

**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
CABINET**

TUESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2017

Held at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Rushcliffe Arena, Rugby Road, West Bridgford

PRESENT:

Councillors S J Robinson (Chairman), A J Edyvean, D J Mason, R G Upton

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors R Jones, A MacInnes, G R Mallender
12 members of the public

OFFICERS PRESENT:

M Elliott	Constitutional Services Team Leader
P Linfield	Executive Manager - Finance and Corporate Services
K Marriott	Executive Manager - Operations and Transformation
D Mitchell	Executive Manager - Communities
L Webb	Constitutional Services Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor G S Moore

16. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

17. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 July 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

18. Local Plan Part Two – Preferred Sites

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning presented the report of the Executive Manager – Communities which provided information on the level of new housing development that the Local Plan Part 2 needed to establish. The report also recommended a number of proposed housing and mixed use site allocations at settlements across the Borough in order to meet this need. The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning noted that the UK housing market was under unprecedented pressure with a national shortage of houses and that in Rushcliffe the pressure on housing was particularly acute with housing demand far outstripping supply and a lack of affordable homes. It was also noted that Rushcliffe could not currently demonstrate a 5 year supply of deliverable housing as demanded by government. If this situation was not addressed, there was the serious risk of successful planning appeals to develop greenfield sites indiscriminately across the Borough. However, if the Council could identify suitable and sustainable sites for development it would

put the Council back in control and allow it to manage development responsibly and in a way that protected the Borough's open countryside.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning advised that it was proposed that the Borough Council identified and published its preferred housing sites for the purposes of consultation, and that following consultation, all feedback received would be considered before finalising the draft Local Plan Part 2.

The Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy was adopted by the Council on 22 December 2014 and set out the broad planning policy direction for Rushcliffe and allocated strategic sites for development, as well as providing the strategic policies for key areas in relation to housing, the economy, the environment, transport, renewable energy and supporting infrastructure. The Plan also set out that there would be a minimum of 13,150 new homes delivered between 2011 and 2028 (774 per annum), as well as providing information on the areas across the Borough where the housing growth would be required to be delivered.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning advised that Local Plan Part 2 (Land and Planning Policies) was the second part of the Local Plan and that it would identify non-strategic allocations and designations in the Borough. Part 2 of the Plan would also set out more detailed policies (sitting below the Core Strategy's more strategic level policies) for use in the determination of planning applications.

The officer's report contained details of 27 potential housing development sites across the Borough that had been identified for consultation upon.

It was proposed that following the earlier rounds of Local Plan consultation, the Borough Council should identify its 'preferred' proposed housing site allocations and that these preferred sites would be published and consulted on as soon as possible during late September/October 2017. After the consultation period, all feedback received would then be considered before finalising the draft Local Plan Part 2 early in 2018. The draft Plan, which would cover housing land delivery and other relevant matters, would then be published and representations invited from anyone who wishes to support or object to its content. The draft Plan and all representations received would then be submitted to the Secretary of State who would then appoint a Planning Inspector to conduct an examination in public to determine whether or not the Plan was sound and legally compliant.

Councillor Robinson advised that while he thought the amount of new houses that the government expected Rushcliffe to deliver was too high he emphasised that for the Council to keep control of where these houses were built it was essential that it identified enough suitable sites for development. Councillor Robinson also stressed the importance of local residents engaging fully in the proposed consultation on housing sites. Councillor Mason in seconding the recommendations agreed that while consultation was important it was essential for the strategy to move forwards in order to ensure that Rushcliffe Borough Council was able to demonstrate how it would meet its target for new homes and keep control of where houses were built.

Councillor Robinson thanked officers and members of the Local Development Forum for their hard work in preparing the report and in anticipation of their work that would be required to move the strategy forwards.

It was RESOLVED that:

- a) the proposed housing and mixed use site allocations, as detailed in the officer's report, be supported and that details of the sites be published for the purposes of public consultation.
- b) authority be delegated to the Executive Manager - Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Planning and Housing, to determine the form of the consultation and the detail of the main consultation document.

Reason for decisions

To enable preparation of the Local Plan Part 2 to progress further, and to identify preferred housing and mixed use site allocations for the purpose of consultation prior to finalising the draft Plan.

19. Growth Boards – a position statement

The Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Borough Wide Leadership presented the report of the Chief Executive. It was noted that the Growth Boards had been established in December 2015 following endorsement from Cabinet after the success achieved by the Cotgrave Strategic Board. The Growth Boards that had since been established included the Strategic Growth Board to oversee growth across the whole borough, and the Bingham and Radcliffe on Trent Growth Board and the West Bridgford Growth Board. As the boards had been operating for eighteen months, and following the appointment of the new Leader in May 2017 it was recommended that this would be an ideal time to review the Boards and their membership and to receive an update of their work in order to consider their future priorities in order to ensure that the Boards continued to be effective in their role.

The Leader informed Cabinet that at the meeting of the Bingham and Radcliffe on Trent Board in July it had been recommended that the Board be split into two separate Boards – one for Bingham and the other for Radcliffe on Trent – due to the large scale development plans for both Radcliffe on Trent and Bingham. The report noted that it was essential for the Council to give the areas the right level of resource and commitment in order to fully realise the potential of the plans for these areas. It was anticipated that the new Boards would be operational by the end of 2017 which would allow time for the proposed changes to be agreed by Borough, Town and Parish Councils.

All members of the Cabinet welcomed the review of the Growth Boards in order to support the anticipated and planned growth in both Radcliffe on Trent and Bingham. Councillor Edyvean noted that Growth Boards in Bingham and Cotgrave were delivering economic growth as well as having positive impacts on areas such as housing, schools and healthcare.

It was RESOLVED that:

- a) the work to date of the Growth Boards be acknowledged.
- b) the new Chairman appointed for each of the Growth Boards be noted.
- c) the Bingham and Radcliffe on Trent Growth Board be replaced by two individual Growth Boards for Bingham and Radcliffe on Trent by the end of 2017.

Reason for decisions

To ensure that the Growth Boards are able to meet the objectives of the new Leader and Cabinet as well as to add value to, and to help achieve the ambitions of the Council.

20. ICT Partnership Agreement

The Leader, on behalf of the Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the report of the Executive Manager – Transformation and Operations which recommended for approval the Rushcliffe Borough Council ICT Strategy 2017 – 21.

The proposed ICT strategy had been developed in consultation with employees, managers, and the wider ICT shared service partnership which had been established in July 2011 between Broxtowe Borough Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council with the proposed ICT strategy being the first common strategy for ICT service delivery across all three partner organisations. It was noted that while the strategy contained broad strategic objectives along with the rationale behind those objectives, including the benefits and deliverables that would be achieved, it did not set out to provide a strict formula or action plan dictating the approach that would be taken to deliver the strategic objectives. Information on the role and achievements of the partnership was also included in the report.

This report also provided details on how the Council proposed to meet the requirements to have a named Data Protection Officer which had been introduced as a result of the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) relating to personal data. The introduction of the GDPR meant that the Council was required to have a named Data Protection Officer (DPO) in place to ensure that the regulations were adhered to. The council's current arrangements for the overall Information Governance function included a Chief Information Officer currently shared with the ICT shared service partnership and the report recommended that this post holder was also designated by Rushcliffe Borough Council to be its Data Protection Officer in line with the actions taken by both Broxtowe Borough Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council.

In seconding the recommendations Councillor Edyvean noted the success of the ICT Partnership. Councillor Mason agreed with this view and noted the importance of having an excellent ICT service to Rushcliffe Borough Council's reputation.

It was RESOLVED that:

- a) the new ICT strategy be approved and implemented.
- b) the decision of the Chief Executive to assign the responsibilities of the Data Protection Officer to the post of Chief Information Officer be supported.

Reason for decisions

The Council's new ICT strategy will support its corporate priorities of transforming the Council to enable the delivery of efficient high quality services.

21. Discretionary Rates Update

The Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Borough Wide Leadership introduced the report of the Executive Manager – Finance and Corporate Services. The Leader advised that the revaluation of business rates by government had significantly impacted the finances of businesses, therefore in order to mitigate the impact, the government had announced that additional funds would be available to assist local councils to provide revaluation support by way of additional business rate relief. It was announced that Rushcliffe Borough Council had been allocated £288,500 phased over four years to provide the discretionary relief scheme.

The Leader explained that three relief schemes would operate and that these were detailed in the officer's report, he also advised that there may be delays to the implementation of these schemes due to the need to consult with the major preceptors including Nottinghamshire County Council and the Fire Authority.

Councillor Mason stated that she was in support of implementing the discretionary rate relief scheme as it would be a method of bridging the gap to mitigate the impact of the recent rateable value revaluation. Councillor Upton informed Cabinet that he was pleased that the government had recognised that the recent rateable value revaluation was worrying for businesses and had proposed a solution. The Leader concluded by stating that businesses were key to the economic growth and employment within the Borough and assured Cabinet that relief would be given to those businesses who were eligible as soon as possible.

It was RESOLVED that:

- a) the discretionary business rate relief scheme and the principles and conditions, as set out at paragraph 4.3 and in appendix one of the officer's report, be approved.
- b) the Executive Manager – Finance and Corporate Services be delegated authority to take account of any responses to the consultation exercise and finalise the scheme so that relief can be provided as quickly as possible to local businesses.

Reasons for decisions

To accord with good financial governance.

That (as directed by the Government) Nottinghamshire County Council and the Combine Fire Authority are consulted regarding the proposed discretionary scheme.

The meeting closed at 7.36 pm.

CHAIRMAN