."
137. If this was a commercial operation, suspect it wouldn't get planning permission due to effect of traffic - it is a narrow road to Arena, but assume you will give yourselves permission. Nothing here about the plan to move council offices, why not? Again, that plan proposes building several stories in an area where there isn't anything else that high - would it get planning permission if not your own? You have run down or let be run down the facilities you have, and then you want to build new ones somewhere else. Why should we believe this is cost effective? Why should we believe you will look after the new place any better than the old place?
138. Swipe card entry system eg if you are a gym member you can access the appropriate area without having to queue at a very busy reception desk.
139. "pool must have main pool min of 25m length and have 8 lanes and being available other pool areas for kids and beginners, including wet play areas any new buildings should be to the highest possible environmental building standards, ie Passive house design standards. would expect high percentage of energy used to be from renewable energy sources. This should be heat pumps/ biomass and solar thermal technologies for the pool and solar photovoltaics for general electrical. Space heating requirements should be designed out.

Report of the Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods

Cabinet Portfolio Holder – Councillor N C Lawrence

Summary

At its September 2013 meeting Cabinet approved a recommendation to explore the development of a shared service approach for fleet maintenance and garage services. This work has now been taken forward with Nottingham City Council and has resulted in a draft co-operation agreement which if approved would result in a range of benefits and savings for Rushcliffe, create a platform for further growth with other public sector partners, aligns with the recent collaboration agreement on partnership working and strategically helps towards the release of the Council's Abbey Road Depot site moving forwards.

Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet

- a. Support the implementation of the proposed Co-operation Agreement with Nottingham City Council as set out in the report;
- b. Agree that it will discharge the fleet and maintenance functions for Rushcliffe Borough Council;
- c. Authorise the Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods to enter into a Co-operation Agreement with Nottingham City Council for the joint service delivery of fleet maintenance functions in accordance with the terms of the draft agreement; and
- d. Request the Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods in consultation with the Executive Manager Operations and Corporate Governance make any necessary drafting or other amendments to the terms of the agreement which are necessary to reflect the agreed arrangements but which do not materially affect the proposals outlined in this report.

Background

1. At present garage services for the Council's fleet are provided in house via the Abbey Road Depot. As part of the previous four year service review programme a procurement process was undertaken for the delivery of such services by an external provider with the aim of delivering both on-going savings and helping to facilitate the planned future disposal of the Abbey Road site.

2. In relation to this latter point it is anticipated that the external delivery of garage services is not only a key stage in the potential disposal of this site but would also facilitate the construction of a smaller and cheaper depot at an alternative location or the further sharing of an operational base.
3. The formal procurement process commenced in early 2013. The accepted formal bids were evaluated on a cost quality basis and consideration was also given to the whole life cost of the preferred bid taking into account the implications and opportunities presented by the disposal of the Abbey Road site and its relocation to a smaller facility elsewhere in the Borough. This analysis indicated that the total impact on the Council over the ten year life of the contract would be an additional cost of £300,000.
4. Given these findings Cabinet agreed on 10 September 2013 to cease the procurement process but endorsed the exploration of a shared service approach and the development of a subsequent business case for further consideration. This was based on information gathered during the procurement exercise which suggested opportunities might exist for the provision of a fleet maintenance on shared service basis with other public sector providers which could offer significant additional savings over the medium to long term.

Development of a Co-operation Agreement

5. Following the decision by Cabinet, the Council wrote to all the Nottinghamshire local authorities to invite their expressions of interest in being involved in the development of a 'shared fleet maintenance service'. Nottingham City Council showed great interest in developing the idea for a shared maintenance service as they already have a wealth of experience in the maintenance of their own large and varied fleet, deliver maintenance and repair contracts for some of the public sector's most vital services and have the capacity to grow business at their maintenance depots that are well placed to meet Rushcliffe's needs.
6. Some of the guiding principles identified for this work included the following:
 - The need for all councils to make significant savings and address the impact of reductions from central government grant;
 - Shared or collaborative service with neighbouring councils would enable all partners to gain from economies due to scale and access to specialist skill sets;
 - Greater utilisation of vehicles would result in the need for less 'spare' vehicles and could even reduce the total number of fleet vehicles required due to efficiency in vehicle use;
 - Sharing and centralising facilities could lead to raising capital from the disposal of existing real estate or re-using the space for other purposes; and
 - Combining maintenance could be the first step of a more integrated fleet management approach, which would offer greater efficiencies.
7. A joint project team was established with staff from both authorities tasked with the development of a joint business case which would identify the preferred operating model based around a 'co-operation agreement'. A

number of key objectives were identified which would be expected from any agreement in order for it to be considered viable, they are as follows:

- Financial benefit – there should be a financial benefit to both councils;
 - Shared savings – additional savings should be shared in a fair manner between the councils (nominally on a 50/50 basis);
 - Fair risk/incentive balance – risks should be placed with the organisation best able to control them (to reduce any unnecessary risk prices being built in), similarly incentives should be given to each organisation to operate in the best interests of the partnership;
 - Simple – should be as administratively simple to operate as possible, to save unnecessary costs on administration / contract management;
 - Transparent – each side should be clear about how the partnership should work;
 - Scalable – whatever is agreed should be capable of being added to, either via other local councils joining or an expansion of services being shared; and
 - Quick to implement – aim is to have a shared service in operation by 1 April 2014.
8. The development of the agreement has been very much supported by an open approach which has led to a developing mutual trust. This has allowed the working group to make good progress in meeting these objectives since September and a viable co-operation agreement has now been prepared.

Co-operation Agreement – Key Elements

Scope and Location

9. The scope of the agreement covers the provision of a repair, maintenance, and garage service for the Council's fleet of vehicles and machinery including in the future those owned by any wholly owned company of the Council. The service will include the following core activities:
- Undertaking all statutory maintenance;
 - Compliance to VOSA's legal requirements;
 - Documentation management and inspection sheets;
 - Mobile mechanic facility;
 - Management of key subcontractors and suppliers;
 - Accident repair; and
 - Tachograph installation and calibration.
10. In addition the agreement will potentially cover the provision of a 'one stop' shop service for Private Hire and Hackney vehicle compliance testing and plating which will be offered to drivers and operators licensed by the Council.

Benefits

11. The Co-operation Agreement for fleet services between Rushcliffe Borough Council and Nottingham City Council will enable both partners to gain from economies of scale and more specifically will result in:

- Reduced costs for Rushcliffe over 10 years (£78,000 per annum) and increased income for the City Council (£40,000 per annum). There is an expectation that further value for money will be attained over the duration of the agreement
 - Removal of the need for garage space at the existing Abbey Road Depot or any future depot site that the Council may wish to operate from;
 - Ensuring the Eastcroft Depot is utilised towards a greater capacity (following the recent transfer of maintenance of Nottingham City's plant and light vehicles to its newly opened Woolsthorpe Depot);
 - Overnight servicing leading to savings in Rushcliffe's overall fleet provision;
 - Reduced reactive maintenance and thus less need for contingency actions due to breakdowns;
 - Greater workforce resilience due to increased scale, therefore more cover for sickness, holidays and vacancy management; and
 - A more cross-skilled workforce, learning maintenance of a wider range of vehicles, thus improving future employment opportunities.
12. It is also clear that the initial integration of maintenance services provides a commercially attractive platform for other partners to join and to the potential opportunity for a wider integration of fleet services.

Operating Arrangements

13. In order to support the operational management of the agreement a more detailed supporting document has been developed which covers;
- Bi-monthly meetings between operational managers along with daily communications as and when necessary;
 - A range of performance indicators to reflect collection and delivery of vehicles, call out times, scheduled servicing and accident repair standards/times, provision of loan vehicles;
 - Dissatisfaction and dispute resolution to enable any disputes to be settled firstly at bi-monthly operational meetings, then through a 4 stage process ultimately to be decided at Executive Manager level or (4th stage) external arbitration with financial penalties; and
 - 6 months written notice of termination.
14. Clearly a key consideration is to ensure that the Council's fleet is available for work when needed on any given day therefore the supporting agreement contains a number of important service features including:
- Full 24 hour roadside recovery and assistance;
 - Servicing within manufacturer's guidelines with the aspiration to reduce re-active response enabling further financial savings;
 - Effective communication with minimal 'contract management' by Rushcliffe;
 - Loan vehicles provided free of charge to Rushcliffe (appropriately liveried); and
 - On site assistance at the beginning of the daily shift for vehicles at Abbey Road Depot.

Governance, Risks and Implementation

15. In order to ensure appropriate governance and operational oversight of the agreement a joint officer group will be formed consisting of senior officers from both Councils. This group would then have the flexibility to grow with the addition of other partners and adapt to wider governance requirements.
16. Further oversight and governance will come through relevant information being included in the Council's existing performance management framework and scrutiny through reporting at appropriate intervals to the Council's Partnership Delivery Group.
17. A full risk register has been generated as part of the project. The main resultant risks associated with the arrangement such as TUPE arrangements for staff, communication breakdown, site availability etc, are mitigated in part due to the experience of the City Council in undertaking these activities for other public bodies; and the relative size and scale of the City Council's operations.
18. The Council will also be following the plans and procedures that it has in place for managing any major change.
19. Subject to approval the aim will be to ensure that the Project Implementation and Communication plan will deliver the transition to the new agreement on 1 April 2014.

Financial Comments

The financial implications are covered in the body of the report.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act

There are no direct Section 17 implications.

Diversity

There are no direct diversity implications.

Background Papers Available for Inspection:

Correspondence between the Council and Nottingham City Council September - December 2013

Report of the Executive Manager – Finance and Commercial

Cabinet Portfolio Holder – Councillor J A Cranswick

Purpose

This report outlines the level of grant support that will be provided to Rushcliffe's Parish Council and Special Expense Areas for the financial years 2014/15 and 2015/16. This element is considered in advance of the budget to enable Parish Councils to set their 2014/15 budgets in line with the council tax setting cycle.

Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet adopt the 2014/15 and 2015/16 funding allocations in relation to support arrangements for Parish Councils and Special Expense Areas as outlined at **Appendix 1**.

Background

1. The replacement of Council Tax Benefit with a discount based Council Tax Support Scheme in April 2013 led to a reduction in the local government taxbase which resulted in many Parish Councils being unable to raise the same level of funding through the Council Tax than had previously been the case.
2. To mitigate this impact as part of the 2013/14 local government funding settlement Department for Communities and Local Government allocated funding to enable billing authorities to establish local schemes of support for Parish Councils affected by the change. It should be noted that this funding was not ring fenced and so the establishment of any scheme was a local decision and as such any billing authority was able to retain some or all of the funding for its own purposes.
3. On 24 January 2013 Council determined that it would provide support for Parish Councils who had been negatively impacted on by the transition to the Council Tax Support Scheme and allocated funding to 45 Parish Councils and the three Special Expense Areas. In doing so it not only allocated all of the central funding to Parishes but also supplemented this through the allocation of £3,400 of one-off transitional funding in relation to other aspects of the Council Tax Support Scheme implementation.

2014/15

4. The funding allocated to Parishes in 2013/14 was for one year only and, as a result, this report provides revised allocations for 2014/15.

5. In this context it is important to note that the draft local government finance settlement for 2014/15 and 2015/16 does not provide any explicit allocation of funding for parish support. As such any allocation of funding would be included in the overall allocation of funding via the Revenue Support Grant and the assumed levels of Retained Business Rates which are reducing by 13.25% between 2013/14 and 2014/15 (and by 26.8% between 2013/14 and 2015/16).
6. It is therefore proposed that the allocations of funding for Parish Councils be reduced in line with the cessation of transitional funding and Rushcliffe's overall funding reductions for both 2014/15 and 2015/16. The resultant funding allocations are shown at Appendix 1 and would result in the allocation of £110,510 in 2014/15 reducing to £93,780 in 2015/16.
7. In order to establish funding certainty for the Parish Councils it is proposed that, in line with the two year national settlement, Cabinet adopt the allocations outlined at Appendix 1 for both 2014/15 and 2015/16. This would have then provided Parish Councils a three year period to manage the transition from Council Tax Benefit to the Council Tax Support Scheme. Should Cabinet deem that further support is required from 2016/17 onwards then this would be subject to the agreement of an on-going or replacement scheme at that time.

Financial Comments

These are dealt with in the report.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act

There are no Section 17 implications.

Diversity

There are no diversity implications.

Background Papers Available for Inspection: Nil

Appendix 1

	Band D Precept		Change in Band D Precept		Grant Provided by RBC		
	2012/13	2013/14	£	%	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Aslockton P.C.	26.52	21.84	(4.68)	(17.6%)	876	740	620
Barton-in-Fabis P.C.	27.94	27.94	0.00	0.0%	177	150	130
Bingham T.C.	75.35	72.23	(3.12)	(4.1%)	22567	18960	16090
Bradmore P.C.	16.17	16.23	0.06	0.4%	55	50	40
Bunny P.C.	58.22	57.68	(0.54)	(0.9%)	273	230	190
Car Colston P.C.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0	0	0
Clipston P.C.	5.17	3.57	(1.60)	(30.9%)	7	10	10
Colston Bassett P.C.	61.98	60.59	(1.39)	(2.2%)	170	140	120
Costock P.C.	34.36	32.88	(1.48)	(4.3%)	358	300	260
Cotgrave T.C.	86.09	95.84	9.75	11.3%	19764	16610	14090
Cropwell Bishop P.C.	130.72	130.45	(0.27)	(0.2%)	6451	5420	4600
Cropwell Butler P.C.	31.40	32.25	0.85	2.7%	408	340	290
East Bridgford P.C.	39.69	39.22	(0.47)	(1.2%)	1674	1410	1190
East Leake P.C.	61.09	64.35	3.26	5.3%	10823	9090	7720
Elton-on-the-Hill P.C.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0	0	0
Flawborough P.C.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0	0	0
Flintham P.C.	48.54	48.54	0.00	0.0%	331	280	240
Gotham P.C.	58.33	60.06	1.73	3.0%	2420	2030	1730
Granby cum Sutton P.C.	60.24	60.40	0.16	0.3%	216	180	150
Hawksworth P.C.	162.00	155.41	(6.59)	(4.1%)	415	350	300
Hickling P.C.	27.49	28.06	0.57	2.1%	108	90	80
Holme Pierrepont & Gamston P.C.	39.15	36.58	(2.57)	(6.6%)	2643	2220	1880
Keyworth P.C.	64.73	64.73	0.00	0.0%	11727	9850	8360
Kingston-on-Soar P.C.	34.75	33.69	(1.06)	(3.1%)	125	110	90
Kinoulton P.C.	16.87	16.57	(0.30)	(1.8%)	270	230	190
Kneeton P.C.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0	0	0
Langar cum Barnstone P.C.	114.37	123.81	9.44	8.3%	2998	2520	2140

	Band D Precept		Change in Band D Precept		Grant Provided by RBC		
	2012/13	2013/14	£	%	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Normanton-on-Soar P.C.	61.22	60.55	(0.67)	(1.1%)	596	500	420
Normanton-on-the-Wolds P.C.	45.92	30.35	(15.57)	(33.9%)	67	60	50
Orston P.C.	38.65	37.95	(0.70)	(1.8%)	373	310	270
Owthorpe P.C.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0	0	0
Plumtree P.C.	31.25	30.99	(0.26)	(0.8%)	46	40	30
Radcliffe-on-Trent P.C.	84.62	84.62	0.00	0.0%	18,589	15,620	13,260
Ratcliffe-on-Soar P.C.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0	0	0
Rempstone P.C.	25.00	24.09	(0.91)	(3.6%)	225	190	160
Ruddington P.C.	99.76	100.50	0.74	0.7%	22,298	18,730	15,900
Saxondale P.C.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0	0	0
Scarrington P.C.	8.82	9.04	0.22	2.5%	4	0	0
Screveton P.C.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0	0	0
Shelford P.C.	42.68	41.68	(1.00)	(2.3%)	496	420	350
Shelton P.C.	14.06	5.47	(8.59)	(61.1%)	77	60	60
Sibthorpe P.C.	13.56	14.29	0.73	5.4%	49	40	30
Stanford-on-Soar P.C.	52.63	47.47	(5.16)	(9.8%)	247	210	180
Stanton-on-the-Wolds P.C.	22.44	22.37	(0.07)	(0.3%)	71	60	50
Sutton Bonington P.C.	34.24	36.24	2.00	5.8%	994	840	710
Thoroton P.C.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0	0	0
Thrumpton P.C.	43.91	46.92	3.01	6.9%	195	160	140
Tollerton P.C.	34.01	33.82	(0.19)	(0.6%)	793	670	570
Upper Broughton P.C.	62.09	63.32	1.23	2.0%	445	370	320
West Leake P.C.	30.30	32.81	2.51	8.3%	47	40	30
Whatton-in-the-Vale P.C.	29.10	30.51	1.41	4.8%	566	480	400
Widmerpool P.C.	20.87	20.91	0.04	0.2%	57	50	40
Willoughby-on-the-Wolds P.C.	25.45	25.14	(0.31)	(1.2%)	313	260	220
Wiverton & Tithby P.M.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0	0	0
Wysall & Thorpe in the Glebe P.C	42.19	41.73	(0.46)	(1.1%)	112	90	80
Totals					131,515	110,510	93,780

	Band D Precept		Change in Band D Precept		Grant Provided by RBC		
	2012/13	2013/14	£	%	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Special Expense Areas							
Keyworth	1.49	1.47	(0.02)	(1.3%)	318	270	230
Ruddington	2.50	2.21	(0.29)	(11.6%)	659	550	470
West Bridgford	54.20	54.68	0.48	0.9%	49,976	41,990	35,640
					50,952	42,810	36,330

Report of the Executive Manager – Finance and Commercial

Cabinet Portfolio Holder – Councillor J N Clarke

Summary

This report sets out the proposal to establish a Joint Committee of local authorities in the City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, (the Economic Prosperity Committee or EPC) to drive future investment in growth and jobs within their areas. It also details the background to the proposal, the purpose of the Committee and its constitution which sets out its terms of reference, the membership and procedure rules.

Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:

- a) Agree to the establishment of the Economic Prosperity Committee (EPC) as a joint committee of the following local authorities: Ashfield District Council, Bassetlaw District Council, Broxtowe Borough Council, Gedling Borough Council, Mansfield District Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council, Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council (“constituent authorities”);
- b) Agree to the Constitution (Terms of Reference, Membership and procedures) of the Economic Prosperity Committee as set out at **Appendix A**;
- c) Note that any relevant powers previously delegated by the Leader/Executive to individuals or bodies are not expressly withdrawn and will be held concurrently;
- d) Appoint the Leader of the Council as the Council’s representative on the EPC with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Resources to act as substitute;
- e) Agree to Nottingham City Council hosting the Committee and providing all necessary secretarial, legal and financial support services, (including S151 and Monitoring Officer roles) and the annual costs involved (estimated to be around £30,000), to be met in equal share by the constituent authorities, until such time as that this can be recovered in part or in whole from external funding streams;
- f) Agree that this Council’s annual contribution to the cost of servicing the Committee is estimated to be around £3,300 with any expenses for

subsistence or travel in relation to the attendance of councillors at meetings on EPC business being met from the existing budget provision for Members' allowances;

- g) Note that, in accordance with Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000, constituent authorities who operate executive governance will need to make formal scrutiny arrangements to review or scrutinise decisions made in connection with the exercise of functions of the EPC and that the Council's existing scrutiny arrangements will apply;
- h) Note that, for the reasons set out in the report, the Committee will have no powers to co-opt.

Background

1. Councils across Nottinghamshire have recognised that there is an opportunity to strengthen joint working and decision making by establishing an Economic Prosperity Committee. In July 2013 the council Leaders and Mayor across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire made a commitment to work more closely together to drive future investment in growth and jobs.
2. The EPC will improve joint working and decision making, with better links to the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), and in doing so maximise access to European and Government funding for growth, for the benefit of citizens and business. In parallel, Derby and Derbyshire councils are establishing similar arrangements.
3. The role and responsibilities of LEPs have grown since their inception. Over the next few months, Local Growth Deals will be negotiated with all LEPs. These are the successor to City Deals, enabling access to investment and new powers. The Government will consider a range of factors when negotiating Deals, including the strength of local partnerships such as Joint Committees and the strength and alignment of local plans. LEPs have also been invited to develop their approaches for the European Structural and Investment Funds (SIF) for 2014-2020 - D2N2 is currently consulting on how to prioritise its notional allocation in excess of £210m.
4. The new governance arrangements will support the LEP in the following ways:
 - Enable full engagement with all district councils, strengthening the LEP's democratic mandate;
 - Ensure that growth plans realise the LEPs strategy for growth and its vision of creating a more prosperous, better connected, increasingly resilient and competitive economy;
 - Demonstrate how local strategies and plans are aligned to maximise impact and fulfil Government funding criteria;
 - Recommend priorities for investment of some LEP funds (at present the single Local Growth Fund and the European Structural Investment Funds - variously contracted to SIF or ESI), based on local knowledge;

- Help simplify the local government landscape for business because important investment decisions will be made in one place.
5. The LEP has endorsed this approach. Support to the LEP will be maximised by having such arrangements in both Nottingham/Nottinghamshire and Derby/Derbyshire.
 6. Further consideration will be given to a work programme for the EPC (and how that work programme will be supported), as Government policy is evolving. An example of such a consideration is how the EPC's work will link to wider activity on the skills agenda.
 7. D2N2 recommended this approach with its Board on 3 September 2013. D2N2 consulted on SIF funding over the summer of 2013. The Nottinghamshire Leaders / Mayor were consulted on the formation of a joint committee on 6 September 2013, following the Nottinghamshire Chief Executives being consulted on this approach on 23 August 2013. Information was made available to all the relevant Legal and Democratic teams via a working group between 24 September and 8 November 2013.
 8. All of the constituent local authorities within the LEP are progressing the proposal through their individual governance structures and have contributed to the development of the terms of reference and constitution for the EPC. The D2N2 LEP Board have also discussed and approved the proposals to create a Joint Committee.
 9. Proposals for the establishment of an EPC have been developed to further strengthen the current governance arrangements of the D2N2 LEP and provide the necessary democratic accountability for the management of LEP funding streams such as the single Local Growth Fund and for strategic decision making on investment in growth and jobs in the City and County. The proposal provides democratic decision making for the allocation of funds within the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire jurisdiction of the LEP
 10. It is recognised that the LEP could maintain its current governance structure. However, the proposed arrangements will ensure that decisions are made in a more co-ordinated way that achieves maximum benefit for the economic area. Also, it is clear from Government Guidance that: the LEP is less likely to be successful in any bid to the single Local Growth Fund without enhanced governance; and that it would be less able to negotiate a Growth Deal; and that its governance arrangements would not be seen as robust when taking decisions over significant levels of funding.
 11. In the development of the proposals alternative governance models such as a Combined Authority or a Prosperity Board have been considered, but at this stage a Joint Committee is regarded by the constituent authorities as the most appropriate option. It is the only option deliverable within the necessary timescales.

Legal implications

12. Section 101(5) Local Government Act 1972 enables two or more local authorities to discharge any of their functions jointly and arrange for the discharge of those functions by a Joint Committee.

13. Section 9EB of the 2000 Act enables the Secretary of State to make Regulations permitting arrangements under Section 101 (5) where any of the functions are the responsibility of the executive of the authority. The relevant regulations are the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012/1019.
14. Regulation 11 makes provision for joint arrangements to involve a joint committee under Section 101(5) of the 1972 Act. As all the functions being delegated to the EPC are executive functions, the Regulations and Council's constitution allow the decision to establish the EPC and determine the number of members to be appointed to the EPC and their terms of office to be made by the Leader or Executive Mayor or other relevant decision maker or body. The regulations also require that the members appointed to the EPC should be members of the Executive.
15. Regulation 12 covers membership of joint committees and confirms political balance would not apply. Where, as in the case of the EPC, all the powers that are being exercised are executive functions, the regulations do not allow for any co-option by the constituent authorities operating under executive arrangements (although that power exists for the constituent authorities where the governance is by committee). A pragmatic approach would therefore be not to permit co-option to the committee. Where it is considered beneficial for non-members, for example a representative of D2N2 to contribute to the proceedings of the EPC, the Chair of the Committee may however invite members of the public to attend and speak.
16. Any Freedom of Information requests received by the EPC should be directed to the relevant constituent authority for it to be dealt with in the usual way, taking account of the relevant legislation. Where the request relates to information held by two or more constituent authorities, they will liaise with each other before replying to the request. The host authority will co-ordinate responses to ensure that legislative deadlines are met.

Financial Comments

The Joint Committee provides a mechanism through which its constituent authorities can engage with the LEP on investment priorities across the Nottinghamshire area. This will provide a mechanism for accessing funds earmarked for Nottinghamshire by the D2N2 LEP including £213.4m of EU growth funding and an amount yet to be received by D2N2 under the single Local Growth Fund element of the D2N2's Local Growth Deal.

It is proposed that the Joint Committee's secretarial, legal and financial support services will be provided Nottingham City Council with the resultant costs being shared equally between the member authorities. It is estimated that such services will cost approximately £30,000 leading to a cost per authority of around £3,300 per annum. Travel and subsistence costs relating to the Joint Committee will be met by individual constituent authorities.

It should be noted that these costs do not include any allowance for technical advice and support which, if provided on a central basis for the Joint Committee, would lead to additional costs being incurred. As the Joint Committee develops, it will need to be determined whether such costs will also be shared equally between the constituent authorities or whether an alternate model, such as a management charge levied against individual schemes, would need to be introduced.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act

Dealt with within the report

Diversity

As part of the process of making decisions and changing policy, the EPC will be required by law, under the public sector equality duty, to think about the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics (as defined by equalities legislation) and those who don't.
- Foster good relations between people who share protected characteristics and those who don't.

An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed as the report relates to an administrative decision rather than an issue of policy.

Background Papers Available for Inspection:

- BIS: Growth Deals, Initial Guidance for Local Enterprise Partnerships, July 2013
- D2N2: DRAFT EU Structural and Investment Funds Strategy 2014-2020

The City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee

Constitution (terms of reference, membership and procedure rules)

1. Purpose

To bring together local authority partners in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire in a robust, formally constituted arrangement which will drive future investment in growth¹ and jobs in the City and County.

2. Governance

2.1 The Economic Prosperity Committee (“EPC”) will act as a Joint Committee under Section 9EB of the Local Government Act 2000 and pursuant to Regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Arrangement for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012.

2.2 The EPC will comprise the local authorities within the Nottinghamshire area: Ashfield District Council, Bassetlaw District Council, Broxtowe Borough Council, Gedling Borough Council, Mansfield District Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council, Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council (“constituent authorities”).

2.3 Political Proportionality rules will not apply to the EPC as so constituted.

2.4 The EPC will be a legally constituted body with powers delegated to it by the constituent authorities in the following areas:

- a) to prioritise and make decisions on the use of the funding that the EPC may influence or control;
- b) to review future governance requirements and delivery arrangements and how these can be best achieved in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire;
- c) to have direct oversight of key economic growth focussed projects and initiatives that the EPC has influence over the funding of or contributes to;
- d) to have strategic oversight of other key growth focussed projects and initiatives in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

The EPC will not hold funds or monies on behalf of the constituent authorities.

2.5 The EPC’s work plan and the outcome of any wider review into alternative governance may require a change in the delegated powers and terms of reference of the EPC and any such change would require the approval of all the constituent authorities.

3. Remit

¹ As exercised through the D2N2 LEP.

3.1 The remit of the EPC will be:

- a) to act as a local public sector decision making body for strategic economic development, and to make recommendations to the D2N2 LEP on its investment and other priorities;
- b) to prioritise, commission and monitor both investment plans and all European Structural Investment Funds (SIF), and Single Local Growth Fund money that is available to Nottingham and Nottinghamshire via the D2N2 LEP and the EPC;
- c) to oversee the alignment of relevant local authority plans and ensure that they contribute to economic growth;
- d) to actively engage with a range of businesses in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire in relation to the EPC's decision making, and to engage with other stakeholders where appropriate;
- e) to consider and advise on the appropriateness and viability of alternative, successor economic governance arrangements;
- f) to ensure that potential benefits stemming from any overlaps with other LEPs are fully maximised.

4. Membership

- 4.1 One member from each constituent authority (such member to be the Leader/Elected Mayor or other executive member or committee chairman from each constituent authority) and for the purposes of these terms of reference this member will be known as the principal member.
- 4.2 Each constituent authority to have a named substitute member who must be an executive member where the authority operates executive governance arrangements. In those constituent authorities where governance is by committee, that alternate member shall be as per that authority's rules of substitution. All constituent authorities must provide no less than twenty four hours' notice to either the Chairman or the Secretary where a substitute member will be attending in place of the principal member. Regardless of any such notification, where both the principal member and the substitute member attends a meeting of the EPC the principal member shall be deemed as representing their authority by the Chairman or Vice Chair.
- 4.3 In the event of any voting member of the EPC ceasing to be a member of the constituent authority which appointed him/her, the relevant constituent authority shall as soon as reasonably practicable appoint another voting member in his/her place.
- 4.4 Where a member of the EPC ceases to be a Leader / Elected Mayor of the constituent authority which appointed him/her or ceases to be a member of the Executive or Committee Chairman of the constituent authority which appointed him/her, he/she shall also cease to be a member of the EPC and the relevant constituent authority shall as soon as reasonably practicable appoint another voting member in his/her place.
- 4.5 Each constituent authority may remove its principal member or substitute member and appoint a different member or substitute as per that authority's rules of substitution, and by providing twenty four hours' notice to the Chairman or the Secretary.

- 4.6 Co-options onto the Committee are not permitted.
- 4.7 Each constituent authority may individually terminate its membership of the EPC by providing twelve months written notice of its intent to leave the EPC to the Chairman or the Secretary. At the end of these twelve months, but not before, the authority will be deemed to no longer be a member of the EPC.
- 4.8 Where an authority has previously terminated its membership of the EPC it may re-join the EPC with immediate effect on the same terms as existed prior to its departure, where the EPC agrees to that authority re-joining via a majority vote.

5. Quorum

- 5.1 The quorum shall be 6 members. No business will be transacted at a meeting unless a quorum exists at the beginning of a meeting. If at the beginning of any meeting, the Chairman or Secretary after counting the members present declares that a quorum is not present, the meeting shall stand adjourned.

6. Chairman and Vice Chairman

- 6.1 The chairmanship of the EPC will rotate annually between the principal member of the City of Nottingham and the principal member of Nottinghamshire County Council. The position of Vice Chairman shall be filled by the principal member of one of the district/borough council members of the EPC and this role will rotate annually between district/borough councils. The Chairman or in his/her absence the Vice-Chairman or in his/her absence the member of the EPC elected for this purpose, shall preside at any meeting of the EPC.
- 6.2 Appointments will be made in May of each year. The first appointments will be made part way through the municipal year and will continue until May 2015, unless otherwise agreed.
- 6.3 Where, at any meeting or part of a meeting of the EPC both the Chairman and Vice Chairman are either absent or unable to act as Chairman or Vice Chairman, the EPC shall elect one of the members of the EPC present at the meeting to preside for the balance of that meeting or part of the meeting, as appropriate. For the avoidance of doubt, the role of Chairman and Vice-Chairman vests in the principal member concerned and in their absence the role of Chairman or Vice-Chairman will not automatically fall to the relevant constituent authority's substitute member.

7. Voting

- 7.1 One member, one vote for each constituent authority.
- 7.2 All questions shall be decided by a majority of the votes of the members present, the Chairman having the casting vote in addition to his/her vote as a member of the Committee. Voting at meetings shall be by show of hands.
- 7.3 On the requisition of any two Members, made before the vote is taken, the voting on any matter shall be recorded by the Secretary so as to show how each Member voted and there shall also be recorded the name of any Member present who abstained from voting.

8. Sub-Committees and Advisory Groups

- 8.1 The EPC may appoint sub-committees from its membership as required to enable it to execute its responsibilities effectively and may delegate tasks and powers to the sub-committee as it sees fit.
- 8.2 The EPC may set up advisory groups as required to enable it to execute its responsibilities effectively and may delegate tasks as it sees fit to these bodies, which may be formed of officers or members of the constituent authorities or such third parties as the EPC considers appropriate.

9. Hosting and Administration

9.1 The EPC will be hosted by Nottingham City Council and the Director of Legal and Democratic Services from that authority shall be Secretary to the Committee (“the Secretary”). The Host Authority will also provide s151 and Monitoring Officer roles and legal advice to the EPC. The administrative costs of supporting the committee will be met equally by the constituent authorities, with each authority being responsible for receiving and paying any travel or subsistence claims from its own members.

9.2 The functions of the Secretary shall be:

- a) to maintain a record of membership of the EPC and any sub-committees or advisory groups appointed;
- b) to publish and notify the proper officers of each constituent authority of any anticipated “key decisions” to be taken by the EPC to enable the requirements as to formal notice of key decisions as given under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 to be met;
- c) to carry out such notification to and consultation with members of any appointing constituent authority as may be necessary to enable the EPC to take urgent “key decisions” in accordance with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012;
- d) to summon meetings of the EPC or any sub-committees or advisory groups;
- e) to prepare and send out the agenda for meetings of the EPC or any sub-committees or advisory groups; in consultation with the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Committee (or sub-committee/ advisory group);
- f) to keep a record of the proceedings of the EPC or any sub-committees or advisory groups, including those in attendance, declarations of interests, and to publish the minutes;
- g) to take such administrative action as may be necessary to give effect to decisions of the EPC or any sub-committees or advisory groups;
- h) to perform such other functions as may be determined by the EPC from time to time.

10. Meetings

10.1 The EPC will meet no less than quarterly and meetings will be aligned where necessary with deadlines for decisions on resources and investment plans.

10.2 Meetings will be held at such times, dates and places as may be notified to the members of the EPC by the Secretary, being such time, place and location as the EPC shall from time to time resolve. Meeting papers will be circulated five clear working days in advance of any meeting. The Chairman may choose to accept or reject urgent items that are tabled at any meeting.

10.3 Additional ad hoc meetings may be called by the Secretary, in consultation, where practicable, with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee, in response to receipt of a request in writing, which request sets out an urgent item of business within the functions of the EPC, addressed to the Secretary:

- (a) from and signed by two members of the EPC, or
- (b) from the Chief Executive of any of the constituent authorities.

10.4 Urgent, virtual meetings facilitated via teleconference, video conferencing or other remote working methodologies may be called by the Secretary, in consultation, where practicable, with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the EPC, in response to receipt of a request in writing, which request sets out an urgent item of business within the functions of the EPC, addressed to the Secretary:

- (a) from and signed by two members of the EPC; or
- (b) from the Chief Executive of any of the constituent authorities.

Any such virtual meeting must comply with the access to information provisions and enable public access to proceedings.

10.5 The Secretary shall settle the agenda for any meeting of the EPC after consulting, where practicable, the Chairman or in their absence the Vice Chairman; and shall incorporate in the agenda any items of business and any reports submitted by:

- (a) the Chief Executive of any of the constituent authorities;
- (b) the Chief Finance Officer to any of the constituent authorities;
- (c) the Monitoring Officer to any of the constituent authorities;
- (d) the officer responsible for economic development at any of the constituent authorities; or
- (e) any two Members of the EPC.

10.6 The EPC shall, unless the person presiding at the meeting or the EPC determines otherwise in respect of that meeting, conduct its business in accordance with the procedure rules set out in paragraph 13 below.

11. Access to Information

11.1 Meetings of the EPC will be held in public except where confidential or exempt information, as defined in the Local Government Act 1972, is being discussed.

11.2 These rules do not affect any more specific rights to information contained elsewhere under the law.

11.3 The Secretary will ensure that the relevant legislation relating to access to information is complied with. Each constituent authority is to co-operate with the Secretary in fulfilling any requirements.

11.4 Any Freedom of Information Act requests received by the EPC should be directed to the relevant constituent authority(s) for that authority to deal with in the usual way, taking account of the relevant legislation. Where the request relates to information held by two or more constituent authorities, they will liaise with each other before replying to the request.

12. Attendance at meetings

12.1 The Chairman may invite any person, whether a member or officer of one of the constituent authorities or a third party, to attend the meeting and speak on any matter before the EPC.

12.2 Third parties may be invited to attend the EPC on a standing basis following a unanimous vote of those present and voting.

12.3 Where agenda items require independent experts or speakers, the Officer or authority proposing the agenda item should indicate this to the Secretary and provide the Secretary with details of who is required to attend and in what capacity. The participation of independent experts or speakers in EPC meetings will be subject to the discretion of the Chair.

13. Procedure Rules

13.1 Attendance

13.1.1 At every meeting, it shall be the responsibility of each member to enter his/her name on an attendance record provided by the Secretary from which attendance at the meeting will be recorded.

13.2 Order of Business

13.2.1 Subject to paragraph 13.2.2, the order of business at each meeting of the EPC will be:

- i. Apologies for absence
- ii. Declarations of interests
- iii. Approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the last meeting
- iv. Matters set out in the agenda for the meeting which will clearly indicate which are key decisions and which are not
- v. Matters on the agenda for the meeting which, in the opinion of the Secretary are likely to be considered in the absence of the press and public

13.2.2 The person presiding at the meeting may vary the order of business at the meeting.

13.3 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

13.3.1 If a Member is aware that he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting, the Member must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held:

- (a) in the case where paragraph 13.3.2 below applies, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence;
- (b) in any other case, wherever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at that meeting;

unless the Member has obtained a dispensation from their own authority's Standards Committee or Monitoring Officer. Such dispensation to be notified to the Secretary prior to the commencement of the meeting.

13.3.2 Where a member has a disclosable pecuniary interest in any business of the EPC, the Member may attend the meeting (or a sub –committee or advisory group of the committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.

13.4 Minutes

13.4.1 There will be no discussion or motion made in respect of the minutes other except as to their accuracy. If no such question is raised or if it is raised then as soon as it has been disposed of, the Chairman shall sign the minutes.

13.5 Rules of Debate

13.5.1 Respect for the Chairman

A Member wishing to speak shall address the Chairman and direct their comments to the question being discussed. The Chairman shall decide the order in which to take representations from members wishing to speak and shall decide all questions of order. His/her ruling upon all such questions or upon matters arising in debate shall be final and shall not be open to discussion.

13.5.2 Motions / Amendments

A motion or amendment shall not be discussed unless it has been proposed and seconded. When a motion is under debate no other motion shall be moved except the following:

- i. To amend the motion
- ii. To adjourn the meeting
- iii. To adjourn the debate or consideration of the item
- iv. To proceed to the next business
- v. That the question now be put
- vi. That a member be not further heard or do leave the meeting
- vii. To exclude the press and public under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972

13.6 Conduct of Members

13.6.1 Members of the EPC will be subject to their own authority's Code of Conduct.

14. Application to Sub-Committees

14.1 The procedure rules and also the Access to Information provisions set out at paragraph 11 shall apply to meetings of any sub-committees of the EPC.

15. Scrutiny of decisions

15.1 Each constituent authority which operates executive arrangements will be able to scrutinise the decisions of the EPC in accordance with that constituent authority's overview and scrutiny arrangements.

16. Winding up of the EPC

16.1 The EPC may be wound up immediately by a unanimous vote of all constituent authorities.

17. Amendment of this Constitution.

17.1 This Constitution can only be amended by resolution of each of the constituent authorities.

Report of the Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods

Cabinet Portfolio Holder – Councillor N C Lawrence

Summary

The discretionary green waste collection scheme has been successfully operating as a chargeable service since 2011/12 with over 28,000 members. This report explains the arrangements that are required to ensure an effective and efficient renewal process for 2014/15. The report also highlights changes in the fee structure as cost pressures relating to key service consumables such as fuel have continued to mount and there is a need to ensure that the service moves back towards a cost recovery basis.

Recommendations

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet endorse the renewal process for the Green Waste Club Scheme 2014/15

Background

1. A charge for the discretionary green waste collection service was introduced in March 2011 for the financial year commencing 2011/12. At the time a fee was set of £25 for the first bin and £10 for subsequent bins. The cost of £25 roughly equated to the costs of delivering the green waste collection service in 2009/10.
2. Following a very successful renewal process in 2012/13 and again in 2013/14 the green waste collection scheme has steadily grown in popularity from 25,837 members to 28,436. In addition to an overall increase in customer numbers a particular increase has been seen in those customers with larger gardens wanting additional green bins.
3. As part of the renewal process for 2012/13 a satisfaction survey was undertaken and this gave a very positive score of 85% overall satisfaction with the green waste collection service. A similar survey carried out in May for 2013/14 resulted in an increase to 89% satisfaction.
4. In terms of recycling performance the scheme has not had a major impact as the continued take up of the scheme and the actual tonnage presented by residents i.e. fuller wheeled bins has seen recycling performance remain buoyant at 51.5% for 2012/13. This places the Council as the best performing Council in the county and in the top 20% of authorities, for recycling performance, in the country.

5. The past year has also seen the Council launch the first edition of the Rushcliffe Gardner magazine which is part of the Council's aspirations to grow the scheme, bring a wider range of benefits to scheme members and to develop the club concept. The magazine included over £10 of vouchers from a local garden centre and the businesses that supported it saw an increase in their footfall.

Considerations for 2014/15

6. To ensure the timely and effective administration of the scheme the renewal process has to commence around week commencing 27 January 2014 to allow club members to have sufficient time to renew as collections will cease for members not re-joining by 31 March 2014. As in previous years residents may join the scheme at any point during the year upon payment of the full annual fee
7. The current level of gross income for green waste collection is £759,510 however work has been undertaken to compare the current income against the cost of delivering the service (£900,000) which provides evidence that the Council are now subsidising the service by approximately £140,000.
8. This is primarily due to an increase in the costs of materials and supplies associated with delivering the service e.g. tyres and in particular fuel costs which have risen since the original fee was set. Such costs and future fee levels will continue to be monitored as part of the Council's budget process.
9. However the current situation and the need to move the service back towards a cost recovery basis was explored by Members of the Council as part of the budget consultation workshop in November 2013. During the exercise Members considered a number of different charging options.
10. The Members that attended both events showed strong support for increasing the fee to £30 for the first bin and £15 for each additional wheeled bin. Based on the data for 2013/14 this change would generate additional income of approximately £140,000 taking into account the likely attrition rate across single and multiple wheeled bin customers. Essentially the change should put the green waste collection service back on a cost recovery basis.
11. Such a fee still compares favourably with similar charges elsewhere as there continues to be significant variations across the country with the highest being in London at £69 however Sheffield charge £40 and Melton Borough Council charge £32 per wheeled bin via their scheme delivered by Biffa. Currently in the county the highest charge is Gedling with £34 with Mansfield charging £25 for the first and any subsequent collections and then charging £30 in Newark and Sherwood. This is the same fee that the Council will be charging when it expands its service into the south west of Newark and Sherwood in April 2014.
12. Therefore in line with the Council's scheme of delegation officers will be taking on board the feedback from the Member's budget workshops and making arrangements to proceed with the 2014/15 renewal plan.

Financial Comments

The main financial implications are contained within the body of the report.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act

There are no crime and disorder implications from this report.

Diversity

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and the increase in fee for 2104/15 may have a disproportionate impact on members of the scheme that are physically disabled and who therefore may not be able to easily make alternative arrangements to deal with their green waste.

Background Papers Available for Inspection:

Equality Impact Assessment - Green Waste Collections November 2013

**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
CABINET
TUESDAY 3 DECEMBER 2013**

Held at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Pavilion Road, West Bridgford

PRESENT:

Councillors J N Clarke (Chairman), D G Bell, J A Cranswick, J E Fearon, N C Lawrence and D J Mason

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors D M Boote, S J Boote, R M Jones, K A Khan and A MacInnes
17 members of the public

OFFICERS PRESENT:

D Banks	Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods
A Graham	Chief Executive
P Linfield	Service Manager - Finance and Commercial
K Marriott	Executive Manager - Transformation
D Mitchell	Executive Manager – Communities
V Nightingale	Senior Member Support Officer
P Steed	Executive Manager – Finance and Commercial
P Randle	Local Plan Lead Officer
D Swaine	Executive Manager - Operations and Corporate Governance

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

There were no apologies for absence

Prior to the meeting starting the Chairman informed Cabinet that the order of agenda had been amended and that items 4 and 5 would now be considered as the final items.

27. Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

28. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 November 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

29. Rushcliffe Core Strategy Proposed Modifications

Councillor Bell presented the report of the Executive Manager – Communities regarding the Council's Local Plan Core Strategy. He stated that it was vital that this process continued in a controlled manner. He informed Cabinet that the Local Development Framework Working Group had met on 31 October and 26 November to consider the modifications and the results of the consultation exercise. He thanked officers for their hard work in producing the document and members of the Group for their thorough deliberations. He

explained that any land allocation had to conform to the National Planning Policy Framework, which was the overarching national policy. The Local Plan, to succeed, had to be proven to be sound, deliverable, sustainable, viable and able to objectively meet the future housing need of the Borough. Also it had to evidence that the Council had co-operated with neighbouring authorities.

Councillor Bell stated that the strategic sites had been considered in detail by the Working Group but he recognised that many communities would not welcome the impact of these developments, however, he assured Members that the Plan would give the Council the control it needed to ensure the impact was minimised as much as possible. He was certain that the developments would occur and if there was no Plan in place the Council would have limited control over the process and the outcome.

Councillor Bell said that the next stage in the process was for Cabinet to consider the recommendations of the Working Group and forward this to Council on 12 December 2013, where there would be a full debate by all Members.

Councillor Fearon stated that this was an important Plan that was needed to control the delivery of future housing. He endorsed the previous comments regarding the difficult work undertaken by the Local Development Framework Working Group.

Councillor Cranswick supported these comments. He said that the Council had worked hard to reduce the number of houses that had to be accommodated in the Borough. However, he believed that not to accept the Plan would be a bad decision. Without this Plan the Council would have no control over developments and would not be able to protect the residents of the Borough in the future.

Councillor Lawrence endorsed his colleagues' comments. He reminded everyone that the Plan only identified areas and not actual developments. Without a Plan he believed that the houses would be built but it would mean that the Council would not be able to negotiate any infrastructure improvements.

Councillor Mason agreed with the comments made.

In conclusion, Councillor Clarke informed the Cabinet that, as part of the process, their duty was to decide whether to refer the Working Group's report to Council for a full thorough debate. He stated that the Working Group had conducted very detailed work over many hours, which had culminated in this report. If agreed the report would be forwarded to Council for a full debate. If accepted by Council the Plan would then be subject to further consultation and a public examination by the Planning Inspector and if approved, the Council would adopt it in 2014. He concurred that Members found the number of houses that had to be delivered incongruous however, it was important that the Council made a responsible decision. Without a Local Plan the Council would be vulnerable and have no control over major planning applications. He stated that this would mean that planning would be decided by the appeal process and would limit the Councillors ability to decide on future applications.

RESOLVED that Cabinet supports the proposed modifications to the Core Strategy and recommends that Council agree:

- a) the proposed modifications to the Rushcliffe Core Strategy Publication Draft, as highlighted at **Appendix 1 and Appendix 2**;
- b) that authority be delegated to the Executive Manager - Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Sustainability, to make further minor modifications or corrections as are considered necessary to strengthen or to provide clarity to the draft Core Strategy;
- c) that the proposed modifications be published for a minimum 6 week period of consultation; and
- d) that the proposed modifications and any consultation responses be submitted to the Planning Inspector for her consideration in examining the Rushcliffe Core Strategy.

30. **Rushcliffe Local Development Scheme**

Councillor Bell presented the report of the Executive Manager - Communities regarding the Local Development Scheme and a revision to the timetable. The Local Development Scheme set out the Development Plan Documents the Council intended to prepare as part of the Local Plan and the programme for their preparation. The existing Scheme was published in 2006 and now needed updating to reflect the current Core Strategy and to extend the time period beyond the existing end date of 2028. Councillor Bell informed Members that the Local Development Framework Working Group had considered this item at its meeting on 26 November 2013 and had unanimously agreed that it should be presented to Cabinet for approval.

In support of the recommendations Councillor Clarke stated that this was a technical document that reflected the changes made to the Local Plan process.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve

- a) the revisions to the Rushcliffe Local Development Scheme to reflect the revisions identified in Table 1 of the report, and
- b) that authority be delegated to the Executive Manager Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Sustainability, to amend the detailed content of the Local Development Scheme to include the revisions identified in Table 1 and to bring it into effect.

31. **Collaboration Agreement**

Councillor Clarke presented the report of the Chief Executive which detailed a proposed agreement between Rushcliffe Borough Council, Gedling Borough Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council. This agreement aimed to formalise the Councils' intentions to work together to maximise partnership opportunities. It was recognised that by working together the three councils

would benefit from more efficient service delivery. He informed Members that this was not proposing a management integration nor did it preclude the Council from working with other authorities in the future. He stated that the political nature and control of the three councils were different and therefore there would be more cross party working. He believed that this was beneficial for the residents of the Borough.

In support of the recommendations Councillor Cranswick stated that the meetings to discuss this collaboration had been non-political and that everyone had seen the benefits of this agreement. He reminded Members that the Council did have close working relationships with both councils already, in fact Gedling Borough Council processed the Council's payroll. Each authority had different skill sets and these would now be used for the benefit of all.

Councillor Mason supported these comments and said that it recognised that partnership working was the best way forward.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- a) adopt the Collaboration Agreement as presented at **Appendix A**,
- b) work towards developing a deliverable work programme which supports the Authority's own efficiency, capacity and resilience agenda, and
- c) reaffirms their current commitment to work with existing partners to maximise efficiencies, outcomes and capacity.

32. Expansion of Rushcliffe's Garden Waste Collection Scheme into Newark and Sherwood

Councillor Lawrence presented the report of the Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods regarding an opportunity that officers had identified to expand the Council's garden waste collection service into part of Newark and Sherwood District Council's area. The Council's current scheme had started in April 2011 and cost residents £25 per year for the first bin and £10 for each additional bin. The service had a 71% take up rate with an 85% satisfaction level, however officers had seen that there was some spare capacity and had looked for opportunities to reduce the £150,000 loss that the service generated.

He informed Members that Mansfield District Council provided a service for 2,400 properties in one part of Newark's district. After considering the geographical boundaries of the two boroughs, 3,000 homes had been identified where the Borough Council could provide a service. Following a marketing exercise approximately 400 residents had expressed an interest in the service. He pointed out that both Rushcliffe Borough Council and Mansfield District Council had seen an increase in the numbers following the commencement of their own services.

Councillor Lawrence informed Cabinet that the present take up would generate approximately £1,200 and it would only be run on, at least, a cost recovery

basis in the future. The only outlay the Council would need to make was the purchase of some brown wheeled bins.

In support of the recommendations Councillors Clarke and Cranswick agreed that the estimated take up was conservative and they were confident that once the residents saw what an excellent service was provided, this would increase.

RESOLVED that Cabinet

- a) Agree to offer a garden waste collection service into target areas in the south west of Newark and Sherwood starting on 1 April 2014, and that;
 - i. any such scheme will be operated on at least a cost recovery basis, and
 - ii. invitations should be extended to the Newark and Sherwood District Council Leader, Portfolio Holder and senior officers to an event showcasing the Council's approach to customer service and administrative arrangements for green waste club members.

33. **HS2 - Consultation on the Route To Manchester, Leeds and Beyond**

Whilst presenting the report of the Executive Manager - Communities Councillor Clarke reminded Members that Council had considered the subject of the HS2 on two occasions. On 17 July 2013 the Secretary of State announced the public consultation on phase two of the project. Councillor Clarke stated that the Community Development Group had considered the consultation, especially in relation to the Borough, and had provided a response for Cabinet to consider. He recognised that the proposed station for the area was to be located at Toton, however he was sceptical that the project would come to fruition.

Councillor Cranswick supported the proposed response from the Community Development Group. However he believed that the project would not be progressed for approximately 30 years.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agreed the proposed response provided by the Community Development Group to the HS2 consultation.

34. **Council Tax Reduction Scheme**

Councillor Cranswick presented a report which outlined the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme. This scheme had been adopted on 24 January 2013 for the financial year 2013/14. It was now proposed to adopt the scheme from 1 April 2014.

He also informed Members that the Department for Communities and Local Government had, today, published a draft Statutory Instrument which had made minor amendments to the model scheme upon which the Rushcliffe scheme was based. He said that the final version of this Instrument would be published in December and would include updated benefit figures and a few technical changes to the model scheme.

Councillor Cranswick stated that these changes would not have a material effect on the Council's proposed scheme but would need to be included in the version that was presented to Council on 12 December 2013. The main changes would be

- Changes to a number of criteria relating to non-UK nationals
- To ensure that a non-dependent deduction is not made in respect of a member of the armed forces away on operation
- That certain welfare payments and universal credit arrears are disregarded when assessing an individual's capital

He proposed that the Council continue with this scheme, following the amendments published today, especially having considered the financial implications.

RESOLVED that Cabinet

- i. commends to Council that the Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2013/14, as agreed by Council on the 24 January 2013, be adopted as the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for Rushcliffe Borough Council from 1 April 2014;
- ii. subject to the inclusion of a clause enabling the scheme to be automatically updated to reflect the uprating of national benefits and other technical changes to the model scheme published by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

35. Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring

Councillor Cranswick informed Cabinet that the Corporate Governance Group had considered the Council's revenue and capital budgets at its meeting in November. The budgets were mainly in line with proposals, however, he highlighted some exemptions which included the Cotgrave Master Plan, that was a large project and he had been assured that the money would be spent later in the year. He informed Members that a new customer contact point had recently opened in Bingham and that due to careful monitoring of the Council's fleet officers had been able to make vehicles operate for a longer period of time.

In respect of changes to the Treasury Management Prudential Indicator for interests he stated that, in the present economic situation, officers needed greater flexibility to invest the Council's money to obtain greater returns.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- a) note the current projections for revenue and capital; and
- b) refer to Council the proposed change to the Treasury Management Prudential Indicator "Upper Limits for Fixed Interest Rate Exposure" to 60% (from 35%), for approval.

36. Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item of business pursuant to the above Regulations on the grounds that it is likely that exempt information be disclosed as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

37. Recommendations of the EWM Member Group - Transforming Streetwise into a Social Enterprise

Councillor Mason presented the report outlining the Environment and Waste Management Member Group's recommendations regarding the transformation of the Streetwise service into a social enterprise. She informed Members she had been proud to be the Group's Chairman and that the Group had worked for nearly two years on this project. She thanked the members of the Group for all their hard work, deliberations and thorough investigation of an innovative scheme. She asked the Chief Executive to pass on the thanks of the Group to all the officers involved for their work as they had made the various aspects of the scheme easier to understand.

In response to Councillor Mason's comments the Chief Executive recognised that the Environment and Waste Management Member Group had undertaken a challenging and robust process, through which Councillors had informed and shaped the transformation process. He stated that this was an exemplary piece of work that highlighted how officers and Members had worked together for the benefit of the Borough.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves the following recommendations of the Environment and Waste Management Member Group that:

- a) the principle of transforming the Streetwise service into a social enterprise be supported;
- b) to further that objective a new company be established, with the final legal structure to be determined by the Chief Executive in consultation with the relevant Cabinet portfolio holder;
- c) the new company be awarded the contract to deliver the Council's street cleansing and grounds maintenance functions using the 'in-house' exemption in accordance with EU and domestic law;
- d) the new company also be established with a view to it being able to trade commercially, subject to any legal limitations, in relation to those functions and related services; and
- e) consideration be given to establishing a generic governance structure to operate and grow the business whilst also being flexible to potentially accommodate other public sector partners.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

CHAIRMAN

Report of the Executive Manager – Finance and Commercial

Cabinet Portfolio Holder – Councillor J N Clarke

Summary

At its meeting of 15 October 2013, Cabinet received a report detailing the Leisure Strategy update. It was agreed at this meeting that the proposed implementation of the Leisure Strategy for West Bridgford should be considered by a newly formed Leisure Facilities Strategy Member Group with issues relating to funding and the potential relocation of the Civic Offices being referred to the Corporate Governance Group.

The Corporate Governance Group met to consider these issues on 7 November, with the Leisure Facilities Strategy Member Group meeting on 18 November and 18 December. In summary these Groups were supportive of the proposals but identified a number of issues which they believe Cabinet should consider as the project progresses including financing arrangements for the project, the Arena specification and potential additional capital expenditure, project timelines and the consultation undertaken. These issues are set out in more detail within the body of the report.

Recommendation

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- a) Endorses the draft leisure specification as proposed by the Leisure Facilities Strategy Member Group and detailed at **Appendix 1**.
- b) Notes that any expansion to the specification may result in increased capital requirements for the scheme.
- c) Notes the results of the public, user and stakeholder consultation exercise in **Appendix 2**.

Background

1. At its meeting on 10 January 2012 Cabinet considered a report outlining the findings of the previous Leisure Facilities Strategy Member Group who had identified the desirability of the consolidation of existing leisure facilities within West Bridgford on the Rushcliffe Arena site. On 15 October 2013 Cabinet considered an update on this proposal. This update identified that the consolidation of leisure provision on the Arena site, including the potential relocation of the Civic Centre, now appeared a financially viable option. The update also identified preferred solutions for both the building design and the funding requirements. This solution did, however, vary from the 2012

proposals in that it included the potential retention of some provision at the Rushcliffe School site.

2. As part of its considerations Cabinet requested that scrutiny be undertaken of these proposals. Leisure aspects were considered by a Leisure Facilities Strategy Member Group and issues relating to funding and the potential relocation of the Civic Offices were referred to the Corporate Governance Group. The findings of these groups are outlined below.

Corporate Governance Group

3. The Corporate Governance Group met to consider the relevant aspects of the proposals on 7 November 2013. Their conclusions are set out in the following minute extract.

It was AGREED that, having considered the information reported and the advice of the Council's Section 151 Officer the Group recommends to Cabinet that it supports the business case for the potential relocation of the Civic centre to the arena site, however;

- a. it expresses concern with regard to the use of New Homes Bonus for repayment to reserves and believes strongly that action and measures to mitigate the potential risk associated should be identified and considered by Cabinet as part of its decision making process,
- b. it requests that consideration be given to alternative methods for the repayment of money to reserves in order that these are fully considered by Cabinet in their deliberations,
- c. Cabinet should ensure that necessary action is taken to verify the suitability of the land giving due regard to its historical usage,
- d. it believes that due regard should be given to the advice of the Council's Section 151 Officer in maintaining and sustaining a suitable level of reserves for the Council; and
- e. in its consideration of the potential future uses/disposal of the Civic Centre, Cabinet engages the Corporate Governance Group in this process at an appropriate and timely stage.

Leisure Facilities Strategy Member Working Group

4. The Leisure Facilities Strategy Member Working group met to consider the relevant aspects of the proposals on the 18 November and 18 December 2013. Their conclusions were as follows.
 - The Group was supportive of the suggested amendment to the Leisure Strategy which would see the continued provision of Community Facilities on the Rushcliffe School site.
 - The Group was supportive of the relocation of swimming provision to the Arena site with a facility centred on a six lane, 25 metre pool with separate learner pool. The Group also asked that Cabinet consider the inclusion of family friendly features alongside the main pools

capturing the wider leisure needs of young children and families. Whilst identifying some need, especially for parents observing swimming lessons, the Group did not identify a need for the inclusion of significant levels of spectator seating.

- Subject to facilities remaining available at Rushcliffe School the Group was supportive of the proposal to maintain rather than expand the current four court sports centre at the Arena.
- The Group was supportive of the proposals for an 800m² health and fitness suite at the Arena site supplemented by three studio spaces.
- Due to the low levels of indoor bowling usage the Group felt that it was vital that solutions were found to enable this to become a more flexible space supporting a variety of activities. Having considered the concerns raised by members of the Bowling Club the Group considered that the future viability of indoor bowling on this site would require the provision of a six lane bowling rink but recognised that if space flexibility could not be established then such a solution may not be viable.
- The Group did not support the continued provision of the Run Riot children's' play area but identified that suitable provision could be provided in part through a small dedicated soft play area in the Arena café and through the provision of soft play equipment which could be utilised for dedicated sessions in other areas of the Arena building.
- Should Rushcliffe School choose not to retain the current squash courts the Group considered that this facility should be relocated to the Arena. The Group asked Cabinet to consider whether under such a model a three rather than two court solution could be provided utilising new designs which would enable the dividing walls between courts to be removed providing a small second hall that would represent a more flexible space for other users.
- The Group supported the inclusion of a high quality café at the Arena and the removal of the permanent licensed bar.
- While recognising that there was a loyal user base for the current snooker tables the Group considered that their retention should only be considered if sufficient uncommitted space could be identified in the architect's plans.
- Having considered the impacts of its proposals for swimming, bowling and squash on the resource requirement for the project the Group determined that it was unable to recommend that Cabinet include a climbing wall in the specification for the Arena site. Similarly the Group did not recommend that outdoor facilities such as a gym, bowling green or sports pitches be included in the specification.

Arena Specification

5. **Appendix 1** compares the suggested specification proposed by the Leisure Facilities Strategy Member Group with that previously considered by Cabinet. This comparison identifies that whilst there is broad alignment between both

specifications there are three areas where adopting the proposed changes could result in additional capital costs being incurred these being:

- The inclusion of additional family friendly facilities in the swimming pool area.
 - The extension from a four lane to a six lane bowling alley.
 - The inclusion, if required, of replacement squash courts at the Arena.
6. The outcomes of Cabinet's consideration of **Appendix 1** will form the basis of the outline specification provided to the Council's architects for this project who are expected to be appointed by the end of January.

Project Timelines

7. Work is currently underway to engage Architects to support the Arena redevelopment. As part of this process the project programme has been reviewed to identify opportunities to extend the design phase without impacting upon the planned completion and occupation dates which are scheduled in late 2015 and spring 2016 respectively. As a result it is now anticipated that the design phase will be extended with the decision to seek formal planning permission not being sought until May 2014, a change that will enable more detailed design work to be undertaken whilst not impacting on the planned completion dates.

Consultation

8. Consultation with the public and users ran between the 25 October and 6 December. This comprised an on-line and paper based survey with collection points at a number of locations including the Arena and Rushcliffe Leisure Centres. In addition the Council directly contacted 99 club users and other stakeholders making them aware of the potential changes and inviting them to respond. The results of this consultation were reported to the Member Group on 18 December and are summarised below. Appendix 2 provides a more detailed breakdown of the consultation responses.
9. In total the Council received 316 completed surveys and 48 written submissions. Key messages arising from the consultation are summarised below:
- The majority of respondents indicated that they are current users of the Rushcliffe Leisure Centre (190 users) and / or the Arena (191 users). Of these 85% indicated that they used one or both centres at least once per week. In addition 99 respondents indicated that they utilised one of the four other Council Leisure Centres while 48 utilised other provision either inside or outside of Rushcliffe.
 - 52% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that creating a single modernised leisure centre in West Bridgford was a good idea. This compared to 24% who either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposal. Similarly 38% believed that they would be more likely to utilise the new facilities compared to 25% who considered that their usage would decrease.

- Respondents were asked to indicate which of the proposed facilities they thought they would use in an improved Rushcliffe Arena. The key areas of interest were:
 - Swimming 202 (compared to 143 who currently use the RLC pool).
 - Café 146 (compared to 149 who currently use RLC / Arena).
 - Health and fitness 140 (currently 140).
 - Sports Hall 91 (currently 82)
 - Fitness studios for classes 89 (currently 66)
 - Indoor Bowling 87 (currently 83)
 - Squash 64 (currently 41)
 - Climbing Wall 57 (not currently provided)
 - Outdoor Gym Space 37 (not currently provided)
 - Snooker 32 (currently 24)
 - Function and Meeting Space 32 (current use not captured)
10. It should be noted that whilst users were asked about other elements of their usage such as tennis, outdoor sports and soft play these were not elements included in the proposed specification for the remodelled Arena and so potential future behaviours were not captured for this element of the consultation.
11. These results indicate that there is clear support for the proposed change and that in overall terms respondents believe that the new arrangements would increase the likelihood that they would utilise the Council's facilities in West Bridgford. As outlined these results indicate potentially significant increases in swimming and squash usage and lesser, but important increases, in the numbers of individuals wishing to access indoor sports including bowling and snooker. The analysis also emphasises the importance of fitness and dance studio space which, whilst health and fitness usage remained unchanged, identified a potential increase of 35%. Whilst café usage is down slightly on the current provision across the two sites, the potential usage by 146 respondents compares to just 52 who currently utilise these facilities at the Arena.
12. Respondents were also invited to provide comments on variety of aspects of the proposals. These comments are reproduced at **Appendix 2**. With regard to question 5 *“Are you more or less likely to use the leisure facilities ... if you are less likely to use a combined leisure centre, please tell us why?”* there were some clear themes:
- A number of responses identified the Arena location as a barrier to continued use, in many instances this reflected the ability of current users to walk or cycle to the Rushcliffe Leisure Centre. Concerns were also expressed over the impact of the changes on traffic levels.
 - Proposed reductions to indoor bowling were also identified as a common concern.
 - Whilst not highlighted to the same extent, potential overcrowding of facilities and the loss of squash were also issues identified by a number of respondents.

13. Common themes from Question 7, “*Are there any other facilities you would like us to incorporate into our designs?*” included:
- A desire for the incorporation of a leisure pool and / or family friendly swimming facilities into the design. However, in contrast, a number of respondents also suggested that the pool should be designed to support lane and club usage.
 - Ensuring that Run Riot was retained or replaced by suitable soft play provision.
 - There was also consistent support for the retention of the Evergreen Suite as part of the new Health and Fitness arrangements.
 - Other areas attracting a number of comments included squash, spa / sauna facilities and indoor bowling.
 - A number of responses also identified a desire for additional and / or improved outdoor pitches.
14. As previously indicated the consultation responses were considered by the Leisure Facilities Strategy Working Group on the 18 December, in line with their terms of reference. This Group did not identify any issues or concerns which it wished to raise with Cabinet.

Financial Comments

The Corporate Governance Group was tasked with considering the financial aspects of the proposed Arena development and as part of this process have recommended that, when taking the decision to proceed with the project, Cabinet reconsider the proposed balance of funding between the New Homes Bonus, existing Capital Resources and the Council's Reserves. Once further clarity has been established about the extent of the project (i.e. the extent, if any, of the potential office relocation and the emerging costs associated with the final specification) further information will be provided to Cabinet enabling such a consideration to take place.

As identified at paragraph 5 the specification recommended by the Leisure Facilities Strategy Member Group proposes additional facilities to those included in the original specification considered by Cabinet. Whilst such costs should not impact upon the affordability of the project Cabinet needs to be mindful that any such extensions could lead to additional capital expenditure above that previously reported. Allocations for the build programme will be detailed in the capital programme for 2014/15 to 2018/19 which will be considered by Cabinet on the 11 February.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act

There are no S17 implications

Diversity

The development of new and renovated facilities at the Arena site will enable the Council to ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to meet the needs of disabled users as well as family friendly facilities. The evergreen fitness suite will be refurbished to continue to provide more accessible gym equipment to those residents who may benefit from it.

Background Papers Available for Inspection: Nil

Draft Specification

	Specification Considered by Cabinet		Proposals from Leisure Facilities Strategy Working Group	
Activity	CORE REQUIREMENT	OPTIONAL	Recommendation	Comments
<u>Swimming</u>				
Swimming Pool	6 lane, 25m length	-	6 Lane, 25 Metre Pool	A leisure pool was strongly supported but final conclusion was that a solution centred on a traditional pool with strong family friendly and leisure elements was the best mix for the future. No support for the introduction of movable floors into the pools.
Training pool	Required, size to be finalised	Moveable floor if cost effective	Learner / Training Pool	
Leisure Pool	Not required	Leisure area only if design allows	Family Friendly Leisure Aspects	
Spectator seating	Minimal, unlikely that the Arena will be utilised for large competitive swimming galas.	Café viewing area overlooking the pool	Minimal spectator seating with support for a viewing area linked to the cafe.	
<u>Indoor Sports</u>				
Sports Hall	Sports hall with 4 courts supplemented by retention of indoor sports facilities at Rushcliffe School. Sports hall must be able to cater for sports such as Badminton, Basketball, Handball, Volley ball, Indoor Hockey, Indoor Netball, Tennis and Boxing	Extension to existing sports hall if Rushcliffe School's Hall is no longer available for community use	Retention of Current Provision	Recognition that this position may change if no agreement reached with Rushcliffe School.
Table Tennis Martial Arts	Sports hall and / or other spaces must be able to meet this requirement	-	Sports hall and / or other spaces must be able to meet this requirement	
Indoor athletics	No requirement for athletics as Harvey Haddon is the prime	Not required	<i>Not required</i>	

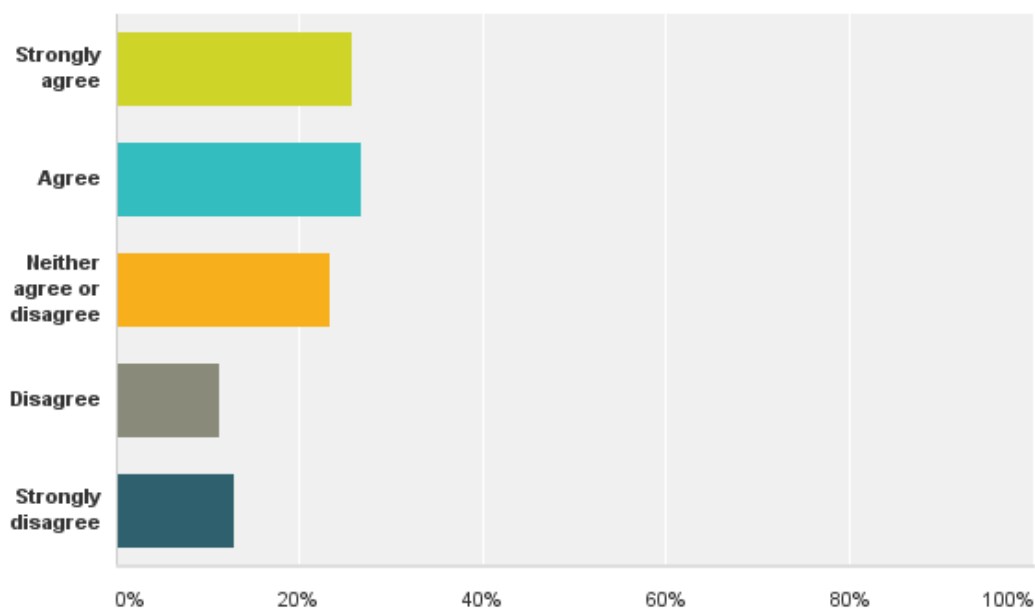
	Specification Considered by Cabinet		Proposals from Leisure Facilities Strategy Working Group	
Activity	CORE REQUIREMENT	OPTIONAL	Recommendation	Comments
	location for such sport in the area.			
Squash courts	Not required.	Maximum of 2 courts	Three court solution including removable internal walls.	Only required if not provided at Rushcliffe School. Members were impressed with the potential delivery of an additional flexible space within the facility which could help meet some of the concerns over future demands.
Climbing wall	Not required	Potential demand to be modelled to understand cost effectiveness of designing as an element of existing spaces.	<i>Not required</i>	<i>Options identified would need dedicated space designed into the building to be viable. The working group therefore prioritised changes to pool, bowls and inclusion of squash over this aspect of potential provision.</i>
<u>Outdoor Sports</u>				
All weather pitch	Not required Other local pitches available include Gresham, Clifton Campus, Rushcliffe School, Lenton.	All weather pitch x 2	<i>Not required</i>	
Outdoor gym space	Not required	Potential demand to be modelled to understand cost effectiveness of inclusion.	<i>Not required</i>	
<u>Gym and Fitness</u>				
Gym stations	Projected allocation of 800m ² would enable the inclusion of 160 stations compared to current 109 across RLC / Arena.	Smaller area allocated reducing flexibility of space and potential for future growth in demand.	Minimum 800m ² Gym	
Fitness Studio	Three multi-use studios	Additional studio space	Three Studios	

	Specification Considered by Cabinet		Proposals from Leisure Facilities Strategy Working Group	
Activity	CORE REQUIREMENT	OPTIONAL	Recommendation	Comments
<u>Bowling</u>				
Indoor Bowling	4 lanes reflecting 50% reduction in usage between 2005/06 and 2012/13.	No bowling provision 6 lanes max	Six Lanes	The Group strongly supported a six lane solution due to concerns of the future viability of the bowls club with a smaller facility. It was recognised however that to make this viable a flooring solution must be found to enable the easy use of the space for alternate purposes.
Outdoor Bowling	Not required. Existing facility no longer used.	Not required	<i>Not required</i>	
<u>Other Facilities</u>				
Cafeteria / Catering	Required. Potential for servicing of Council requirements	-	Café retained and improved	
Licensed bar	Not required on a daily basis with temporary facility available for events.	Not required	No requirement for permanent licensed bar	Support for temporary provision linked to specific events.
Run Riot	Not required	Not required	Run Riot not retained. Possible small play area in café area with oft Play provision using other spaces	The Group identified the need for a pragmatic solution which focussed on the availability of appropriate equipment instead of building a new dedicated facility
Pre-school room	Not required. Party demands to be met through flexible space and cafeteria	Not required		
Snooker tables	Not required	Two to be retained if they can be accommodated in the design	Only if space available in designs	

Summary of Consultation Responses

Q1 Do you agree that creating a single modernised leisure centre in West Bridgford is a good idea?

Answered: 300 Skipped: 16



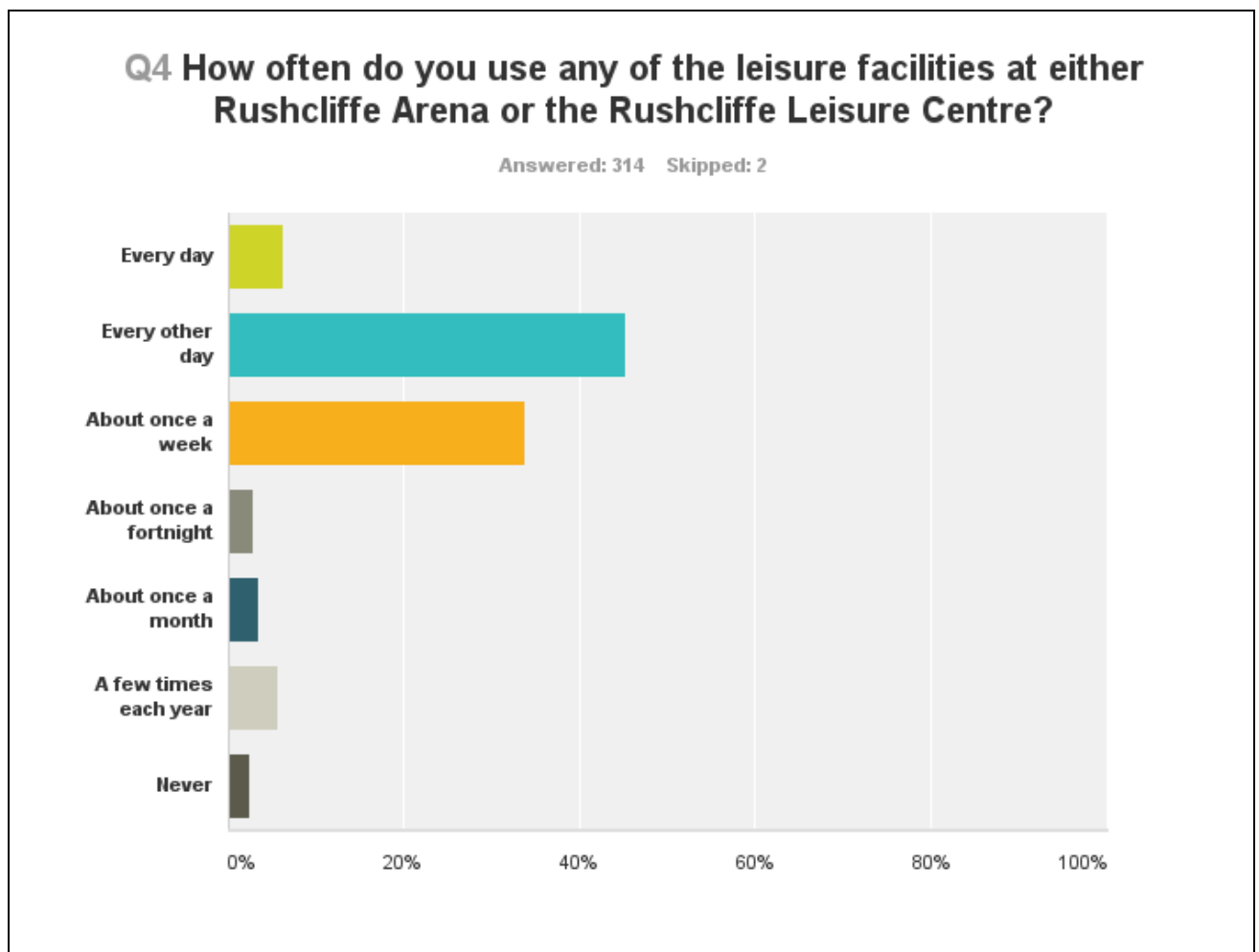
Agree or strongly agree	157 / 52%
Neither agree or disagree	70 / 23%
Disagree or strongly disagree	73 / 24%

Do you currently use (tick as many as apply):

Rushcliffe Leisure Centre on Boundary Road	190
Rushcliffe Arena on Rugby Road	191
A privately-run leisure centre in West Bridgford	21
A leisure centre outside the Rushcliffe Borough boundary	27
Bingham Leisure Centre	15
Cotgrave Leisure Centre	49
Keyworth Leisure Centre	28
East Leake Leisure Centre	7

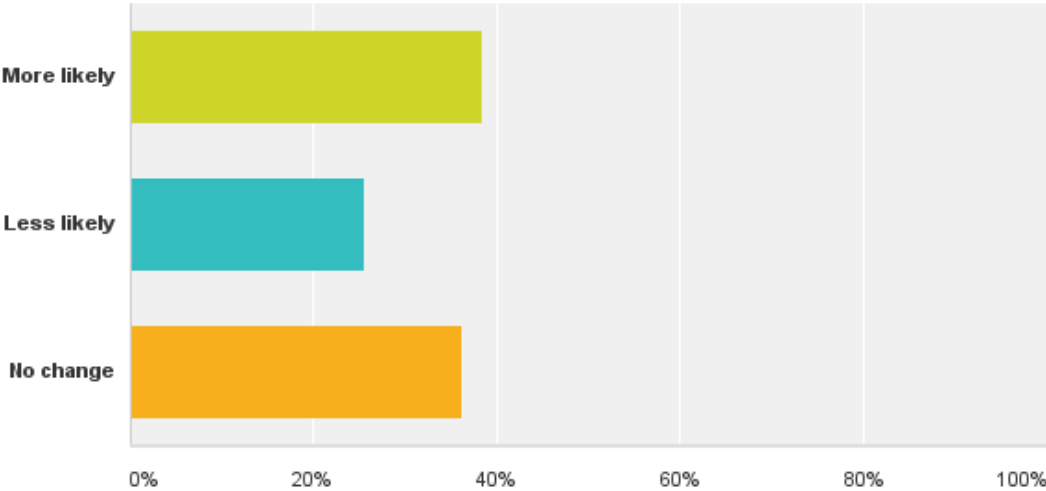
Which of the facilities or activities below do you use when you visit the leisure centre?

	Rushcliffe Leisure Centre	Rushcliffe Arena	Somewhere Else
Gym equipment	61	79	27
Swimming pool	43	N/A	59
Fitness studio for classes	44	22	19
Sports hall	43	39	17
Squash courts	41	N/A	13
Tennis courts	10	1	15
Outdoor courts and pitches	15	N/A	6
All weather pitch	11	N/A	4
Indoor bowling green	N/A	83	2
Snooker tables	N/A	24	1
Soft play area	1	35	4
Cafe	52	97	17
Other	16	25	7



Q5 Are you more or less likely to use leisure facilities at an improved Rushcliffe Arena site?

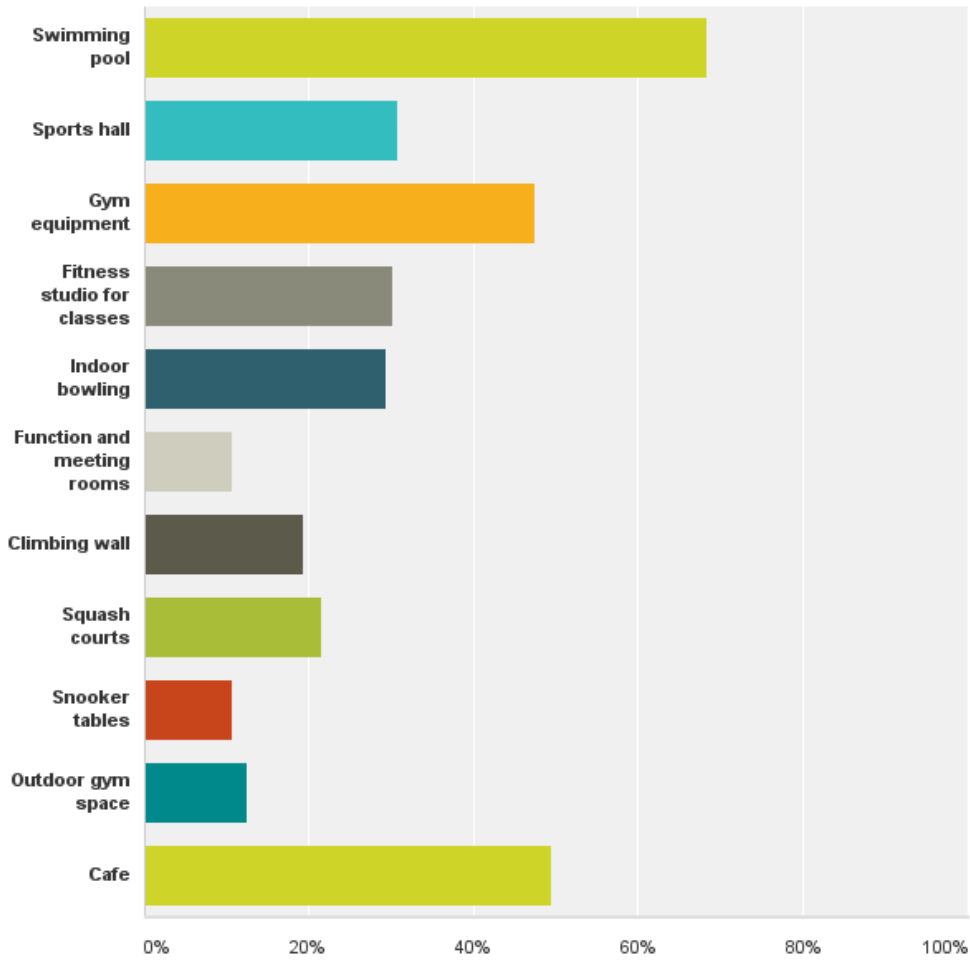
Answered: 310 Skipped: 6



More likely	119
Less likely	79
No change	112

Q6 This is a list of facilities we are considering including in an improved Rushcliffe Arena. Which of these facilities do you think you will use?

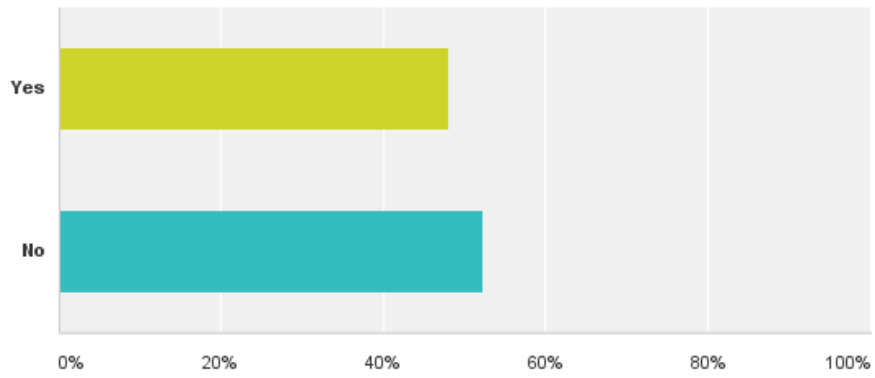
Answered: 296 Skipped: 20



Swimming pool	202
Sports hall	91
Gym equipment	140
Fitness studio for classes	89
Indoor bowling	87
Function and meeting rooms	32
Climbing wall	57
Squash courts	64
Snooker tables	32
Outdoor gym space	37
Cafe	146

Q12 Are you a member of an organised sports group or club currently using Rushcliffe Leisure Centre or Rushcliffe Arena?

Answered: 309 Skipped: 7



Summary Comments on Consultation

Q5. Are you more or less likely to use leisure facilities at an improved Rushcliffe Arena site?

If you are less likely to use a combined leisure centre, please tell us why:

1. Plans for new centre don't look to have facilities I use...e.g. soft play, flumes, squash
2. But depending on style and length of pool. Hoping that a new pool will be at least 25m and open throughout the day, unlike Rushcliffe's limited hours for public.
3. Indoor bowls - Restriction to 4 rinks from 8 at present will reduce league games (many use 5 rinks at present), prohibit county and national games altogether, and Rushcliffe will lose all prestige it has at the moment.
4. I won't on principle. If money is the issue, the Council shouldn't have let the cricket club keep the £800,000 loan. Car parking is bad enough and you want to send all the cars to one place. You won't make the place good enough because you won't spend the money needed.
5. Present site is convenient for me to walk home as part of my exercise regime. If I have to drive I would choose a fitness centre that is cheaper and has more to offer such as a sauna and decent locker space
6. I understand the new pool will not be a combined family pool where all the family can swim together
7. Rushcliffe is the most convenient for me. I like the pool.
8. What is a combined leisure centre?
9. I like Rushcliffe. No need to change
10. It depends on how convenient it is, re times etc
11. Due to the fact that if only 4 rinks for bowls (which you omit to state in the literature) there will be no bowls as it will not be a viable proposition
12. I can walk to Rushcliffe Leisure Centre but would have to cycle or drive to Rushcliffe Arena
13. I live in Keyworth now and come once a fortnight to see my swimming friends. If facilities moved, I can't get there as I don't drive but use the bus
14. This area is already over crowded with traffic. At present problems with the tram traffic which is going to close Wilford Lane every seven minutes, then the schools, as Wilford Lane is becoming a nightmare with Sainsburys being built, a new doctors medical centre in the process of being built, traffic is going to cut through and make traffic hold ups on Rugby Road. How are you going to get in and out The Arena, what about the safety of children on bikes or walking. The whole idea has not been thought out and the people of West Bridgford consulted before spending money on something that's not going to be used.
15. The Arena is not central and not on a direct bus route for us. To use a car to get there is NOT environmentally friendly and increases traffic. The reduction of some of the facilities already there may upset the current users
16. Run Riot is a facility that grandchildren value - I cannot believe that you are intending to close it
17. Although I have not used the Leisure Centre much in the past, I have just retired and was planning to use it much more often in the future. It is important that the centre remains either at walking distance or at *safe* cycling distance. The Arena is too far to walk and is an unpleasant cycle ride. It is likely to become much more unpleasant and much more unsafe once the new Doctor's surgery and Sainsburys are built. It is high time that the council recognises that not everyone lives in a multi-car household and/or is addicted to using a car. The more that facilities become less and less local (in the true meaning of the word), the less they will benefit the health of the population.

18. I live near Rushcliffe Leisure centre and Rushcliffe Arena would be too far.
19. I will have to stop using the facilities altogether as I use the gym for exercise and cannot see the point in driving over a mile to get there and back when at present I walk using this walk as a warm up and warm down. The roads will be over crowded due to the extra traffic cutting through Compton acres to go to the new doctors surgery on Wilford lane. The council is likely to loose membership as I believe between the centres in Rushcliffe they have approximately 1300 members and one site will struggle to cope with these numbers. Parking and public transport in the area already struggles and moving these numbers to one area will cause traffic problems.
20. I regularly use the gym while my children attend the East Midlands Gymnastics Centre. If the gym there closes, I wouldn't be able to do this.
21. Rumours are there's only going to be four rinks for bowling. That isn't good enough for leagues & w.e games
22. If the bowls facility is not available, would not use at all. If it remains the same, would continue to use once or twice a week
23. The announced plans for indoor bowling (4 rinks, 2 years' building) will kill indoor bowling at the Arena - almost the only facility for older people
24. The proposal to reduce the number of bowls rinks will affect leagues and competitions
25. Restricted availability for indoor bowling
26. Don't like loud music in the gym - want to work on cross-trainer & watch tv without loud music videos on main speaker
27. If bowling rinks/facilities are reduced, leagues and competitions will suffer, leading to members at Arena migrating to Gedling and Nottingham indoor centres
28. Less convenient location
29. Rushcliffe School site is far more conveniently located for our family (and many others too). The Arena site is too far to walk to and cycling involves aa awkward busy route. Getting to the Arena for kids' swimming lessons in the early evening would bve hellish by car (rush-hour mayhem). We would most likely give up lessons and Expressions membership
30. The new centre would have to be significantly larger to accommodate the increased numbers of visitors and the predicted increase in population - Sharphill alone will increase number of homes by over 1500. The current set up covers a wide area of Bridgford and Edwalton and people can access either arena or leisure centre by foot, cycle, car or public transport. Access to RLC from outlying villages is more convenient via A60 and A606. Getting everyone to go to RA at rugby road will further exasperate traffic congestion. Having a sports centre linked to the school will encourage children to get more involved in sport. We should be increasing sports facilities not rationalising to save money - the long term health benefits will outweigh short term financial gains. Spend the huge amount of money needed to upgrade true arena on both facilities.
31. I feel that there will be less space initially, causing me to go elsewhere.
32. If you get rid of the snooker tables and don't build squash courts then of course I'll have to try and find somewhere else to go which will be very difficult.
33. "Because it looks like you are determined to remove the snooker tables and it will be even harder to book badminton courts. As far as I am aware there are no other council run snooker tables in Rushcliffe and apart from the Conservative Club and the Embankment Club no other snooker tables south of the river. The Embankment Club tables are not much use as there is limted space at the end of the tables"
34. The plan to reduce the no of bowling lanes from 8 to 4 will severely reduce the facility to hold the daily league competitions and could cause the league bols to close.

35. It depends on what the improvements will be as well as the demand for these and other facilities. whatever version of the Sharphill development goes ahead there will be a demand and that means you need to think about what facilities are needed where and the impact from traffic etc. So Rushcliffe's position is key to Sharphill. not the Arena. Also I would not want to lose the green area between Arena and Asda: this is great to walk over and around in its 'wild' state. The area between Arena and Wilford Lane should be kept 'wild as far as possible. It is such a benefit to be able to walk thru green areas like this uninterrupted by buildings and roads, Winter or Summer.
36. Indoor bowling green must have at least 6 rinks to enable matches to be played. If only 4 rinks for bowls, this is not a viable proposition and can see bowls ceasing
37. If rinks are reduced it will impact on our games. We need to keep fit and active all our lives!!!
38. Depends on facilities for indoor bowls - need at least 6 rinks
39. Definitely need more than 4 bowling rinks. Otherwise there would be no casual bowls.
40. Likely to be busier. Need more gym staff present
41. only if squash were available at the arena
42. We have to cross the road. No zebra crossing. Danger
43. "No bus shelters. Pool was straight up and down? Not good"
44. you are not really creating a combined leisure centre just picking a few sports. a swimming pool may help you attract people to the gym as opposed to going to a private facility but you can hardly call it a combined leisure centre as a result.
45. If combined there is potential for the gym to become over crowded at peak times. The arena gym is better for mixed abilities and rushcliffe leisure centre has lots of teenagers. Would be less classes to choose from potentially
46. If the existing indoor bowling facilities are down-graded to any extent then I would not use the Arena site at all.
47. It's further away and the traffic around the Asda traffic lights is a nightmare! This would put me off on days when I might have popped down to the gym at Rushcliffe Leisure Centre
48. Likely to be more crowded if only one facility, particularly if additional houses are to be built in Rushcliffe.
49. If combining two swimming pools into one means it is busier than it already is (which is occasionally frustrating). If the pool is properly managed (i.e. very slow swimmers are moved out of the faster lanes so that any 'system' actually works), then the above may change.
50. Further away
51. No Squash courts would be an issue as I am a member of an active squash club based at Rushcliffe
52. If the indoor bowling green was to be altered as per the rumours that are passing around at present, in that the 8 rink bowling green would be made smaller to a 4 rink bowling green, then we are certain that many people would not play either at all, or as often as they play now. We are extremely lucky to have such a wonderful indoor bowling facility and it should not be altered size wise whatsoever. If it is considered that other facilities are required, then build for example a new pool and/or other facilities, but do not alter the present size of the bowling green whatsoever. There are no full size bowling greens in the vicinity and to even consider changing the size of this one would be unnecessary and players/members would not play if the green was made smaller. A larger Rushcliffe Arena together with office facilities could be done without changing the bowling green.
53. A reduction in the number of bowling rinks would result in less use for me.
54. If there was a combined leisure centre there would be no choice at all. I would also have to use the car whereas now I can walk.

55. Travel is the main concern. Currently i and my family (wife, 2 children) can cycle or walk, though it takes longer, to Rushcliffe leisure centre. With the increasing volumes of traffic and busy roads (which will become more busy given the Sharp Hill wood housing development) and lack of safe cycle routes across west bridgford to the Arena site, i'd be reluctant to let my children cycle there and would therefore need to take the car which in turn would be subject to the congestion of busy roads, particularly at peak times when many after school clubs are run.
56. I swim at Rushcliffe twice a week and have done for the past 15 years. Whilst I appreciate that Rushcliffe is getting 'tired' I would have thought an area the size of West Bridgford, which includes both Compton Acres and Gamston could do with at least two pool. Only one Leisure Centre for such a large area would create a very crowded environment.
57. less because it is further from my home
58. further away
59. Bowling - my only pleasure
60. Because there is no plan to include squash courts
61. Dependent upon the indoor bowls club still being in existence after the alterations for competitive play
62. Longer journey.
63. No squash courts planned, also difficult to book badminton as sports hall often used for football!
64. Location and parking
65. We live closer to Rushcliffe Arena so would use a pool there more frequently than we currently do.
66. If all leisure facilities are pushed together in one super site this will make it too busy. At peak times the gym is already busy and increasing the volume of people would not help things unless the number of pieces of equipment were dramatically increased. The location of the new centre would also be a factor as I like to be within walking distance of the leisure centre I attend
67. We would use the swimming pool at the new centre, but we have for more than 10 yrs been happy with early morning swimming at Rushcliffe LC
68. Reduction of bowling area will make it impossible to maintain current usage as a bowling club
69. if only one facility, it will be too busy
70. The reducing of the bowling rinks will reduce the no.of days I wish to play by, not able to use the no. of rinks required for competitions and friendly games with other clubs. Also loss of use of club for national and county games
71. As a 4 rink bowls hall can't cater to proper bowls matches, we would have to go elsewhere. Also, parking facilities wouldn't cope with extra members
72. If Evergreen goes, I would not be able to use any other gym equipment
73. I walk to Rushcliffe Leisure Centre. I'll have to drive to the Arena. How does that make sense? The facilities are bound to be more crowded and heavily used than at present. So I won't use your facilities at all.
74. If only 4 rinks available for bowling people will stop coming, as the policy for 2 lanes available for public use cuts any league games to 2 rinks. A minimum of 6 rinks means in the strong leagues there will be no room for 2 rinks for the public to bowl.
75. I love Rushcliffe LC swimming. The building is light and airy not like many of the 'sheds' with swimming pools. The staff are great and the other people who attend early morning

swimming sessions are wonderful. I rely on public transport to get there, WILL ALL THIS CHANGE?

76. It would be far less convenient to get to at the proposed site
77. We are a Primary School and would not be able to afford the bus for transporting our Y3 pupils across to pool at Rushcliffe arena [we can walk to Rushcliffe leisure centre]. Therefore we would have to look at alternatives we can walk to such as pool at WB School.
78. Travel distance
79. If a swimming pool is in, we will be swimming as well as gym.
80. It would be further away from home and I might not make it on some work days.
81. Do not feel that the Council can accommodate everyone, however, new facilities will be good
82. Parking could be a problem. Too many leisure centres in one area e.g. David Lloyd, Roko
83. The Rushcliffe Leisure Centre facilities are convenient. As gym centre users and have pupils at the school, we find it much better to be on the same site
84. I like it as it is , thank you
85. Distance would stop me frequenting. The Arena is less central for me.
86. "Difficult to get to as it is too close to Asda. The traffic is often very busy around the Loughborough Rd/Eton Rd/Rugby Rd junction, and sometimes so busy we avoid it as much as possible. In fact, it would be easier and quicker to travel as far as Cotgrave or Bingham, rather than sit in traffic around Asda. It will also mean traveling to the Arena by car. At the moment, Rushcliffe Leisure Centre is in walking distance. Why don't you keep the Arena, and build a separate leisure Centre with pool etc on Regatta Way? Easier to access."
87. I have answered less likely only so that I can comment in this box. The answer to the question depends largely on the facilities offered at the new leisure centre. Without knowing this it is impossible to say one way or the other.
88. Poor Location - inconvenient
89. I wonder if there will be adequate facilities for all those currently using the two single centres? I agree that Rushcliffe L C is in need of a face lift but have never been convinced that a single facility is the best way to meet the needs of users, it may make the balance sheets look good but often the users are the ones who loose out. At the moment I regularly use the pool when it is available for under 5's and over 60 This is a perfect combination, as I and others fit both categories and can use both parts of the pool with ease, when it is calm and relatively quiet, but hardly underused!
90. "Further away. Children in particular are less likely to use the combined facilities. Note also the big development planned for Sharphill - these people will be much nearer the existing swimming pool. Moving to the Arena will generate a lot more traffic movement."
91. I have heard there are no plans to build squash courts at the Arena. If that is the case I will not use the new facilities.
92. Harder to access
93. further to travel, a lot of people will stop doing sport... is that good ?
94. I Live in Gamston and wish the alternative would be available at the National Water Sports Centre as I will have to travel longer to go to the Arena.
95. Present plans don't include the squash courts. I would have to travel to play elsewhere.
96. I am more likely to use improved facilities but less likely if they are centralised. Competition creates better value. Distributed facilities enable greater access. Centralised facilities create congestion (not just traffic, I mean people).
97. It is further away from where I live. It will be less easy to fit in a short visit to the gym or for a swim as the extra 1.6 to 1.8 miles journey (each way) will inevitably eat in to the time

available. Children's activities will be limited to those which we can drive to, as cycling even for our eldest will not be a realistic option. I have serious concerns about traffic at the Boundary Rd/Loughborough Rd junction at which it's notoriously difficult to turn right. The Junction of Loughborough rd and Eton Rd/Rugby Rd is also already struggling to cope with traffic, particularly at times when ASDA is busy. Parking has been a problem at Rushcliffe Arena when I've attended for kid's parties or to give blood. You will no doubt be aware that this will place Rushcliffe's only public leisure facility between Roko and David Lloyd. Maybe the council's plan is to encourage users to abandon public facilities and use these private ones? Please respond.

98. Having all facilities on one site would be good and we live near the arena

99. "I was a member at Rushcliffe for five years, the drab surroundings and lack of money being spent meant many of the machines were broken and there were few fitness instructors around to support. Also the cost of the gym was not proportionate to the facilities. Due to this I moved to a private gym for a nominal increase in the fee and the facilities are much better I feel that in the current climate to close down a leisure facility in the centre of West Bridgford that is the most used in the area is a strange decision. If I did not have a car, access to Rushcliffe Arena would be difficult and this will be the same for many local residents. Surely if a joint leisure centre was being considered it would be more appropriate to be in the centre of West Bridgford at the leisure centre. How is reducing the numbers of leisure centres going to encourage children to join in with health and fitness - we already have a problem with youngsters being overweight how will this help?"

100. Depends on what you leave out that is currently present. You say you won't have the leisure pool for children play. You say you might not have squash courts - at least that is what you said originally (I haven't read today's docs).

Q7. Are there any other facilities you would like us to incorporate into our designs? And why?

1. Hope you keep the Evergreen chairs
2. Fun & leisure pool, adventure splash zone, including slides, rapids, play facilities in pool.
Graduated floor, e.g.. like a beach/shore
3. Flumes, squash courts
4. A room suitable for pilates. We currently use a squash court which is cold, especially in winter. The acoustics make it difficult to clearly hear the teacher.
5. Pool splash facility & seating
6. Keep 8 rink indoor bowling facility
7. Sauna; ab curler to replace the one that is broken
8. Indoor heated swimming pool as Rushcliffe Arena currently doesn't have one
9. Evergreen equipment
10. I play darts with a few friends, so please keep the dart board
11. A decent restaurant - not this 'fast food'. People on their own would use it regularly
12. "Covered cycle parking. I'd like the swimming pool to have a decent area where one can swim lengths in lanes."
13. Outdoor swimming pool
14. A spa, jacuzzi, steam & sauna
15. Driving range
16. I think the climbing wall would be an excellent addition and would mean alot less travelling and difficulty parking for us to reach one. It is brilliant for children to join and I know lots of local parents who would be interested.
17. Save the money on this scheme,build a proper swimming pool,international size at Holme Pierrepont ensure a bus route is provided.
18. NONE
19. "De-caff coffee, Chilled water dispensers (for health reasons), Wi-fi in café, Computer access points for those without internet"
20. Rushcliffe Indoor Bowls - 6 rinks only
21. Tennis courts please.
22. I would like the Evergreen suite to be included as it is brilliant for the disabled, and before and after hip and knee ops, as it build up the muscles for recovery.
23. "Indoor & outdoor tennis, Squash courts "Generous parking spaces. Choice of music/tv in gym. Don't assume everyone wants loud music"
24. Large swimming pool
25. The climbing wall is a good idea but needs to be thought about - not just a couple of routes in a corner. What about athletics facilities? A running track
26. a dedicated trampoline training facility to allow a club to be set up and operate locally
27. Improved parking - If there is only going to be one leisure centre in the borough, more people will be converging on an already busy main road.
28. "Indoor and outdoor cricket nets. To allow training in this sport."
29. Safe and secure bike stands
30. More fitness studios for classes, and more classes
31. Children's swimming pool - not just an adult pool
32. There are sufficient facilities available. It was originally built as 'the Bowling Arena'
33. By the Council. Not private. Not Parkwood
34. No. The bowling green was originally built for bowlers. Without it, many older players will not have recreation and company and incentive which should be afforded them.

35. "Badminton courts - badminton is the largest participation racket sport in the UK. Bike park - i.e. place to lock bike"
36. I think Run Riot is important for parents/grandparents whose children make new friends, freedom of exercise and allowing adults to use other facilities whilst there.
37. "Diving area so children can learn to dive safely in controlled environment. Free water fountains/drinking water points"
38. glass back squash courts is possible please
39. Squash courts are key, but a swimming pool where you could swim properly would be good.
40. "WE MUST HAVE SQUASH COURTS!!! Essential as it is only thing I use there. It is a great sport and if public courts keep closing where will we get our next British world champion from?"
41. A Relaxed area with sofas and tv,s ; bar ; coffee lounge for socialising and meeting even when not participating in activities. There is a big community in this area and without attending private clubs/ pubs there is no community meeting place. Table tennis facilities available at all times. Create a centre of excellence for as many sports as possible. Work in partnership with David Lloyd leisure to create competition with teams and train staff together to give the same level of support at both facilities so that the elite will not just use the private facilities.
42. Rushcliffe Arena is limited in availability of the sports hall for group classes such as circuit training and other group classes. Concerned that removing Rushcliffe Leisure facilities would severely limit the space available for group exercise classes. Would be useful to have facilities not available in the other Parkwood group facilities, eg climbing wall, Steam room / Sauna.
43. Having a room dedicated to spin classes would be a bonus; swimming needs to accommodate lane swimmers as well as leisure swimmers
44. The existing Evergreen facility at Rushcliffe Arena should be retained. In an area with an ageing population there is an obvious need for older people to have appropriate fitness equipment.
45. Sauna & steam room; good quality changing rooms and toilets
46. You have not said anything about showers
47. Nothing mentioned about showers? And size and depth of pool?
48. New spin studio - the facilities at the Arena are not adequate at present
49. Good football pitches
50. Local clubs who use the existing facilities should have their needs considered in the designs. these are very regular users and their income is dependable.
51. Parking at rushcliffe at peak times and when tournaments at a weekend are on, getting parked is a nightmare not to mention unfair on those living nearby.
52. The continuation of a 6-8 lane rink for indoor bowling
53. Decent changing rooms and toilets
54. I like the downstairs gym at Rushcliffe Leisure centre currently. I go early at 7am twice a week and can get on the equipment I want without having to wait, especially Olympic bar. My concern is this would'nt be possible at new site with 'multi purpose' gym. I also like the class in downstairs gym on Thursday evening...concern is this would be lost as quite unique. Happy to discuss further.
55. Upgrade the outdoor football pitches to a 3G or similar surface. The current ones are long past being fit for purpose and are dangerous.
56. Yes - I think it's crazy that the swimming pool proposal is a bog standard pool design and doesn't incorporate a "fun pool" element with slides etc for children.
57. young children's swimming area as at RLC

58. Squash Courts please. A now growing sport with youngsters down to 5 involved, plus racketball for older people. Courts could be multi use eg creche during the day.
59. It is ridiculous to even consider making the indoor bowls facility smaller when many other places would welcome such a magnificent facility with open arms, so no change should be made to the indoor bowling green whatsoever under any circumstances. There is a lot of spare land adjacent to the Arena which would allow other buildings to be constructed which could be attached to the existing arena, and could be made eco-friendly, together with saving gas and electric by building onto the existing facility, rather than totally revamping the whole site. The bowls facilities in particular is excellent and a rare facility throughout the country for which we should be pleased and proud to have. It should remain in its present size, as to make it smaller would ensure that many middle aged and elderly people in particular who play bowls as a social event and also for exercise, would not use a smaller facility and would cease to use the facilities at all.
60. "Good changing and shower facilities. I really detest public showers. I think a swimming pool should include a sauna and jacuzzi pool these days as these are becoming the norm. Table tennis which I use at Rushcliffe Leisure centre."
61. "Rushcliffe Swimming Club must be allowed to continue with their current set-up.
62. What is going to happen to Nottingham Gymnastics/
63. You cannot lose Run Riot.
64. An extra all weather pitch would be beneficial to the area.
65. You have to include a leisure pool. At what age do you expect children to be able to swim in a 25-metre lane? Our daughters, like my wife and her siblings before them some 30 years ago, have been taught to swim by Rushcliffe Swimming Club who hold their lessons at the Leisure Centre. Provision must be made for this vital service to the community to continue to offer lessons at 8am-10am on a Saturday morning, 8am-10am on a Sunday morning and 8pm-9pm on a Tuesday evening. The current design at the Leisure Centre allows for our children to have lessons because of the variety of depths around the central island and I hope that they will graduate to the lanes over the next few years. This type of leisure pool must be considered for a new facility. I really like the idea of having a 25-metre pool. However, how many people actually swim lengths in that way. Have you done a survey of current usage? Whenever I have swam at Roko, Cotgrave or the Leisure Centre very few people are doing lengths at any speed which truly require a 25-metre pool. The leisure pool is far more valuable and could be incorporated if a 20-metre pool is included rather than 25-metre. If a 25-metre pool is going to be incorporated why are you not including stadium seats and timing facilities for galas and events? Surely this is the main advantage of having a gala size pool? I'd also like to see flumes included. Have you done an analysis on the usage of these at Rushcliffe and Cotgrave? The queues are huge every weekend. Would you continue to provide inflatable pool parties? Providing a 25-metre pool won't get kids swimming but providing a fun filled environment will.
66. It will be important to include a sports hall for birthday parties and the like. These events are becoming much more important in children's lives in this era and you have a responsibility to enhance the social capital of our community by allowing children to interact socially.
67. What plans do you have for providing a facility for Nottingham Gymnastics. This is another great club that serves hundreds of children not just in Rushcliffe but the Midlands as well. Both my daughters attend and their confidence has increased massively since attending. It is a crucial facility yet isn't mentioned in you plans.
68. You cannot take away Run Riot!! It is one of the best facilities in our community for young children to be active when not involved in a typical sporting club. Every weekend it is full of

active children either attending birthday parties or enjoying a day out with friends. Have you actually done any analysis on the usage of these facilities? All of your calculations appear to be about cost and I think you have done a very good job at looking at all of the financials. However, your responsibility lies in delivering something that is fit for the whole community. If an older sibling is attending a class, a safe soft play arena is great. What other provision is there for this in this area? Dens in Beeston? Escape near IKEA? Do you really want to drive local residents out of Rushcliffe and spending their money in other areas?

69. I also can't see why you'd take away the bar facility. Although I don't actively partake at the Arena, whenever I have been down at the weekends there has always been a good custom to the bar and cafe, mainly from the older gents playing bowls. It is unfair to think that older people can't use this facility. Cutting the bowling lanes is fine if your analysis shows that you are still providing adequate facilities. However, please don't take the other social enjoyment that these guys enjoy.
70. The all-weather pitch at Gresham is one of the best in the area. When I have tried booking the all weather facility at Gresham or Radcliffe school it is always fully booked. This type of pitch is great for injury prevention, for keeping people active when all other pitches are frozen off and for full size football matches at weekends. It would be an excellent revenue stream for the new facility."
71. Cycle parking facilities and cycle routes to the Arena should be improved
72. Our swimming club! We are members of Rushcliffe swimming club. This has been and is a really important facility for our family. We have tried Alternatives, which have not been suitable. Please allow us to keep our club in the new centre.
73. Fencing Salle!
74. My family currently uses Rushcliffe swimming club lessons on sat am and also rushcliffe swimming club's swimming session on sun am. This is very important to us as a family and is allowing my son and daughter to access swimming lessons at a reasonable rate and also to practice what they have been taught in lessons on sun am. My daughter also has pre -school gym lessons at the gymnastics facilities on friday am so it would be important to us that these facilities would be combined into the improved designs.
75. seating at the poolside to encourage use for galas at which spectators can be accomodated and at which parents can sit during club evenings.
76. Within the swimming pool the ability to continue the Rushcliffe swimming club, this has been invaluable for my 2 children (4 & 6) since they were 1-yrs old.
77. "Better quality squash courts - glass backed Encourage more people to play"
78. no
79. leisure pool with slides
80. Facility for archery - Saturday afternoon (as at present at L.C.)
81. Make sure squash is included. Rushcliffe Squash Club has nearly 100 adult members, plus a large junior group.
82. Please keep the Evergreen toning tables
83. Creche
84. Sounds OK as above - keep early swim?
85. Please keep a soft play for children. There is no other bif soft play frame around, you would have to travel to Arnold or Beeston. It is good to have one that charges under £4 as well.
86. A play area for 6-11's
87. Quiet time in the gym - no music!

88. "Leisure pool facility as this would attract young children helping to increase the levels of exercise in young children. Outdoor pool - would attract a lot of people. Football pitches that local boys football teams can hire"
89. Soft play centre
90. New outdoor astro pitch for hockey as both Bingham and Rushcliffe are not fit for purpose.
91. Having looked at the plans I see that leisure pool is not included. I have young children and the leisure pool at Rushcliffe Leisure Centre is of huge benefit in helping them gain confidence in the water and enjoying the process of learning to swim. Whilst I appreciate that a teaching pool is proposed I feel that with the number of young children in West Bridgford a leisure pool is really important. Young children do not get the same level of enjoyment from a simple pool as they do from one that incorporates slides, jets and things to jump off!
92. "you have to include a flume(s) and some sort of leisure pool area for children and families. at the current Rushcliffe pool the flumes, water jets, small animal features and 'mushroom' island make the centre popular with people from all over and make the centre/west Bridgford stand out from other boring square pools! a six lane pool would be ideal for adults, lessons and clubs but I think you are risking losing the one key attraction if that's all there would be for swimming. a steam room, sauna and health spa may be good too?"
93. The current soft play area is really useful.
94. Steam rooms or saunas would be great and the most modern gym equipment affordable
95. At least 6 indoor bowling lanes are needed. for example on Wednesday evening 6th November 2013 5 lanes were in use.
96. Separate pool for toddlers / fun swim big pool for serious swimmers only
97. "Outdoor bowling green, Tennis court, swimming pool"
98. I think that it is important that the evergreen fitness suite continues in existence both for its benefit to disabled people and as a potential meeting place particularly for people living on their own
99. Minimum 6 rinks for bowling. The club cannot operate properly with less
100. "The Evergreen Suite at Arena is used by me every week on several days. I do hope this is to be kept I am happy with the design, but more disabled facilities are needed"
101. A swimming pool at Rushcliffe Arena if the Rushcliffe School pool is to be closed for re-development??
102. Astroturf football pitches
103. Astro turf pitches
104. Soft play area
105. What about Evergreen facility?This helps infirm elderly people to become more independent
106. A replacement for Run Riot - my children & grandchildren have loved it!
107. Creche so I can use facilities in day
108. I hope the Evergreen Suite will still be available for the elderly and disabled. It is a lifeline to us and a great help to our wellbeing
109. No
110. WiFi
111. As a long term member of bowls, we do need 6 rinks to be a viable club. We don't wish to play at another venue. We have bowled at the Arena since opening.
112. Upgrading the wc facilities, stopping childrens parties in the bar area.
113. More than one fitness studio, many fitness classes to cover
114. We love slope in swimming pool, its great

115. Ensure it is a large swimming pool At least 25m
116. Plenty of parking spaces with generously sized spaces as currently at Rushcliffe L.C.
117. Wi-fi
118. Improved / repaired Evergreen suite (i.e. equipment for less able-bodied)
119. The Evergreen suite is used by many disabled and older members (who) would be sad to lose it
120. Sauna & steam rooms; plunge pool
121. "Evergreen room with EX10 machines, fo referrals from hospitals and doctors. Run Riot (soft play) for children"
122. Swimming pool
123. Better soft play; not so dark; more inviting for younger children
124. A nice big pool & spa (sauna/steam)
125. Martial arts room, all weather pitch
126. Leisure pool and improve soft play area at Arena
127. Community areas for sales, get togethers
128. Squash
129. Swimming area for children & learners - not just lane swimming
130. I hope he soft play area will be retained - great idea
131. Badminton
132. Keep soft play, or make bigger. Keep flumes (not a boring pool).
133. Table tennis - they have this at Rushcliffe Leisure centre and it is quite popular. Also more fashionable now (I am told)
134. "A swimming pool which is a full sized 25 metre pool for proper swimming and along side it a separate large fun pool with flumes of different sizes (like the one at Rushcliffe Leisure Centre) for children. And don't have lessons on going in the pool when it is supposedly a public session - so annoying when we turn up to use the pool and half of it s taken over by swimming lessons. A much improved children's play area. The current Run Riot ok, but has very few places for parents to sit and watch children."
135. Good indoor soft play with cafe, and facilities to hold children's parties.
136. how about a running track - or outdoor running route that is well lit & weather proof for the winter
137. I currently use the Evergreen Suite at the Arena. This is an excellent facility that provides those of us who are older and cannot cope with the usual gym equipment a means of exercising our joints and muscles. There is also the provision for GP referrals - how I first started going to Evergreen and cardiac faculties which I have not used. These are unique as no other health centre has such facilities. It is important that Rushcliffe continues to care for the health and fitness of older people when the updated facilities are opened. I would like you to continue to provide a suite such as Evergreen.
138. "Will there still be opportunity for young people to take part in archery, currently available in the far sports hall in winter? Will you be able to meet the needs of the young gymnasts as well as at the moment?"
139. "Outdoor cricket nets. Diving boards."
140. If Rushcliffe Leisure Centre is closed then the Arena needs to have more sports hall space than currently - at least as much additionally as the Leisure Centre has now - so that when the Leisure Centre closes there is not double the pressure on the Arena's current sports hall. The car park at the Arena would also need to expand to accommodate the users of a larger centre. There are also no squash courts at the Arena, so if the Leisure Centre is closed some would need to be built at the Arena. Also, the Leisure Centre has tennis courts,

which the arena does not have, so extra tennis courts would be needed (the current ones at the Leisure Centre are in a sorry state, though).

141. As a coach for the junior section of the squash club I strongly urge you to consider the inclusion of squash courts. There are some 20-25 members of the junior section with ages ranging 6-16
142. Child care facility to compete with other private clubs
143. Please include the squash courts. It's taken a long time to build up the leagues. The social and community aspect of the club relies on the rushcliffe facilities.
144. Outdoor activities (bike trail, skate park, pakour place). More courts of all types. A lane based swimming pool. Sauna.
145. A wave pool for children may encourage more young swimmers.
146. table tennis (presumably included in sports hall facilities)
147. Astro pitch. There is so much sport being played on astro and people like West Bridgford School charge high prices. Apart from people like Boots Hockey. West Bridgford Hockey Club runs 14-15 teams every weekend and trains over 100 youngsters every Sunday morning in the winter and has training on other evenings.
148. outdoor football pitches
149. I USE SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT IN THE EVERGREEN SUITE AT THE ARENA. ALTHOUGH I DO MOST OF MY EXERCISE IN THE GYM BECAUSE I HAVE MS I FIND SOME OF THE CHAIRS VERY USEFUL.
150. Gym facilities suitable for an older generation
151. children play/larking about pool with slides/tubes. Nice to have separate baby pool as well.
152. "two separate weights rooms - the men are always using the weights area at the Arena gym and it can be intimidating for women who want to use them. good quality changing rooms"
153. "Kids crèche so adults can enjoy classes etc climbing wall would be good if designed by climbers for climbers, could included outdoor boulders aswell as indoor facilities"

Q8.. Are there any further improvements you would like us to consider?

1. "Modernise equipment. Have instructors available to ask about fitness programmes."
2. Roller skate arena. Scooter park. Full gymnastic hall (pits, sprung floor, apparatus etc)
3. soft play
4. Car parking will have to be at least double as at present
5. Get rid of junk food, vending machines, and cafes selling junk. Maintain the place eg lighting, car park potholes, broken toilet doors
6. Ensure nifty-fifties remains. Offer off-peak membership or cheaper rates for over 60's
7. Needs to be a lot more modern, and a pleasant environment
8. A good place to play table tennis, complete with good equipment
9. Leave it as it is. It works well
10. More badminton courts at Rushcliffe Arena
11. "Your proposed plan to 'Move and Improve' is not a good idea in some ways. You do not state in the leaflet that only 4 bowling rinks will be available. This is absolutely appalling as there will be no friendly games, no County games, no school of excellence etc. The government keep stressing the need for elderly people to exercise, and bowling is one exercise many people enjoy, not only for the exercise but for companionship. Please think about building the offices above the swimming pool. Surely whilst doing a 'new build' it would be more cost effective than altering an existing building. Please please save our bowling arena."
12. Improved cycling access.
13. We swim with the Rushcliffe swimming club and want to see the club continue to operate as it does, whichever site it is based at
14. "Maintain an outdoor bowling green. We need at least six bowling indoor lanes. Any less would be pointless to continue the bowls league"
15. An improved swimming pool to Olympic standards would be a great asset to the area and could be situated at the Water Sports Centre which would boost that area and facilities. There is plenty of parking. Swimmers of all standards could use that sort of facility along with clubs and leisure swimmers having access.
16. We very much welcome an updated pool facility - We are members of Rushcliffe swimming club, and our daughter has swimming lessons with the club. The club is very important to us and we would hope that if the pool moves to Rushcliffe Arena that the club would still be able to operate as it currently does from the new venue.
17. Better changing/shower facilities
18. "Lane swimming for adults with laminated cards showing fitness programmes would encourage healthy rather than simply leisure swimming. Provision for private showers"
19. Maintain 6 indoor rinks
20. I would like to think that the swimming pool at the leisure centre will not close down prior to the new one being built at the Arena. Will Parkwood Leisure be in charge at the Arena? Is there enough land at the Arena to build all these new facilities + moving the Council offices there, or are you able to buy more land?
21. re thinking your proposal
22. Please ensure that the pool is a decent length. If it could be 50m, that would be fantastic although I realise this may restrict space for other activities. As a minimum, it should be 25m.
23. Anything less than a six-rink bowling surface would be a disaster for domestic, inter-club and county purposes.
24. "In your recent questionnaire regarding the proposed changes to the Rushcliffe Arena you made no mention that the changes would reduce the indoor bowling facilities by four rinks.

This was only made apparent in an article published in the Nottingham Post. By doing this, it will be virtually impossible to to operate the leagues as they require more than four rinks to accommodate all the teams. Also it will be impossible to run the friendly matches against other clubs. I, and intil recently my husband, have been members of Arena bowling since it was first opened and it will be a shame if I, and countless like me, have to look for other venues to carry on playing the sport we love."

25. "Steam clean the toilets every month. Sell less high-fat and high-sugar snacks. If they are there, people will buy them."
26. "Rushcliffe changing facilities are in a poor state. A diving pool as part of a new swimming pool - essential. There's no opportunity for kids to try diving anywhere round here. Secure cycle parking, with CCTV and/or bike lockers"
27. I question the addition of a pool at Rushcliffe Arena. The one at Rushcliffe leisure centre is used by me because it is there - I live locally to it. I am not likely to traipse to the Arena to use one, as it is not easy to get to by bus directly, instead favouring a City one (eg Portland). I would therefore politely suggest considering a partnership with the City Council or the Portland Trust to negotiate a preferential rate to use that pool, or the others in the borough, rather than add another costly inclusion to the proposal. In addition, there are 2 private pools within spitting distance of the Arena as well!
28. Don't close Rushcliffe Leisure Centre until the Arena has been completed.
29. Just regular maintenance of the facilities such as repairing lights in the sports hall which have gone out and repainting court lines which are faded.
30. "I would like to see a breakdown of users by activity. ie How many people purchase time on the Bowls Rinks, use the Gym, etc."
31. A reception with sufficient staff and improved IT booking facility.
32. You must restrict the footprint of the development if it goes ahead - consider underground car parking for example. You must not encroach on other green areas in close proximity.
33. Far better management i.e. people interested in their job
34. Ensure centre is suitable for all age groups
35. The lighting could be vastly improved
36. "Please leave the indoor bowling facilities. Means so much to so many. Please please, give much consideration. Thank you. Founder member - may the indoor bowling continue"
37. Keep Rushcliffe Arena staff - they are polite and helpful
38. "Keep all rinks for indoor bowls. We need and use them. Sport is for all ages, abilities regardless of race, age, sex etc"
39. I currently travel from Attenborough to the Arena where there are facilities I cannot use locally i.e. Evergreen -where, if I have mobility problems, I can still improve my health by exercising. Don't neglect the older community for the sake of money and modernising for the younger generation.
40. Better cafe/bar eating area
41. Run by the Council (not private)
42. better parking please, as the car park is quite small
43. "To retain and supplement the staff who have always been helpful and friendly. Create an exciting and enjoyable for all age groups. Improve the outdoor lighting around the arena. Longer opening hours. Better eating facilities/ variety in provision. A lot more choice in beers/lagers. Recognition for loyal customers who have regularly used this location for a good few years."
44. Efficient air-conditioning/heating in fitness studios

45. Possibly closing Keyworth leisure centre instead of Rushcliffe. It has very poor facilities, no showers, very few classes, and although is my nearest location, I have hardly ever visited.
46. Improved shower/changing facilities; this most times puts me off at Rushcliffe; sharing different sports at the same time on one multi-purpose court facility can also be off-putting so you need to maintain having more than one sports hall as you have at the moment albeit in different locations
47. If the intention is to expand rushcliffe arena then there will need to be significant investment in parking facilities. Eton road is already very busy with traffic so you'd need to give that consideration. The area around the Arena and David Lloyd is one of the decreasing areas of green space in West Bridgford particularly with the proposed Sharp Hill development. One Leisure centre just doesn't seem enough to suit all needs of an expanding population. If the money's available surely the better alternative is to invest in both facilities.
48. How will the potential congestion caused by additional traffic using the arena be managed?
49. "Table tennis? Outdoor tables could provide an additional activity alongside the outdoor gym. A petanque/boule surface? I think these facilities and outdoor gym should be free-like the children's play areas. People could just turn up and use them- it could provide an alternative venue for young people in summer evenings- light it well, put it in a visible place near the courts"
50. Swimming pool to be treated regularly. (Private gyms seem to treat with gentler methods - not so harsh on skin
51. That the price will not go up
52. No increase in charges and allowances for O.A.P and Nifty Fifty
53. Properly heated glass-back squash courts
54. Car parking space to be available
55. "a 50% reduction in use of indoor bowls does not necessarily mean you only need 50% of the rinks. consider how many rinks are used at one time. Consider local club needs"
56. My main frustration as a member is the fitness rooms are fit for purpose. They don't offer air conditioning in most or working conditioning in others. The online system is a nightmare if booking squash with another member, as appears to be no facility for this, so I constantly sit with an unpaid debt on my account. The fitness rooms don't have proper music systems or again if they do then they don't work properly and it disrupts the class a lot. If membership fees go up, which they have, as a member you need to see improvements so you know what you are paying for
57. We do need 6 bowling rinks, not just 4
58. I would really like to keep Rushcliffe Swimming club (on Tuesdays at 8pm) on the same basis as it is now, its really affordable for me - I wouldn't be able to pay any more.
59. Climbing wall would be excellent, my children would use that frequently, and squash courts would be a great addition to leisure facilities in WB which we would use.
60. Re-consider the proposal to have only one leisure centre
61. Number of free weight stations with olympic lifting facilities. So don't have to wait to use equipment.
62. "As mentioned above - actually manage the lane swimming a bit more (as opposed to ignoring it). Currently I swim in either the slow or medium lane. On most occasions I'm going faster than a couple of people in the so called fast lane. These people getting in the way means faster swimmers have to go to the medium speed lane, and basically it ends up with people getting in each others way much more than they need to. Additionally - separate showers are a must, so that you can actually properly shower down before work without fear that you are going to expose yourself to half the female users. Finally, don't

allow people to leave possessions in the larger cubicles while they swim. It's rude and unnecessary and basically means that unless you are quick or lucky you are shoehorned into a cubicle that you cannot even easily raise your arms in."

63. The car park barrier does not seem to work well at all, particularly when a number of people are going in and out and could be improved and the lighting facility for the security key pad does not work and is causing problems at night time in particular.
64. Speeding up the payment on entry.
65. "Having covered cycle facilities and also lockers where you can leave kit. All weather tennis courts. What will happen to the Gymnastics centre at Rushcliffe - my daughters train there 3 times a week."
66. I would like your consultation to include exactly what usage each facility currently gets and what provision there is going to be for these if we lose some facilities when the re-location occurs. A full breakdown is required.
67. The retention of the swimming pool facility at Rushcliffe School is important and the Borough Council should support the School to retain this facility for the health of future pupils of the school and Borough.
68. My family are currently members of the rushcliffe swimming club. This is a fantastic club we have seen fabulous improvements in our childrens ability to swim. We have tried the aqua zone lessons on several occasions and have been bitterly disappointed by the lack of knowledge and experience of your teachers. Within three lessons at the rushcliffe club my daughter was 'swimming' unaided..... We also use the Sunday morning sessions at the club for the whole family. We love the ethos and family feel to this club and we would all be bitterly disappointed if this club had to end.
69. The swimming lessons and family swim with Rushcliffe swimming club have been invaluable for the fitness and health of my family, teaching the children about a healthy and fit lifestyle.
70. "Better quality staff running site People who know how to use computer systems"
71. no
72. Bowling ring
73. Maintain a sufficient bowling area... 6+ rinks
74. At least 3 courts are required, they are always fully booked on week days
75. Male toilet at the Arena. Present condition is disgusting. Gloomy, smelly, urinals and pipework encrusted with scale
76. Don't let Parkwood run it
77. I like the jets at Rushcliffe pool for back massage. Presumably this would disappear.
78. I would like to see more weekend fitness classes at a variety of times. I would like more Pilates classes.
79. Run Roit is looking tired - needs a good clean/refurbishment
80. "good accessible and secure cycle storage please. one of the main reasons too that this is a good idea is that the new centre will be on a main more frequent bus route. getting to boundary rd isn't easy. the new location is more central to west bridgford and other areas. improvements to rugby road may be needed and cycle routes."
81. I would appreciate a wider range of fitness classes to choose from, and would definitely use a swimming pool.
82. no school usage of pool - limits day use
83. Sky Sports on TV screens or other sports channels
84. Squash courts
85. "Hands off our indoor bowling green. We need 8 rinks for our county, national & friendly games as well as leagues. Our bowls green is the best in the county"

86. No, but I would hope you would consider not reducing the bowling green to less than 6 rinks or some of us wouldn't get a game. And most bowlers are older and need to keep active
87. "Dear Sir, Regarding your plan to 'Move and Improve' and with reference to the indoor bowls, I understand that you intend to have only 4 bowling rinks. This is absolutely atrocious as it will mean we can have no county games, no school of excellence and no visiting teams as more than 4 rinks are required. Even for league games sometimes more than 4 rinks are required. Elderly people are incessantly being advised to keep active. This move will certainly mean the end of bowls at the Arena. Perhaps this is what you want??!!!"
88. Minimum 6 rinks for bowling
89. Cleanliness and more disabled changing areas
90. Improved catering and bar facilities, similar to those offered at the Nottm Bowls Club and Gedling. Membership would then improve noticeably
91. Athletics/bmx track
92. Bigger swimming pool
93. Road access
94. Lack of any staff in the gym who are qualified in first aid. This presents a problem if anything happens. Someone should be present at all times
95. Keep changing rooms/ swimming pool clean
96. "A warm swimming pool. I take both my swimming at Rushcliffe and they both get cold very quickly. Don't forget , you need a full size pool and fun pool, not a cheapo Parkwood pool. This pool needs to be designed to be open to 'general swim' every day, all day The pool must accommodate specialist requirements e.g. women's swim and diving The pool must accomodate toddlers. This is easy. Toddler pool needs to be warm. main pool can be used by everyone. I wide enough it will accommodate schools and general swim through use of lanes. Curtain means women can swim even when men are in pool. This would be an equal opp pool."
97. Reduce drastically the volume of sound arising from the cycling spinners. It is socially unacceptable and unbearable
98. I disagree very strongly with the implication that you are making "improvements". You are withdrawing local services.
99. Better air conditioning in gym
100. Jacuzzi/steam/sauna room
101. It would be good to have clean facilities, toilets are not good and carpets need a good clean.
102. Consideration to members of bowls whose 1st year membership went into building the Arena 1 year before it was opened. Also better lighting and cleaner carpets.
103. More done for the indoor bowls
104. I think its unfair on the staff, who are great at Rushcliffe. I think you need to consider them in this move!
105. All leisure centres / facilities should be self funding with no council subsidies of any kind
106. Sufficient car parking
107. Renew the Evergreen suite
108. Bar facilities
109. Toilets/ do repairs on gym machines / keep things in gym and add more
110. Swimming pool
111. Buses from W.B. to new site. Rushcliffe is in walking distance. The Arena isn't
112. Squash

113. Parking
114. "Leisure pool - not just a pool for swimming lessons. Open more hours. Improve soft play at the Arena. Very grubby at the moment"
115. Family pool
116. Do not spoil indoor bowling green. If reduced to 4 rinks, may ruin club altogether.
We could manage with 6
117. Leave it alone
118. Keep gymnastics centre
119. Enough car parking facilities for everyone
120. Yes, if the squash courts at Rushcliffe are not kept open then you should replace like with like ie not reduce the sporting facilities available in Rushcliffe - and build 3 new courts, not 2 as it is proposed (albeit not part of core facilities)
121. "Improve your web site and information availability - the information available is poor, it isn't user friendly (ie cannot download a single timetable and see a full week anymore I have to search by day!). Difficult to find out what clubs etc use the leisure centres so it is difficult to find out what is on, how to join in with sessions, and when sessions are - the web site says ask in the centre for info or information is incomplete, when we do the staff on reception are not well informed and often cannot answer questions, don't have leaflets with times etc and refer people back to the web site (!) or just refer people to the few club leaflets they have. Not helpful but it isn't their fault, they aren't given the information to disseminate. Nottingham City Council Leisure Centres have better information available on the web, with clear timetables for activities and in the centres with very well informed staff. That said, the staff in the gym are great and well informed. They are helpful with good fitness advice."
122. There is a need to do maintenance of the existing building while all these decisions are being discussed. The men's changing and toilets are particularly shabby and have plumbing problems that have not been addressed..
123. The swimming pool needs to have full leisure pool facilities, including an area suitable for babies and young children. This means warmer water than a pool would normally be heated to, as well as shallow and beach areas, and dedicated under-5s sessions. The water in the pool at Rushcliffe Leisure Centre used to be nice and warm but under Parkwood became too cold to take a baby or very young child in. Last time I visited it was warm again, but I don't know if this will last. West Bridgford is full of families with young children and good use would be made of a proper leisure pool, like Waterworld in Stoke, or the Mansfield pool. Recent publicity suggesting that the provision would be a 25m lane pool and a training pool is very alarming.
124. i'd like the 2 facilities kept separate please
125. I think moving the council offices to the Rugby Road site would be a bad idea, it would bring more traffic into the Loughborough Road, Rugby Road area which is already congested due to Asda.
126. The planning document on the web implies that the car parking facilities will be used by council staff in the day and then be available for users of the gym in the evening. This takes no account of the people who use the gym facilities during the day and need a car to get there, in particular the elderly. It is vital that additional parking is provided if the council offices move to the site and the current parking facilities continue to be available for users of the leisure facilities.
127. Also, the roof of the men's toilets at the Arena currently frequently leaks when there is heavy rain - needs urgent fixing.

128. Definitely to include squash courts
129. Don't shut rushcliffe
130. Please consider residents of "Gamston" area as an option. We have either to go Ruscliffe School or the National Water Sports Centre. Why Can't we have one near the Alford Road site/Gamston School?
131. better lighting and environmental control. Better staff. Franchise out a coffee shop
132. Yes, please introduce a system whereby gym members can enter and use facilities without queueing at the counter to book in. This is a pet hate for anyone who feels uncomfortable queue jumping when the swimming queue is busy, and for those standing and waiting whilst the counter staff are busy or the counter is understaffed. Online booking facilities should also be better used.
133. upgrading the facilities at Rushcliffe school not the arena
134. Swimming pool has to be 25m, having a 20m pool is ridiculous. And enough space for children to be separated from adult/lane swimming
135. MAKE SURE THERE IS PLENTY OF PARKING. PEOPLE WILL NOT GO IF THERE IS NOWHERE TO PARK.
136. "Current gym facilities at the Arena feel very tired and need attention. Some popular equipment requires more regular servicing and hopefully will be upgraded and not just left until a new development is completed. Improved media entertainment system. Swipe card entry system for members rather than having to see reception staff."
137. If this was a commercial operation, suspect it wouldn't get planning permission due to effect of traffic - it is a narrow road to Arena, but assume you will give yourselves permission. Nothing here about the plan to move council offices, why not? Again, that plan proposes building several stories in an area where there isn't anything else that high - would it get planning permission if not your own? You have run down or let be run down the facilities you have, and then you want to build new ones somewhere else. Why should we believe this is cost effective? Why should we believe you will look after the new place any better than the old place?
138. Swipe card entry system eg if you are a gym member you can access the appropriate area without having to queue at a very busy reception desk.
139. "pool must have main pool min of 25m length and have 8 lanes and being available other pool areas for kids and beginners, including wet play areas any new buildings should be to the highest possible environmental building standards, ie Passive house design standards. would expect high percentage of energy used to be from renewable energy sources. This should be heat pumps/ biomass and solar thermal technologies for the pool and solar photovoltaics for general electrical. Space heating requirements should be designed out.

Report of the Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods

Cabinet Portfolio Holder – Councillor N C Lawrence

Summary

At its September 2013 meeting Cabinet approved a recommendation to explore the development of a shared service approach for fleet maintenance and garage services. This work has now been taken forward with Nottingham City Council and has resulted in a draft co-operation agreement which if approved would result in a range of benefits and savings for Rushcliffe, create a platform for further growth with other public sector partners, aligns with the recent collaboration agreement on partnership working and strategically helps towards the release of the Council's Abbey Road Depot site moving forwards.

Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet

- a. Support the implementation of the proposed Co-operation Agreement with Nottingham City Council as set out in the report;
- b. Agree that it will discharge the fleet and maintenance functions for Rushcliffe Borough Council;
- c. Authorise the Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods to enter into a Co-operation Agreement with Nottingham City Council for the joint service delivery of fleet maintenance functions in accordance with the terms of the draft agreement; and
- d. Request the Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods in consultation with the Executive Manager Operations and Corporate Governance make any necessary drafting or other amendments to the terms of the agreement which are necessary to reflect the agreed arrangements but which do not materially affect the proposals outlined in this report.

Background

1. At present garage services for the Council's fleet are provided in house via the Abbey Road Depot. As part of the previous four year service review programme a procurement process was undertaken for the delivery of such services by an external provider with the aim of delivering both on-going savings and helping to facilitate the planned future disposal of the Abbey Road site.

2. In relation to this latter point it is anticipated that the external delivery of garage services is not only a key stage in the potential disposal of this site but would also facilitate the construction of a smaller and cheaper depot at an alternative location or the further sharing of an operational base.
3. The formal procurement process commenced in early 2013. The accepted formal bids were evaluated on a cost quality basis and consideration was also given to the whole life cost of the preferred bid taking into account the implications and opportunities presented by the disposal of the Abbey Road site and its relocation to a smaller facility elsewhere in the Borough. This analysis indicated that the total impact on the Council over the ten year life of the contract would be an additional cost of £300,000.
4. Given these findings Cabinet agreed on 10 September 2013 to cease the procurement process but endorsed the exploration of a shared service approach and the development of a subsequent business case for further consideration. This was based on information gathered during the procurement exercise which suggested opportunities might exist for the provision of a fleet maintenance on shared service basis with other public sector providers which could offer significant additional savings over the medium to long term.

Development of a Co-operation Agreement

5. Following the decision by Cabinet, the Council wrote to all the Nottinghamshire local authorities to invite their expressions of interest in being involved in the development of a 'shared fleet maintenance service'. Nottingham City Council showed great interest in developing the idea for a shared maintenance service as they already have a wealth of experience in the maintenance of their own large and varied fleet, deliver maintenance and repair contracts for some of the public sector's most vital services and have the capacity to grow business at their maintenance depots that are well placed to meet Rushcliffe's needs.
6. Some of the guiding principles identified for this work included the following:
 - The need for all councils to make significant savings and address the impact of reductions from central government grant;
 - Shared or collaborative service with neighbouring councils would enable all partners to gain from economies due to scale and access to specialist skill sets;
 - Greater utilisation of vehicles would result in the need for less 'spare' vehicles and could even reduce the total number of fleet vehicles required due to efficiency in vehicle use;
 - Sharing and centralising facilities could lead to raising capital from the disposal of existing real estate or re-using the space for other purposes; and
 - Combining maintenance could be the first step of a more integrated fleet management approach, which would offer greater efficiencies.
7. A joint project team was established with staff from both authorities tasked with the development of a joint business case which would identify the preferred operating model based around a 'co-operation agreement'. A

number of key objectives were identified which would be expected from any agreement in order for it to be considered viable, they are as follows:

- Financial benefit – there should be a financial benefit to both councils;
 - Shared savings – additional savings should be shared in a fair manner between the councils (nominally on a 50/50 basis);
 - Fair risk/incentive balance – risks should be placed with the organisation best able to control them (to reduce any unnecessary risk prices being built in), similarly incentives should be given to each organisation to operate in the best interests of the partnership;
 - Simple – should be as administratively simple to operate as possible, to save unnecessary costs on administration / contract management;
 - Transparent – each side should be clear about how the partnership should work;
 - Scalable – whatever is agreed should be capable of being added to, either via other local councils joining or an expansion of services being shared; and
 - Quick to implement – aim is to have a shared service in operation by 1 April 2014.
8. The development of the agreement has been very much supported by an open approach which has led to a developing mutual trust. This has allowed the working group to make good progress in meeting these objectives since September and a viable co-operation agreement has now been prepared.

Co-operation Agreement – Key Elements

Scope and Location

9. The scope of the agreement covers the provision of a repair, maintenance, and garage service for the Council's fleet of vehicles and machinery including in the future those owned by any wholly owned company of the Council. The service will include the following core activities:
- Undertaking all statutory maintenance;
 - Compliance to VOSA's legal requirements;
 - Documentation management and inspection sheets;
 - Mobile mechanic facility;
 - Management of key subcontractors and suppliers;
 - Accident repair; and
 - Tachograph installation and calibration.
10. In addition the agreement will potentially cover the provision of a 'one stop' shop service for Private Hire and Hackney vehicle compliance testing and plating which will be offered to drivers and operators licensed by the Council.

Benefits

11. The Co-operation Agreement for fleet services between Rushcliffe Borough Council and Nottingham City Council will enable both partners to gain from economies of scale and more specifically will result in:

- Reduced costs for Rushcliffe over 10 years (£78,000 per annum) and increased income for the City Council (£40,000 per annum). There is an expectation that further value for money will be attained over the duration of the agreement
 - Removal of the need for garage space at the existing Abbey Road Depot or any future depot site that the Council may wish to operate from;
 - Ensuring the Eastcroft Depot is utilised towards a greater capacity (following the recent transfer of maintenance of Nottingham City's plant and light vehicles to its newly opened Woolsthorpe Depot);
 - Overnight servicing leading to savings in Rushcliffe's overall fleet provision;
 - Reduced reactive maintenance and thus less need for contingency actions due to breakdowns;
 - Greater workforce resilience due to increased scale, therefore more cover for sickness, holidays and vacancy management; and
 - A more cross-skilled workforce, learning maintenance of a wider range of vehicles, thus improving future employment opportunities.
12. It is also clear that the initial integration of maintenance services provides a commercially attractive platform for other partners to join and to the potential opportunity for a wider integration of fleet services.

Operating Arrangements

13. In order to support the operational management of the agreement a more detailed supporting document has been developed which covers;
- Bi-monthly meetings between operational managers along with daily communications as and when necessary;
 - A range of performance indicators to reflect collection and delivery of vehicles, call out times, scheduled servicing and accident repair standards/times, provision of loan vehicles;
 - Dissatisfaction and dispute resolution to enable any disputes to be settled firstly at bi-monthly operational meetings, then through a 4 stage process ultimately to be decided at Executive Manager level or (4th stage) external arbitration with financial penalties; and
 - 6 months written notice of termination.
14. Clearly a key consideration is to ensure that the Council's fleet is available for work when needed on any given day therefore the supporting agreement contains a number of important service features including:
- Full 24 hour roadside recovery and assistance;
 - Servicing within manufacturer's guidelines with the aspiration to reduce re-active response enabling further financial savings;
 - Effective communication with minimal 'contract management' by Rushcliffe;
 - Loan vehicles provided free of charge to Rushcliffe (appropriately liveried); and
 - On site assistance at the beginning of the daily shift for vehicles at Abbey Road Depot.

Governance, Risks and Implementation

15. In order to ensure appropriate governance and operational oversight of the agreement a joint officer group will be formed consisting of senior officers from both Councils. This group would then have the flexibility to grow with the addition of other partners and adapt to wider governance requirements.
16. Further oversight and governance will come through relevant information being included in the Council's existing performance management framework and scrutiny through reporting at appropriate intervals to the Council's Partnership Delivery Group.
17. A full risk register has been generated as part of the project. The main resultant risks associated with the arrangement such as TUPE arrangements for staff, communication breakdown, site availability etc, are mitigated in part due to the experience of the City Council in undertaking these activities for other public bodies; and the relative size and scale of the City Council's operations.
18. The Council will also be following the plans and procedures that it has in place for managing any major change.
19. Subject to approval the aim will be to ensure that the Project Implementation and Communication plan will deliver the transition to the new agreement on 1 April 2014.

Financial Comments

The financial implications are covered in the body of the report.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act

There are no direct Section 17 implications.

Diversity

There are no direct diversity implications.

Background Papers Available for Inspection:

Correspondence between the Council and Nottingham City Council September - December 2013

Report of the Executive Manager – Finance and Commercial

Cabinet Portfolio Holder – Councillor J A Cranswick

Purpose

This report outlines the level of grant support that will be provided to Rushcliffe's Parish Council and Special Expense Areas for the financial years 2014/15 and 2015/16. This element is considered in advance of the budget to enable Parish Councils to set their 2014/15 budgets in line with the council tax setting cycle.

Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet adopt the 2014/15 and 2015/16 funding allocations in relation to support arrangements for Parish Councils and Special Expense Areas as outlined at **Appendix 1**.

Background

1. The replacement of Council Tax Benefit with a discount based Council Tax Support Scheme in April 2013 led to a reduction in the local government taxbase which resulted in many Parish Councils being unable to raise the same level of funding through the Council Tax than had previously been the case.
2. To mitigate this impact as part of the 2013/14 local government funding settlement Department for Communities and Local Government allocated funding to enable billing authorities to establish local schemes of support for Parish Councils affected by the change. It should be noted that this funding was not ring fenced and so the establishment of any scheme was a local decision and as such any billing authority was able to retain some or all of the funding for its own purposes.
3. On 24 January 2013 Council determined that it would provide support for Parish Councils who had been negatively impacted on by the transition to the Council Tax Support Scheme and allocated funding to 45 Parish Councils and the three Special Expense Areas. In doing so it not only allocated all of the central funding to Parishes but also supplemented this through the allocation of £3,400 of one-off transitional funding in relation to other aspects of the Council Tax Support Scheme implementation.

2014/15

4. The funding allocated to Parishes in 2013/14 was for one year only and, as a result, this report provides revised allocations for 2014/15.

5. In this context it is important to note that the draft local government finance settlement for 2014/15 and 2015/16 does not provide any explicit allocation of funding for parish support. As such any allocation of funding would be included in the overall allocation of funding via the Revenue Support Grant and the assumed levels of Retained Business Rates which are reducing by 13.25% between 2013/14 and 2014/15 (and by 26.8% between 2013/14 and 2015/16).
6. It is therefore proposed that the allocations of funding for Parish Councils be reduced in line with the cessation of transitional funding and Rushcliffe's overall funding reductions for both 2014/15 and 2015/16. The resultant funding allocations are shown at Appendix 1 and would result in the allocation of £110,510 in 2014/15 reducing to £93,780 in 2015/16.
7. In order to establish funding certainty for the Parish Councils it is proposed that, in line with the two year national settlement, Cabinet adopt the allocations outlined at Appendix 1 for both 2014/15 and 2015/16. This would have then provided Parish Councils a three year period to manage the transition from Council Tax Benefit to the Council Tax Support Scheme. Should Cabinet deem that further support is required from 2016/17 onwards then this would be subject to the agreement of an on-going or replacement scheme at that time.

Financial Comments

These are dealt with in the report.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act

There are no Section 17 implications.

Diversity

There are no diversity implications.

Background Papers Available for Inspection: Nil

Appendix 1

	Band D Precept		Change in Band D Precept		Grant Provided by RBC		
	2012/13	2013/14	£	%	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Aslockton P.C.	26.52	21.84	(4.68)	(17.6%)	876	740	620
Barton-in-Fabis P.C.	27.94	27.94	0.00	0.0%	177	150	130
Bingham T.C.	75.35	72.23	(3.12)	(4.1%)	22567	18960	16090
Bradmore P.C.	16.17	16.23	0.06	0.4%	55	50	40
Bunny P.C.	58.22	57.68	(0.54)	(0.9%)	273	230	190
Car Colston P.C.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0	0	0
Clipston P.C.	5.17	3.57	(1.60)	(30.9%)	7	10	10
Colston Bassett P.C.	61.98	60.59	(1.39)	(2.2%)	170	140	120
Costock P.C.	34.36	32.88	(1.48)	(4.3%)	358	300	260
Cotgrave T.C.	86.09	95.84	9.75	11.3%	19764	16610	14090
Cropwell Bishop P.C.	130.72	130.45	(0.27)	(0.2%)	6451	5420	4600
Cropwell Butler P.C.	31.40	32.25	0.85	2.7%	408	340	290
East Bridgford P.C.	39.69	39.22	(0.47)	(1.2%)	1674	1410	1190
East Leake P.C.	61.09	64.35	3.26	5.3%	10823	9090	7720
Elton-on-the-Hill P.C.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0	0	0
Flawborough P.C.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0	0	0
Flintham P.C.	48.54	48.54	0.00	0.0%	331	280	240
Gotham P.C.	58.33	60.06	1.73	3.0%	2420	2030	1730
Granby cum Sutton P.C.	60.24	60.40	0.16	0.3%	216	180	150
Hawksworth P.C.	162.00	155.41	(6.59)	(4.1%)	415	350	300
Hickling P.C.	27.49	28.06	0.57	2.1%	108	90	80
Holme Pierrepont & Gamston P.C.	39.15	36.58	(2.57)	(6.6%)	2643	2220	1880
Keyworth P.C.	64.73	64.73	0.00	0.0%	11727	9850	8360
Kingston-on-Soar P.C.	34.75	33.69	(1.06)	(3.1%)	125	110	90
Kinoulton P.C.	16.87	16.57	(0.30)	(1.8%)	270	230	190
Kneeton P.C.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0	0	0
Langar cum Barnstone P.C.	114.37	123.81	9.44	8.3%	2998	2520	2140

	Band D Precept		Change in Band D Precept		Grant Provided by RBC		
	2012/13	2013/14	£	%	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Normanton-on-Soar P.C.	61.22	60.55	(0.67)	(1.1%)	596	500	420
Normanton-on-the-Wolds P.C.	45.92	30.35	(15.57)	(33.9%)	67	60	50
Orston P.C.	38.65	37.95	(0.70)	(1.8%)	373	310	270
Owthorpe P.C.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0	0	0
Plumtree P.C.	31.25	30.99	(0.26)	(0.8%)	46	40	30
Radcliffe-on-Trent P.C.	84.62	84.62	0.00	0.0%	18,589	15,620	13,260
Ratcliffe-on-Soar P.C.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0	0	0
Rempstone P.C.	25.00	24.09	(0.91)	(3.6%)	225	190	160
Ruddington P.C.	99.76	100.50	0.74	0.7%	22,298	18,730	15,900
Saxondale P.C.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0	0	0
Scarrington P.C.	8.82	9.04	0.22	2.5%	4	0	0
Screveton P.C.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0	0	0
Shelford P.C.	42.68	41.68	(1.00)	(2.3%)	496	420	350
Shelton P.C.	14.06	5.47	(8.59)	(61.1%)	77	60	60
Sibthorpe P.C.	13.56	14.29	0.73	5.4%	49	40	30
Stanford-on-Soar P.C.	52.63	47.47	(5.16)	(9.8%)	247	210	180
Stanton-on-the-Wolds P.C.	22.44	22.37	(0.07)	(0.3%)	71	60	50
Sutton Bonington P.C.	34.24	36.24	2.00	5.8%	994	840	710
Thoroton P.C.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0	0	0
Thrumpton P.C.	43.91	46.92	3.01	6.9%	195	160	140
Tollerton P.C.	34.01	33.82	(0.19)	(0.6%)	793	670	570
Upper Broughton P.C.	62.09	63.32	1.23	2.0%	445	370	320
West Leake P.C.	30.30	32.81	2.51	8.3%	47	40	30
Whatton-in-the-Vale P.C.	29.10	30.51	1.41	4.8%	566	480	400
Widmerpool P.C.	20.87	20.91	0.04	0.2%	57	50	40
Willoughby-on-the-Wolds P.C.	25.45	25.14	(0.31)	(1.2%)	313	260	220
Wiverton & Tithby P.M.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0	0	0
Wysall & Thorpe in the Glebe P.C	42.19	41.73	(0.46)	(1.1%)	112	90	80
Totals					131,515	110,510	93,780

	Band D Precept		Change in Band D Precept		Grant Provided by RBC		
	2012/13	2013/14	£	%	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Special Expense Areas							
Keyworth	1.49	1.47	(0.02)	(1.3%)	318	270	230
Ruddington	2.50	2.21	(0.29)	(11.6%)	659	550	470
West Bridgford	54.20	54.68	0.48	0.9%	49,976	41,990	35,640
					50,952	42,810	36,330

Report of the Executive Manager – Finance and Commercial

Cabinet Portfolio Holder – Councillor J N Clarke

Summary

This report sets out the proposal to establish a Joint Committee of local authorities in the City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, (the Economic Prosperity Committee or EPC) to drive future investment in growth and jobs within their areas. It also details the background to the proposal, the purpose of the Committee and its constitution which sets out its terms of reference, the membership and procedure rules.

Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:

- a) Agree to the establishment of the Economic Prosperity Committee (EPC) as a joint committee of the following local authorities: Ashfield District Council, Bassetlaw District Council, Broxtowe Borough Council, Gedling Borough Council, Mansfield District Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council, Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council (“constituent authorities”);
- b) Agree to the Constitution (Terms of Reference, Membership and procedures) of the Economic Prosperity Committee as set out at **Appendix A**;
- c) Note that any relevant powers previously delegated by the Leader/Executive to individuals or bodies are not expressly withdrawn and will be held concurrently;
- d) Appoint the Leader of the Council as the Council’s representative on the EPC with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Resources to act as substitute;
- e) Agree to Nottingham City Council hosting the Committee and providing all necessary secretarial, legal and financial support services, (including S151 and Monitoring Officer roles) and the annual costs involved (estimated to be around £30,000), to be met in equal share by the constituent authorities, until such time as that this can be recovered in part or in whole from external funding streams;
- f) Agree that this Council’s annual contribution to the cost of servicing the Committee is estimated to be around £3,300 with any expenses for

subsistence or travel in relation to the attendance of councillors at meetings on EPC business being met from the existing budget provision for Members' allowances;

- g) Note that, in accordance with Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000, constituent authorities who operate executive governance will need to make formal scrutiny arrangements to review or scrutinise decisions made in connection with the exercise of functions of the EPC and that the Council's existing scrutiny arrangements will apply;
- h) Note that, for the reasons set out in the report, the Committee will have no powers to co-opt.

Background

1. Councils across Nottinghamshire have recognised that there is an opportunity to strengthen joint working and decision making by establishing an Economic Prosperity Committee. In July 2013 the council Leaders and Mayor across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire made a commitment to work more closely together to drive future investment in growth and jobs.
2. The EPC will improve joint working and decision making, with better links to the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), and in doing so maximise access to European and Government funding for growth, for the benefit of citizens and business. In parallel, Derby and Derbyshire councils are establishing similar arrangements.
3. The role and responsibilities of LEPs have grown since their inception. Over the next few months, Local Growth Deals will be negotiated with all LEPs. These are the successor to City Deals, enabling access to investment and new powers. The Government will consider a range of factors when negotiating Deals, including the strength of local partnerships such as Joint Committees and the strength and alignment of local plans. LEPs have also been invited to develop their approaches for the European Structural and Investment Funds (SIF) for 2014-2020 - D2N2 is currently consulting on how to prioritise its notional allocation in excess of £210m.
4. The new governance arrangements will support the LEP in the following ways:
 - Enable full engagement with all district councils, strengthening the LEP's democratic mandate;
 - Ensure that growth plans realise the LEPs strategy for growth and its vision of creating a more prosperous, better connected, increasingly resilient and competitive economy;
 - Demonstrate how local strategies and plans are aligned to maximise impact and fulfil Government funding criteria;
 - Recommend priorities for investment of some LEP funds (at present the single Local Growth Fund and the European Structural Investment Funds - variously contracted to SIF or ESI), based on local knowledge;

- Help simplify the local government landscape for business because important investment decisions will be made in one place.
5. The LEP has endorsed this approach. Support to the LEP will be maximised by having such arrangements in both Nottingham/Nottinghamshire and Derby/Derbyshire.
 6. Further consideration will be given to a work programme for the EPC (and how that work programme will be supported), as Government policy is evolving. An example of such a consideration is how the EPC's work will link to wider activity on the skills agenda.
 7. D2N2 recommended this approach with its Board on 3 September 2013. D2N2 consulted on SIF funding over the summer of 2013. The Nottinghamshire Leaders / Mayor were consulted on the formation of a joint committee on 6 September 2013, following the Nottinghamshire Chief Executives being consulted on this approach on 23 August 2013. Information was made available to all the relevant Legal and Democratic teams via a working group between 24 September and 8 November 2013.
 8. All of the constituent local authorities within the LEP are progressing the proposal through their individual governance structures and have contributed to the development of the terms of reference and constitution for the EPC. The D2N2 LEP Board have also discussed and approved the proposals to create a Joint Committee.
 9. Proposals for the establishment of an EPC have been developed to further strengthen the current governance arrangements of the D2N2 LEP and provide the necessary democratic accountability for the management of LEP funding streams such as the single Local Growth Fund and for strategic decision making on investment in growth and jobs in the City and County. The proposal provides democratic decision making for the allocation of funds within the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire jurisdiction of the LEP
 10. It is recognised that the LEP could maintain its current governance structure. However, the proposed arrangements will ensure that decisions are made in a more co-ordinated way that achieves maximum benefit for the economic area. Also, it is clear from Government Guidance that: the LEP is less likely to be successful in any bid to the single Local Growth Fund without enhanced governance; and that it would be less able to negotiate a Growth Deal; and that its governance arrangements would not be seen as robust when taking decisions over significant levels of funding.
 11. In the development of the proposals alternative governance models such as a Combined Authority or a Prosperity Board have been considered, but at this stage a Joint Committee is regarded by the constituent authorities as the most appropriate option. It is the only option deliverable within the necessary timescales.

Legal implications

12. Section 101(5) Local Government Act 1972 enables two or more local authorities to discharge any of their functions jointly and arrange for the discharge of those functions by a Joint Committee.

13. Section 9EB of the 2000 Act enables the Secretary of State to make Regulations permitting arrangements under Section 101 (5) where any of the functions are the responsibility of the executive of the authority. The relevant regulations are the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012/1019.
14. Regulation 11 makes provision for joint arrangements to involve a joint committee under Section 101(5) of the 1972 Act. As all the functions being delegated to the EPC are executive functions, the Regulations and Council's constitution allow the decision to establish the EPC and determine the number of members to be appointed to the EPC and their terms of office to be made by the Leader or Executive Mayor or other relevant decision maker or body. The regulations also require that the members appointed to the EPC should be members of the Executive.
15. Regulation 12 covers membership of joint committees and confirms political balance would not apply. Where, as in the case of the EPC, all the powers that are being exercised are executive functions, the regulations do not allow for any co-option by the constituent authorities operating under executive arrangements (although that power exists for the constituent authorities where the governance is by committee). A pragmatic approach would therefore be not to permit co-option to the committee. Where it is considered beneficial for non-members, for example a representative of D2N2 to contribute to the proceedings of the EPC, the Chair of the Committee may however invite members of the public to attend and speak.
16. Any Freedom of Information requests received by the EPC should be directed to the relevant constituent authority for it to be dealt with in the usual way, taking account of the relevant legislation. Where the request relates to information held by two or more constituent authorities, they will liaise with each other before replying to the request. The host authority will co-ordinate responses to ensure that legislative deadlines are met.

Financial Comments

The Joint Committee provides a mechanism through which its constituent authorities can engage with the LEP on investment priorities across the Nottinghamshire area. This will provide a mechanism for accessing funds earmarked for Nottinghamshire by the D2N2 LEP including £213.4m of EU growth funding and an amount yet to be received by D2N2 under the single Local Growth Fund element of the D2N2's Local Growth Deal.

It is proposed that the Joint Committee's secretarial, legal and financial support services will be provided Nottingham City Council with the resultant costs being shared equally between the member authorities. It is estimated that such services will cost approximately £30,000 leading to a cost per authority of around £3,300 per annum. Travel and subsistence costs relating to the Joint Committee will be met by individual constituent authorities.

It should be noted that these costs do not include any allowance for technical advice and support which, if provided on a central basis for the Joint Committee, would lead to additional costs being incurred. As the Joint Committee develops, it will need to be determined whether such costs will also be shared equally between the constituent authorities or whether an alternate model, such as a management charge levied against individual schemes, would need to be introduced.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act

Dealt with within the report

Diversity

As part of the process of making decisions and changing policy, the EPC will be required by law, under the public sector equality duty, to think about the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics (as defined by equalities legislation) and those who don't.
- Foster good relations between people who share protected characteristics and those who don't.

An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed as the report relates to an administrative decision rather than an issue of policy.

Background Papers Available for Inspection:

- BIS: Growth Deals, Initial Guidance for Local Enterprise Partnerships, July 2013
- D2N2: DRAFT EU Structural and Investment Funds Strategy 2014-2020

The City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee

Constitution (terms of reference, membership and procedure rules)

1. Purpose

To bring together local authority partners in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire in a robust, formally constituted arrangement which will drive future investment in growth¹ and jobs in the City and County.

2. Governance

2.1 The Economic Prosperity Committee (“EPC”) will act as a Joint Committee under Section 9EB of the Local Government Act 2000 and pursuant to Regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Arrangement for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012.

2.2 The EPC will comprise the local authorities within the Nottinghamshire area: Ashfield District Council, Bassetlaw District Council, Broxtowe Borough Council, Gedling Borough Council, Mansfield District Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council, Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council (“constituent authorities”).

2.3 Political Proportionality rules will not apply to the EPC as so constituted.

2.4 The EPC will be a legally constituted body with powers delegated to it by the constituent authorities in the following areas:

- a) to prioritise and make decisions on the use of the funding that the EPC may influence or control;
- b) to review future governance requirements and delivery arrangements and how these can be best achieved in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire;
- c) to have direct oversight of key economic growth focussed projects and initiatives that the EPC has influence over the funding of or contributes to;
- d) to have strategic oversight of other key growth focussed projects and initiatives in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

The EPC will not hold funds or monies on behalf of the constituent authorities.

2.5 The EPC’s work plan and the outcome of any wider review into alternative governance may require a change in the delegated powers and terms of reference of the EPC and any such change would require the approval of all the constituent authorities.

3. Remit

¹ As exercised through the D2N2 LEP.

3.1 The remit of the EPC will be:

- a) to act as a local public sector decision making body for strategic economic development, and to make recommendations to the D2N2 LEP on its investment and other priorities;
- b) to prioritise, commission and monitor both investment plans and all European Structural Investment Funds (SIF), and Single Local Growth Fund money that is available to Nottingham and Nottinghamshire via the D2N2 LEP and the EPC;
- c) to oversee the alignment of relevant local authority plans and ensure that they contribute to economic growth;
- d) to actively engage with a range of businesses in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire in relation to the EPC's decision making, and to engage with other stakeholders where appropriate;
- e) to consider and advise on the appropriateness and viability of alternative, successor economic governance arrangements;
- f) to ensure that potential benefits stemming from any overlaps with other LEPs are fully maximised.

4. Membership

- 4.1 One member from each constituent authority (such member to be the Leader/Elected Mayor or other executive member or committee chairman from each constituent authority) and for the purposes of these terms of reference this member will be known as the principal member.
- 4.2 Each constituent authority to have a named substitute member who must be an executive member where the authority operates executive governance arrangements. In those constituent authorities where governance is by committee, that alternate member shall be as per that authority's rules of substitution. All constituent authorities must provide no less than twenty four hours' notice to either the Chairman or the Secretary where a substitute member will be attending in place of the principal member. Regardless of any such notification, where both the principal member and the substitute member attends a meeting of the EPC the principal member shall be deemed as representing their authority by the Chairman or Vice Chair.
- 4.3 In the event of any voting member of the EPC ceasing to be a member of the constituent authority which appointed him/her, the relevant constituent authority shall as soon as reasonably practicable appoint another voting member in his/her place.
- 4.4 Where a member of the EPC ceases to be a Leader / Elected Mayor of the constituent authority which appointed him/her or ceases to be a member of the Executive or Committee Chairman of the constituent authority which appointed him/her, he/she shall also cease to be a member of the EPC and the relevant constituent authority shall as soon as reasonably practicable appoint another voting member in his/her place.
- 4.5 Each constituent authority may remove its principal member or substitute member and appoint a different member or substitute as per that authority's rules of substitution, and by providing twenty four hours' notice to the Chairman or the Secretary.

- 4.6 Co-options onto the Committee are not permitted.
- 4.7 Each constituent authority may individually terminate its membership of the EPC by providing twelve months written notice of its intent to leave the EPC to the Chairman or the Secretary. At the end of these twelve months, but not before, the authority will be deemed to no longer be a member of the EPC.
- 4.8 Where an authority has previously terminated its membership of the EPC it may re-join the EPC with immediate effect on the same terms as existed prior to its departure, where the EPC agrees to that authority re-joining via a majority vote.

5. Quorum

- 5.1 The quorum shall be 6 members. No business will be transacted at a meeting unless a quorum exists at the beginning of a meeting. If at the beginning of any meeting, the Chairman or Secretary after counting the members present declares that a quorum is not present, the meeting shall stand adjourned.

6. Chairman and Vice Chairman

- 6.1 The chairmanship of the EPC will rotate annually between the principal member of the City of Nottingham and the principal member of Nottinghamshire County Council. The position of Vice Chairman shall be filled by the principal member of one of the district/borough council members of the EPC and this role will rotate annually between district/borough councils. The Chairman or in his/her absence the Vice-Chairman or in his/her absence the member of the EPC elected for this purpose, shall preside at any meeting of the EPC.
- 6.2 Appointments will be made in May of each year. The first appointments will be made part way through the municipal year and will continue until May 2015, unless otherwise agreed.
- 6.3 Where, at any meeting or part of a meeting of the EPC both the Chairman and Vice Chairman are either absent or unable to act as Chairman or Vice Chairman, the EPC shall elect one of the members of the EPC present at the meeting to preside for the balance of that meeting or part of the meeting, as appropriate. For the avoidance of doubt, the role of Chairman and Vice-Chairman vests in the principal member concerned and in their absence the role of Chairman or Vice-Chairman will not automatically fall to the relevant constituent authority's substitute member.

7. Voting

- 7.1 One member, one vote for each constituent authority.
- 7.2 All questions shall be decided by a majority of the votes of the members present, the Chairman having the casting vote in addition to his/her vote as a member of the Committee. Voting at meetings shall be by show of hands.
- 7.3 On the requisition of any two Members, made before the vote is taken, the voting on any matter shall be recorded by the Secretary so as to show how each Member voted and there shall also be recorded the name of any Member present who abstained from voting.

8. Sub-Committees and Advisory Groups

- 8.1 The EPC may appoint sub-committees from its membership as required to enable it to execute its responsibilities effectively and may delegate tasks and powers to the sub-committee as it sees fit.
- 8.2 The EPC may set up advisory groups as required to enable it to execute its responsibilities effectively and may delegate tasks as it sees fit to these bodies, which may be formed of officers or members of the constituent authorities or such third parties as the EPC considers appropriate.

9. Hosting and Administration

9.1 The EPC will be hosted by Nottingham City Council and the Director of Legal and Democratic Services from that authority shall be Secretary to the Committee (“the Secretary”). The Host Authority will also provide s151 and Monitoring Officer roles and legal advice to the EPC. The administrative costs of supporting the committee will be met equally by the constituent authorities, with each authority being responsible for receiving and paying any travel or subsistence claims from its own members.

9.2 The functions of the Secretary shall be:

- a) to maintain a record of membership of the EPC and any sub-committees or advisory groups appointed;
- b) to publish and notify the proper officers of each constituent authority of any anticipated “key decisions” to be taken by the EPC to enable the requirements as to formal notice of key decisions as given under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 to be met;
- c) to carry out such notification to and consultation with members of any appointing constituent authority as may be necessary to enable the EPC to take urgent “key decisions” in accordance with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012;
- d) to summon meetings of the EPC or any sub-committees or advisory groups;
- e) to prepare and send out the agenda for meetings of the EPC or any sub-committees or advisory groups; in consultation with the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Committee (or sub-committee/ advisory group);
- f) to keep a record of the proceedings of the EPC or any sub-committees or advisory groups, including those in attendance, declarations of interests, and to publish the minutes;
- g) to take such administrative action as may be necessary to give effect to decisions of the EPC or any sub-committees or advisory groups;
- h) to perform such other functions as may be determined by the EPC from time to time.

10. Meetings

10.1 The EPC will meet no less than quarterly and meetings will be aligned where necessary with deadlines for decisions on resources and investment plans.

10.2 Meetings will be held at such times, dates and places as may be notified to the members of the EPC by the Secretary, being such time, place and location as the EPC shall from time to time resolve. Meeting papers will be circulated five clear working days in advance of any meeting. The Chairman may choose to accept or reject urgent items that are tabled at any meeting.

10.3 Additional ad hoc meetings may be called by the Secretary, in consultation, where practicable, with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee, in response to receipt of a request in writing, which request sets out an urgent item of business within the functions of the EPC, addressed to the Secretary:

- (a) from and signed by two members of the EPC, or
- (b) from the Chief Executive of any of the constituent authorities.

10.4 Urgent, virtual meetings facilitated via teleconference, video conferencing or other remote working methodologies may be called by the Secretary, in consultation, where practicable, with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the EPC, in response to receipt of a request in writing, which request sets out an urgent item of business within the functions of the EPC, addressed to the Secretary:

- (a) from and signed by two members of the EPC; or
- (b) from the Chief Executive of any of the constituent authorities.

Any such virtual meeting must comply with the access to information provisions and enable public access to proceedings.

10.5 The Secretary shall settle the agenda for any meeting of the EPC after consulting, where practicable, the Chairman or in their absence the Vice Chairman; and shall incorporate in the agenda any items of business and any reports submitted by:

- (a) the Chief Executive of any of the constituent authorities;
- (b) the Chief Finance Officer to any of the constituent authorities;
- (c) the Monitoring Officer to any of the constituent authorities;
- (d) the officer responsible for economic development at any of the constituent authorities; or
- (e) any two Members of the EPC.

10.6 The EPC shall, unless the person presiding at the meeting or the EPC determines otherwise in respect of that meeting, conduct its business in accordance with the procedure rules set out in paragraph 13 below.

11. Access to Information

11.1 Meetings of the EPC will be held in public except where confidential or exempt information, as defined in the Local Government Act 1972, is being discussed.

11.2 These rules do not affect any more specific rights to information contained elsewhere under the law.

11.3 The Secretary will ensure that the relevant legislation relating to access to information is complied with. Each constituent authority is to co-operate with the Secretary in fulfilling any requirements.

11.4 Any Freedom of Information Act requests received by the EPC should be directed to the relevant constituent authority(s) for that authority to deal with in the usual way, taking account of the relevant legislation. Where the request relates to information held by two or more constituent authorities, they will liaise with each other before replying to the request.

12. Attendance at meetings

12.1 The Chairman may invite any person, whether a member or officer of one of the constituent authorities or a third party, to attend the meeting and speak on any matter before the EPC.

12.2 Third parties may be invited to attend the EPC on a standing basis following a unanimous vote of those present and voting.

12.3 Where agenda items require independent experts or speakers, the Officer or authority proposing the agenda item should indicate this to the Secretary and provide the Secretary with details of who is required to attend and in what capacity. The participation of independent experts or speakers in EPC meetings will be subject to the discretion of the Chair.

13. Procedure Rules

13.1 Attendance

13.1.1 At every meeting, it shall be the responsibility of each member to enter his/her name on an attendance record provided by the Secretary from which attendance at the meeting will be recorded.

13.2 Order of Business

13.2.1 Subject to paragraph 13.2.2, the order of business at each meeting of the EPC will be:

- i. Apologies for absence
- ii. Declarations of interests
- iii. Approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the last meeting
- iv. Matters set out in the agenda for the meeting which will clearly indicate which are key decisions and which are not
- v. Matters on the agenda for the meeting which, in the opinion of the Secretary are likely to be considered in the absence of the press and public

13.2.2 The person presiding at the meeting may vary the order of business at the meeting.

13.3 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

13.3.1 If a Member is aware that he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting, the Member must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held:

- (a) in the case where paragraph 13.3.2 below applies, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence;
- (b) in any other case, wherever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at that meeting;

unless the Member has obtained a dispensation from their own authority's Standards Committee or Monitoring Officer. Such dispensation to be notified to the Secretary prior to the commencement of the meeting.

13.3.2 Where a member has a disclosable pecuniary interest in any business of the EPC, the Member may attend the meeting (or a sub –committee or advisory group of the committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.

13.4 Minutes

13.4.1 There will be no discussion or motion made in respect of the minutes other except as to their accuracy. If no such question is raised or if it is raised then as soon as it has been disposed of, the Chairman shall sign the minutes.

13.5 Rules of Debate

13.5.1 Respect for the Chairman

A Member wishing to speak shall address the Chairman and direct their comments to the question being discussed. The Chairman shall decide the order in which to take representations from members wishing to speak and shall decide all questions of order. His/her ruling upon all such questions or upon matters arising in debate shall be final and shall not be open to discussion.

13.5.2 Motions / Amendments

A motion or amendment shall not be discussed unless it has been proposed and seconded. When a motion is under debate no other motion shall be moved except the following:

- i. To amend the motion
- ii. To adjourn the meeting
- iii. To adjourn the debate or consideration of the item
- iv. To proceed to the next business
- v. That the question now be put
- vi. That a member be not further heard or do leave the meeting
- vii. To exclude the press and public under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972

13.6 Conduct of Members

13.6.1 Members of the EPC will be subject to their own authority's Code of Conduct.

14. Application to Sub-Committees

14.1 The procedure rules and also the Access to Information provisions set out at paragraph 11 shall apply to meetings of any sub-committees of the EPC.

15. Scrutiny of decisions

15.1 Each constituent authority which operates executive arrangements will be able to scrutinise the decisions of the EPC in accordance with that constituent authority's overview and scrutiny arrangements.

16. Winding up of the EPC

16.1 The EPC may be wound up immediately by a unanimous vote of all constituent authorities.

17. Amendment of this Constitution.

17.1 This Constitution can only be amended by resolution of each of the constituent authorities.

Report of the Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods

Cabinet Portfolio Holder – Councillor N C Lawrence

Summary

The discretionary green waste collection scheme has been successfully operating as a chargeable service since 2011/12 with over 28,000 members. This report explains the arrangements that are required to ensure an effective and efficient renewal process for 2014/15. The report also highlights changes in the fee structure as cost pressures relating to key service consumables such as fuel have continued to mount and there is a need to ensure that the service moves back towards a cost recovery basis.

Recommendations

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet endorse the renewal process for the Green Waste Club Scheme 2014/15

Background

1. A charge for the discretionary green waste collection service was introduced in March 2011 for the financial year commencing 2011/12. At the time a fee was set of £25 for the first bin and £10 for subsequent bins. The cost of £25 roughly equated to the costs of delivering the green waste collection service in 2009/10.
2. Following a very successful renewal process in 2012/13 and again in 2013/14 the green waste collection scheme has steadily grown in popularity from 25,837 members to 28,436. In addition to an overall increase in customer numbers a particular increase has been seen in those customers with larger gardens wanting additional green bins.
3. As part of the renewal process for 2012/13 a satisfaction survey was undertaken and this gave a very positive score of 85% overall satisfaction with the green waste collection service. A similar survey carried out in May for 2013/14 resulted in an increase to 89% satisfaction.
4. In terms of recycling performance the scheme has not had a major impact as the continued take up of the scheme and the actual tonnage presented by residents i.e. fuller wheeled bins has seen recycling performance remain buoyant at 51.5% for 2012/13. This places the Council as the best performing Council in the county and in the top 20% of authorities, for recycling performance, in the country.

5. The past year has also seen the Council launch the first edition of the Rushcliffe Gardner magazine which is part of the Council's aspirations to grow the scheme, bring a wider range of benefits to scheme members and to develop the club concept. The magazine included over £10 of vouchers from a local garden centre and the businesses that supported it saw an increase in their footfall.

Considerations for 2014/15

6. To ensure the timely and effective administration of the scheme the renewal process has to commence around week commencing 27 January 2014 to allow club members to have sufficient time to renew as collections will cease for members not re-joining by 31 March 2014. As in previous years residents may join the scheme at any point during the year upon payment of the full annual fee
7. The current level of gross income for green waste collection is £759,510 however work has been undertaken to compare the current income against the cost of delivering the service (£900,000) which provides evidence that the Council are now subsidising the service by approximately £140,000.
8. This is primarily due to an increase in the costs of materials and supplies associated with delivering the service e.g. tyres and in particular fuel costs which have risen since the original fee was set. Such costs and future fee levels will continue to be monitored as part of the Council's budget process.
9. However the current situation and the need to move the service back towards a cost recovery basis was explored by Members of the Council as part of the budget consultation workshop in November 2013. During the exercise Members considered a number of different charging options.
10. The Members that attended both events showed strong support for increasing the fee to £30 for the first bin and £15 for each additional wheeled bin. Based on the data for 2013/14 this change would generate additional income of approximately £140,000 taking into account the likely attrition rate across single and multiple wheeled bin customers. Essentially the change should put the green waste collection service back on a cost recovery basis.
11. Such a fee still compares favourably with similar charges elsewhere as there continues to be significant variations across the country with the highest being in London at £69 however Sheffield charge £40 and Melton Borough Council charge £32 per wheeled bin via their scheme delivered by Biffa. Currently in the county the highest charge is Gedling with £34 with Mansfield charging £25 for the first and any subsequent collections and then charging £30 in Newark and Sherwood. This is the same fee that the Council will be charging when it expands its service into the south west of Newark and Sherwood in April 2014.
12. Therefore in line with the Council's scheme of delegation officers will be taking on board the feedback from the Member's budget workshops and making arrangements to proceed with the 2014/15 renewal plan.

Financial Comments

The main financial implications are contained within the body of the report.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act

There are no crime and disorder implications from this report.

Diversity

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and the increase in fee for 2104/15 may have a disproportionate impact on members of the scheme that are physically disabled and who therefore may not be able to easily make alternative arrangements to deal with their green waste.

Background Papers Available for Inspection:

Equality Impact Assessment - Green Waste Collections November 2013