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Our reference:  
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Date: 14 August 2017



To all Members of the Community Development Group

Dear Councillor

A meeting of the **Community Development Group** will be held on Tuesday 22 August 2017 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Rushcliffe Arena, Rugby Road, West Bridgford to consider the following items of business.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. B.', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Deputy Monitoring Officer

## AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Notes of the Meeting held on Thursday 1 June 2017 (pages 1 - 7).
4. Review and Future of YouNG

The report of the Chief Executive is attached (pages 8 - 12).

5. Tree Protection and Promotion in Rushcliffe

The report of the Executive Manager - Communities is attached (pages 13 - 34).

6. Work Programme

The report of the Executive Manager - Finance and Corporate Services is attached (pages 35 - 36).

### Membership

Chairman: Councillor T Combellack  
Vice-Chairman: Councillor J E Thurman  
Councillors: M Buckle, B Buschman, M J Edwards, R A Inglis, K A Khan, F A Purdue-Horan, J G A Wheeler.

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**NOTES**  
**OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**  
**THURSDAY 1 JUNE 2017**

Held at 7PM in Council Chamber A, Rushcliffe Arena, Rugby Road, West Bridgford

**PRESENT:**

Councillors J E Thurman (Vice Chairman in the Chair), M Buckle, M J Edwards, R A Inglis, F A Purdue-Horan, J G A Wheeler

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

D Drury      NGi  
G Wood      NGi

**OFFICERS PRESENT:**

K Dewale    YouNG Intern  
M Emerson   YouNG Ambassador  
A Graham    Chief Executive  
D Hayden    Principal Community Development Officer  
D Mitchell   Executive Manager – Communities  
D Mumba    YouNG Intern  
L Webb      Constitutional Services Officer  
M Yorke      YouNG Apprentice

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Councillor T Combellack

**NON-ATTENDERS:**

Councillors B Buschman and K A Khan.

**1. Declarations of Interest**

There were none declared.

**2. Notes of the Previous Meeting**

The notes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21 February 2017 were accepted as a true record. The Chairman was concerned that there had been no response from Mr Berrill of Nottinghamshire County Council in regards to him providing the Group with an updated postcode map of broadband coverage for the Borough.

**3. Review and Future of YouNG.**

The Community Development Group first received a presentation from the Chief Executive in which he explained the concept of the YouNG project. Councillor's made the Chief Executive aware that they were all aware of what YouNG was but that they had little if any experience of how it operates. The Chief Executive explained that YouNG was launched in 2012 as the outcome of the Olympic legacy which aimed to release the talent of the next generation

of young people and inspire them to achieve. YouNG Ambassadors are employed by Rushcliffe Borough Council, one from each secondary school in the Borough in which their aim is to use the power of social media to promote YouNG in their school. The YouNG Ambassadors also gain work experience through planning and delivering two YouNG Markets a year, which have been growing in popularity. The Chief Executive believed that the main concept of YouNG is that it is currently delivered for young people by young people as the project is managed by two interns from Nottingham Trent University, a social media apprentice and the seven YouNG ambassadors.

The Chief Executive explained that YouNG's main target are the secondary schools in Rushcliffe and in particular the young students he described as the 'forgotten middle' as even though they are all high performing schools it is hard to believe that all students are performing at the highest level.

The Chief Executive explained to the Group that the review conducted by consultants Internet Guru regarding the impact of YouNG had helped in clarifying the current impact of the initiative and had concluded that there was a case for further development. The Group were then presented with some options of different organisations that YouNG could work with in order to increase the range of young people that the project could reach.

It was considered that there may be an opportunity for YouNG to work more closely with Positive Futures who are a charitable trust. This would mean that YouNG could have greater access to young people who are in need of direction and help to enter the work place.

The Chief Executive also raised the opportunity for YouNG to further develop their work with NGi who are a local West Bridgford based company who the Council is working with in delivering the YouNG goes Euro project with international partners. The company had been successful in bringing in Erasmus+ European funding and this could be expanded further.

Finally the Chief Executive asked the Group to evaluate whether YouNG was sustainable for the future and whether the project was innovative or simply replicating similar projects in a crowded market by answering the following questions...

- Can it be sustainable?
- Is it providing added value?
- Is it meeting the Councils corporate objectives?
- Should we develop a business model to bring back to you and Cabinet?

In the absence of Internet Guru, The Principal Community Development Officer next gave a presentation covering their key findings. Internet Guru were commissioned in September 2016 to review the success of the YouNG initiative and to make recommendations regarding the future. They concluded that YouNG was a careers discovery initiative, which helps a young person figure out what they want to do in the future based on their own interests whilst educating them about the world of work. Internet Guru carried out research including over forty hours of interviews and then gave recommendations of how YouNG can continue in the short and long term. Internet Guru carried out

interviews with Councillors, YouNG employees and the secondary schools in Rushcliffe. They also interviewed partners at a regional level such as employees of Gedling Borough Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham Trent University.

It was concluded that overall YouNG had a positive impact upon young people. One of their key findings was that YouNG's unique selling point was that it was delivered for young people by young people which enables young people to gain hands on work experience. Internet Guru were also particularly in favour of the work experience and the YouNG market elements of the project. They recognised that nationally and locally there is a shortage of work readiness within young people. In the short term Internet Guru suggested that YouNG should engage with more young people as this would improve the cost benefit ratio. The report stated the importance of Rushcliffe Borough Council continuing to invest in the project however, Internet Guru could see YouNG becoming independent of Rushcliffe Borough Council by 2020 but with the Council maintaining some influence.

After considering options for the future of YouNG the Principal Community Development Officer stated that he would recommend developing YouNG by capitalising on its existing achievements in order to increase its impact and reach to young people. The Principal Community Development Officer then asked Councillors to consider the next steps of committing to its on-going funding, to engage regional influencers and to develop a three year plan to move YouNG to a regional initiative.

The next presentation was given by Mr Drury of NGi who explained that they are a company based in West Bridgford that has over 50 years combined experience of working in sales, marketing, learning, development and further education. NGi focuses on apprenticeships, employability and enterprise with national and international organisations to share experiences, identify best practice and develop new work programmes for young people to help them succeed in a global environment.

NGi were of the belief that the UK education system is not adequately preparing young people for their future after education, mainly due to the loss of experiential learning. Mr Drury explained that there have been several national reports identifying that the current education system often leaves young people lacking in skills to enter the workplace. Young people should be given the opportunity to understand the world of work through engagement with employers and meaningful work experience which was one of the main objectives of the YouNG initiative.

Mr Drury explained that the YouNG Goes Euro project aims to internationalise YouNG. The three year project has secured €331,000 worth of funding through the Erasmus+ programme which aims to export the YouNG market concept to Italy, Poland and Slovakia. Mr Drury stated that NGi are developing a short course for young people to teach them about international trading and are currently working on an E Enterprise concept, teaching young people how to sell online internationally. As part of the project, the funding provides the opportunity for young people of Rushcliffe to take part in a European YouNG Market to learn how to trade internationally. In November 2016 Rushcliffe Borough Council took a cohort of ten students to Rome to trade their hand

made products at a YouNG Market in which they made over €550 worth of sales. The project is currently on track and is due to finish in September 2018.

Another project which NGi are currently working on is the Enterprise Advisor Network aspect of the Careers and Enterprise Company which is funded by D2N2. They aim to work with schools to help them build plans for careers education and to help them gain connections with employers. They are now working with twenty two schools across Rushcliffe, Gedling, Broxtowe and Newark and Sherwood. As NGi now have these connections with these schools they are using this opportunity to promote YouNG by organising for the YouNG employees to present assemblies to students.

After considering the Internet Guru report NGi believed that it does not have a clear path for future activity and that due to their experiences they believed that some of the suggestions within the report would not work. They believed that it would be more beneficial to become more 'self-sustaining' by increasing its income. Mr Drury outlined their recommendations for the future options of YouNG including reducing the salaries of the employees of YouNG, reducing the number of ambassadors and seeking corporate sponsorship. During the presentation the YouNG employees spoke to Councillors about their area of work and what skills they had gained whilst working for the YouNG project. All members of the YouNG team were in agreement that they had gained valuable experience and that by working for YouNG they had improved their communication, time management and leadership skills.

Mr Drury also outlined their recommendations for work experience placements and YouNG Markets which included the development of a work experience app to 'best match' young people to work experience opportunities and to develop an 8 week market and enterprise skills programme for schools. They also considered that there is an opportunity to expand on the YouNG Goes Euro project by applying for more funding to take more young people to sell their products abroad and by developing an online trading platform.

In conclusion NGi's key recommendations were to expand on the YouNG market concept and to create further income by developing a sponsorship model. To make the most of European funding whilst the United Kingdom is still part of the EU, by also making Councillors aware that we will always be part of a global environment. NGi recommended that the next steps would be to reconsider the level of funding that Rushcliffe Borough Council are able to commit to, to recruit a leader of the project who would be a dedicated resource to take it onto the next stage and for YouNG to gain its own identity whilst still being under the authority of the Council.

Once the presentations had concluded Councillors asked questions and made a number of comments in regards to their recommendations. The Chairman praised the aspect of the YouNG markets and requested for more information in regards to NGi's suggestion to sell an eight week YouNG Market package to the schools. NGi responded that this would be an eight week term package to promote to the schools where they would be able to recruit YouNG ambassadors to organise a YouNG Market and traders to sell at a YouNG Market. Councillor J. Wheeler also agreed with the Chairman and stated that YouNG's focus should be promoting business within the schools as he believed that young people aged 16 – 25 were not prepared for the world of

work once they leave education. He recommended that YouNG now needs a strategic aim with an end goal.

Councillor Buckle then asked the officers how many young people have not been able to be a part of YouNG due to funding and capacity. The Principal Community Development Officer stated that the YouNG markets are growing in popularity but as there are only two markets are held a year, not everyone who applies is able to become a stall holder. The Principal Community Development Officer also commented on the increased demand for requests for work experience and stated that better relationships with local businesses in order to create more work experience placements could be improved. The Chief Executive also informed Councillors that becoming an ambassador is similar to applying for a job, the YouNG team receive applications from the students and undertake interviews in order to select the successful candidate. Mr Wood also believed that due to the popularity of the YouNG Markets young people could easily receive 40 – 50 applications throughout the schools in Rushcliffe.

After further questions, the Chief Executive stated that YouNG was not trying to replicate other companies such as the Princes Trust and Young Enterprise and believed that the concept that YouNG is run for young people by young people makes the consistency fresh. Councillor Buckle also agreed that a work experience sales pitch should be sold to businesses in order to increase their corporate social responsibility. The YouNG ambassadors then stated that they had delivered sales pitches to members of Rushcliffe Borough Council staff and agreed that work experience should be sold as an opportunity rather than a chore.

Councillor Inglis praised the YouNG team and saw them as positive role models for the Borough. He agreed that the Council should continue to support and promote the project. Councillor Edwards also agreed that the YouNG ambassadors selected for the project had prospered; however, he was concerned that only 234 young people had taken part in the project over four years. Councillor Edwards believed that YouNG needed to develop a critical mass in order to progress. Referring to the Internet Guru report, Councillor Edwards disagreed with the recommendation to appoint a project leader for three days a week in order to create this critical mass. However, Councillor Edwards did agree with the recommendation that YouNG needs to decide on a target market to aim for in order to stop focusing on too many aspects.

It was also suggested that YouNG is opened up to the further education colleges however the Chief Executive remarked that although Central College have been involved previously there was an issue of how the Colleges work alongside the schools. The Chief Executive also revealed to the Group that the two YouNG interns were students at Nottingham Trent University and that the Council were able to create a deal with the university whereby the Council funded one intern and the university the other. There were concerns that the schools in Rushcliffe were criticised in NGi's presentation in regards to the education system not efficiently preparing their students for their future career. The Chief Executive reassured Councillors that the schools are often measured on the qualification achievements of their students and so it is hard for schools to provide careers education. For example, the YouNG Ambassador stated that due to the students busy schedules whilst preparing

for their GCSE exams the students find it difficult to seek advice with their schools careers advisor during school hours. The Chief Executive stated that it is evident that the government are starting to highlight workability as important although the pressure points are still not there for the schools to fully implement effective careers education. The Chief Executive also stated that Internet Guru were chosen to undertake the research and publish the report due to their independency from working with the Council.

In concluding the item the Chief Executive suggested that further clarity was needed for Councillors in outlining the changes that could be implemented in order to develop YouNG.

**ACTION:** The officers and NGi to report back to the next Community Development Group Meeting in August to provide more clarity to Councillor's about the changes that could be implemented.

It was AGREED that:

- a) A further report to be provided to Community Development Group detailing the future plan for the continuation and development of YouNG.

#### 4. **Community Development Group Annual Report 2016/17**

The Community Development Group Annual Report 2016/17 was AGREED and APPROVED.

#### 5. **Work Programme**

Date of Meeting	Item
22 August 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and Future of YouNG</li> <li>• Tree Protection and Promotion in Rushcliffe</li> <li>• Work Programme</li> </ul>
21 November 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and Future of YouNG</li> <li>• Work Programme</li> </ul>
20 February 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on Rural Broadband</li> <li>• Review of the Public Spaces Protection Order</li> <li>• Work Programme</li> </ul>

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.



**Action Sheet**  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP - THURSDAY 1 JUNE 2017**

Minute Number	Actions	Officer Responsible	Response
3.	The Officers to report back to the next Community Development Group meeting in August to provide more clarity to Councillors about the changes that could be implemented.	Executive Manager – Communities	An update report will be presented to Community Development Group on 22 August with a final report to be presented on the 21 November.

## Report of the Chief Executive

### 1. Summary

- 1.1. The Council's Corporate Strategy key objective of “maintaining and enhancing our residents’ quality of life” has a strategic task to “facilitate activities for children and young people to enable them to reach their potential”. One of the integral projects aimed at delivering against this corporate objective has been the development and delivery of the YouNG initiative.
- 1.2. In late 2016, to assist the Council in determining its future commitment and involvement in the YouNG initiative, an independent report was commissioned by Internet Guru Ltd. This report was considered by Cabinet in January 2017. Cabinet resolved to request the Community Development Group to evaluate and scrutinise the findings contained within the report received from Internet Guru and upon completion of this scrutiny make recommendation to Cabinet regarding the future delivery of YouNG.
- 1.3. On 1 June 2017, the Community Development Group received a presentation on the Internet Guru report and additionally individuals external to YouNG recommended that a member briefing session be convened to provide wider Members with a better understanding and insight into the work of YouNG. This Member session was delivered on 19 of July 2017.
- 1.4. This paper aims to provide an update on progress to Community Development Group. This includes initial discussions that have taken place with external partners regarding options for the future delivery of YouNG and a timeline to bring back a proposed model to ensure a sustainable future for YouNG.

### 2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Community Development Group:

- a) Note the progress to date regarding initial discussion and the emerging delivery model for YouNG, its links to the other young people related projects that the Council fund and deliver and how this links to the strategic task of “facilitate activities for children and young people to enable them to reach their potential”.
- b) Consider the parameters for the report to be presented to the Community Development Group on 21 November 2017 regarding the future plan for the continuation, or otherwise, of YouNG prior to reporting to Cabinet.

- c) Consider a timescale for funding the YouNG initiative to enable it to develop a sustainable future.

### **3. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1. To provide guidance and direction for the future delivery of the YouNG initiative.

### **4. Supporting Evidence**

- 4.1. There are three separate strands to how the Borough Council delivers its Strategic task to “facilitate activities for children and young people to enable them to reach their potential”.
- 4.2. The YouNG initiative, with its YouNG ambassadors representing each secondary school across Rushcliffe, provides a dialogue with YouNG people across the Borough about their aspiration and ambition whilst also delivering employability skills opportunities such as work experience, YouNG markets and providing advice on future careers and apprenticeships.
- 4.3. The Positive Futures Programme works with young people with complex needs aged 9 years and above within the catchment areas of East Leake Academy, South Nottinghamshire Academy, South Wolds Academy and Toot Hill School. They provide one to one mentoring support for targeted young people as well as positive activities for a wider cohort. In addition, the programme works with 16-24 years who are NEET (not in employment, education or training).
- 4.4. Finally, the Borough has contributed to the local delivery of the Careers Enterprise Company initiative within Rushcliffe, Gedling, Broxtowe and Newark & Sherwood by working in partnership with NGi Ltd. This initiative provides schools with a skills and employability audit that helps them to shape and develop this provision as well as linking them with a local business person to provide ongoing support. Their work through the LEP has increasingly provided the opportunity to understand and establish how the objectives of the YouNG brand could be incorporated beyond the immediate Rushcliffe area.
- 4.5. Discussions with potential external partners have resulted in a growing engagement with NGi (UK) Ltd, D2N2 LEP, Trent Bridge Community Trust (Positive Futures) and Nottingham Trent University.
- 4.6. Initially, discussions have centred upon developing a partnership with NGi Ltd and additional meetings have been arranged between Trent Bridge Community Trust and NGi to explore the potential for a widening collaboration and partnership which may enable the YouNG model to evolve whilst maximising the experience of other partners. The discussions aim to consider elements of leadership, continuity, sustainability and increasing reach to more young people across the Borough and beyond in line with the model previously presented (**Appendix 1**).
- 4.7. The preliminary discussion will centre upon agreeing a clear plan of how the Council could relinquish its leadership role over time. To achieve this, it is likely that continued investment would be required in the short term.

4.8. It will, therefore, be necessary to fully establish the current financial parameters, commitments and challenges within the medium term financial strategy and the corporate objectives set by the Council.

## **5. Other Options Considered**

5.1 Other options are still being considered and will be worked on in more detail depending on the outcome of discussions with the partners listed above. This includes:

- Continue the programme as it is
- RBC continues to fund a scaled down version of YouNG
- Explore options with other partners
- Cease delivering YouNG

## **6. Risk and Uncertainties**

6.1. The risk is that a viable option for the future delivery of YouNG cannot be identified and, therefore, the initiative has to cease. This would leave a gap in employment support and guidance for young people in the Borough.

## **7. Implications**

### **7.1. Finance**

7.1.1 The report identifies the costs currently being attributed to YouNG and shows a total cost for 2015/16 as £89,699. The net cost after deducting income from other partners is currently £70,917.

7.1.2 The net budget for 2016/17 is proposed as £72,870. Costs associated with the delivery of the European programme will be met from the specific grant of €101k over three years.

7.1.3 The net budget allocation from 2017/18 onwards is £85,200; however, it has been suggested that an incremental and increased investment may be required totalling around £29,000 over a three year period. It is, therefore, important that these figures are scrutinised and understood, along with determining if alternative investment or income could be secured through the emerging funding streams being made available via the LEP, Careers Enterprise Company and the new apprenticeship levy arrangements.

### **7.2. Legal**

7.2.1. There are no direct implications contained within this report.

### **7.3. Corporate Priorities**

7.3.1. Supporting economic growth to ensure a sustainable, prosperous and thriving local economy.

7.3.2. Maintaining and enhancing our residents' quality of life.

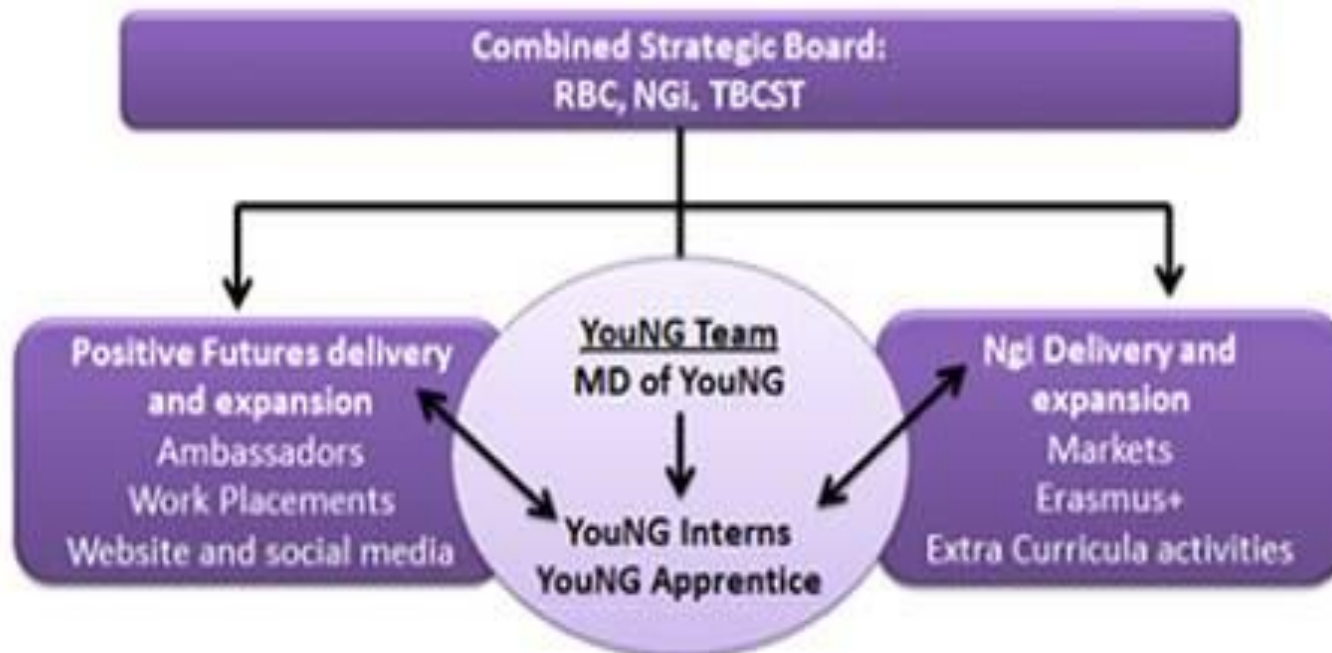
7.3.3. Transforming the Council to enable the delivery of efficient high quality services.

#### 7.4. Other Implications

7.4.1. YouNG work actively to promote equal opportunities in all aspects of service delivery.

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Allen Graham Chief Executive 0115 914 8519 <a href="mailto:agraham@rushcliffe.gov.uk">agraham@rushcliffe.gov.uk</a>
<b>Background papers Available for Inspection:</b>	Report to the Community Development Group, 17 March 2015. 'YouNG Update.'  Report to Cabinet, 8 September 2015. 'Establishment of YouNG as a Community Interest Company.'  Report to Cabinet 10 January 2017 'Review and Future of YouNG.'
<b>List of appendices (if any):</b>	<b>Appendix 1</b> - YouNG proposed delivery Model

YouNG proposed delivery Model



## Report of the Executive Manager - Communities

### 1. Summary

- 1.1. Tree protection and promotion is an issue previously raised by Councillors and the wider public. Some methods of addressing these interests are discussed within the attached document note (**Appendix A**).
- 1.2. Woodland covers 1.04% or 575 hectares of Rushcliffe.
- 1.3. Different areas of Rushcliffe are more suitable for tree cover than other areas.
- 1.4. Council resolved on 5 March 2015 that Cabinet investigate the possibility of a trees and woodlands policy in consultation with the Community Development Group and was subsequently included in the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy, approved by Cabinet in November 2015.
- 1.5. Tree planting is happening within Rushcliffe, through existing processes.

### 2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Community Development Group consider:

- a) The direction and options that the Council should take on tree protection and planting within Rushcliffe.
- b) What recommendations, if any would the Group would like to be taken to Cabinet?

### 3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. To consider how the Council resolution of 5 March 2015 is being and should be implemented.

### 4. Implications

#### 4.1. Finance

- 4.1.1. No implication at this stage, however any decisions resulting could have financial implications.

## 4.2. Legal

4.2.1. Supports the duty of the Council in exercising its functions, to have regard in consistence with the proper exercise of those functions to the purpose of conserving biodiversity, enacted by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

## 4.3. Corporate Priorities

4.3.1. This supports two of the priorities of the Council's Corporate strategy:

- Supporting economic growth to ensure a sustainable, prosperous and thriving local economy
- Maintaining and enhancing our residents' quality of life.

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Dave Mitchell Executive Manager – Communities 0115 914 8267 dmitchell@rushcliffe.gov.uk
<b>Background papers Available for Inspection:</b>	None.
<b>List of appendices (if any):</b>	<b>Appendix 1</b> – Tree Protection and Promotion in Rushcliffe. <b>Appendix 2</b> – Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines. <b>Appendix 3</b> – History of Council Meetings discussing the Tree and Woodland Policy. <b>Appendix 4</b> – Current Policies. <b>Appendix 5</b> – Article in Small Woodlands Owners' Group Newsletter – December 2016. <b>Appendix 6</b> – Article in Rushcliffe Reports Spring 2016.



## Tree Protection and Promotion in Rushcliffe

### Introduction

Tree protection and promotion is an issue of interest to Council Members and the wider public. Some methods of addressing these interests are discussed within this briefing note.

Woodland covers 1.04% or 575 hectares of Rushcliffe and we have seven ancient woodlands (woodlands that have existed since at least 1600 AD) totalling 74.67 hectares or 0.18% of Rushcliffe, this compares to Nottinghamshire having approximately 7% woodland cover (15,000ha), of which 2100 ha or 0.97% of Nottinghamshire is ancient woodland. The woodland in Nottinghamshire is concentrated mainly within the Sherwood Forest area.

The reason for the low woodland cover in Rushcliffe, is partly due to its fertile soils and its high value for agriculture, having often been cleared 1000's of years ago. The historic land use has led to the development of important ecological resources being more concentrated on wetland, grassland, hedgerow and agricultural habitats, these resources can be valuable in their own right and it would be inappropriate to replace them with woodland. Rushcliffe is typically regarded as a 'green' borough, but this is largely due to habitats other than woodland.

### Woodland character areas

Within Rushcliffe woodland and trees are more common in some areas, as identified by the regional landscape character areas (see Figure 1 and Appendix 1), this suggests woodland is more common and fits into the landscape better within the Nottinghamshire Wolds area, on ridge lines e.g. between Gotham and Bunny and East Bridgford and Flintham, and the area between Radcliffe on Trent to Cotgrave Forest.

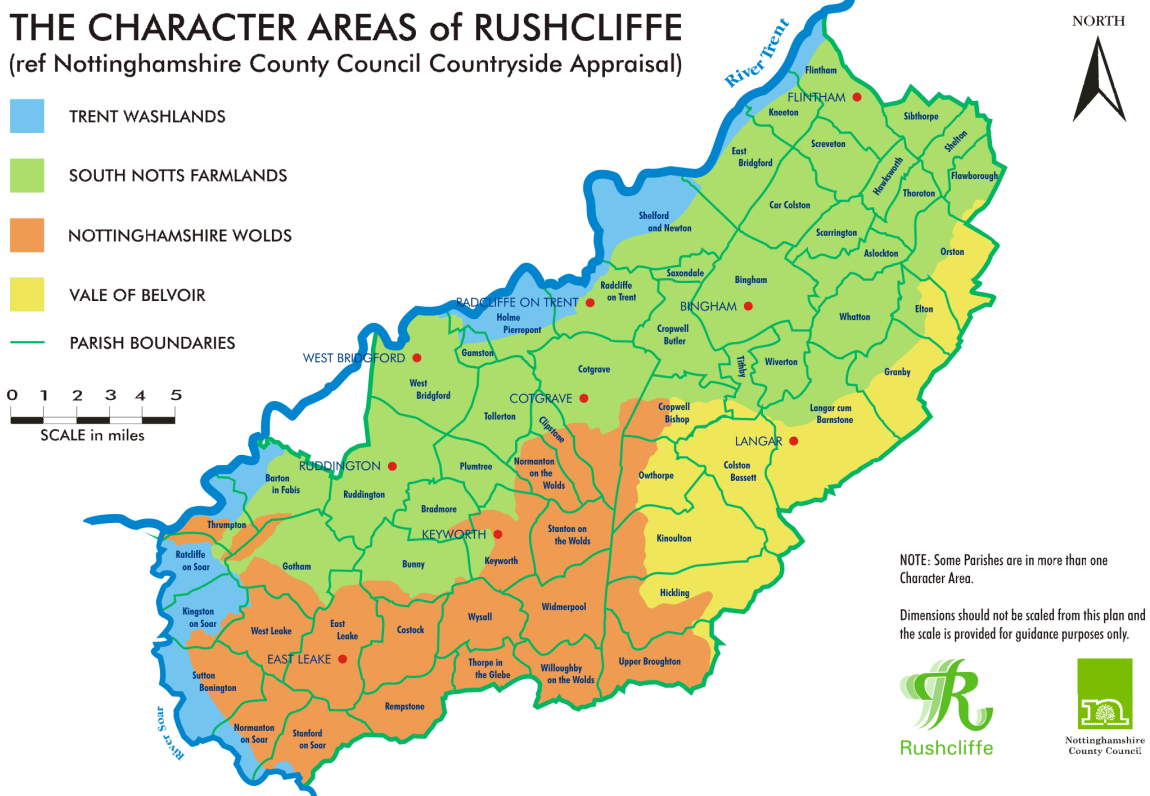


Figure 1: Character Areas of Rushcliffe from the Nottinghamshire Countryside Appraisal (1992)

In other areas of the borough, large scale tree planting could be detrimental to local landscape character and due to the lower density of existing woodland provide lower ecological gain.

The existing woodland cover and best opportunities for woodland development are shown on the Biodiversity Opportunity Map (Figure 2)

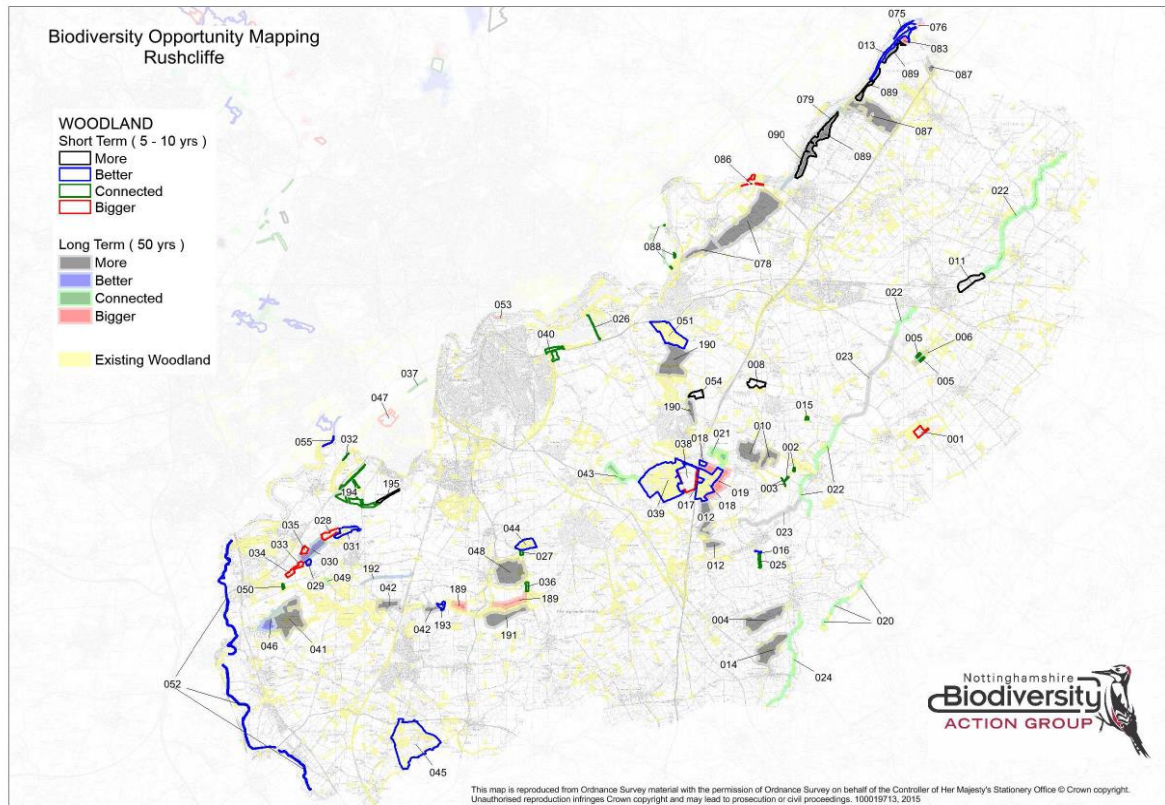


Figure 2: Woodland Biodiversity Opportunity Map, Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group (2015)

Outside of the areas outlined above, tree planting would be best limited to trees within hedgerows, field corners, along riparian and highway corridors and around the periphery of settlements, where existing ecological valuable habitats do not already exist.

### Policy History (See details in Appendix 2 and 3)

In March 2015 council carried a motion to “recognise the importance of trees and woodland in helping counteract climate change, alleviating flooding and providing benefits for recreation and mental health. Council asks Cabinet to investigate, in consultation with the relevant Scrutiny Committee, the possibility of a trees and woodlands policy”.

Subsequently it was decided at Community Development Group in July 2015 to include this policy within the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy. The Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy was approved by Cabinet in November 2015.

The Local Plan part 1 as adopted by the Council on 22 December 2014, contains policies impacting on Trees and Woodland, but states “A number of issues may be addressed in Local Plan Part 2: Land and Planning Policies”.

The Rushcliffe Local Plan Part 2: Land and Planning Policies - Issues and Options document, on which consultation ended on 24 March 2016, included a specific question on if “the LAPP should have a specific policy to protect and enhance ancient woodland and veteran trees”.

The Woodland Trust recommends that no one should live more than 500m from an accessible woodland of 2 ha or more (Woodland Trust (2017) Space for people - Targeting action for woodland access, accessed 6/7/17 online at [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2017/06/space-for-people-2017](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2017/06/space-for-people-2017)). It would be unrealistic to meet this target in Rushcliffe, without changing the nature of the borough, but we can work to increase access to natural green spaces, including woodland for all our residents.

The Woodland Trust calls on all Local Authorities to take action to 'secure and expand our woodland resource' (See Appendix 4).

## **Action**

Since 2011 two major woodland planting schemes have been carried out by The University of Nottingham and The Woodland Trust at Sutton Bonington, adding 29ha of tree planting (equating to approximately 58,000 trees or an increase of 0.05% woodland cover), through the Queens Diamond Jubilee tree planting scheme.

The widening of the A453 from Nottingham to the M1 also benefitted from the planting of 130,000 trees and within the A46 widening, 33ha of new woodland (66,000 trees) plus trees within 73 ha of linear features (36,000 trees) has led to a net increase in trees. Further tree planting has been carried out within landscaping schemes from residential developments across the borough.

In 2015/16, 20,000 trees were planted by a private landowner adjacent to the A52 near Holme Pierrepont. The Woodland Trust supplied 6 packs of trees (these vary in size from 30 to 420 trees depending on the pack supplied) to applicants in Rushcliffe in 2015.

The area in and adjacent to Cotgrave Forest has been selected as a Biodiversity Focal Area. A successful initial meeting with forest owners was held in November, the owners have subsequently met together to discuss subjects of interest; it is planned to provide a woodland management training course during 2017. Contact is being made with two adjacent landowners to Cotgrave Forest to see if there are any opportunities for tree planting / hedgerow improvement on their land. Research projects (via Nottingham Trent University and Butterfly Conservation (East Midlands)) are underway in the focal area to better understand its current state and where enhancements are required. An article was published in Small Woodland Owners' Group Newsletter in Dec 2016 (See Appendix 5)

Rushcliffe Biodiversity Support grants are available and eligible projects include the creation of new or enhanced woodlands however during 2016/17 no applications have been received for tree planting or woodland management.

A promotional article on woodlands and trees was made in the Spring 2016 Rushcliffe Reports (See Appendix 6). Information on tree planting is also provided via the 'planning conservation' area of the council website (at <http://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/conservation/treeshedgesandlandscaping>)

Tree and woodland planting and maintenance where appropriate, is normal within all but the smallest built developments in the borough, for example, it is provisionally planned to plant 3517 native trees and 8530 native shrubs within the Edwalton Community Park adjacent to Sharphill Wood, this figure does not take into account the trees and shrubs planted within the landscaping of the built area (there are 35 trees currently within the whole site, most of which will be retained).

Currently there are 272 Tree Preservation Orders (covering from individual trees to groups of trees and woodlands, so much more than 272 trees are covered by TPOs). This has increased from 261 in 2015. Trees have also been saved from inappropriate pruning or felling due to advice given by Council Officers.

### **Potential Further Options**

The Council estate currently provides few opportunities for significant tree planting as many of the open spaces are used for recreation and often neighbouring property owners perceive trees as a nuisance due to leaf litter, bird droppings and loss of light, these can often result in repeated requests to prune or fell trees. Therefore to increase tree planting, it is necessary to either require or encourage landowners to participate or for the council to purchase land (which could also have additional complimentary uses e.g. Natural Burial Grounds, carbon offset etc.).

Promotion to engage landowners, is possible, via printed and social media and conferences and seminars, targeted to landowners and working with landowning interest groups or organisations (e.g. the National Farmers Union)

Incentives can also encourage tree and woodland planting, grants are available to some sectors through the government 'agri environmental' schemes and via charities such as the Woodland Trust and The Tree Council, but these schemes may not be suitable for all landowners. Community woodlands often can be encouraged via the grants.

Rushcliffe operated a tree planting grant up until 2010-11. The grant had a budget of £6000 and in its last year of operation, just over £5000 was paid out, providing approximately 100 trees per year.

Planning and proposals for development provides another opportunity to increase tree planting through a requirement to plant trees or land for tree planting, where appropriate and by contributing to a community infrastructure levy used for tree planting. Smaller development schemes may offer limited opportunities for tree planting and there is greatest potential on major housing/mixed developments. Different planning authorities have approached this in differing ways:

- A. South Staffordshire have addressed tree issues by writing a separate "Tree and Woodland Strategy" and then referred to this within the local plan stating "Reference should be made to the Council's Tree and Woodland Strategy". This method could be used to substantiate the existing Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy and its tree and woodland aims and actions by referencing it within the Local Plan Part 2 documents.  
[\[www.sstaffs.gov.uk/doc/171694/name/ADOPTED%20Core%20Strategy%20December%202012.pdf\]](http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/doc/171694/name/ADOPTED%20Core%20Strategy%20December%202012.pdf)
- B. South Derbyshire District council have a "Tree Woodland and Hedgerow" policy within their pre submission Local Plan Part 2 [\[www.south-derbys.gov.uk/Images/Pre-submission%20Local%20Plan%20Part%202\\_tcm21-285130.pdf\]](http://www.south-derbys.gov.uk/Images/Pre-submission%20Local%20Plan%20Part%202_tcm21-285130.pdf) .

The Woodland Trust makes recommendation on potential policies to include in local policies [\[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/mediafile/100815883/la-tree-strategies.pdf?cb=f3fc9540b9664910aa2a080c31f06def\]](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/mediafile/100815883/la-tree-strategies.pdf?cb=f3fc9540b9664910aa2a080c31f06def) ]

C. South Cambridgeshire have adopted a “Trees and Development” Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

[\[https://www.scambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Trees%20%26%20Development%20Sites%20SPD%20Adopted%20January%202009.pdf\]](https://www.scambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Trees%20%26%20Development%20Sites%20SPD%20Adopted%20January%202009.pdf)

Partners controlling highways have a role supporting tree protection and promotion. Many roads in Rushcliffe are in the control of Nottinghamshire County Council (as Highways Authority); as part of this control, the county council maintain trees and hedges within and alongside roads and footways to ensure they are not a danger to road users [\[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/110443/highwaynetworkmanagementplan.pdf\]](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/110443/highwaynetworkmanagementplan.pdf). They can also plant new trees; however safety issues would need to be considered first.

Previously when the council has tried to encourage planting of trees in verges on new developments, County often raised concerns about such planting, unless the developer is willing to pay a significant sum of money for future maintenance. County may not be willing to plant trees on highway maintainable land as this raises a future maintenance and cost implication.

Highways England is responsible for motorways and major (trunk) roads in England, within Rushcliffe this includes the A52, A453 and the A46. On these roads Highways England will be responsible for trees within the curtilage of the highway.

Purchase of land by the council would also provide opportunities for the council to directly increase the number of trees; however this would have resource implications, both in purchase costs and on-going maintenance.

## **Conclusions**

Tree planting is happening within Rushcliffe, through existing processes; however this is currently, mainly outside of the council’s control.

The opinion of this group is requested on:

- Whether the borough has sufficient coverage of trees and woodlands?
- The direction and options that the council should take on tree protection and planting within Rushcliffe.
- What recommendations, if any, you would like to be taken to Cabinet?

## Nottinghamshire Landscape Guidelines

### Summary of Landscape Character and Recommendations in Respect of Tree Planting

The following information is taken from The Greater Nottingham Landscape Character Assessment 2009; it includes a brief description of the character area and any specific features relating to trees. It also highlights any recommendations made for the local landscape character areas found within each regional character area.

Some recommendations relate to Ash trees, this pre-dates the movement ban on Ash and other native trees would now need to be used in its place.

<b>South Nottinghamshire Farmlands</b>	
<b>Summary of Main Landscape Character</b> A large tract of gently rolling lowland landscape between Greater Nottingham and the far northeast of the Borough.	
<b>Specific Landscape Character Features Associated with Trees, Woodland.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General lack of woodland within the area with few hedgerow trees enables open extensive views across the area.</li> <li>• Where present woodland tends to be small geometric plantations, the general lack of woodland means these are prominent features.</li> <li>• Trees and woodland along fringes of villages creates an impression of higher tree cover than actually exists.</li> </ul>	
<b>Local Character Area</b>	<b>Guidelines and Recommendations Specific to Trees.</b>
Clifton Slopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek to restore hedgerow boundaries and hedgerow trees in arable fields where they no longer exist.</li> <li>• Conserve existing hedgerow trees and hedgerows which are important landscape features.</li> <li>• Conserve the prominent woodland blocks on higher ground and encourage new woodland planting particularly along urban edges.</li> <li>• Conserve the intact long linear wooded bluffs along the steepest slopes adjacent to the River Trent.</li> <li>• Enhance urban fringes and prominent development through localised geometric woodland planting to soften their appearance within the landscape.</li> </ul>
Ruddington Alluvial Farmlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance the pattern of woodland to provide interest and break up the expansive and monotonous character of the landscape through small-scale planting around farms, the railway and streams</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance the pattern of hedgerow trees where present and ensure a programme of replacement for older trees</li> <li>• Conserve expansive views across the area contained by wooded ridgelines and hills by carefully</li> </ul>

	<p>siting of planting and any new development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance the continuity of Fairham Brook through planting of small-scale groups of riparian trees and scrub to denote its position within the landscape</li> <li>• Enhance village fringes through localised woodland copse and scrub planting to soften their appearance within the landscape</li> </ul>
Mickleborough Fringe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek to restore hedgerow boundaries and hedgerow trees in arable fields where boundaries no longer exist</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance existing hedgerow trees and hedgerows which are important landscape features</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance the prominent woodland blocks on higher ground</li> <li>• Enhance the fringes of prominent development through localised woodland planting to soften their appearance within the landscape and ensure they appear as single or small groups of properties.</li> <li>• Enhance the boundaries around the garden centre and industrial buildings through new woodland planting.</li> </ul>
Cotgrave and Tollerton Farmlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance field boundaries through planting of new hedgerows and hedgerow trees to reinforce field pattern</li> <li>• Enhance the distribution of hedgerow trees by encouraging planting of trees within hedgerows. Species used should be mostly ash with some oak.</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance roadside hedgerows through replanting and planting new hedgerow trees such as ash or oak</li> <li>• Enhance woodland cover within the DPZ ensuring where implemented it is small copses, reflects surrounding field patterns and does not block longer distance views</li> <li>• Enhance village fringes through planting small linear belts and copses to break up the uniform nature of the urban edge particularly along the fringes of larger commuter settlements such as Ratcliffe on Soar and Bingham</li> </ul>
East Bridgford Escarpment Farmlands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance the distribution of hedgerow trees by encouraging planting of trees within hedgerows. Species used should be mostly ash with some oak. These should be carefully located to ensure that an open character is retained</li> <li>• Enhance woodland cover within the DPZ ensuring where implemented it is small in size and reflects surrounding field patterns and the character of small infrequent prominent woodlands</li> <li>• Enhance village fringes through planting small copses to break up the uniform nature of the urban edge particularly along the fringes of larger</li> </ul>

	<p>commuter settlements such as Radcliffe on Trent and Newton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain and enhance hedgerow boundaries and hedgerow tree boundaries along roads through the area</li> <li>• Enhance the landscape through planting of small copses and hedgerows and hedgerow trees along the A46 to reduce its prominence.</li> </ul>
<p>Aslockton Village Farmlands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance field boundaries through planting of new hedgerows and hedgerow trees to reinforce field pattern</li> <li>• Enhance the distribution of hedgerow trees by encouraging planting of trees within hedgerows. Species used should be mostly ash with some horse chestnut along roads which currently have low numbers of hedgerow trees</li> <li>• Conserve areas of permanent pasture and woodland clumps around village fringes</li> <li>• Restore hedgerows and encourage planting of new hedgerow trees to provide unity between more open arable land and the slightly more enclosed and wooded pasture fields around village fringes</li> <li>• Enhance woodland cover within the DPZ ensuring where implemented it is small in size and reflect surrounding field patterns and contributes to the regular dispersal of woodland within views. Planting should be focussed on the more open areas to help integrate them with the more intimate pastoral landscapes close to village fringes</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance areas of parkland through ensuring replacement of specimen trees and retention of land as informal grazing</li> <li>• Enhance the character of rivers through the DPZ through small scale planting of clumps of riparian woodland</li> </ul>

<p><b>Nottinghamshire Wolds</b></p>
<p>Broad area of low hills which extend to the Soar Valley thinning out to a series of hills in the north of which Gotham and West Leake are the most prominent. Distinctive rural character and feeling of seclusion from urban centres Hills characterised by large regular blocks of mature broad-leaved woodland, scarp grasslands and pasture and long arable fields which extend down the slopes; Willow pollards are common within the area.</p>
<p><b>Specific Landscape Character Features Associated with Trees, Woodland.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hills characterised by large regular blocks of mature broad-leaved woodland, scarp grasslands and pasture and long arable fields which extend down the slopes;</li> <li>• Willow pollards are common within the area.</li> </ul>



<b>Local Character Area</b>	<b>Guidelines and Recommendations Specific to Trees.</b>
Cotgrave Wooded Clay Wolds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage planting of small-scale broadleaved woodland along village fringes</li> <li>• Enhance the fringes of conifer plantations with belts of native locally appropriate broadleaved woodland and woodland edge species</li> <li>• Conserve existing hedgerow trees and ensure that where over-mature or senescent, a programme for replacement is undertaken. Species used should be mainly ash with some oak</li> <li>• Restore hedgerows and encourage planting of new hedgerow trees to provide unity between more open arable land and the more enclosed woodland.</li> </ul>
Widmerpool Clay Wolds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve the regular dispersed patterns of small geometric broadleaved copses and woodlands often on high ground</li> <li>• Conserve the regular distribution of hedgerow trees and ensure that where over mature and senescent that a programme for replacement is undertaken. Species used should be mostly ash with some oak.</li> <li>• Conserve the formal wooded parkland adjacent to Widmerpool</li> <li>• Conserve the dispersed nature of village edges through retention and new planting to maintain the appearance of individual or small groups of properties</li> <li>• Minimise the influence of larger settlements such as Keyworth through small-scale woodland planting along fringes</li> </ul>
Gotham and West Leake Wooded Hills and Scarps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve the distinctive pattern of hills with large blocks of woodland on high ground</li> <li>• Conserve the diversity of broadleaf and large-scale woodland plantations on hills</li> <li>• Ensure new conifer planting includes belts of broadleaf woodland and woodland edge along its fringes</li> <li>• Any new woodland planting should be small in scale along the base of slopes becoming larger and of field size on higher slopes</li> <li>• Conserve the small rides and various ages of woodland within the character area</li> <li>• Conserve the wooded tracks along the ridgelines</li> <li>• Ensure any new industrial development is nestled on low ground and has well wooded boundaries which integrate with woodland on higher ground to reduce its visibility</li> </ul>
East Leake Village Farmlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve the prominence of woodlands on high ground</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance the regular dispersal of small geometric broadleaved copses and woodlands often</li> </ul>

	<p>on high ground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance the distribution of hedgerow trees by encouraging greater planting of trees within hedgerows. Species used should be a mostly ash with some oak.</li> <li>• Restore hedgerows and encourage planting of new hedgerow trees to provide unity between more open land at East Leake and the more enclosed and wooded pasture fields</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance the character of watercourses through retention of willow pollards and planting of new riparian vegetation</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance the character of hedgerow trees lining roads through the landscape</li> </ul>
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<b>Vale of Belvoir</b>	
Broad low-lying vale extending as an elongated arc along the foot of the Belvoir Ridge	
<b>Specific Landscape Character Features Associated with Trees, Woodland.</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hedgerow trees generally ash and oak are important components and reinforce a sense of enclosure.</li> <li>• Woodland is infrequent and where it exists is locally prominent such as on escarpments or around parkland at Colston Bassett</li> </ul>	
<b>Local Character Area</b>	<b>Guidelines and Recommendations Specific to Trees.</b>
Vale of Belvoir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance the distribution of hedgerow trees by increasing numbers within field boundaries to increase the wooded character of the area, particularly in arable farmed areas where the land tends to be more open</li> <li>• Conserve the roadside hedgerows and avenues of horse chestnut and ash ensuring a programme for maintenance and replacement where they have become senescent</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance surrounding Colston Bassett Hall, ensuring replacement tree planting and return of pasture within its grounds</li> </ul>

<b>Trent Washlands</b>
<b>Summary of Main Landscape Character</b>
The broad valleys of the river Trent. Away from urban areas are nucleated pattern of villages and farmsteads, arable land covers much of the river corridor with reduced areas of meadow and pasture.
<b>Specific Landscape Character Features Associated with Trees, Woodland.</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steep wooded bluffs are prominent. Hedgerow trees are a key component of tree cover.</li> <li>• Grasslands are an important localised feature and are associated with mature hedgerows and willow pollards.</li> <li>• Small broad-leaved woodlands are scattered across the character area which includes areas outside of the Borough.</li> <li>• Hedgerow trees are a key component of tree cover.</li> <li>• Grasslands are an important localised feature and are associated with mature hedgerows and willow pollards.</li> <li>• Small broad-leaved woodlands are scattered across the character area which includes areas outside of the Borough.</li> </ul>	
<b>Local Character Area</b>	<b>Guidelines and Recommendations Specific to Trees.</b>
Gamston and Edwalton Meadow Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance the appearance and visual unity of urban fringes and settlement edges with new tree and woodland planting to create filtered views.</li> </ul>
Polser Brook Meadowlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance the visual unity of small scale commercial and roadside developments by filtering views from the road network with small scale trees and woodland planting.</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance the tree cover through replanting and regeneration of meadowland hedgerows and hedgerow trees.</li> <li>• Use native species of trees and shrubs suitable for Trent Washlands Regional Character Area on areas of recreational and amenity land, such as golf courses, fishing lakes and caravan parks.</li> </ul>
Holme Pierrepont and Basingfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote measures for strengthening the existing level of tree cover</li> </ul>
Trent Field Meadowlands (Includes The Hook)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance visual unity through appropriate small-scale tree and woodland planting</li> </ul>
Shelford Village Farmland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reinforce and enhance ecological diversity of riparian vegetation and manage existing Willow trees by pollarding.</li> <li>• Reinforce and increase tree cover by establishing hedgerow trees in existing hedge lines.</li> </ul>

<b>Trent and Soar Valley</b>
The broad valley of the River Soar to its confluence with the River Trent.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally low woodland cover, although a perceived sense of woodland is created through the combination of regular riparian trees, hedgerow trees and isolated woodlands;</li> <li>• Wooded enclosure tends to be greater within pastoral land along the River Soar with more open exposed land present adjacent to the River Trent where the land is under arable farming.</li> <li>• Steep-sided wooded bluffs at Clifton are prominent features adjacent to the low-lying river corridor.</li> <li>• Mature willows are distinctive features of the landscape.</li> </ul>

<b>Local Character Area</b>	
Soar Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance riparian trees through local replanting particularly in arable farming areas to improve unity with pastoral areas</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance the pattern of hedgerows and regular hedgerow trees along lanes and tracks</li> <li>• Conserve the wooded impression of the DPZ through maintenance and planting of hedgerow and riparian trees</li> </ul>

## History of Council Meetings Discussing The Tree And Woodland Policy

### Extract from: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2015

#### 46. Notice of Motions

b) The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor S E Mallender and seconded by Councillor R M Jones

*“Council recognises the importance of trees and woodland in helping counteract climate change, alleviating flooding and providing benefits for recreation and mental health. Council asks Cabinet to investigate, in consultation with the relevant Scrutiny Committee, the possibility of a trees and woodlands policy.”*

Councillor S Mallender stated that the planting and managing of trees and woodland was an important issue. It was beneficial to the environment, good for wildlife including homes for birds and bees, which helped pollinate 84% of crops. It was recognised that gardens were useful, however there needed to be green spaces with trees planted together. She explained how these would have a beneficial effect on people’s mental health and well being as well as reducing pollution and negating people’s carbon footprints. Property values increased by 18% through having access to trees and woodlands and crime She informed Members that only 10% of children played in woodlands whereas it had been 40% in their parent’s generation. She stated that the United Kingdom had the lowest amount of Green Belt in Europe. She believed that there should be a Council policy to encourage more woodlands, community orchards, etc, that local people should be encouraged to become tree wardens and manage the trees better as was the case at Bridgford Park. She recognised that the Local Development Framework Group considered open spaces as part of developments but she felt that this issue and the development of a policy should be considered more widely by the Community Development Group.

Councillor Clarke stated that he supported the motion and that the Community Development Group was the right scrutiny group to consider the issue primarily and then it should be passed to the Local Development Framework Group to consider incorporating it into the Planning Policies of the Council, although he recognised that other policies did address trees.

Councillor Jones stated that trees provided a visual benefit, supported wildlife, absorbed moisture and CO2 and trapped pollutants. They prevented soil erosion produced fuel and had a positive impact on asthma sufferers. Studies had shown that tree lined streets, green spaces and woodlands led to increased walking and exercise and that people living near these areas displayed fewer signs of depression or anxiety.

He stated that woodlands only covered 1.04% of the Borough, whereas Nottinghamshire had 6-9% and England had approximately 8.4%. It was recognised that woodlands needed managing but they were had a great amenity value and he believed that the Council should promote new woodland planting particularly where isolated areas could be linked. He referred to surveys that had been carried out in the Borough that had identified areas such as Fairham Brook where there were opportunities to promote biodiversity. He highlighted the Government’s Forestry and Woodlands Policy and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs’ guidance and grants relevant to woodlands and grazed woodlands. He pointed out that the Woodlands Trust operate a Woodland Carbon Scheme where organisations and companies could help reduce their carbon footprint by planting trees.

He felt that the Council could help promote this scheme. He informed Members that Broxtowe Borough Council had an ambitious tree planting target of 100,000 trees by the end of 2016 and that so far they had planted 68,000. This was an objective in their Corporate Plan under the theme “The environment in Broxtowe will be protected and enhanced for future generations”.

He believed that the Council should promote tree planting schemes, promote biodiversity, public green spaces, tree lined road and woodlands. He too felt that this was a matter for the Community Development Group rather than a Local Development Framework issue that could be passed to developers. He urged all Members to support this motion.  
*When put to the vote the motion was carried.*

## **Extract from: NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP TUESDAY 14 JULY 2015**

### **1. Draft Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy 2016 – 2020**

The Community Development Manager reminded Members that at its meeting on 5 March 2015, Council resolved that Cabinet should investigate the possibility of a trees and woodlands policy in consultation with the Community Development Group. He explained that the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy was an existing partnership document produced by the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group (RNCSIG).

The Strategy contains a section on Principle Habitats that set out the importance of the main habitats found in Rushcliffe, including Woodland and Trees. It contained details of what partners should do to protect and enhance these habitats and included a commitment to:

- Promote appropriate new woodland planting, particularly where linked to existing woods
- Develop tree planting schemes, carbon offset schemes and community orchards
- Promote sympathetic woodland management
- Use tree preservation orders for threatened valuable amenity trees
- Promote tree wardens where appropriate
- Target of 10 hectares (20,000 trees) of new planting

Members considered the Draft Strategy in detail and felt that many trees had been lost throughout the Borough, particularly in rural areas. Although it was widely acknowledged that trees needed to be planted, especially in the hedgerows alongside rural roads, the idea was not always favourably received by farmers and the Highways Authority. The Community Development Manager explained that one of the aims of the Strategy was to encourage tree planting and that Parish Councils, farmers and landowners could access European LEADER funding and Agri Environment grants to assist with costs. Members were informed that the schemes were promoted by the Wildlife Trust, Nottinghamshire Farming and Wildlife Group and by contacting farmers directly. The Group felt that a Members' Briefing Note would be beneficial so that they could inform their Wards about funding available for tree planting. Officers confirmed that these grants did not apply to landscaping conditions attached to planning applications, as it was the duty of the developer to fund the work.

**Action            The Community Development Manager to provide Members with a Briefing Note on the funding available for tree planting**

In response to questions, Members were informed that it was a legal requirement that Tree Preservations Orders (TPOs) could only be placed on trees that were under threat. However, if significant trees in villages were identified, other methods of protecting them could be explored. Members felt that it would be beneficial to

receive information on the amount of TPOs in the Borough and to compare data in the future.

**Action            The Community Development Manager to provide Members with information on the amount of TPOs in the Borough**

In respect of the funding of the Rushcliffe nature grants, Members were informed that the limit of £4,000 per annum had proved sufficient, as most applications were for less than £750. In addition to the landowner's contribution, a grant of £500 could provide 500 small trees or fund 100 metres of hedge laying. Officers confirmed that the grant could be used purchase oak trees, as the Woodland Trust Scheme only supplied mixed planting, as long as the project met the biodiversity criteria. In most incidences there was no reason why trees could not be planted in hedgerows. In respect of the Borough's ancient woodlands that contained trees over 400 years old, Members were informed that these were situated in rural areas and therefore were not currently at threat from development.

It was AGREED that the Group supported the draft Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy and endorsed the approach of incorporating a tree and woodlands policy into this strategy.

**Extract from: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL THURSDAY 2 MARCH 2017**

**51. To Answer Questions Under Standing Order 11(2)**

**a) Question from Councillor S Mallender to Councillor R L Butler**

'In March 2015 at a full council meeting, Rushcliffe Borough Council unanimously accepted the provision of a Tree and Woodlands Policy; please could you inform me how that policy is being implemented by the Council?'

Councillor Butler replied that there was no dedicated Tree and Woodlands Policy, as it had been decided to develop this within the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy, which was approved by Cabinet in November 2015.

**Supplementary Question**

Councillor S Mallender then asked how the Tree and Woodland policy was used by planning officers at Rushcliffe Borough to advise applicants and in the advice to Councillors on the Development Control Committee through reports and recommendations?

Councillor Butler responded that the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy was not a planning policy but would be treated as a material planning consideration when determining planning applications. The relevant section of the strategy required that, "Where practicable developers would be required to provide at least an equal number of trees to those lost as a result of the development".

## CURRENT POLICIES

### Extract from - LOCAL PLAN PART 1: RUSHCLIFFE CORE STRATEGY

**POLICY 11: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT** - 1. Proposals and initiatives will be supported where the historic environment and heritage assets and their settings are conserved and/or enhanced in line with their interest and significance. - *The definition also covers assets which have not been designated and afforded protection by separate legislation, including historic trees.*

### **POLICY 16: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE, LANDSCAPE, PARKS**

**AND OPEN SPACE** - 1. A strategic approach to the delivery, protection and enhancement of Green Infrastructure will be taken, through the establishment of a network of primary Green Infrastructure corridors and assets (as shown on the Key Diagram), together with corridors and assets of a more local level which will be defined through Local Development Documents. – *Green Infrastructure includes ... woodlands*

**3.16.7** Criteria to assess the impact of development proposals on the landscape will be included in the Local Plan Part 2: Land and Planning Policies Development Plan Documents. Criteria may include ... woodland and hedgerows,

### **POLICY 17: BIODIVERSITY**

1. The biodiversity of Rushcliffe will be increased over the Core Strategy period by:

- a) protecting, restoring, expanding and enhancing existing areas of biodiversity interest, including areas and networks of priority habitats and species listed in the UK and Nottinghamshire Local Biodiversity Action Plans;
- b) ensuring that fragmentation of the Green Infrastructure network is avoided wherever possible and improvements to the network benefit biodiversity, including at a landscape scale, through the incorporation of existing habitats and the creation of new habitats;
- c) seeking to ensure new development provides new biodiversity features, and improves existing biodiversity features wherever appropriate;
- d) supporting the need for the appropriate management and maintenance of existing and created habitats through the use of planning conditions, planning obligations and management agreements; and
- e) ensuring that where harm to biodiversity is unavoidable, and it has been demonstrated that no alternative sites or scheme designs are suitable, development should as a minimum firstly mitigate and if not possible compensate at a level equivalent to the biodiversity value of the habitat lost.

2. Designated national and local sites of biological or geological importance for nature conservation will be protected in line with the established national hierarchy of designations and the designation of further protected sites will be pursued.

3. Development on or affecting other, non-designated sites or wildlife corridors with biodiversity value will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that there is an overriding need for the development and that adequate mitigation measures are put in place.

**3.17.3** Proposed development should particularly seek to contribute towards the delivery of Local Biodiversity Action Plan objectives for priority habitats and species. The Biodiversity Action Plan contains Habitat Action Plans for several types of priority woodland.

**3.17.4** A number of issues may be addressed in Local Plan Part 2: Land and Planning Policies. These may include Green Infrastructure corridors and assets of a more local nature, locally valued landscapes which require additional protection, and embedding the Green Infrastructure network approach into the development of sites.



## **Extract from: RUSHCLIFFE LOCAL PLAN PART 2: LAND AND PLANNING POLICIES - ISSUES AND OPTIONS.**

**Question 60:** *In relation to the protection of designated and non-designated nature conservation interests, what are your views on the following: b) Should the LAPP have a specific policy to protect and enhance ancient woodland and veteran trees and, if so, why?*

## **Extract from: RUSHCLIFFE NATURE CONSERVATION STRATEGY 2016 – 2020**

**4.1 Farmland** - We will seek to: promote the value of hedgerow trees and seek to support their planting and maintenance.

**4.2 Woodland and trees** - We will seek to: Promote appropriate new native tree and woodland planting, particularly where linked to existing woods; develop tree-planting schemes; carbon offset schemes and community orchards. Promote sympathetic woodland management. Use Tree Preservation Orders for threatened valuable amenity trees as appropriate. Promote tree wardens where appropriate.

**8.3 Landscape Character-** We will seek to:

- encourage the protection and restoration of riparian habitats and trees including willow pollards.
- maintain and develop woodlands on steep bluffs
- create small wet woodlands within the river valleys.
- encourage field hedgerows and trees.
- protect woodland and veteran trees in the parkland landscape
- maintain alternating pattern of pasture and woodland [in the Nottinghamshire Wold area].
- maintain and extend ancient woodlands,
- create new native woodlands on hilltops and escarpments.
- increase broadleaved woodland cover especially on hilltops
- look to diversify the woodland around Cotgrave.

**10) CLIMATE CHANGE** – We will: Support efforts to mitigate climate change, including the use of wildlife to act as carbon ‘sinks’, for example by tree planting.

**12) PLANNING POLICIES AND THE PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE AND HABITATS** - Where practicable developers will be required to provide at least an equal number of trees to those lost as a result of the development.

**14) NATURE CONSERVATION AIMS AND OBJECTIVES** - Objective 3d sets out to support “programs to increase the numbers, size, quality and range of relevant Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan species and habitats (especially neutral and calcareous grasslands, native woodlands and wetlands) as appropriate”

A key target of this is for 10 ha`s of woodland to be created, restored or bought under active conservation management (approximating to 20,000 trees) between 2016 and 2020.

#### **Appendix 4 - Growing the future: Six priorities for local authorities**

(Woodland Trust (2016) Woodland Indicators by Local Authority accessed 6/7/17 online at [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/mediafile/100815894/woodland-indicators-by-local-authority-non-unitary-district-councils.pdf?cb=f3fc9540b9664910aa2a080c31f06def](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/mediafile/100815894/woodland-indicators-by-local-authority-non-unitary-district-councils.pdf?cb=f3fc9540b9664910aa2a080c31f06def))

The Woodland Trust calls on all local authorities to take action to secure and expand our woodland resource for the benefit of all:

1. Real protection for ancient woodland and ancient trees in Local Plan policy and Tree Strategies – the Woodland Trust is currently dealing with more than 500 threats to ancient woods across the UK, the highest number in its history.
2. Green infrastructure should be at the heart of new development – in particular emerging flagship projects like the Northern Powerhouse and West Midlands Combined Authority – on account of the myriad public health and economic benefits brought by access to green space, particularly woods and trees. Development should aspire to incorporate 20% new tree canopy cover secured by long-term funding.
3. Help schools educate future generations about the importance of nature by ensuring that every child has the opportunity to plant a tree.
4. Support more strategic tree planting to help combat the risk of flooding and improve water quality. National planting rates are falling far below the aspiration of the Government in 2013 to plant 5,000 hectares of new woodland a year. Only 700 ha of woodland was planted in England last year (2015-16 provisional figures).
5. Support funded initiatives that enable the health and adult/social care sectors to engage better with green space such as woods and trees, as an illness-prevention measure to improve physical and mental health and wellbeing. Accessible woodland should be increased so that no person lives more than 500 metres from a wood they can visit and local communities should be supported in planting, owning and managing their own local woods.
6. Mitigate the negative effects of climate change on people, places and wildlife by creating a more resilient landscape with trees. Any trees lost outside woods, particularly to disease in parks and adjacent to roads, should be replaced on at least a 'two for one' basis.

## Article in Small Woodland Owners' Group Newsletter – December 2016

## Friends of Cotgrave Forest

**Cotgrave Forest**, just south of Nottingham, is a small woodland in an area of the country where woodlands are comparatively rare. The forest incorporates both private woodlands and areas of public access and it is highly valued as a habitat for a number of rarer species of butterflies, birds and other wildlife. With a good mix of both conifers and deciduous trees, it represents a scarce habitat in south Nottinghamshire where most woods are plantations with very limited flora and fauna. It has also been identified as a 'focal area' through the biodiversity opportunity mapping work carried out by Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group.

Ben Driver of the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust has been driving forward a project to encourage owners and interested parties to work together to improve the woodland's habitat and connections for wildlife at a landscape scale.

### Working in partnership

SWOG members in Cotgrave are relatively recent owners and have supported the project

enthusiastically. A minor problem with local vandals and ravers initially prompted the owners to get together, and they have continued to co-

operate and support Ben's project.

In November Ben ran a workshop in Cotgrave that enabled the owners to meet each other, as well as representatives from Butterfly Conservation, Nottingham Trent University, and Rushcliffe Borough Council. It was an excellent opportunity for the owners to share information and ideas, and to think about activities such as wildlife recording, helping each other with management activities and to talk about issues of collective interest, such as access and security. Everyone agreed that it was a really useful meeting and it seems to have established links that we hope will last for many years.



*A knotgrass caterpillar in Cotgrave Forest*





# Trees for life

**Trees benefit both people and the environment – they provide homes for wildlife, help to absorb pollution and reduce breathing-related health problems and produce fuel and wood products. Trees also play an important role in counteracting climate change by providing a barrier to strong winds, helping to reduce flooding and preventing soil erosion.**

Rushcliffe has seven ancient woodlands that have existed since at least 1600 AD but woodland covers only 5.75sq km (1.04%) of Rushcliffe, so all the trees we have are important.

The Council works to protect our trees and woodlands and, where appropriate, increase the area of woodland and numbers of trees in the borough. We work with developers to ensure that newly-built developments include appropriate tree planting. We can make a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) if it we feel it is right to do so to protect trees that add value to an area. This means that permission is then required to remove or carry out work on the tree.

Trees and woods require long-term management to maintain and enhance their wildlife interest, and financial help for tree planting and maintenance may be available.

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## More help and advice

The Woodland Trust provides free tree packs for community groups and schools. They also operate MOREwoods, a UK-wide scheme which provides financial and practical woodland creation support. Please see [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/help-and-support](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/help-and-support) for more details.

The Forestry Commission operate the woodland elements of the Countryside Stewardship grant scheme for larger farm-based woodlands. Please see [www.forestry.gov.uk/countryside stewardship](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/countryside stewardship) for more details. The Tree Council also provide grants and advice, see [www.treecouncil.org.uk](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk)

If you have further questions about trees and woodlands you can visit [www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/conservation/treeshedgesandlandscaping](http://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/conservation/treeshedgesandlandscaping) or email [design&conservation@rushcliffe.gov.uk](mailto:design&conservation@rushcliffe.gov.uk)

## Report of the Executive Manager - Finance and Corporate Services

### 1. Summary

1.1. Members are asked to propose future topics to be considered by the Group, in line with the Council's priorities which are:

- *Delivering economic growth to ensure a sustainable, prosperous and thriving local economy;*
- *Maintaining and enhancing our residents' quality of life;*
- *Transforming the Council to enable the delivery of efficient high quality services.*

### 2. Recommendation

2.1. It is RECOMMENDED that the Group notes the report and considers any future topics.

### 3. Reasons for Recommendation

Date of Meeting	Item
22 August 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and Future of YouNG</li> <li>• Tree Protection and Promotion in Rushcliffe</li> <li>• Work Programme</li> </ul>
21 November 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and Future of YouNG</li> <li>• Update on Rural Broadband</li> <li>• Work Programme</li> </ul>
20 February 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of the Public Spaces Protection Order</li> <li>• Work Programme</li> </ul>

### 3. Implications

#### 3.1. Finance

No direct financial implications arise from the proposed work programme.

#### 3.2. Legal

There are no direct legal implications arising from the proposed work programme.

#### 3.3. Corporate Priorities

Items included in the work programme assist the Council to meet its Corporate Priorities.

#### 3.4. Other Implications

There are no other implications.

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Peter Linfield Executive Manager - Finance and Corporate Services 0115 914 8439 <a href="mailto:plinfield@rushcliffe.gov.uk">plinfield@rushcliffe.gov.uk</a>
<b>Background papers Available for Inspection:</b>	None.
<b>List of appendices (if any):</b>	None.