

When telephoning, please ask for: Helen Tambini
Direct dial 0115 914 8320
Email democraticservices@rushcliffe.gov.uk

Our reference:
Your reference:
Date: Monday, 6 September 2021

To all Members of the Cabinet

Dear Councillor

A Meeting of the Cabinet will be held on Tuesday, 14 September 2021 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Rushcliffe Arena, Rugby Road, West Bridgford to consider the following items of business.

This meeting will be accessible and open to the public via the live stream on YouTube and viewed via the link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/RushcliffeBC>

Please be aware that until the meeting starts the live stream video will not be showing on the home page. For this reason, please keep refreshing the home page until you see the video appear.

Yours sincerely



Sanjit Sull
Monitoring Officer

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 July 2021 (Pages 1 - 10)
4. Citizens' Questions
To answer questions submitted by citizens on the Council or its services.
5. Opposition Group Leaders' Questions
To answer questions submitted by Opposition Group Leaders on items on the agenda.

Rushcliffe Borough
Council Customer
Service Centre

Fountain Court
Gordon Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 5LN

Email:
customerservices
@rushcliffe.gov.uk

Telephone:
0115 981 9911

www.rushcliffe.gov.uk

Opening hours:
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
8.30am - 5pm
Wednesday
9.30am - 5pm
Friday
8.30am - 4.30pm

Postal address
Rushcliffe Borough
Council
Rushcliffe Arena
Rugby Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 7YG

NON-KEY DECISIONS

6. Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring 2021/22 - Financial Update Quarter 1 (Pages 11 - 32)

The report of the Director – Finance and Corporate Services is attached.

7. Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Compact (Pages 33 - 40)

The report of the Director – Neighbourhoods is attached.

8. Exclusion of Public

To move “That under Regulation 21(1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972”.

9. Freeport Update Report (Pages 41 - 48)

The report of the Chief Executive is attached.

Membership

Chairman: Councillor S J Robinson

Vice-Chairman: Councillor A Edyvean

Councillors: A Brennan, R Inglis and G Moore

Meeting Room Guidance

Fire Alarm Evacuation: In the event of an alarm sounding please evacuate the building using the nearest fire exit, normally through the Council Chamber. You should assemble at the far side of the plaza outside the main entrance to the building.

Toilets: Are located to the rear of the building near the lift and stairs to the first floor.

Mobile Phones: For the benefit of others please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off whilst you are in the meeting.

Microphones: When you are invited to speak please press the button on your microphone, a red light will appear on the stem. Please ensure that you switch this off after you have spoken.

Recording at Meetings

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 allows filming and recording by anyone attending a meeting. This is not within the Council’s control.

Rushcliffe Borough Council is committed to being open and transparent in its decision making. As such, the Council will undertake audio recording of meetings which are open to the public, except where it is resolved that the public be excluded, as the information being discussed is confidential or otherwise exempt.



Rushcliffe Borough
Council Customer
Service Centre

Fountain Court
Gordon Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 5LN

Email:

customerservices
@rushcliffe.gov.uk

Telephone:

0115 981 9911

www.rushcliffe.gov.uk

Opening hours:

**Monday, Tuesday and
Thursday**

8.30am - 5pm

Wednesday

9.30am - 5pm

Friday

8.30am - 4.30pm

Postal address

Rushcliffe Borough
Council
Rushcliffe Arena
Rugby Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 7YG



This page is intentionally left blank



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET

TUESDAY, 13 JULY 2021

Held at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Rushcliffe Arena,
Rugby Road, West Bridgford
and live streamed on the Rushcliffe Borough Council YouTube channel

PRESENT:

Councillors S J Robinson (Chairman), A Edyvean (Vice-Chairman), A Brennan,
R Inglis and G Moore

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors R Jones and J Walker

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

D Banks	Director of Neighbourhoods
P Linfield	Director of Finance and Corporate Services
K Marriott	Chief Executive
S Sull	Monitoring Officer
H Tambini	Democratic Services Manager

APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies

11 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

12 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 June 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 8 June 2021, were declared a true record and signed by the Chairman.

13 Citizens' Questions

There were no questions.

14 Opposition Group Leaders' Questions

Question from Councillor J Walker to Councillor Brennan.

“Point 7.1.4 of the officers’ report states: If the operator is unable to retain memberships through lack of group exercise offering or is unable to generate income from the maximisation of the asset, they are likely to seek a review of the contract management fee or look to the local authority to support their losses in other ways.

How will the Council ensure that it protects taxpayers' money in its negotiations with the operator, during the transition phase following the opening up after Covid?"

Councillor Brennan responded by stating that the issues raised in the question would only come into play if the recommendations in the Rushcliffe Arena Facilities report being considered this evening were not approved, and advised that by approving the recommendations, it would mitigate the need for any lengthy negotiations or transition period, to allow a quick conversion of the facility at a relatively modest cost. That would quickly generate activity and would ensure that no further changes to the leisure contract would be required. However, by way of assurance, Councillor Brennan advised that the Council had a robust contract management framework in place, and this had been augmented during the pandemic by moving to an open book arrangement whereby the Council reviewed information on usage and financial performance on a monthly basis. Furthermore, the Council had worked with Parkwood to critically review and challenge its recovery plan and forecasting to ensure that 'best value' for the taxpayer was being achieved from both a leisure delivery and financial perspective. The Council had also utilised support offered by the Government via Sport England to provide an external assessment of the Parkwood Recovery Plan, which had helped to provide further assurance. Those arrangements would continue during the transition and recovery period and would flow into the new contractual terms as reported to Cabinet in January 2021, which again have been the subject of robust negotiations and demonstrated how the Council was constantly working to ensure best value from its leisure operator. Public leisure services had faced significant financial and operational challenges as a result of the pandemic, causing in some areas unprecedented damage to local facilities. The Local Government Association and ukactive continued to urge the Government to provide additional support to the sector. Rushcliffe had not been immune to those pressures, and the Council continued to work very hard to deliver its Leisure Strategy ambitions and to protect taxpayers' money.

Councillor J Walker asked a supplementary question to Councillor Brennan.

"Will the losses referred to be actual or projected losses?"

Councillor Brennan responded by stating that the point being referred to in the financial implications section of the report would be the consequence that might arise if the mitigating factors did not take place, therefore, if the recommendations were approved this evening, those issues should not occur.

Question from Councillor Jones to Councillor Brennan.

"How is it that the other centres listed in the report can provide bowling facilities when, despite its large number of residents over retirement age, Rushcliffe has failed, and plans to waste its investment in the Arena bowling facility?"

Councillor Brennan responded by stating that although Rushcliffe had a large number of residents over retirement age, that did not necessarily mean that they would take part in indoor bowling, and the declining membership of the Rushcliffe Indoor Bowls Club, highlighted that despite the large number of

retired people in the Borough, the Club was unable to retain or attract new members. The recommendations in the Rushcliffe Arena Facilities report would ensure that the facility better aligned to the Council's Leisure Strategy and would offer greater value for money for the Borough's residents by ensuring that the facility was used more often and by all age groups. Concerns over usage had first been expressed in May 2014, when the report to Cabinet had recognised that membership and usage was declining and that an alternative use might be required. Despite the Council's best efforts to support the Club to increase membership, that had not occurred, and the Council would be negligent if it did not pursue alternative usage strategies for the benefit of the whole community. The other local facilities referred to were created on different business models, and therefore direct comparisons could not be made, for example, the others were generally purpose-built indoor bowls facilities, which were fully utilised with leagues and competitions all year round, whereas in Rushcliffe many bowlers preferred to switch to playing outdoors in the summer months, which left the hall unused. In addition, members of the Rushcliffe Indoor Bowls Club committee had stated that other venues provided scope for more attractive social activities, including a bar, refreshments and spectator viewing facilities.

Councillor Jones asked about the equalities monitoring of facilities.

Whilst not a supplementary question, Councillor Brennan responded by stating that an Equalities Impact Assessment had been undertaken and advised that a recommendation in the Rushcliffe Arena Facilities report was that officer would be working with the operator to mitigate the loss of the facility in its current format by ensuring that alternative activities would be available for people of all demographics and abilities.

15 **Financial Outturn 2020/21**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Customer Access, Councillor Moore presented the report of the Director – Finance and Corporate Services outlining the year-end financial outturn position for 2020/21, linked to the closure of the accounts process and previous financial update reports, including the in-year variances, together with variances resulting from Covid 19.

Councillor Moore referred to the very unusual and challenging year that the Council had faced, and reminded Cabinet that the Council had experienced lost income and increased expenditure, with Table 2 of the report highlighting the main items which had impacted on the current Revenue Budget, and in particular the £1.2m support for leisure facilities.

Councillor Moore referred to Table 1 in the report and to the significant increase in net transfer to reserves, which stood at £7.3m; however, Cabinet noted that £5.9m of that would be required to fund the Business Rates deficit over the forthcoming years. That had been dealt with by the formation of a Collection Fund Reserve, which would release those funds over the next few years. The report also highlighted a number of carry forward requests from last year, totalling £910k.

Councillor Moore referred to the Government led initiatives, which the Council had delivered, and it was noted in Table 3 of the report that £11.1m of Business Rates Relief had been paid to 926 businesses; Table 4 outlined the various Covid 19 related grants available, with £30.8m paid to support local businesses; and Table 5 highlighted £58k being paid for 121 test and trace payments, to support the more financially vulnerable who had been required to isolate due to Covid 19.

Cabinet noted that the Council's overall reserve was healthy; however, this year had highlighted the importance of having sufficient reserves to ensure financial resilience. It was also pleasing to note that the New Homes Bonus had increased by £1.2m, and that would be committed to support Capital schemes.

In respect of the Council's Capital Programme, there was £6.8m underspend brought forward, with the reasons for that highlighted in Appendix C of the report.

Cabinet was advised that the Special Expenses position for West Bridgford was referred to in Appendix D, with the deficit due to loss of income caused by Covid 19, to be covered by a loan, which would be reported to the next meeting of the West Bridgford Special Expenses and Community Infrastructure Levy Advisory Group.

In conclusion, Councillor Moore advised that this was a more detailed report than usual, due to the financial implications of Covid 19, and that to a degree, the Council's reserves had protected it from further financial challenges, and Cabinet was assured that the Council was in a strong financial position to deal with any future issues; whilst continuing to progress with its ambitious Capital Programme. Officers throughout the Council, and in particular, the Director – Finance and Corporate Services and his team were thanked for their hard work in continuing to deliver excellent services to residents and businesses throughout the Borough during this difficult time.

In seconding the recommendation Councillor Edyvean reiterated previous comments regarding the challenging situation that the Council had faced, and the thanks given to officers, and commented that it was pleasing to note that the Council had been one of the top performing in the country in providing support to local businesses and residents.

Councillor Edyvean specifically referred to the reduction in car parking charges of £360k and advised that this was because the Council had offered free or reduced parking charges during the pandemic to support local businesses. Reference was also made to a small shortfall in the Council's property investment, and it was noted that officers had worked with tenants to minimise disruption and offer support, and it was positive that this shortfall was so small. Councillor Edyvean stated that it was encouraging that despite all the pressures from the pandemic, the Council had maintained financial resilience.

The Leader echoed the comments made and referred to the complexities that the Council had faced over the last 18 months, the incredible resilience that the Council had shown and thanked the Director – Finance and Corporate

Services and his team for their hard work during such challenging times. Cabinet was advised that those challenging times would continue, and residents knew that the Council would continue to serve their best interests, and it was noted that when the pandemic started the Council was financially strong and resilient and that had helped during this difficult time.

The Leader referred to the significant impact on the Council's revenues, including the loss of car parking charges, which had been introduced to help local businesses, and that would continue going forward and would be reviewed, as it was important to stimulate the local economy, in all sectors throughout the Borough. Reference was also made to the importance of the Council's well balanced assets portfolio, which had remained resilient.

In conclusion, the Leader noted that the accounts would be subject to cross-party scrutiny at the Corporate Overview Scrutiny Group and the Governance Scrutiny Group.

It was RESOLVED that

- a) the 2020/21 revenue position and efficiencies identified in Table 1 and the Covid 19 related variances in Table 2 be noted, and the carry forwards in Table 6 be approved;
- b) the associated changes to the earmarked reserves as set out at Appendix B including the newly created Collection Fund Reserve as stated in paragraph 4.2 be approved;
- c) the re-profiled position on capital be noted and the capital carry forwards outlined in Appendix C be approved; and
- d) the update on the Special Expenses outturn and loan position at paragraph 4.13 and in Appendix D be noted.

16 Rushcliffe Arena Facilities Review

The Portfolio Holder for Communities and Climate Change, Councillor Brennan presented the report of the Director – Neighbourhoods reviewing the Rushcliffe Arena Facilities.

Councillor Brennan referred to the devastating impact of the Covid pandemic on the leisure industry and confirmed that the Council had been working closely with its leisure providers to support them. Cabinet was advised that the Council now faced a number of difficult decisions, in order to maintain a viable facility, available to the widest possible cross section of residents, which supported the Council's aspirations as set out in its Leisure Strategy.

Cabinet noted the underutilisation and declining usage of the indoor bowls facility, which remained largely dormant for approximately a third of the year, as detailed in Table 1.1 of the report. Councillor Brennan advised that despite the best efforts of Rushcliffe Indoor Bowls Club members, Lex Leisure and officers, membership had continued to decline. It was noted that the Club had received significant administrative support on finance, governance and

safeguarding matters, together with ongoing support through investment and marketing in an attempt to encourage and increase membership; however, that had failed to increase numbers. Cabinet noted that Club membership had also declined from 377 members in 2009 to 169 in 2019/20.

Councillor Brennan confirmed that to support the return of a financially sustainable leisure offer it was critically important that gym membership was retained, as it formed the bulk of the operator's income. Cabinet was advised that maintaining a large, underutilised resource was no longer viable and a decision had to be made on the future of the indoor bowls facility, in order to support the Arena and the widest number of residents to adopt an active lifestyle.

Councillor Brennan advised that a number of alternative options had been considered, as outlined in paragraph 5 of the report, and a balanced consideration had been taken between the need to maintain gym membership, financial viability, diversification of the underutilised space to enable a multi-use facility and the extent of the financial investment required to deliver this. Details of the preferred option were highlighted in paragraph 5.1.3 of the report, which would include the change of use of the indoor bowls hall to enable group exercise and sporting and non-sporting events through a quick, simple conversion, which would support the leisure provider to recovery from its losses, encourage the return of existing users and attract new users. The cost of the conversion was anticipated to be £60k and the financial implications were outlined in the report.

In conclusion, Councillor Brennan stated that in undertaking this review, the Council had been left in no doubt as to the strength of feeling of some members of the Club, and whilst for many there had been an acceptance of the situation, for others, the decision to close the bowls hall, if agreed this evening, would be extremely unwelcome, and that was recognised. If the closure was approved this evening, the Council would continue to work with the Club to support members to transfer to other local clubs if they wished to do so. Cabinet was advised that the Council would also continue to work with Lex Leisure to offer alternative activities at the Arena.

In seconding the recommendation, Councillor Inglis reiterated the need to re-evaluate the use of all facilities, against demand, sustainability and changes in leisure and sporting traits. Cabinet was reminded that the Council had strived to deliver its Leisure Strategy by providing excellent facilities, which could be seen at the Arena, and would be seen at the new leisure centre in Bingham.

Councillor Inglis noted with sadness that despite several years of support from all parties to boost membership, the usage of the indoor bowls facility continued to fall and had diminished to such a level, that a vast space stood empty for several months of the year, and that was not acceptable and a review had been required. It was noted that the local decline in indoor bowls participation was reflected nationally and concerns had been raised in 2014, and seven years later the Council was faced with a very underused facility, which was currently catering to the needs of a much greater and wider section of the community.

Councillor Inglis stated that the report clearly set out the reasons for the proposed recommendations and confirmed that advice had been sought from Sports England and the English Indoor Bowls Association, which had recognised the availability of other nearby centres that were considered to be within a reasonable travelling distance for the members to continue participating and enjoying their sport. Cabinet was advised that the proposals would provide an appealing facility for the wider community, which would deliver activities to a greater demographic of users, which would include Club members and although there was sympathy for members who would find the changes unwelcome, they would continue to be supported going forward.

Councillor Edyvean stated that he shared the disappointment of Club members; however, the evidence was clear, and it was noted that they had received considerable support from the Council. It was acknowledged that there were a number of other facilities close by, including a very well supported club in Loughborough, which was the nearest town for many residents in Rushcliffe. Councillor Edyvean confirmed that going forward alternative activities would be made available at the Arena to that particular demographic.

The Leader advised that he had had the pleasure of sitting on the working group, which had designed the Arena, and a key focus of that group had been to ensure optimum usage and viability of the facility, and all aspects of the facility were reviewed to ensure that it continued to meet that criteria. It was acknowledged that as a Council, difficult decisions had to be made, all its assets had to be analysed, and looking at the usage of the indoor bowls facility, it was a concern that it was not used for four months of the year.

On a more positive front, Cabinet noted that outdoor bowling was very popular throughout the Borough, with many indoor bowling club members using those outdoor facilities; however, that impacted on the usage at the Arena. The Leader thanked officers for the support that they had given to the Club to try to improve its sustainability, as given that a Council strapline was 'Great Sport', it was pleasing to note that all Council facilities were made available to everyone. Cabinet was advised that the Council faced challenges as it came out of the pandemic to ensure that use of the Arena was maximised, and the growing demand for exercise classes for all ages had to be met, and the proposed option would meet those demands.

In conclusion, the Leader advised that officers would work with Lex Leisure to ensure that activities were available to mitigate the loss of the indoor bowling facility, and reiterated that although this was a very difficult decision to make, the Council would always have an emphasis on providing the best facilities it could for everyone in the Borough.

It was RESOLVED that:

- a) the closure of the current indoor bowls facility be approved;
- b) a basic conversion of the hall to a multi-functional sports and event space at a cost of £60k be approved; and
- c) officers' work in mitigating the loss of the facility in its current format be

supported, by offering further support to remaining Bowls Club members including exploring the introduction of short mat bowls at the Arena.

17 **Covid-19: Update Report**

The Leader presented the report of the Chief Executive, providing an update on the work completed to date on response and recovery due to the Covid 19 pandemic since May 2021, and detailing an outline of plans to support the recovery from Covid 19.

The Leader highlighted the key headlines in the report, which reflected the work undertaken both internally and externally by the Council during the pandemic. Cabinet noted the changes to lockdown levels since 17 May 2021, the overview and lifting of some restrictions, including the recent confirmation by the Government that the lifting of restrictions scheduled for 19 July 2021, would now go ahead, details of which were highlighted in the report.

The Leader referred to the importance of the financial support given to businesses throughout the pandemic, including business rate grants, the work of the High Street Ambassadors in helping the public and businesses to comply with restrictions, additional work for Environmental Health due to an increase in non-compliance, and digital support grants. Of the £106k allocated to the Council in the Welcome Back funding, Cabinet noted that six of the larger town/parish councils had each received £10k.

In respect of leisure, the significant impact to this sector could not be underestimated and the Leader confirmed that since some restrictions were lifted on 17 May 2021, usage of the facilities has been very positive throughout, and activities including golf at Edwalton had also increased significantly, and it was hoped that trend would continue.

The Leader referred to a number of grants that had been distributed, including funding for food parcels for vulnerable households, together with summer activity and food programmes for children eligible for free school meals. Cabinet noted that since November 2020, over 6,500 payments had been made, with £15m of Government grants paid out to businesses, and a Special Hospitality Grant was also being allocated from remaining discretionary funds, with details of all grants highlighted in the report. The Leader thanked the Director – Finance and Corporate Services and his team for their hard work and diligence during this challenging time.

Cabinet was informed that in respect of events, Proms in the Park would now take place in September 2021. The Leader was pleased to confirm that events including the Outdoor Theatre and Sunday Cinema would be held in August 2021.

In respect of track and trace and mass vaccinations, the Leader advised that the Gamston vaccination centre had administered more than 50,000 vaccines. Cabinet noted that although the track and trace testing centre had been closed at the Arena, as its use had declined considerably, mobile testing sites were available at Cotgrave and Bingham and had been well received. The Leader

referred to the Isolation Scheme for people on low incomes, which had now been extended to include parents/guardians of children who had been told to self-isolate and it was pleasing to see those payments of £500 being made to those in need.

In conclusion, the Leader referred to the impact on service performance from Covid 19 and reiterated the importance of the scrutiny groups in monitoring performance through a suite of performance indicators.

In seconding the recommendation, Councillor Edyvean reiterated the importance of monitoring and responding to the impact of Covid 19, as the challenges already faced would continue going forward; however, the success of the vaccination programme was welcomed, and it was hoped that progress would continue.

Councillor Moore stated that it was very pleasing to see renewed optimism and flourishing businesses throughout the Borough and the speed with which the business grants had been paid out to businesses in Rushcliffe had proved to be a lifeline to so many of them.

The Leader stated that he had recently met with a number of businesses in Cotgrave and had been encouraged to hear from them that business was going well, they were recruiting and were very optimistic for the future and had thanked the Council for its support during the pandemic.

It was RESOLVED that the work of officers of the Council and partners in responding to and supporting the recovery from Covid 19 be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.46 pm.

CHAIRMAN

This page is intentionally left blank



Cabinet

Tuesday, 14 September 2021

Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring 2021/22 – Financial Update Quarter 1

Report of the Director – Finance and Corporate Services

Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance and Customer Access, Councillor G Moore

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. This report presents the budget position for revenue and capital as at 30 June 2021. Details for this report includes the in-year variances along with variances resulting from Covid-19.
- 1.2. Given the current financial climate, particularly relating to the continued impact of Covid, it is imperative that the Council maintains due diligence with regards to its finances and ensures necessary action is taken to ensure a balanced budget is maintained.
- 1.3. The budget was set anticipating an adverse impact of Covid on the Council's finances. A combination of service budget efficiencies, Government funding to help mitigate against the financial impact of Covid income losses and additional Business Rates has led to an anticipated budget efficiency of £0.880m for 2021/22. This position is likely to change as further variances are identified during the year.
- 1.4. There are significant budget risks going forward linked to potential changes to the business rates system and Fairer Funding by central government, government policy in relation to waste collection, the potential impact of the power station closure (now 2024) and the Council's commitment to the Freeport and Development Corporation. Maintaining sufficient reserves to address significant risks remains a key objective of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and is good financial practice.
- 1.5. The Capital Programme shows a planned underspend of £2.837m. This is as a result of carry forwards last year for Registered Housing Providers and releasing more Disabled Facilities Grants (due to pent up demand as a result of Covid) and some schemes deferred to 2022/23.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet approve the attached report noting:

- a) the expected revenue budget efficiency for the year of £0.880m;
- b) the capital budget efficiencies of £2.837m;
- c) the expected outturn position for Special Expenses of £5k deficit; and

- d) the planned use of reserves at paragraph 4.3 (primarily to meet the Collection Fund deficit as a result of business rates reliefs and the grants received in the General Fund to fund the deficit).

3. Reasons for Recommendations

To demonstrate good governance in terms of scrutinising the Council's on-going financial position and compliance with Council Financial Regulations.

4. Supporting Information

Revenue Monitoring

- 4.1 The Revenue Monitoring statement by service area is attached at **Appendix A** with detailed variance analysis as at 30 June 2021, attached at **Appendix B**. For this financial year, the overall budget variance including Covid related pressures and in-year efficiencies, is expected to result in an overall budget efficiency of £0.880m. Loss of income and additional costs as a result of Covid (£0.071m) are more than offset by grant income and net efficiencies (£0.394m). One nuance that requires further explanation is Business Rates. In the current year we are anticipating a surplus of £2.338m but a significant proportion of this will need to be appropriated into the Collection Fund Reserves (£1.765m **Appendix A**) to cover next year's deficit arising as a result of additional Covid related business rates reliefs issued in the year.
- 4.2 Table 1 below summarises the main variations from revenue efficiencies and Covid related pressures.

Table 1: Main Items Impacting on the Current Revenue Budget

	Pressure/ (efficiency) 2021/22 (£m)
Covid costs/(savings):-	
Other Government Grants – Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF)	(0.050)
Leisure	(0.051)
Enforcement expenditure (COMF)	0.055
Waste Collection (Agency)	0.025
Hire of Facilities (mainly Gamston Comm Hall)	0.028
Rental on Commercial Properties	0.064
Total Covid related budget pressure (A)	0.071
Projected in year costs/(efficiencies):-	
Gresham - Additional All Weather Pitch	(0.044)
Other Services	(0.012)
Interest Payments	(0.045)
Planning Fees	(0.210)
Grant Income	(0.094)
Business Rates at Commercial Properties	(0.026)
General Contingency	(0.085)
Other Income & Contributions	0.044
Other (eg Insurance premiums, staff costs)	0.078

Total projected in year savings (B)	(0.394)
Net Revenue Efficiencies (A) + (B)	(0.323)
Grant Income	(0.061)
Business Rates	(2.338)
Reserve Commitments	1.842
Total Net Projected Budget Variance	(0.880)

- 4.3 Additional pressures have been identified and these have been taken into account in the overall net anticipated transfer to reserves of £0.860m:
- a contribution towards a feasibility study into the pedestrianisation of Central Avenue in conjunction with NCC (with the costs being split equally with RBC, capped at £50k);
 - a £1,000 payment (per driver) to refuse HGV drivers totalling £27k given the unusual market conditions and demand for HGV drivers. In the first instance the Council will look to claim from COMF funding.
- The above along with the £1.765m business rates results in £1.842m being used from reserves.
- 4.4 **Appendix A** shows the original estimate for Grant Income of £2.762m. This largely comprises of government Covid grants such as COMF, Sales Fees and Charges (SFC) income reimbursement scheme, Reopening Highstreets Safely Fund and Homelessness Funding (this has been moved to the Neighbourhoods line in the revised budget column). The table also includes a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) of £1.074m. This is a provision that the Council is required to make each year to cover the internal borrowing costs for the Arena, Cotgrave Masterplan and Cotgrave Phase II which will be funded by the New Homes Bonus. The MRP includes an element of Voluntary Repayment Provision (VRP). **Appendix B** gives further explanations of both positive and adverse variances, in addition to those detailed at Table 1.
- 4.5 **Appendix E** shows the Quarter 1 position on the Special Expenses budget. Budgets within the Special Expenses area have been impacted by Covid, particularly on the loss of income from hire of venues and bar sales mainly at Gamston which is currently being used as a vaccination centre. These projections are included in the total Covid related budget pressure of £0.071m. The expected budget deficit for the year is £5k. This deficit is net of a proportion of Covid Government funding. It was agreed by the West Bridgford CIL and Special Expenses Group on 25 September 2020, that the previous year's deficit (£0.087m) would be repaid by way of a loan, due to commence in 2022/23 and will be included as part of the next budget setting cycle (unless other budget efficiencies are identified).

Capital Monitoring

- 4.6 The updated summary of the Capital Programme monitoring statement and funding position is shown at **Appendix C** as at 30 June 2021. **Appendix D** provides further details about the progress of the schemes, any necessary re-phasing, and highlights efficiencies. The projected variance at this stage is £2.837m.
- 4.7 The original Capital Programme of £28.158m, plus agreed carry forwards of £6.533m, plus in-year adjustments of £0.911m gives a revised total of

£35.602m. The net expenditure efficiency variance of £2.837m is primarily due to the following:

- a) Support for Registered Housing Providers £0.692m;
- b) Disabled Facilities Grant £0.218m;
- c) Bingham Leisure Centre Improvements £0.100m;
- d) Contingency not yet allocated £0.250m;
- e) Manvers Business Park improvements £0.300m;
- f) CLC changing village and roof £0.450m; and
- g) KLC changing village and roof £0.470m.

The £0.692m Support for Registered Housing Providers represents the uncommitted balance of the provision available for affordable housing in the year. Officers are working on options for the commitment of this and future sums receivable.

- 4.8 The Council is due to receive capital receipts of £15.2m in the year, primarily from the disposal of surplus operational and investment property: Abbey Road Depot; land at Hollygate Lane; and also, from an overage agreement in place for Sharphill Wood site. Covid impacted on the progress of these schemes last year. The current projected overall variance is likely to mean that any borrowing requirement can be met from internal resources with no recourse to borrow externally this financial year. Savings resulting from interest costs now not anticipated to be incurred are included in the projected overall revenue budget efficiency saving of £0.880m.

Covid-19 Update

- 4.9 The country came out of lockdown on 19 July 2021. Whilst the Council budgeted for an adverse impact on the budget, additional government funding and services continuing to perform, the Council budget remains in a relatively healthy position.
- 4.10 The pandemic is far from over, but it is not known whether the lifting of restrictions will be 'irreversible' with no further lockdowns. There is still uncertainty about the future so budget projections may change with time and risk.
- 4.11 The Governments Sales, Fees and Charges reimbursement scheme has been extended to the first quarter of this year. Current projections estimate that the total reimbursement will be £46k which is below budget by £0.124m; however, the reduced claim is reflective of better performance than anticipated on income receipts particularly relating to planning. Part of the total estimated reimbursement has been allocated to the Special Expense fund to support the lost income from closure of facilities in the West Bridgford area (see paragraph 4.5). Table 2 below shows the Covid-related grants for 2021/22. It is not anticipated that there will be any further funding this year.

Table 2 : Covid Related Grants

£'000	Grant
370	Covid Grant funding Tranche 5
300	Lower Tier Services Grant

102	Local Council Tax Support grant
187	Homelessness Funding
102	COMF (Contain)
46	SFC reimbursement Q1 2021/22*
156	Reopening Highstreets safely*
1,263	Total

*Grants estimated but not yet received

- 4.12 The value of the Council's Multi Asset investments fell by £1.238m at the end of 2019/20 but had recovered by £1.143m as at 31 March 2021. There continues to be fluctuations on these funds currently reporting a favourable net variance of £0.070m during the first three months of this financial year. However, this excludes the CCLA property fund which has been one of the hardest hit investments that RBC hold and is reflective of the national trends in commercial property values.
- 4.13 Performance in relation to collection rates of Business Rates and Council Tax will be reported to Corporate Overview Group on 2 November 2021. At the end of the first quarter, collection rates have improved compared to last year. 38.77% of Council Tax has been collected, compared to 37.93% last year (an increase of 0.84%). NNDR was significantly higher than last year (38.45% compared to 33.26% last year) mainly due to several large ratepayers paying in full. This position is likely to be adversely impacted by changes to Retail Relief (and more businesses now paying business rates) going forward, increasing the value due to be collected, in what may be difficult trading conditions.

Conclusion

- 4.14 The financial position in the revenue budget is positive, projecting a budget efficiency of £0.880m. Covid risks could prevail in the future such as further restrictions imposed as we enter the winter period with the financial impact unknown. The Council must ensure it can support any adverse budgetary impact.
- 4.15 The position on capital is currently positive with no major delays anticipated on larger schemes and no need to externally borrow this financial year. Challenges can arise during the year, such as sourcing materials and inflated costs which may still impact on the projected year-end position and the position will continue to be reported throughout the year.
- 4.16 There remain external financial pressures from existing issues such as the uncertainty surrounding Business Rates retention, the Fair Funding and Comprehensive Spending reviews (which have been further delayed) and the longer term impact of BREXIT. Furthermore, there are the Council's own challenges such as meeting its own environmental objectives and upside risks as opportunities present themselves such as the Freeport and Development Corporation. Against such a background, it is imperative that the Council continues to keep a tight control over its expenditure, identifies any impact from changing income streams, maintains progress against its Transformation Strategy and retains a healthy reserves position.

5 Alternative options considered and reasons for rejection

There are no other options proposed for consideration.

6 Risks and Uncertainties

- 6.1 Failure to comply with Financial Regulations in terms of reporting on both revenue and capital budgets could result in criticism from stakeholders, including both Councillors and the Council's external auditors.
- 6.2 Areas such as income can be volatile and are particularly influenced by public confidence and the general economic climate and Government legislation. This has been clearly evidenced by the impact of Covid and highlighted in Table 1.
- 6.3 Business Rates is subject to specific risks given the volatile nature of the tax base with a small number of properties accounting for a disproportionate amount of tax revenue, notably in Rushcliffe, Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station which is due to close in 2024. Furthermore, changes in Central Government policy influences Business Rates received and their timing, for example policy changes on small Business Rates relief. As was experienced in 2020/21, Covid is likely to have a large impact on the Business Rates position (as a result of additional reliefs) as reported above hence the need to appropriate the in-year Business Rates surplus to smooth deficits in later years.
- 6.4 There is a risk that central government policy changes may result in a negative financial impact on the Councils budget. For example, Government are currently considering waste reforms as part of the Environment Bill which could potentially see the Council providing garden waste collections to residents for free, having a significant impact on the Council's income although DEFRA propose the plans would include covering all costs to Councils. The Council continues to assert its position through consultation responses and will continue to lobby Government for a favourable outcome.
- 6.5 The Council needs to be properly insulated against potential risks hence the need to ensure it has a sufficient level of reserves, as well as having the ability to use reserves to support projects where there is 'upside risk' or there is a change in strategic direction. The Covid pandemic has demonstrated how critical our reserve levels were in ensuring the Council could withstand the financial shocks and we continue to ensure we remain financially resilient at this most difficult of times.

7 Implications

7.1 Financial Implications

Financial implications are covered in the body of the report.

7.2 Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. It supports the delivery of a balanced budget.

7.3 Equalities Implications

None.

7.4 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

None.

8 Link to Corporate Priorities

Quality of Life	The budget resources the Corporate Strategy and therefore resources all Corporate Priorities.
Efficient Services	
Sustainable Growth	
The Environment	

9. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet approve the attached report noting:

- a) the expected net revenue efficiency for the year of £0.880m;
- b) the capital budget efficiencies of £2.837m;
- c) the expected outturn position for Special Expenses of £5k deficit; and
- d) the planned use of reserves at paragraph 4.3 (primarily to meet the Collection Fund deficit as a result of business rates reliefs and the grants received in the General Fund to fund the deficit).

For more information contact:	Peter Linfield Director – Finance and Corporate Services 0115 914 8439 plinfield@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers Available for Inspection:	Council 4 March 2021 – 2021-22 Budget and Financial Strategy Cabinet 7 July 2021 – Financial Outturn Report
List of appendices (if any):	Appendix A – Revenue Outturn Position 2021/22 – June 2021 Appendix B – Revenue Variance Explanations Appendix C – Capital Programme 2021/22 – June 2021 Position Appendix D – Capital Variance Explanations Appendix E – Special Expenses Monitoring

Revenue Outturn Position 2021/22 – June 2021

	Original Budget £'000	Recharges Adjustment £'000	Original Budget excluding Recharges £'000	Revised Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Outturn Variance £'000
Chief Execs	480	1,576	2,055	1,958	1,957	-1
Development and Economic Growth	1,281	-1,275	6	258	119	-139
Finance & Corporate	2,765	1,528	4,292	4,504	4,327	-177
Neighbourhoods	8,747	-1,828	6,919	7,307	7,301	14
Sub Total	13,273	0	13,273	14,027	13,704	-323
Capital Accounting Reversals	-1,768		-1,768	-1,768	-1,768	0
Minimum Revenue Provision	1,074		1,074	1,074	1,074	0
Total Net Service Expenditure	12,579	0	12,579	13,333	13,010	-323
Grant Income	-2,762		-2,762	-2,599	-2,660	-61
Business Rates (including SBRR)	-2,820		-2,820	-2,820	-5,158	-2,338
Council Tax	-7,255		-7,255	-7,255	-7,255	0
Collection Fund Deficit	4,045		4,045	4,045	4,045	0
Total Funding	-8,792	0	-8,792	-8,629	-11,028	-2,399
Net Transfer to/(-)from Reserves	-3,787	0	-3,787	-4,704	-1,982	2,722
Amount Committed from Reserves						
Business Rates Deficit						-1,765
Feasibility Study Central Avenue						-50
Retention HGV Drivers						-27
Net Budget (Deficit)/Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	880

Revenue Variance Explanations (over £15k)

ADVERSE VARIANCES in excess of £15,000	Reason	Projected Outturn Variance £'000
Property Services		
COMMERCIAL RENTS	Rent holidays and vacancies on commercial properties and industrial units	58
Depot & Contracts		
AGENCY STAFF	Extra rounds on refuse collection, social distancing and driver shortage	19
TOOTHILL CONTRIBUTION	Joint Use payments re Bingham Leisure Centre	22
Community Development		
NON SPORTING FACILITY HIRE	In the main Gamston Community Hall - Covid vaccination centre	25
Environmental Health		
LEGAL & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	Expenditure in connection with Contain Outbreak Management	55
Strategic Housing	Rough Sleeping Initiatives (funded by grant)	24
Total Adverse Variances		203
Sum of Minor Variances		225
TOTAL ADVERSE VARIANCE		428

FAVOURABLE VARIANCES in excess of £15,000	Reason	Projected Outturn Variance £'000
Environmental Health		
OTHER GOVERNMENT GRANTS	Covid Funding - Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF)	-50
Community Development		
ALL WEATHER PITCH	Additional income from new pitches	-44
PARKWOOD CONTRACT	Cost savings from renegotiated contract	-51
Financial Services		
INTEREST PAYMENTS	Savings from interest which would have been incurred on external borrowing	-45
General Contingency	Contingency not required	-85
Planning & Growth		
FEES & CHARGES - GENERAL	Planning income	-210
Property Services		
NNDR	Savings on the Arena due to successful appeal	-23
Revenues & Benefits		
OTHER GOVERNMENT GRANTS	Housing Benefits & Housing Benefits Admin Grants	-40
Strategic Housing		
S31 GRANT	Rough Sleepers Initiative grant (offset by additional cost of new initiatives)	-24
Total Favourable Variances		-572

Sum of Minor Variances		-179
TOTAL FAVOURABLE VARIANCE		-751
TOTAL VARIANCE		-323

Capital Programme Summary June 2021

CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING - JUNE 2021				Explanations
EXPENDITURE SUMMARY	Current Budget	Projected Actual	Projected Variance	
	£000	£000	£000	
Development and Economic Growth	27,016	26,552	(464)	
Neighbourhoods	7,726	5,608	(2,118)	Support for RHPs not fully committed, options continue to be explored. Potential underspend on BCF funds as additional allocated in both 20/21 (which was carried forward) and 21/22.
Finance & Corporate Services	610	605	(5)	
Contingency	250	0	(250)	Capital Contingency balance not yet allocated.
	35,602	32,765	(2,837)	
FINANCING ANALYSIS				
Capital Receipts	(14,659)	(13,148)	1,511	
Government Grants	(3,360)	(3,209)	151	To match potential underspend on BCF projects.
Use of Reserves	(837)	(354)	483	
Grants/Contributions	(530)	(530)	-	
Section 106 Monies	(4,716)	(4,024)	692	Support for RHPs not fully committed.
Borrowing	(11,500)	(11,500)	-	
	(35,602)	(32,765)	2,837	
NET EXPENDITURE	-	-	-	

Capital Programme 2021/22 – June 2021 Position

CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING - JUNE 21							
	Original	Current	Budget	Actual		Projected	
	Budget	Budget	YTD	YTD	Variance	Actual	Variance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£'000
DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH							
Manvers Business Park Surface/Drain		10				10	Work to upgrade an additional section of the drain has been completed £10k.
Energy Efficiency LED Lighting Schemes		103	103	77	(26)	103	Works nearing practical completion. Spend projected at budget.
Colliers BP Enhancements		14				14	Provision to support any emerging enhancements as Colliers BP.
Cotgrave Phase 2	570	1,047	262	83	(179)	1,047	Main contract works to be completed early 21/22. Peripheral works still to be commissioned: car charging points, teen shelters, landscaping, and frontage works.
Bingham Leisure Hub	16,000	18,240	4,560	1,170	(3,390)	18,240	Main contractor has started on site and works progressing. Costs expected to be within the £20m total provision made.
Manvers Business Park Roof Refurbishment	200	200					(200) Deferred to 22/23

Manvers Business Park Roller Shutters	100	100					(100)	Deferred to 22/23
Water Course Improvements	210	61					(61)	Deferred to 22/23
The Point	150	150		1	1	50	(100)	Balcony waterproofing deferred to 2022/23
Bingham Market Place Improvements		68				68		Tender documentation being prepared for remedial works to the Buttercross.
Bridgford Hall Enhancements		11				8	(3)	Provision for roofing enhancements. Works have been instructed: contractors on site over the next 4 weeks to expedite. Projected spend £8k.
The Crematorium	6,500	7,012	250	39	(211)	7,012		Total provision including purchase of the land £8.5m. Design works undertaken, out to tender with a view to commence build Sept 21. Cost pressures for materials and skilled labour will be assessed following tender returns mid August. Projected actual to be refined from project management cash flow.
	23,730	27,016	5,175	1,370	(3,805)	26,552	(464)	
NEIGHBOURHOODS								
Vehicle Replacement	730	730				730		Potential to be fully committed to acquire 3 Refuse Vehicles and 2 box vans. Research is being

								undertaken to source electric box vans.
Support for Registered Housing Providers	500	1,112				420	(692)	Commitments comprise: £160k for 10 units of affordable housing on Garage Sites Ph 2; £53k for accommodation Next Steps Rough Sleepers; and 207k to provide a 3 bedroomed adapted bungalow to meet a local housing need. RBC is due up to £3.8m for land north of Bingham. £2.3m already received and the balance in May 22. The future capital programme will be adjusted to reflect these additional resources.
Assistive Technology	16	16	4		(4)	40	24	Proposal to purchase Smart Hubs. Can be contained in the BCF allocation.
Discretionary Top Ups	57	57	14		(14)	100	43	Proposal to increase Discretionary threshold from £10k to £20k. Can be contained in BCF allocation
Disabled Facilities Grants	515	858	214	159	(55)	640	(218)	Additional BCF funds awarded in 21/22. Grant releases are picking up following Covid delays. A second grant officer has been recruited to help deal with the increase in

								allocation and expected demand in the system held over during the pandemic. Potential underspend.
Hound Lodge Access Control System		25					(25)	Scheme deferred pending outcome of asset review.
Bowls Hall Replacement Furniture	15							Cabinet 13.07.21 approved £15k virement to Bowls Hall Conversion scheme.
Arena Enhancements		80	19	2	(17)	25	(55)	Addition height barrier installed and chemical store tanking/overflow works planned.
Car Park Resurfacing		215				215		Scope of works being determined.
CLC Changing Village Enhancements	300	310					(310)	Deferred to 22/23 as life of space extended due to closure during Covid
CLC Refurbish Roofs to Sports and Pool Halls	150	150					(150)	Deferred to 22/23
KLC Refurbish Pool Hall and Changing Village	250	250					(250)	Deferred to 22/23
Bowls Centre Conversion/Enhancements	75	90				30	(60)	Cabinet 13.07.21 approved £15k virement from Bowls Hall Replacement Furniture and committed £60k for conversion of Bowls Hall to multi-functional space. Parkwood have now agreed to fund the conversion. Reception and corridor floor upgrade still required.

BLC Improvements		104				4	(100)	Roofing works to be carried out by the end of June £4k.
KLC Refurb Pitched/Flat Roof Areas	220	220					(220)	Deferred to 22/23
RBC EV Network		13				13		Committed, awaiting completion and sign off to release this payment. This scheme is fully funded by Government Grant.
Gresham Sports Park Redevelopment		1,258	306	16	(290)	1,258		Design works undertaken, main contractor started on site early 21-22. Scheme funded by S106 Developer Contributions and Football Foundation (FF) Grant. First claim for payment by main contractor £114k and first grant claim submitted to the FF for £64k.
Gamston Community Centre Enhancements	115	115				115		Scope of works being determined; a scheme of works will be planned for site delivery in the Autumn. The vaccination centre to be decommissioned and will close at the end of October.
Lutterell Hall Enhancements Special Exps	225	275				275		Tender documentation being prepared: site delivery dependent upon securing of listed building consent - application won't be determined before Sept;

								revised site delivery programme being reviewed.
LAD2 Green Energy Grants		635	64		(64)	635		Newly emerge spending opportunity, fully funded by Government Grant. Scheme to facilitate external wall insulation, solar PV panels, and loft insulation in homes of non-standard construction. To be delivered in partnership with EON.
Gresham Sports Pavilion	125	125		1	1	125		Provision comprises: £100k refurbishment, and £25k plant upgrade. Majority of enhancement works have been instructed and are targeted for completion end August/early September.
RCP Front Footpath Improvements	15	15				15		Aim to procure this work at the same time as substantive development.
RCP Visitor Centre	285	344				344		Consultation event with Friends of RCP. Final design sent to members. Current consultation with planning and NCC as landowners regarding footpath diversion.
Extnal Door/Window Upgrades Various Sites	50	50				50		
Covid Memorial Garden		20				15	(5)	Cabinet 8 June 2021 refers.

Capital Grant Funding		40	10	10		35	(5)	£10k committed, £10k provisionally awarded; and £15k earmarked for a pending application. Potential saving of £5k.
RCP Vehicle Access Controls	15	15				15		Scope of works being finalised: tender preparation to follow alongside main works.
Play Areas - Special Expense	50	110				150	40	Planned upgrade work to the structure and equipment at Abbey Park and Alford Rd. Pre-tender estimate for Abbey Park £75k and Alford Rd £75k. To twin track both schemes will require an acceleration of £40k from 22-23 capital programme provision (£50k). Abbey park scheme sent via the ward councillor to the community association for consultation, awaiting feedback
Boundary Rd Cycle Track Special Expense		78				78		Contractor appointed, awaiting discharge of planning condition and confirmation of start on site date. (Still waiting on discharge and programme's start date)

RCP Skatepark		144	144	136	(8)	144		ROSPA Safety report signed off and final contract payment processed. Potential for a small cost towards fencing improvement to the swale (awaiting quotes for this work)
West Park Public Toilet Upgrade		20					(20)	Deferred to 22/23
West Park Julien Cahn Pavilion	115	115					(115)	Scheme to be reviewed, deferred to 22/23 capital programme.
Skateboard Parks		112				112		£72k committed for RCP Skatepark; £40k earmarked for Keyworth. (Keyworth have submitted some grant bids in an effort to get match funding and established a go fund me page).
Warm Homes on Prescription	25	25	6		(6)	25		
	3,848	7,726	781	324	(457)	5,608	(2,118)	
FINANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES								
Information Systems Strategy	330	460	45	20	(25)	505	45	£20k expenditure to date with a potential further commitment of £485k will lead to an overspend of £45k. This sum will need to be accelerated from the 22/23 provision.

Streetwise Loan 20/21	150	150				100	(50)	Streetwise unlikely to need full amount of this loan.
	480	610	45	20	(25)	605	(5)	
CONTINGENCY								
Contingency	100	250					(250)	No allocation requests to date.
	100	250					(250)	
TOTAL	28,158	35,602	6,001	1,714	(4,287)	32,765	(2,837)	

Budget Monitoring for Special Expense Areas - Quarter 1

	2021/22 Original £	Forecast P3 £	Forecast Variance £	Reasons for variance
West Bridgford				
Parks & Playing Fields	413,600	418,400	4,800	Play Area Repairs
West Bridgford Town Centre	91,400	91,400	0	
Community Halls	56,900	76,700	19,800	Gamston Community Hall - loss of income due to being used as a Covid Vaccination Centre
Annuity Charges	80,700	80,700	0	
RCCO	50,000	50,000	0	
Sinking Fund (The Hook)	20,000	20,000	0	
Total	712,600	737,200	24,600	
Government Covid Grant	0	0	-19,900	
Net	712,600	737,200	4,700	Deficit net of government grant
Keyworth				
Cemetery	7,900	7,900	0	
Annuity Charge	1,300	1,300	0	
Total	9,200	9,200	0	
Ruddington				
Cemetery & Annuity Charges	11,100	11,100	0	
Total	11,100	11,100	0	
TOTAL SPECIAL EXPENSES	732,900	757,500	4,700	



Cabinet

Tuesday, 14 September 2021

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Compact

Report of the Director – Neighbourhoods

**Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Communities and Climate Change,
Councillor A Brennan**

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. This report presents the new Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Compact (Appendix 1), which has been developed by the Local Resilience Forum and Nottinghamshire County Council, for adoption by relevant public authorities to build on the successful response by the voluntary and community sector during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 1.2. The report seeks approval to sign up to the Compact, and its principles, which will demonstrate the Council's ongoing commitment to the voluntary and community sector in the Borough.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet approves the adoption of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Compact.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. Nottinghamshire County Council approved the adoption of the Compact on 10 June 2021, and the Chairman of Nottinghamshire County Council's Communities Committee and Adrian Smith, who is Chair of the Local Resilience Forum Humanitarian Assistance Group (LRF HAG) have now jointly written to the Council to seek support for the adoption of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Compact.
- 3.2. The principles of the Compact correlate well with the Council's strong track record for supporting and working with the voluntary and community sector in the Borough.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1. The Compact has been developed by partners in the voluntary, community and public sectors, and was presented to and approved by the LRF HAG on 20 April 2021.

- 4.2. The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) has been at the heart of the humanitarian response across the City and County throughout the Covid pandemic, helping public bodies meet the expectations placed on them by the Government.
- 4.3. The VCS has always made a huge contribution to the lives of local people. The impact of Covid-19, and the response of the VCS to it, has further highlighted and amplified the sector's critical role. The sector very quickly mobilised to provide support to our most vulnerable residents at the time they needed it most. The development of the Compact has been borne out of the new relationships forged during the pandemic and is designed to provide a strong foundation for close collaborative working.
- 4.4. The Compact asks public sector partners and the VCS to commit to a set of shared values and principles, which support the long-term development of effective partnership working. To implement the Compact effectively key public bodies have been contacted by the County Council to request formal adoption of the Compact, and thereby agreement to follow its principles. This will help to support the development and sustainability of the VCS, whilst publicly demonstrating the value partners place in continuing the collaboration that has been collectively developed.
- 4.5. To facilitate more effective partnership working going forward, an output from the Compact will be the formation of an alliance of partners who will aim to better understand how the VSC contributes to, and can leverage its resources towards, an integrated 'systems approach'. It will embed good practice and use community action to address any inequalities affecting our communities and create the opportunity for innovation across the County.
- 4.6. During the pandemic, many community groups emerged across a large proportion of our towns and villages in the Borough to provide support to our most vulnerable residents such as older people, disabled people, those with specific health conditions, the homeless, and those economically disadvantaged. This situation augmented the Council's well-established role in facilitating and supporting the VCS and looking forward towards recovery this support will be just as important. Some specific examples of how the Council supports the VCS are summarised in the following list:
 - Annual Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC) Service Level Agreement with Rushcliffe Community Voluntary Service (RCVS), which provides specialist support for voluntary organisations and the promotion of good practice in volunteering e.g. establishment of the Rushcliffe Volunteer Network, co-ordination of new volunteer placement opportunities, skills training and promotion of an annual volunteer recruitment fair.
 - Annual RBC Service Level Agreement with Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire (RCAN), which provides specialist rural knowledge and intelligence to influence and advocate on behalf of a network of local voluntary organisations and community groups in Nottinghamshire's rural communities.

- Establishing and supporting the Friends of Rushcliffe Country Park (FORCP) and Friends of Bridgford Park volunteer groups. As well as carrying out valuable conservation work such as hedge laying and tree planting, the FORCP has created a number of educational trails around the Rushcliffe County Park. In recognition of their commitment and hard work on the park, the Friends were awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Services in 2012.
- Developing the innovative Reach Rushcliffe grants programme which has benefited a wide range of voluntary groups such as:

Example 1 – £2000 for South Notts Befriending Service, a volunteer community befriending service led by RCVS which has a network of over 70 volunteers across the Borough supporting vulnerable residents with weekly befriending telephone calls, welfare checks and referrals for specialist support.

Example 2 – £1000 for Cotgrave Super Kitchen to create a volunteer led, community garden accessible for all, providing access to green space to learn about horticulture, growing and eating healthy foods.

Example 3 – £1000 for Meet, Greet and Eat to support individuals with additional needs into volunteering, provide work experience and/or paid employment.

- Working through the Rushcliffe Event Safety Advisory Group to provide specialist guidance and advice to enable volunteer community groups to deliver safe events within the local area – e.g., Bingham Community Events Group, East Leake Traders Association and Ruddington Village Market.
 - Supporting community and voluntary organisations in Keyworth to deliver place-based targeted physical activity interventions such as Keyworth United Sports Club and Keyworth Community Events Group.
 - Supported delivery of the Live and Local Rural Arts touring scheme in Rushcliffe for over 25 years, working with a network of over 12 volunteer promoter groups across the Borough to host professional touring arts performances in rural communities.
- 4.7. In light of this strong track record, it is felt that the principles contained in the Compact will, subject to approval, be an important signal to reinforce the positive relationships that already exists with the VCS in the Borough.

5. Alternative options considered and reasons for rejection

The Council could decide to not support the Compact.

6. Risks and Uncertainties

The viability and sustainability of the VCS can by its very nature be fragile and transient therefore the principles of the Compact will help to strengthen the important contribution that this sector makes.

7. Implications

7.1. Financial Implications

The Council's existing commitment to the VCS is contained within the budget framework: RCVS £15k, RCAN £18.5k and Reach £15k (only included in the budget provision until 2022/23). The signing of the Compact itself will not generate any new financial impacts for the Council.

7.2. Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications from signing the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Compact.

7.3. Equalities Implications

There are no direct or significant equalities implications arising from the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Compact.

7.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

The VCS plays an important role in a wide range of community safety measures such as Neighbourhood Watch and volunteer speed patrols.

8. Link to Corporate Priorities

Quality of Life	The VCS underpins and contributes to many aspects of what defines a great quality of life across the Borough
Efficient Services	The VCS makes an important contribution to compliment and augment the Council's existing statutory and discretionary service delivery
Sustainable Growth	Not applicable
The Environment	The VCS makes a strong and varied contribution to the environmental quality of the Borough from Country Park volunteers through to Tree Wardens

9. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet approves the adoption of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Compact.

For more information contact:	David Banks Director - Neighbourhoods 0115 914 8438 dbanks@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for Inspection:	None.
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 - Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Compact

This page is intentionally left blank

THE NOTTINGHAM & NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COMPACT

About the Compact

This document is an agreement between public sector organisations and voluntary and community organisations [VCS] across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

This Compact provides the framework for improved partnership working and recognises and supports the contribution that all partners make, underpinned by mutual understanding, trust and respect. It builds on the collaboration and joint working progressed as an emergency response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

It sets out how the public sector and the VCS can get the most out of partnership working by meeting our respective commitments and work together for the benefit of our communities and residents.

Background

The VCS across Nottinghamshire and Nottingham makes a huge contribution and has, as ever, played a critical role during the pandemic. It is important the sector, which provides services and support to those residents who are especially vulnerable to the virus such as older people, disabled people, those with specific health conditions, the homeless and those who are economically disadvantaged, are supported in the longer term.

Strengthening relationships with and across the sector will maximise on opportunities to develop a whole systems approach to supporting the financial health and resilience of the sector ultimately leading to person centred, sustainable services and a longer-term impact on widening health inequalities. Joint and collaborative working will enable the health and social care system to benefit from the expertise and local knowledge of VCS partners and in the short-term enable direct coordinated support to those communities disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

For the purposes of this document the term 'Voluntary and Community Sector' is used to describe voluntary organisations, community groups, the community work of faith groups, and those social enterprises and community interest companies where there is a wider accountability to the public via a board of trustees or membership and all profits are reinvested in their social purpose.

Shared Values & Principles

We propose that these shared values and principles should be used to guide and underpin the long-term development of our working relationships across Nottinghamshire and Nottingham:

- Working as equal partners, the VCS is accepted with parity of esteem by its statutory colleagues and that collaboration across and between the VCS is an important principle. A relationship built on trust, equality and mutual understanding for the achievement of common aims and objectives, will add value to services in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham
- Joint working demands integrity and a willingness to regularly communicate in an accountable, open and honest way
- We will accept the challenges each partner may face and use a strength-based approach to solving problems together
- Accept that LRF partners and the voluntary and community sector have distinct but valuable and complementary roles, in the development and delivery of public policy and services
- Differences of opinion will arise, but we are committed to resolving them in a constructive and respectful manner driven by shared purpose and values and not individual gain
- The independence and diversity of the voluntary and community sector is crucial to the development, delivery and scrutiny of quality services
- Voluntary and community organisations are entitled, regardless of funding sources, to act as advocates in seeking to influence and strengthen public policy
- All partners will be respected and afforded the opportunity to put across their point of view
- We will work in partnership to ensure that minority ethnic and other disadvantaged groups are included in our consultation and policy development processes so that their views are heard, and their concerns acted upon
- We will work collaboratively to ensure that the voices of individuals and groups who face health inequalities are heard within consultation and policy development processes including the co-design and production of services
- We will respect each other's specialisms and expertise
- We will always seek the knowledge and guidance of the community we serve in the redesign of services
- We will work together to maximise the impact of investment in the VCS through a strategic approach to funding which eliminates duplication and targets the needs of local communities to gain the greatest return for the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire pound
- We will accept the value of individual emotional, psychological and interpersonal [soft outcomes] and social benefits in challenging health inequalities and integrate the Social Value Act 2019 in the decisions we make

Implementing the Compact

Implementing this Compact can help partners achieve:

- Equity in relationships
- Informed decisions based on the knowledge of local communities
- More appropriate funding that more closely reflects the needs of users
- Progress towards a more equal society by identifying and tackling inequality and disadvantage
- Value for money

To implement the Compact effectively, public sector and VCS organisations will take steps to ensure that they:

- Are aware of the Compact and its implications for their work
- Incorporate the principles and values of the Compact into their policies and procedures

Agenda Item 9

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank