



Rushcliffe
Borough Council

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Our reference:
Your reference:
Date: Monday, 5 June 2023

To all Members of the Cabinet

Dear Councillor

A Meeting of the Cabinet will be held on Tuesday, 13 June 2023 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

Gemma Dennis
Monitoring Officer

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 March 2023 (Pages 1 - 8)

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.

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

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West Bridgford
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NON-KEY DECISIONS

6. Process for Developing the Corporate Strategy 2023-2027 (Pages 9 - 32)

The report of the Chief Executive is attached.

7. Rushcliffe Growth Boards Review Process (Pages 33 - 40)

The report of the Director – Development and Economic Growth is attached.

8. LGA Debate Not Hate Campaign (Pages 41 - 44)

The report of the Monitoring Officer is attached.

Membership

Chair: Councillor N Clarke

Vice-Chair: Councillor A Brennan

Councillors: R Inglis, R Upton, D Viridi, and J Wheeler

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



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET

TUESDAY, 14 MARCH 2023

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

PRESENT:

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

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

L Ashmore	Director of Development and Economic Growth
D Banks	Director of Neighbourhoods
G Dennis	Monitoring Officer
P Linfield	Director of Finance and Corporate Services
K Marriott	Chief Executive
E Richardson	Democratic Services Officer

49 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

50 Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 February 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 14 February 2023 were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

51 Citizens' Questions

There were no citizen's questions.

52 Opposition Group Leaders' Questions

There were no Opposition Group Leaders' questions.

53 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring 2022/23 - Financial Update Quarter 3

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance and Customer Access, Councillor Moore, presented the report of the Director Finance and Corporate Services which set out the budget position for revenue and capital as at 31 December 2022.

Councillor Moore said that the overall picture was positive, with a predicted efficiency of £1.72m primarily as a result of Business Rates pool, additional

investment income and additional grants. He noted that this position could, and probably would, change during the following quarter but that the money was currently earmarked to assist with cost pressures and to cover reductions in the value of pooled investments which sat at £973k. Councillor Moore said that the money would also be used to enhance current service challenges.

Councillor Moore referred to a number of cost efficiencies, including a large increase in investment income as a result of higher interest rates, increased cash balances, increased planning income and increased usage of Edwalton Golf Course. He confirmed that efficiencies were tempered by increases in agency staff costs and lost income from the delayed opening of Bingham Hub and the Crematorium, although he was pleased to note that both were back on track, with feedback from Bingham Hub being that it was busy and generating revenue.

In relation to cost pressures, Councillor Moore said that these included staff salaries following a pay award in November 2022 which added £550k and inflation reaching 11% during the quarter which affected all departments and in particular energy costs.

Councillor Moore said that the overall capital budget, including carry forwards, was £22.2m, of which the Council anticipated that it would spend £18.5m, resulting in an underspend of £3.7m which would be carried forward. He confirmed that the carry forward combined with capital receipts meant that the Council did not currently have to borrow.

Councillor Moore confirmed that the overall financial position for both the revenue and capital budget was positive, considering the current economic climate and he was pleased that the local government finance settlement had delivered some clarity regarding future funding, including a new round of New Homes Bonus, and a grant to ensure that local authorities received an increase of at least 3% core spending power over the next two years. He noted that Government had deferred resetting Business Rates, New Homes Bonus and the Fairer Funding review until at least 2025/26.

Councillor Moore concluded that the Council was keeping tight control of expenditure whilst maximising income streams and opportunities.

In seconding the recommendations, Councillor Edyvean said that report demonstrated how, even against a challenging background, the Council could manage its finances positively. He referred to the high agency costs and explained that a large amount of the expenditure had been to cover planning and thought that the service provided by the Council was better than many other local authorities.

Councillor Edyvean noted that even though capital receipts were significantly down against forecast, the Council could still meet its borrowing requirements from internal resource. He thought it positive that the Council's approach to the pay settlement had meant that staff on lower salaries received a proportionately higher increase compared to those on a higher salary and said that it was a shame that other parts of the public sector did not show such pragmatism. He thanked the Director Finance and Corporate Services and his team for their continued hard work and dedication.

Councillor Robinson echoed his appreciation for the work of the Finance Team during difficult conditions. He highlighted the positive situation of Edwalton Golf Club and said that this endorsed the investment made by the Council with it forming an important asset as part of the Council's Leisure Strategy.

Councillor Robinson noted the excellent financial health of the Council and whilst there were uncertainties in the future, he thought that very few councils would meet them from such a strong financial position.

It was RESOLVED that Cabinet approves the report and that:

- a) the expected revenue budget efficiency for the year of £1.723m and proposals to earmark this for cost pressures (paragraph 4.1 of the report) be noted;
- b) the capital budget efficiencies of £3.758m including various re-profiling stated at paragraph 4.7 of the report, included in the MTFs to Full Council be noted; and
- c) the expected outturn position for Special Expenses to be £3.2k below budget (paragraph 4.5 of the report) be noted.

54 Support to the Rushcliffe Youth Forum

The Portfolio Holder for Communities & Climate Change, Councillor Brennan, presented the report of the Director Neighbourhoods which outlined proposals for support to the Youth Forum.

Councillor Brennan explained this report came on the back of a few motions that had come to Full Council over recent years, in looking to find ways of engaging young people in the democratic process and local decision making. She said that there had been a particular motion which had proposed the creation of a Youth Council for the Borough, and whilst that motion had been lost, the proposal had been referred to scrutiny for review.

Councillor Brennan said that in reviewing options, it had identified that Rushcliffe already had a Youth Forum in operation, which was chaired by the representative for Rushcliffe on the National Youth Parliament and supported by the County Council as part of their statutory duty to support young people. She thought that Youth Forums and Parliaments were a great way for young people to take part in debates and discuss issues important to them.

Councillor Brennan referred to paragraph 4 of the report which set out the background to the recommendations and noted that a number of other local Councils had similar Forums in operation, with varying degrees of success and engagement. She said that the most successful ones appeared to have good support both from their National Youth Parliament member and from Nottinghamshire County Council Youth Services department.

Councillor Brennan explained that the scrutiny process had concluded that the existing Youth Forum for Rushcliffe was essentially a Youth Council by another name and that there was no need to establish a new body. She noted,

however, that engagement with the existing Youth Forum had been patchy and that numbers were quite low, especially since the pandemic. She also noted that Rushcliffe, as a Borough did not have contact with schools and that setting up a new youth body from scratch would require a budget and resources, and it was therefore proposed that, rather than reinvent the wheel, focus be put on reinvigorating the existing Forum with support from the Council, such as in providing meeting rooms, perhaps with Members attending some of their meetings, for the Council to consult with the Forum on some of its strategies and proposals and to provide publicity for the Forum to attract new members and support its online presence.

Councillor Brennan noted that since the writing of the report, the representative for Rushcliffe on the National Youth Parliament had stood down to concentrate on their studies and the Council would support Nottinghamshire County Council in recruiting a new representative to the role.

Councillor Brennan concluded that this provided a great opportunity for the Council to build on something that was already in place to help it grow and encourage young people to become involved in local decision making

In seconding the recommendation, Councillor Inglis said that it was important for young people to have a forum and opportunity to express their views as they were the future. He highlighted paragraph 7.3 of the report which referred to encouraging young people to engage in democracy to ensure that their voices are heard and paragraph 7.4 which identified that the Youth Forum offered a safe and effective way for young people to bring their issues that are important to them to the attention of decision makers.

Councillor Inglis said that it was important for the Council to be inclusive to all its residents and none more so than those who would inherit the decisions being made today.

Councillor Robinson agreed with the proposals to support the Youth Council and said that offering usage of the Arena's meeting rooms would give a flavour of how adult democracy takes place. He said that these proposals highlighted the excellent scrutiny process of the Council as they came from a motion which had gone to Full Council, which although rejected, had been amended with a commitment to take it through the scrutiny process and was now before Cabinet for a decision to take it forward. He said that it showed democracy in action and demonstrated how the youth of Rushcliffe could engage and play a part in shaping their services of the future and the wonderful facilities offered by the Council.

It was RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees to support the existing Rushcliffe Youth Forum for the next two years to help expand membership, increase awareness and increase opportunities for collaboration.

55 **Endorsement of Plan for UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund 2023/24**

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Business & Growth, Councillor Edyvean, presented the report of the Director Development and Economic Growth which outlined plans for UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England

Prosperity Fund (REPF) 2023/24.

Councillor Edyvean explained that UKSPF funding had been set up to replace European funding and had first been considered by Cabinet in July 2022. He said that the funding worked better at delivering money locally and highlighted that in its first year the Council had spent £312k of UKSPF funding on communities and place and local businesses. Councillor Edyvean explained that it had allowed the Council to provide initiatives such as further improvements to Rushcliffe Country Park, reed clearance on Grantham Canal and cost of living workshops and had enabled the Council to employ an advisor to support local high street businesses. He added that the funding would also support people and skills, with that money kicking in the third year of funding.

Councillor Edyvean said that the proposals before Cabinet were for the coming financial year of 2023/24 and amounted to funding of £624k, to be split between community and place at £325k and business support at £274k. He referred to paragraphs 4.7 and 4.8 of the report which set out the proposed funding allocations.

Councillor Edyvean referred to paragraph 4.2 of the report which set out proposals for REPF, including £80k for businesses to bid for, for projects such as diversification of their business, net zero infrastructure, support for rural business hubs and supporting a visitor economy. He said the £69k was allocated for communities and place and that the Council would invite applications for funding between £10k to 40k, with match funding required in certain instances. He said that business grant applications would require 60% match funding and that community grants would require 30%, which could be either financial or in kind. He explained that whilst match funding for the community and place was not mandatory, the Council would like to see commitment for some match funding. He said that the Council would be accepting bids from the end of April 2023.

Councillor Edyvean referred to paragraphs 4.19 through to 4.22 of the report which set out the proposal for governance. He highlighted that Officers would continue to refine the programmes as they unfolded, with the Leader, Chief Executive and S151 Officer being able to agree any changes and that grants would be assessed monthly by report to the Portfolio Holder for Business and Growth and sign off of the grants would be through the S151 Officer and the Director Growth and Economic Development. He added that quarterly reports would be presented to the Strategic Growth Board and monthly monitoring would be carried out by the UKSPF and REPF Project Board to ensure delivery of projects and that spend was on track.

In seconding the recommendations, Councillor Moore said that £3m to spend in Rushcliffe was a good thing and he was pleased to see the process put in place to spend the funding. He was also pleased to see practical, local and visible expenditure within the communities, bringing extra green spaces, energy conservation, improvements for local community and sporting facilities which were all very important for residents.

Councillor Moore stressed that it was important that improvements were seen and visible and referred to the work that had been carried out on the canal. He said that this had received hugely positive views with a lot of residents asking

about the funding and feeding back about the positive impact, how well the funding had been well spent and how appreciated it was. Councillor Moore looked forward to seeing the variety of interesting projects coming forward.

Councillor Upton echoed the comments of Councillor Moore and said that the funding would bring significant amounts for money to the Borough of Rushcliffe for projects that would be highly visible to many of the local communities. He said that whilst the processes for the funding may appear complicated, it was positive and targeted to local projects.

Councillor Robinson referred to the good governance for the funding and said that there was control through the Rushcliffe Strategic Growth Board which had been set up some years ago by the Council. He suggested that the funding could go through the scrutiny process at some point to ensure that the funding was delivering as expected. He said that unlike European funding which at times could be bureaucratic and slow this funding should be a lot more direct and accountable and he looked forward to seeing the projects come to fruition.

It was RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- a) recognises UKSPF activity delivered in 2022/23;
- b) endorses the proposals for UKSPF and REPF in 2023/24;
- c) delegates sign off of refinements to proposals for 2023/24 to the Leader, Chief Executive and S151 Officer, with both revenue and capital implications reported in future financial reports to Cabinet and the MTFS to Full Council; and
- d) delegates sign off of grant awards for UKSPF and REPF to the S151 Officer and Director Development and Economic Growth in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Business and Growth, following officer recommendations based on assessment and moderation.

56 Revised Off Street Car Parking Strategy 2023-2026

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Safety, Councillor Inglis, presented the report of the Director Neighbourhoods which set out the key elements of Rushcliffe's Revised Off Street Car Parking Strategy for 2023-2026.

Councillor Inglis said that the revised Strategy addressed the supply and management of the Council's off street car parks designed to encourage short-stay car parking and reflect local variations in the demand for parking. He said that the Council operated 29 off street regulated car parks, with 13 being enforced by Civil Enforcement Officers, and levies pay-and-display charges on 8 of them. He said that the Council prioritised short stay car parking over long stay provision and that whilst there was a range of stay provisions from up to 2 hours to 12 hours maximum, the Council operated a non-uniform tariff policy based on local need and usage.

Councillor Inglis said that the revised Strategy would continue to focus on the ten main car parking objectives as identified in the previous off street car

parking strategy of 2018-2022, which he outlined as being to:

- maintain the vitality and viability of district and town centres by ensuring the needs of shoppers and visitors are prioritised
- encourage short stay rather than all-day parking
- make sure that enforcement was fair and consistent
- improve traffic flow and reduce congestion
- encourage the use of more sustainable modes and smarter choices
- provide access to key services for people with special needs and mobility difficulties by providing appropriate parking spaces
- contribute to the reduction of Carbon Dioxide and Nitrogen Dioxide emissions
- minimise the negative impacts of parking on the streetscape and environmentally sensitive areas
- improve the efficiency of the Council's parking services
- provide revenue to reinvest in parking services to support local economic and social vibrancy.

Councillor Inglis confirmed that income from car parking had returned to pre pandemic levels, and that usage remained consistent, with the Council expecting to receive £748k for the year of 2022/23. He said that the Council also received income from the surplus generated by enforcement activities carried out for off street parking and that in 2021/22 this amounted to circa £4k.

Councillor Inglis explained that the Council had worked closely with the Midlands Energy Hub and had been successful in securing over £1 million in funding to provide a number of vehicle charging points across the Borough and he said the Council could be proud of the Park Mark accreditation awarded for excellence across a number of its car parks. Councillor Inglis referred to paragraph 4.14 which, which along with the day to day management of car parks, outlined future initiatives of the Car Parking Strategy.

Councillor Inglis said that it was important that charges were not a restriction factor to deter retail customers and provided good value for money, especially when compared to others not too far away. Councillor Inglis also praised and highlighted initiatives adopted by the Council, such as Free after Three in supporting a post pandemic recovery for its high streets' economy.

Councillor Inglis referred to paragraph 3.1 of the report and said that whilst the car parking strategy was not a legal requirement, the points set out in the paragraph provided strong drivers for supporting its adoption, to secure future delivery.

Councillor Inglis explained that the Car Parking Strategy was a living document and would change to best meet the needs of Rushcliffe. He thought that the Council had got it right so far and that this report supported taking that desire forward.

In seconding the recommendations, Councillor Upton said that change was happening all of the time and he agreed that there was need to respond to it, no more so than in how and when we travel, if by car and where we park and how we pay for it. He said that cars were adapting to climate change with the transition to electric power, which brought a need for electric charging points.

He said that off street car parks could have a significant effect on the economic vitality and resilience of town and village centres, hence the focus on short stay and varying tariffs based on local need.

Councillor Inglis said that it was therefore relevant for the Council to update its Off Street Car Parking Strategy and noted that the revised Strategy looked forward and tried to anticipate the changes ahead in a rapidly changing sector. He thought that it would meet the challenges and interests of residents in Rushcliffe over the next four years.

Councillor Edyvean recognised that the Council reinvested money received from car parking back into its future car parking requirements and that it had worked hard to ensure that the changes were not excessive and provided a service to residents rather than acting as a cash cow as happened in some areas.

Councillor Robinson noted that the Council had returned to pre pandemic income levels, compared to some councils who were still struggling to do so, and thought that this was testament to the vitality of the Borough's high streets and demonstrated that people wanted to remain in Rushcliffe and use its facilities. He was delighted that this review had been carried out to ensure that the Council continued to keep its car parking competitive, not just in pricing but in facilities such as lighting and access and said that the car parks of Rushcliffe were comparable with the very best.

It was RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- a) approves the Council's revised Off Street Parking Strategy 2023-2027; and
- b) agrees that the Director for Neighbourhoods be delegated to make minor amendments to the Strategy, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder, to ensure the technical and legal accuracy of the document during its lifespan.

The meeting closed at 7.35 pm.

CHAIRMAN



Cabinet

Tuesday, 13 June 2023

Process for Developing the Corporate Strategy 2023-2027

Report of the Chief Executive

Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Borough-wide Leadership, Councillor N Clarke

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. The Council's current Corporate Strategy was formally adopted by Full Council in September 2019 and is due to expire this year. Work must therefore commence on drafting the Council's new Corporate Strategy for 2023-2027.
- 1.2. A proposed timetable and process for development of the new Corporate Strategy is presented below, in addition to an overview of performance against the Corporate Strategy 2019-2023.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:

- a) endorses the proposed approach to developing the Council's Corporate Strategy 2019-2023;
- b) recognises performance against the Corporate Strategy 2019-2023; and
- c) requests that the Corporate Overview Group inputs into the development of the Corporate Strategy and reviews a draft before it returns to Cabinet.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

The current Corporate Strategy expires this year. Significant progress has been made towards the goals outlined in the Strategy. An updated Strategy is now required to guide the future direction of the Council and an appropriate process must be in place to facilitate that.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1. The Council's Corporate Strategy is a key document, alongside the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, used to set the direction of travel for the Council. It highlights key priorities and the tasks the Council is planning to undertake in the coming four years. It provides clear strategic direction for the Council and is a tool which can be used to monitor progress towards the Council's stated

goals. The Strategy also highlights the work undertaken by the Council over the course of the previous Strategy.

4.2. The Council's Corporate Strategy 2019-2023 contains four corporate priorities:

- Quality of Life
- Efficient Services
- Sustainable Growth
- The Environment.

4.3. These Corporate Priorities are supported by an Action Plan containing seventeen strategic actions. As a 'living' Strategy, six additional tasks have been added to the Action Plan since its adoption, as others have been completed and removed. These have been reviewed quarterly by the Corporate Overview Group as part of their monitoring of the Council's finances and performance.

4.4. A final review of progress against the Action Plan was presented to the Corporate Overview Group in February 2023. This review is presented in full in the Appendix.

4.5. The timetable for developing the new corporate Strategy is proposed as follows:

Activity	Date
Public Consultation via Summer Rushcliffe Reports	June-July 2023
Development of draft Strategy (including strategic tasks and corresponding performance indicators)	June – August 2023
Presentation of feedback from public consultation to Corporate Overview Group (COG) + high level outline of Corporate Strategy e.g. key themes, initial strategic tasks	5 September 2023
Councillor Consultation via Councillors' Connections	September -October 2023
Refinement of Strategy following feedback from COG	September-October 2023
Presentation of final Strategy to COG	7 November 2023
Corporate Strategy to Cabinet for endorsement	14 November 2023
Corporate Strategy to Full Council for adoption	12 December 2023

Consultation

4.6. A link to an online survey will be included in the summer edition of Rushcliffe Reports, which lands on residents' doorsteps from Monday, 19 June 2023. Residents will also be able to request a paper copy of the survey. This will be an opportunity to make sure residents understand the purpose of the Corporate Strategy and are engaged in its creation at a very early stage.

4.7. In the survey we will be asking what people would like to see the Council prioritise in the next four years, in addition to the great quality services they can always expect from Rushcliffe Borough Council. This is an opportunity to ensure that our Corporate Strategy for 2023-2027 reflects what is important to our residents, community groups and business owners.

4.8. A link to an online survey will also be included in a September edition of Councillors' Connections. This will give all Councillors an opportunity to share their thoughts about what should be included in the Corporate Strategy for 2023-2027.

5. Alternative options considered and reasons for rejection

The Council could develop the Corporate Strategy 2023-2027 without consulting with residents, Councillors or with Corporate Overview Group. However, this is not the best way to develop a Corporate Strategy, which truly reflects the needs of the Borough and would be contrary to our commitment to transparency.

6. Risks and Uncertainties

There are no risks or uncertainties involved with forwarding the draft Corporate Strategy to Council for consideration.

7. Implications

7.1. Financial Implications

The priorities and tasks contained within the Corporate Strategy will be incorporated into the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and Capital Programme as appropriate.

7.2. Legal Implications

The Council is required to have a Corporate Strategy in place and this report adequately captures that.

7.3. Equalities Implications

The Corporate Strategy takes account of the effect of the Council's priorities on all residents of the Borough and is supported by the Council's Equality and Diversity Scheme

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

There are no section 17 implications to the recommendations contained within this report.

8. Link to Corporate Priorities

Quality of Life	The Corporate Strategy sets the Council's Corporate Priorities and, as such, the two are intrinsically linked.
Efficient Services	
Sustainable Growth	
The Environment	

9. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:

- a) endorses the proposed approach to developing the Council's Corporate Strategy 2019-23;
- b) recognises performance against the Corporate Strategy 2019-23; and
- c) requests that the Corporate Overview Group inputs into the development of the Corporate Strategy and reviews a draft before it returns to Cabinet.

For more information contact:	Kath Marriott Chief Executive 0115 914 8291 kmarriott@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for Inspection:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix - Review of Strategic Tasks 2019-2023

Appendix - Review of Strategic Tasks 2019-2023

Quality of Life Corporate Priority	
<p>Develop the Chapel Lane site in Bingham including a new leisure centre, community hall and office space by 2022</p>	
Progress Report	Outcomes / Community Impact
<p>This ambitious capital funded project to build a new leisure centre, community hall and adjacent business units has recently been completed. Started in early 2019, it missed its original target date of May 2022 because of the global pandemic, the impact of the war in Ukraine and the cost-of-living crisis on supply chains, building materials and utilities. However, progress has been substantial, and to the new Leisure centre and Jubilee Community Hall opened to the public on Monday 20 February. Work has begun to decommission the old leisure centre pool and gym on the Toot Hill School site with the sports hall and outdoor pitches and track continuing to available for use by the public. A Member Working Group has met regularly throughout the project. Whilst this project has been delayed it has been delivered on budget. This is a significant achievement, and it is believed that if the scheme was to be tendered for now it would be much more expensive.</p>	<p>The growing community of Bingham and the surrounding area will have access to a state-of-the-art replacement leisure centre with 6-lane 25m gala standard competition swimming pool, 80 station gym and multiple exercise and spin studios. A brand-new community facility named Bingham Jubilee Community Hall will serve community groups, large scale gatherings and classes as well as theatre and dance productions. The facility has been built to the highest environmental standards currently available. Also on site are 12 new business units and a collaborative working space – several have already been let with keen interest in more. These offer local people high quality office space within the local community</p>
<p>Support the continued development of existing local growth boards for Radcliffe on Trent, Bingham, East Leake and West Bridgford; and create a new board for Fairham</p>	
Progress Report	Outcomes / Community Impact
<p>The Growth Boards continue to meet regularly. Recent areas of focus include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Leake discussed S106 and CIL allocations for the area to support delivery of the required infrastructure improvements in the area. 	<p>The Growth Boards were established in 2015 and bring together local stakeholders to work together on positive plans for areas of the Borough.</p>

Appendix - Review of Strategic Tasks 2019-2023

- West Bridgford received an update on recent work done to look at accessibility on Central Avenue as well as the enhanced promotional activity for the town through West Bridgford Way. The Board are refreshing their action plan
- Bingham received an update on the studies completed so far to explore the possibility of a long stay car park in the town.
- Radcliffe on Trent welcomed the improvements to the grounds at the Grange which was part funded by the Growth Board.
- Fairham has a focus on the development site with updates provided to local ward members and parish councils on progress.

Each Board has an action plan and key areas of focus that have been identified by Board members and their respective organisations.

The Growth Boards have directly supported some important local initiatives including:

- Contributing towards the cost of enhancements to the Grange Grounds at Radcliffe on Trent. This creates a space for holding events that will drive up footfall in the village as well as improving community cohesion.
- A high-street manager was employed to support all towns/villages in the Borough for a period of time. They actively engaged with all high street businesses creating a sense of community and a supportive environment for those businesses to continue to thrive.
- In East Leake the Growth Board have helped to secure support from STW for significant investment in the area, the Board raised the profile of the issues in the village to ensure the right solution for local residents. Additionally, the Council assisted to secure CIL funding as part of the Growth Board to build a new sports pavilion.
- At the Fairham Board the local Parish Councils have the opportunity to hear progress on the new development site and also share their views to help inform future phases including on sustainability measures being incorporated. This focus helps to ensure the development that is delivered is aligned to the original aspirations of the Council for the site.

This work is ongoing.

Appendix - Review of Strategic Tasks 2019-2023

Review the Council's community facilities to ensure they meet the community need and contribute to the Council's property portfolio	
Progress Report	Outcomes / Community Impact
<p>Rushcliffe Borough Council has an up-to-date Leisure Facilities Strategy 2017-2027 to guide future provision to ensure that facilities continue to meet the needs of residents and contribute to community wellbeing. Cabinet approved and adopted a revised strategy following a 'mid-term' review of the strategy in December 2022. Significant progress has been made over the past few years with the development of Bingham Arena and new facilities at Gresham Sports park, support for our leisure provider throughout the pandemic and various upgrades of skateparks around the Borough, enhancements to children's play areas and the conversion of Studio 3 at the Arena into a multifunctional space for group exercise. Moving forward the Strategy will focus on six key aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain five indoor leisure facilities and ensure they are fit for the future • Supporting partners/parishes to deliver the priority projects within the Playing Pitch Strategy • Addressing inequalities in participation • Working in partnership with local health services to support 'the inactive' into regular activity • Maintaining the existing local standards for provision of open space, children's' play and allotments • Creating more outdoor wellbeing opportunities including walking and cycling throughout the Borough to encourage Active Travel and support our carbon neutral ambitions. 	<p>The Council's continued investment in its leisure portfolio has allowed the contract with Parkwood Leisure to be renegotiated bringing additional financial benefit to the Council.</p> <p>The replacement of the Council's oldest leisure at Bingham Leisure Centre with a fantastic modern centre with a 25-meter competition ready pool, gym and fitness spaces and a Jubilee Community Hall which can be booked for community events. These facilities will encourage greater participation in sport and social activities and reduce our carbon footprint through the use of energy saving measures.</p> <p>The public will also continue to be able to use the sports hall and outdoor facilities including the running track at Bingham Leisure Centre through the development of a revised joint use arrangement with the school academy.</p> <p>The development at Gresham Sports Park which includes the installation of a second 3G pitch, the resurface of the existing 3G pitch, grass pitch improvements and pavilion upgrade has seen an increase in overall usage and pleasingly by specific groups such as women and girls, disability sport groups and targeted groups at risk of offending.</p> <p>The commitment to wider sports and young people has been demonstrated through financial support to secure the improvement of five concrete skate parks – East Leake, The Hook - Lady Bay, Radcliffe-On-Trent, Rushcliffe Country Park and Keyworth. These have quickly become popular and well used facilities and have been identified as national best practice in terms of collaborative design with users.</p>

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	<p>Development of new and enhanced children's play facilities across the Borough based on the adopted 'spatial standards of provision'.</p> <p>The Council has helped to financially support further 3G facility development at Platt Lane in Keyworth and pavilion development at Costock Road in East Leake. Both schemes have had a positive impact on community use, engagement and helping to secure the viability and success of the clubs that use them.</p> <p>The Council's continued investment in improving and maintaining all types of leisure facilities has seen the resurfacing of Bingham athletics track including repairs to the steeplechase, long jump and sandpits. This brings benefits to the clubs and users of these facilities and helps to nurture the next generation sporting talent.</p> <p>The importance of outdoor space and exercise was highlighted during the pandemic and in response the Council has developed a walking and cycling action plan to encourage the use of its land and open spaces along with promoting active travel and supporting the Council's Carbon Reduction objectives.</p> <p>The successful creation of Studio 3 at Rushcliffe Arena following a post Covid-19 review of the indoor bowls hall, has resulted in a large multi-functional space which has allowed larger group exercise classes to take place, wellbeing activities and events. This has been a key factor in supporting the Parkwood Covid 19 recovery plan and increasing benefits for leisure users.</p> <p>The Council has refurbished the Education Centre at Rushcliffe Country Park which includes the introduction of a café and Changing Places toilet, new audio-visual equipment to support additional meeting room bookings and a historical visual and audio interpretation display of the site history which visitors can enjoy.</p>
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Facilitate the development of a new Crematorium in the Borough by 2022	
Progress Report	Outcomes / Community Impact
<p>Substantial project to design, build and deliver a new Crematorium for the Borough to meet the needs of the growing population. Started in 2019, this £8.5m project has involved the purchase of land, a planning appeal, the appointment of designers and contractors, investigations into equipment and processes, as well as the recruitment and training of a new team for the Council. Supply of building materials and utilities have also been subject to delays as outlined above. The building is nearly complete with opening currently expected in April 2023. (n.b. Rushcliffe Oaks opened 3 April 2023)</p>	<p>Rushcliffe Oaks will deliver a new service for the Council focused on providing residents with choice, personal care and discretion at a very sensitive and difficult time. Rushcliffe Oaks will also provide landscaped gardens and wildflower meadow for quiet reflection for the community and residents, along with enhancing biodiversity. Built to high environmental standards, including a green sedum 'living roof', the site provides an additional habitat for wildlife and allowing the building to blend into the environment.</p> <p>Sustainability was an important factor in the design of the facility and the building will be served by its own solar panels. Low level energy-efficient lighting reduces power consumption and minimises light pollution and a secondary heat exchange provides warmth to the building. The crematory hall is one of the first in the country to use all-electric technologies, reducing CO2 emissions by up to 85% over traditional gas equivalents.</p> <p>Within the car park there is infrastructure for electric car parking charging points which we intend to install in the future.</p>
Deliver a targeted events and health development programme across the Borough (Rushcliffe Roots and the Rushcliffe Clinical Commissioning Group)	
Progress Report	Outcomes / Community Impact
<p>Rushcliffe Roots was a food environment scheme devised as a joint partnership between Rushcliffe and the Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group that ran 2019-2020 to help people learn about food from farm to fork and improve access to healthy, local, sustainable food. It supported the establishment of the Cotgrave Super Kitchen, Cotgrave Community Garden plus education work at events and visits to nature sites such as Farm Eco at Screveton.</p>	<p>Schemes such as Rushcliffe Roots help in promoting partnership working whilst focussing on what is important for our residents, helping in health and well-being and promoting sustainability as well as actively promoting and sign posting other support groups throughout Rushcliffe.</p>

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<p>Post- Covid our food focus has changed to redistribution schemes - social eating, community kitchens, community gardens, food banks etc which are being brought together under a new umbrella partnership group called Feeding Rushcliffe which was established in December 2022.</p> <p>Reach Rushcliffe is a council run scheme that allows for various local organisations and charitable groups to access funding to support their projects. To date the scheme has supported 25 schemes across the Borough with a total financial commitment of £45,000. Many of these projects have supported health development across the Borough and support has been sort and agreed for projects such as Men in Sheds, Open Minds, Move and Mingle, Eat Greet and Meet, Cruse bereavement and Rushcliffe CVS amongst others. Many of these schemes aim to help in promoting inclusion and preventing social isolation as well as offering support in relation to mental health and well-being.</p> <p>Rushcliffe events programme continues to flourish following the impact caused by the pandemic Regular annual events such as the ever-popular Lark in the Park, Rushcliffe Proms and the Christmas Light turn on continue to go from strength to strength and are supported by other events that have proved equally as successful such as the Summer Outdoor cinema events held in Bridgford park for the last two years.</p> <p>The Celebrating Rushcliffe Awards have continued to grow and with its new location moved to Studio 3 at Rushcliffe Arena the last two years have seen the event grow further to celebrate the Borough's wonderful volunteers, businesses, organisations, environmentalists and the best of its health and wellbeing, sport and food and drink sectors.</p> <p>Following the success of the Tour of Britain's first visit to Rushcliffe in 2018 the tour once again set off from Central Avenue across our</p>	<p>Reach Rushcliffe is acting as a conduit to help local groups grow and flourish and support those at need in their communities. Many are the most vulnerable and schemes help support inclusion and offer opportunities to those who may be facing challenges, to meet other likeminded individuals and develop new friendships and interests.</p> <p>The support for groups supporting community food and social isolation initiatives ensured the Borough was well placed to mobilise community groups in response to the Covid Pandemic with this work now pivoting to provide resilience to groups and families that are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis.</p> <p>The Council's events programme helps to promote Rushcliffe as a Great Place to live. Many of the events are aimed at families and attract large numbers of attendees which help to support the local economy and local business.</p> <p>The Tour of Britain will once again have placed Rushcliffe on the map with live television coverage and communities supporting such events in a variety of ways helping to bring entire communities together. Such large level events will bring investment into the local areas and economy.</p> <p>Our annual awards event helps celebrate the great and good across the Borough and recognises those who have been nominated by their local communities.</p>
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<p>community as part of the Nottinghamshire 2022 leg of the Tour of Britain.</p>	
<p>NEW Action: Delivery of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion scheme action plan</p>	
<p>Progress Report</p>	<p>Outcomes / Community Impact</p>
<p>An officers' group has been established to oversee delivery of the action plan. A report to Corporate Overview Group was provided on progress in May 2022 and a further update will be given in 2023. Activity to date includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to re-establish the Rushcliffe Community Cohesion Network • Creation of an Inclusive Language Guide for staff and Councillors • Democracy event hosted for students from Toothill School • BSL training for Customer Services staff • Review of recruitment policy and procedure • Making the Council website fully accessible. 	<p>The Equalities Scheme for 2021-25 builds on the previous Scheme to reflect the changes in society to ensure it is relevant to all. It also aims to broaden its focus to take account of inclusion, in addition to objectives relating to equality and diversity. Inclusion is fundamentally about individual experience and allowing everyone to access services and feel part of the Borough. Inclusion gives diversity impact and drive towards a place where all residents, elected members and all Council employees are empowered to thrive - inclusion is relevant for everyone.</p> <p>The aims of the Scheme are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We want Rushcliffe to be a welcoming place for everyone • We want our services to be easy to access for all • We will treat people fairly and aim to meet individual needs • We aim to make Rushcliffe a place where everyone can achieve their potential. <p>By establishing an officer steering group to oversee this work, the Council has taken a proactive step to ensure it achieves these aims and continues to listen and adapt as required.</p> <p>This is an ongoing task.</p>

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NEW Action: Support the recovery of local businesses and communities from the impacts of COVID	
Progress Report	Outcomes / Community Impact
<p>Support was provided to local businesses and communities throughout the pandemic. A detailed report outlining this support was presented to Corporate Overview Group in May 2022, this followed regularly updates to Cabinet throughout the pandemic. Support included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the community support hubs • Loneliness and socially isolated activity packs • Delivery of the Holiday Activities and Food programme • Funding for sports clubs • Community grants including those provided by Government and administered by Rushcliffe and also Reach Rushcliffe to support community groups • Dedicated page on the RBC website – one for business and one for community • 10 business support webinars were held with expert consultants providing advice and support • 24 businesses received one to one business support from retail and PR consultants • Shop local shop safe communications campaign • Enhanced summer events programme in West Bridgford to encourage people back into the town centre. <p>Improvements to the appearance of town centres including new planters in Bridgford Park, lighting at Eaton Place in Bingham and improvements to seating areas on Gordon Square.</p> <p>The pandemic also brought additional responsibilities in terms of compliance with emerging and often changing legislation. Overall, compliance levels amongst businesses were very high and this was helped significantly by the advice and support provided by the Council. In total, the Council served 23 fixed penalties on businesses</p>	<p>Covid-19 had a significant impact on all our lives. The Borough Council took proactive steps to minimise its impact on our local communities and businesses.</p> <p>The community response to Covid in Rushcliffe was incredible with many people volunteering their time to support those more vulnerable in their communities. Many groups that were established during Covid continue to support local residents now</p>

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found to be in breach of Covid regulations and on one occasion had reason to seek the closure of a business in West Bridgford who were guilty of repeated breaches. In total, more than 800 additional Covid related advisory/enforcement visits were undertaken in addition to 350 advisory visits.

Efficient Services Corporate Priority

Relocate our R2Go service and Streetwise Environmental Ltd

Progress Report

Outcomes / Community Impact

Both services were relocated from the old Abbey Road depot site freeing up the site for sale and housing. Streetwise have been working out of a Council owned property on Moorbridge Road, Bingham and Recycling2Go from a shared depot facility at Eastcroft Depot, London Road owned by Nottingham City Council. The current lease arrangements at Eastcroft expire in 2024 and a review of the current arrangements, which work well, is due to take place later in 2023.

The disposal of Abbey Road depot which was an aging asset that was no longer fit for purpose in physical and economic terms has resulted in a capital receipt to help fund the Council's overall capital programme and savings in ongoing maintenance. In addition, as the location was in a residential area the site was restrictive whereas Eastcroft provides much greater operational flexibility and has removed the negative impact from the old depot on local residents.

Regeneration of a brownfield, partly contaminated, site that was cleaned up before disposal. Sale of land for a scheme to meet high sustainable criteria, to include 71 homes, 30% affordable, fully electric site, solar panels on appropriate roofs, EV charging to each property, 40% improvement on building regulations, 'good' design (not standard house types), green space and tree planting across the whole site.

Relocation of Streetwise to Unit 10 Moorbridge, a strategic acquisition as part of the same land transaction as the land for the new leisure centre on Chapel Lane, Bingham. Extensive search for appropriate location across the borough concluded Unit 10 would

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	provide Streetwise with a fit for purpose building in a strong location to deliver services for Rushcliffe residents.
Relocate the Rushcliffe Community Contact Centre in West Bridgford	
Progress Report	Outcomes / Community Impact
Due to the relocation of the Police Station in West Bridgford, the Council's Community Contact Centre needed to find a new home. The key parameter was to stay in or as close to Central Avenue in West Bridgford to facilitate easy access to residents wishing to visit the facility in person. In October 2019, a property at Fountain Court was leased and conversion works undertaken. The Customer Services Team took occupation in February 2020.	Supported access to Council Services has been maintained in our largest residential area. Residents can access a range of services on three days of the week in an area that is on major bus routes and within a busy shopping area. Access is supplemented by access points on a day a week in three of our largest communities outside of West Bridgford and on the telephones five days a week. Whilst work is progressing to expand our digital self-serve services, our 2023 Customer Access Strategy protects more traditional methods of accessing services so that a wide range of resident preferences are catered for.
Deliver our Medium-Term Financial Strategy and Corporate Strategy	
Progress Report	Outcomes / Community Impact
The current Corporate Strategy was adopted in September 2019. Progress towards delivery of the strategic actions identified in the action plan appended to the Strategy is monitored quarterly by the Corporate Overview Group. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy is agreed each year in March by Council as part of the budget setting process. It is monitored quarterly by the Corporate Overview Group and at Cabinet.	The Council has made good progress delivering the strategic actions outlined in the 2019-23 Corporate Strategy against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, energy crisis and cost of living crisis. Whilst tasks have been delayed in some cases work is still taking place to deliver what was envisioned. The Council remains financially secure and self-sufficient with £23.6m in earmarked reserves as at March 2022. This is a result of excellent budget management and careful investments.

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Sustainable Growth Corporate Priority	
Support the ongoing delivery of 13,150 new homes and securing a 5-year land supply as detailed in the Rushcliffe Local Plan	
Progress Report	Outcomes / Community Impact
<p>The delivery of 13,150 new homes covers the period 2011 to 2028. The requirement to secure a 5-year supply of housing land is an ongoing requirement set by central government, with the amount of land supply within Rushcliffe changing annually. The target of 13,150 new homes is principally being delivered by the 2014 Core Strategy's six strategic sites. The delivery of all six continues to be supported through a variety of different actions. In addition, the 2019 Local Plan Part 2 has allocated a further 25 sites, which are expected to deliver around 3,400 new homes.</p>	<p>A total of 4,457 new homes have been built between 2011 and 2022. The majority of the Local Plan Part 2 sites have planning consent, and some are already delivering new homes.</p> <p>Housing delivery has been completed on the former Cotgrave Colliery and is ongoing at Melton Road Edwalton, former RAF Newton, north of Bingham and south of Clifton strategic sites. The east of Gamston strategic allocation is the only site where delivery has not started, and planning permission not granted. An SPD is being developed for this site, working in conjunction with the landowners/developers.</p> <p>Rushcliffe currently has 8.9-years of housing land supply; well above the minimum 5-year requirement.</p>
Support the delivery of employment land on all six strategic sites in Rushcliffe and other sites allocated through the Local Plan	
Progress Report	Outcomes / Community Impact
<p>Each of the six strategic sites included in the local plan has an employment land allocation. Development is happening at the Fairham site on the A453 with the construction of four employment units currently progressing.</p> <p>Any enquiries for employment development are provided with a</p>	<p>There is a significant amount of housing planned and being delivered in the Borough. Each strategic site has an allocation for employment development to ensure that the housing development is complemented by employment growth providing opportunities for new and existing residents.</p>

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document providing details on the strategic sites and relevant details for landowners and agents.

Four units have currently been approved at Fairham (Clifton) and three of those are under construction. Furthermore, the infrastructure (roads, drainage, levels) to allow the further delivery of the remaining employment land is largely in place too. At Newton, we have received an application for an employment building and some employment units at Cotgrave have been started. Edwalton has seen some of the employment buildings delivered (supermarket, drive-thru coffee/burgers, car dealership, office space and a children's nursery) with some further uses currently under consideration and other uses (possibly a shop and care home) to be delivered in the future subject to planning. No applications have been received for the Bingham Strategic Site to date, although the primary school is under construction. An application for a care home has been received at Gamston

Cotgrave:

- Employment buildings by RBC now completed
- The site for 11 additional units alongside RBC units recently sold with planning permission (units yet to be built)
- Phase 2 employment (a larger site) still undeveloped and does not have detailed planning permission

Edwalton / Sharphill:

- The community park application is currently pending consideration but officers hope to be in a position to reach a recommendation shortly
- We are expecting an application for the community building to be submitted shortly.

Bingham:

- No planning applications for any of the employment land have been received to date

RAF Newton:

- An application for the village hall is still pending consideration – officers are awaiting revised plans
- An application for a warehouse/employment building (just under 14,000sqm, 152m x 92m and 13.5m high) on the frontage of the site has been received and is pending consideration – revised plans received prior to Christmas and re-consultation has recently ended.

Clifton / Fairham:

- First four units of commercial/employment buildings approved and currently under construction

Gamston:

- Development has not commenced yet. This is an ongoing task.

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Support the delivery of improved transport infrastructure potentially including the A46, A52 and A453 corridors	
Progress Report	Outcomes / Community Impact
<p>An updated Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was published in May 2019 for the A52/A606 Infrastructure Package and A52 Radcliffe Improvements. The MoU is between the Borough Council, County Council and National Highways and provides an agreed basis for securing the provision of developer contributions towards the delivery of the works identified in the MoU.</p>	<p>The A52 junction improvements at Nottingham Road, Cropwell Road and Bingham Road in Radcliffe on Trent are completed. The A52 improvements still to be delivered include those at Stragglethorpe junction and at the Gamston (work has started), Wheatcroft and Nottingham Knight roundabouts. These works were programmed for completion during 2024/25.</p> <p>Planned A606 improvements at the Tollerton Lane, Main Road and Cotgrave Road junctions are still to be delivered. In the A453 corridor, planned improvements to the Mill Hill roundabout are due to be delivered within the next few years to support the delivery of the Fairham development to the south of Clifton.</p> <p>This is an ongoing task.</p>
Review the Asset Management Plan	
Progress Report	Outcomes / Community Impact
<p>The Asset Management Plan is a key corporate document to demonstrate how the Council manages its land and building assets and how it links to the delivery of corporate objectives and priorities.</p> <p>Reviewed and revised in 2020, the AMP is a living document with an annually renewed action plan.</p> <p>The AMP 2020-2025 was approved by Cabinet and Full Council, along with the Acquisition and Disposal Policy 2020-2025.</p>	<p>The action plan and outcomes can be found on the Council's website, examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Bingham leisure centre to replace obsolete leisure centre operating beyond its useful economic life, to reduce running costs and provide a lower carbon footprint in future running costs in a more efficient building. For residents, the benefit is a superior leisure facility for residents to access state-of-the-art facilities and personal health benefits. • Review of the future of The Barn in Keyworth resulted in leasing it for a peppercorn to the local historical society

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	<p>realising local community benefits and preservation of this important asset.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed a survey of all Council owned trees to assess health and to inform an ongoing management plan - the plan is being carried out and works are ongoing to ensure trees are maintained and protected.
<p>Support the delivery of affordable housing in the Borough, working with developers, providers and private landlords</p>	
<p>Progress Report</p>	<p>Outcomes / Community Impact</p>
<p>The main sources of new affordable housing supply have been Section 106 sites, the redevelopment of garage sites in partnership with Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing (MTVH) and the development of rural exception sites. During 2019 – 2022 there have been 434 affordable housing completions, consisting of 23 units delivered via the garage site programme, 5 rural exception site units and the remaining 406 units on Section 106 new developments These consist of 181 affordable rent (80% market rent), 86 social rent and 167 shared ownership (intermediate) properties.</p> <p>Opportunities have been explored to utilise the capital budget with Housebuilders and Registered Providers to make best use of land assets, improve site viability and purchase additional social rented properties (outside of the planning obligations) which provide the Council with ongoing nomination rights. This has included the provision of an affordable rented wheelchair adapted dwelling in a rural parish for a disabled resident in housing need.</p> <p>Additionally, 10 rural Housing Needs Surveys have been commissioned across 17 parishes as part of the rural exception site programme.</p>	<p>Effective partnership working to increase the supply of affordable housing will meet a range of needs across the borough, which in turn, will generate economic growth and deliver other significant health and social wellbeing benefits.</p> <p>The continued supply of affordable housing will reduce the instability caused to families and communities by preventing homelessness and assist in delivering the national relocations resettlement scheme objectives (Syrian, Afghan and Ukrainian).</p> <p>The redevelopment of the garage site programme has promoted the use of brownfield sites and reduced incidents of anti-social behaviour on disused sites.</p> <p>This task is ongoing.</p>

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NEW Action: Review Local Plan Part 1 – Core Strategy in partnership with Greater Nottingham Housing Market Area	
Progress Report	Outcomes / Community Impact
<p>The Borough Council is preparing the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan with Broxtowe Borough, Gedling Borough and Nottingham City councils to help guide future development, including new housing, across these four council areas to 2038. The Strategic Plan will replace the Rushcliffe Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy which was adopted in 2014.</p> <p>In 2020 and 2021, public consultation was undertaken on Growth Options for the plan. The councils have now, as a next stage, published a Preferred Approach, with consultation on this closing on 14 February.</p> <p>Further drafting and revisions to the plan will follow and it is hoped the final draft will be ready by the end of 2023.</p>	<p>The Preferred Approach focusses on the amount and distribution of proposed housing and employment development and the identification of strategic sites in the area to 2038. This enable growth to be delivered in a planned way with supporting infrastructure in place.</p> <p>It is proposed that Rushcliffe’s housing target to 2038 is set on the basis of meeting only the Borough’s need and not the needs of Nottingham City or any other local authority area.</p> <p>This task is ongoing</p>
NEW Action: Coordinate Rushcliffe’s involvement in the Development Corporation and Freeport to support the redevelopment of the Ratcliffe on Soar site	
Progress Report	Outcomes / Community Impact
<p>Work on East Midlands Development Corporation continues to progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of Non Executive Directors to the Board • Government support including match funding, funding for a refresh of the HS2 Growth Strategy • EMDC is one of the Government’s 25 design code pathfinders. <p>East Midlands Freeport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full business case has been submitted and final sign off by Government is expected soon • Chair of the EMF Board appointed on a 3-year term. 	<p>The Ratcliffe on Soar site is a 270ha site at the entrance of the Borough on the A453. Along with other coal fired power stations, it is due to close at the end of September 2024.</p> <p>The EMDC and EMF are initiatives that will support the accelerated redevelopment of the site. Attracting new businesses and employment opportunities for local residents.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to potentially create a site of regional and national importance, accommodating new industry and businesses with many high-skilled jobs. The site benefits from good accessibility by road, rail and air, as well as good connectivity to high-capacity utilities infrastructure (electricity, heat and water).</p>

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<p>A Local Development Order (LDO) is being progressed for the power station to support redevelopment and to achieve planning permission on the Freeport site. A planning tool to create certainty for investors, speed up the planning process and accelerate delivery of the sites, whilst enabling the Council to retain control over the future use of the site. The LDO aims to set a framework for a range of modern industrial uses on the redeveloped site, including advanced manufacturing, low-carbon energy production, battery production, energy storage, logistics, and research and development.</p> <p>Public consultation and parish updates are held to keep residents and local parish councils informed on progress on development of the site</p>	<p>The site will be transformed into a centre for energy production and storage, advanced manufacturing and industry. It will deliver the technology and industry required to help move towards a netzero carbon future. The site will become a centre for advanced manufacturing, including of technology needed to transition to netzero.</p> <p>Green and low-carbon energy generation, and energy storage for more efficient energy use.</p> <p>This task is ongoing.</p>
NEW Action: Implementation of proposals from new planning legislation	
Progress Report	Outcomes / Community Impact
<p>New planning legislation not yet published due to delays in the central Government timetable</p>	<p>This task is ongoing.</p>

The Environment Corporate Priority

Refresh our carbon management plan and establish a carbon neutral target	
Progress Report	Outcomes / Community Impact
<p>Following the passing of a Council motion on 7 March 2019 and work by the Communities Scrutiny Group in October 2019 and January 2020 the Council's Cabinet in March 2020 set a target for its own operations to become carbon neutral by 2030 and adopted a management action plan to monitor progress against the target. The plan is supported by a £1m Climate Change Action Reserve. The Plan has subsequently been monitored at Communities Scrutiny</p>	<p>Part A of the carbon management action plan focusses on the Councils own operations and a range of positive outcomes have been achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 59% reduction (21/22) in carbon emissions since 2008/09 • Secured £760,000 from City's Transforming funding stream for EVC Installation of 34 electric vehicle charging points in Council owned car parks and facilities. Worked with Midlands Energy Hub to secure the construction of the County's first

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Group in April 2021 and April 2022 with a further update in March 2023.

There were 67 actions in the first iteration of the carbon management action plan spread over eight key themes. The plan is constantly evolving with eight completed actions and thirty in progress.

In December 2021, Cabinet adopted the Climate Change Strategy 2021-30 which reaffirmed the Council's existing carbon neutral target but also included confirmation of its commitment to be Net Zero as a Borough by 2050 in line with national government targets.

solar EV charging hub which all helps to support a better charging network in the borough

- Installation of an electric cremator at the new Rushcliffe Oaks Crematorium which reduce emissions by 80%
- £367k of carbon reduction technology in the new Bingham Arena reducing its carbon footprint by 78% compared to a standard leisure centre
- £30k spent in photovoltaic and air source heat pump which has helped the Rushcliffe Country Park facilities to become carbon neutral
- Secured £100k of Salix funding to convert lighting in council car parks and facilities to LED resulting in a significant reduction in energy consumption
- Council now purchases all its electricity supply from a renewable source which will further reduce the Council's carbon footprint now and into the future.

Part B of the carbon management action plan details how the Council will act as leaders of place and encourage carbon reduction measures and practice across business, homes and public behaviour. A range of positive outcomes have been achieved from this element of the plan including:

- Setting up of a Big Business Carbon Club which has allowed larger businesses from across the borough hosted by the Council to share and foster their own carbon reduction journeys and best practice. A number of positive changes have resulted from this work including a Biofuel trial, additional photo voltaic installations, carbon literacy training for staff etc
- Secured over £899k of funding to deliver the LAD 2 scheme which have resulted in 57 of the most hard to heat homes in the borough being improved with wall insulation and PV bringing direct benefits to those home owners
- Secured a further £621k of funding to deliver the LAD 3 scheme and £226k for HUG1 to continue improving residents'

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	<p>properties across the borough to reduce carbon and energy costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the County- and City-wide Green Rewards Scheme which encourages residents to make changes to the lifestyle and habits thus reducing their carbon foot print • The Council had delivered a range of bio-diversity action which will support carbon reduction measures e.g. the free tree scheme e.g. 1361 trees in 2021/22 (each tree will sequester 2.18 T of CO₂e / yr over its lifetime) • Summer Pollinator Scheme (“No Mow”) Expanded to 27 sites • which sequesters 5.15 T CO₂e /yr
Implementation of proposals from the Resources and Waste Strategy for England	
Progress Report	Outcomes / Community Impact
<p>Whilst Rushcliffe have been consulted on, and replied to, substantial likely changes in waste and recycling services, primary legislation has yet to be passed by central Government. Whilst the Environment Act is now in place, we eagerly await the Government’s response to proposals in changes in waste nationally. These are likely to involve a new Deposit Return Scheme, consistency of collections nationally, a producer-pays principle on packaging, and possible free-to-all garden waste collections as well as a likely mandatory weekly food waste collection service. Work has been taking place locally across Nottinghamshire through both the Joint Waste Officers Board and the councillor-led Joint Waste Management Committee, but progress remains frustratingly slow.</p>	<p>The possible changes are likely to have a significant impact on how waste is collected nationally and will have an impact on our residents, encouraging changes in behaviour, new rounds and a consistency in what can be collected and recycled to increase recycling rates nationally and reduce the impact of landfill waste.</p> <p>This task is ongoing.</p>

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Along with other councils across Nottinghamshire, lobby central government to introduce tougher building standards for new houses, through building regulations or planning regulations, to encourage developers to deliver sustainable homes	
Progress Report	Outcomes / Community Impact
<p>This has been raised by the Council at LGA and District Council Network events and conferences, and in liaison meetings with the local MPs.</p> <p>Developers have been engaged on this agenda and Barratt David Wilson are now showcasing their new products.</p>	<p>To ensure that buildings are built for the future and that new builds do not need to be retrofitted.</p>
NEW Action: Support the delivery of more sustainable development across the Borough through the introduction of new design guides, implementation of actions from the Planning Reform (once published) and lobbying Government	
Progress Report	Outcomes / Community Impact
<p>As a first stage in introducing new design guidance, a draft Low Carbon Energy and Sustainable Design SPD was published for consultation in December 2022 and is expected to be adopted early in 2023.</p> <p>The implementation of actions from planning reforms will follow their publication.</p> <p>Prior to this, the Government is consulting throughout 2023 on these reforms, which provides the opportunity to push government to enhance sustainability requirements.</p> <p>Once the SPD is adopted it will form a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and therefore help secure more sustainable development.</p>	<p>This task is ongoing.</p>

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Cabinet

Tuesday, 13 June 2023

Rushcliffe Growth Boards Review Process

Report of the Director – Development and Economic Growth

Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Business and Growth, Councillor A Brennan

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. The Rushcliffe Growth Boards were established in 2015, following a report to Cabinet in December 2014, and a further report in January 2015. The Boards were then reviewed in September 2017 and again in July 2019.
- 1.2. As it is now eight years since the Boards were established and four years since the last review, it is timely to review the Boards again to ensure they are still fit for purpose and delivering for Rushcliffe residents and businesses.
- 1.3. This report sets out the proposed process for a review of the Growth Boards, providing some background information, including the original objectives and the work done to date, wider context and proposed next steps.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:

- a) endorses the work of the Growth Boards to date;
- b) supports the proposal to take a report to Growth and Development Scrutiny Group to review options and identify a new approach; and
- c) agrees that a further report be brought to Cabinet in November 2023, detailing the outcome of the review and the Scrutiny Group discussions.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. As it is now eight years since the Boards were established and four years since the last review, it is timely to review the Boards again to ensure they are still fit for purpose and delivering for Rushcliffe residents and businesses.
- 3.2. In addition, since 2019, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact which has accelerated changes on high streets everywhere. This is now being exacerbated by the cost of living pressures, which is further impacting our residents and businesses. It is important, therefore, that the Council takes this

proactive step to review the existing structure of the Boards and develop this as required to meet the new challenges.

4. Supporting Information

Background

- 4.1. The Growth Boards were established in 2015, following a report to Cabinet in December 2014, and a further report in January 2015. The original proposal included the Strategic Growth Board, the West Bridgford Growth Board, a Board covering Bingham and Radcliffe on Trent, and the continuation of the Cotgrave Growth Board, which focussed on the housing development and the redevelopment of the town centre. The local Growth Boards all reported into the Strategic Growth Board.
- 4.2. The report set out that the Strategic Growth Board would be a cross party member group chaired by the Leader based on proportionality rules. Membership of the Group is considered and agreed at Annual Council. Proposed membership of the other Boards was also included in the appendices of the report and included County, Borough, and Parish (where appropriate) representatives as well as local businesses, health etc. The further report to Cabinet in January 2015 established the proposed terms of reference for each of the Boards.
- 4.3. The Boards were established according to the membership specified in the Cabinet report and began meeting quarterly with terms of reference agreed and associated work plans developed.
- 4.4. The Boards were then reviewed in September 2017, following the appointment of a new Leader and Cabinet, with a further report to Cabinet. At this point it was agreed to:
 - Separate the Bingham and Radcliffe on Trent Boards due to the differing priorities of the areas
 - Establish a Growth Board for East Leake
 - Share the responsibility for chairing local Growth Boards amongst Cabinet members (had previously been the Portfolio Holder for the Business that was chairing them all).
- 4.5. These actions were followed up with the first meeting of the East Leake Growth Board taking place in September 2017, the first meeting of the Bingham Growth Board in November 2017 and Radcliffe on Trent December 2017. It was at this point that the Cotgrave Growth Board stopped meeting as the development was complete and the Board was no longer required.
- 4.6. The Growth Boards were then reviewed again in July 2019, to ensure they remained effective. At this point it was agreed that:
 - A new Board would be established for the Fairham development

- The Radcliffe on Trent and East Leake meetings be reduced to two per year (these had been quarterly).

4.7. The Boards have remained the same since then and are as follows:

- Strategic Growth Board – meets quarterly
- Bingham Growth Board – meets quarterly
- East Leake Growth Board – meets twice a year
- Fairham Growth Board – meets quarterly
- Radcliffe on Trent Growth Board – meets twice a year
- West Bridgford Growth Board – meets quarterly.

4.8. As it has been four years since the last review, it is timely to review the boards again. Since the last review, the country has been through Brexit, the Covid-19 pandemic and, more recently, the on-going cost of living pressures. All of this has had a significant impact on the economy and businesses continue to face a challenging environment for trade. In many cases there has been a disproportionate impact on high street and hospitality businesses with the Covid-19 pandemic, in particular, accelerating existing changes in consumer behaviour.

4.9. This review of the Boards will ensure that any proposed new structure continues to support local town and village centres to survive and thrive. Whilst, to date, the impact on Rushcliffe's high streets and town centres appears to have been minimal in terms of vacancy rates and business closures, the Council cannot afford to be complacent.

Terms of Reference, Membership and what has been achieved

4.10. The Growth Boards each have their own terms of reference and action plans, which are reviewed at meetings. The remit of each group therefore differs slightly as each Board focusses on the identified priorities for that area. The overarching priority for the Boards though is to proactively plan and manage growth in the area to ensure the opportunity that the growth provided is maximised and that consideration is given to the impacts on local infrastructure.

4.11. The Fairham Growth Board is slightly different to the others as it has a very clear focus on the new housing and employment development on the A453. This will see the construction of 3000 homes and 20ha of employment land developed. The Board provides the opportunity for the developer to update local stakeholders and engage them in each stage of the development.

4.12. Membership of the local Boards is largely similar with representation from:

- Cabinet Portfolio Holder (Chair)
- Nottinghamshire County Councillor with appropriate portfolio / areas of responsibility
- Two Ward Members
- Parish/Town Councillor and Clerk

- Local business representatives.
- 4.13. Additional members on Boards are identified according to the priorities of the Board. This includes, for example:
- Education
 - Health
 - Local developers.
- 4.14. Over time, the membership of the Boards has changed including some Boards not including local ward members (Bingham) and, in most cases, business representation being non-existent despite numerous attempts to engage businesses. The review should include consideration of bringing consistency to Board membership whilst ensuring that this includes the right local stakeholders, with the right expertise and influence to ensure the objectives of the Boards can be achieved.
- 4.15. The Boards were intended to be action focussed and over the last eight years they have achieved a lot including:
- Brilliant Bingham Masterplan
 - Radcliffe on Trent Economic Masterplan
 - Retail reviews in all Growth Boards areas to help inform action plans and areas of focus.
 - Engagement of Severn Trent Water in East Leake, which will result in significant investment in the area
 - West Bridgford Commissioners report and supporting action plan
 - Establishment of West Bridgford Way website and social media channels
 - Shop Front Improvement Grant scheme providing financial support to approx. 30 high street businesses across the Borough
 - High Street Digital Grant in response to Covid-19, which has provided financial support to around 35 high street businesses across Rushcliffe
 - Central Avenue accessibility study
 - Financial support for East Leake Village Market
 - Public realm and Grange grounds improvements in Radcliffe on Trent
 - Supporting local groups including Ruddington Village Centre Partnership with the running of their market and other events
 - Appointment of a temporary Town Centre Manager to deliver events and support to high streets across the Borough.

Additional and related areas of work

- 4.16. When considering the review of the Growth Boards it is important to include other related areas of work for the Economic Growth Team as well as other departments of the Council. This section of the report provides a high-level overview of some of that work.
- 4.17. Newton Community Partnership Board has recently been established, which will operate in a similar way to the Fairham Growth Board. The formation of the

Board is a requirement contained within the S106 Agreement associated with the development and there is a small amount of funding to support the work of the Board. It has been agreed this Board will meet quarterly and administrative support will be provided by the Borough Council.

- 4.18. The redevelopment at Ratcliffe on Soar is a major project involving a Local Development Order, the establishment of the East Midlands Development Corporation and East Midlands Freeport. A Member Working Group was established, which met quarterly and provided a cross party Member Group with the opportunity to hear updates on the various programmes and provide input. This is not included for 2023/24 meetings, but updates could be picked up through the Strategic Growth Board. In addition, a Parish Update meeting is also held quarterly to update local stakeholders on the various programmes.
- 4.19. The Borough Council has received an allocation of £2,571,462 UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) and £596,193 Rural England Prosperity Funding (REPF) from Government to be spent over three years (2022 to 2025). This must all be spent by the end of March 2025, previous reports on this have been brought to Cabinet most recently in February 2023. The funding supports three priority themes:
- Communities and Place
 - Business Support
 - People and Skills.
- 4.20. All three themes link closely with the work and aspirations of the current Growth Boards. Some of the work being commissioned or planned for the current financial year (2023/24) could help inform future work of the Boards including a retail review of all of our town and village centres. Whilst the programme management of UKSPF and REPF is resource intensive it provides an opportunity for the Boards to consider future projects and initiatives.
- 4.21. The Rushcliffe Business Partnership is supported by the Borough Council and runs monthly networking for local businesses as well as a programme of quarterly events covering different topics. Some members of the Partnership are involved in the Growth Boards, and they provide useful insight into the local business community. The vast majority of businesses who engage with the Partnership are not high-street businesses and, therefore, bring a different perspective and expertise to Growth Board discussions. The Partnership also creates a database of over 1000 local businesses that can be engaged with as required to support the Boards.
- 4.22. As referenced earlier in the report, the Strategic Growth Board funding allocation allowed for the appointment of a temporary Town Centre Manager. One of the things that was implemented as an outcome of this work was High Street Groups in some of our town centres. These are more active in some areas than others, but all have a method of communication between businesses as a way to try and encourage greater collaboration for the benefit of all. Officers from the Council support these Groups sharing information on support available and attending meetings and events.

- 4.23. Cotgrave, Fairham and Newton developments have, or have had, Growth Boards, which are focussed on a specific development. Bingham Growth Board receives updates in relation to the housing development taking place there, but the remit of the Board is broader than that and so the development does not get the same level of focussed attention from local stakeholders. In addition, there are other strategic sites that are already delivering or will be in the coming years including Sharphill and Gamston. It may be that Boards for these larger developments are considered to be beneficial to keep local stakeholders engaged. In recent months stakeholder meetings have been held about the Sharphill development, which have included local Councillors and community groups. Whilst this is a different format to the Growth Boards they have served as a way to keep the local community informed and respond to issues that have arisen.
- 4.24. Each of the strategic development sites referenced above has employment land allocated as well as the housing land allocations. Whilst much of the housing is progressing well, development on the employment land has been slower. It has, therefore, been identified that bringing together local commercial landowners, agents and developers in a Forum would be useful. This would be an opportunity to hear updates on the employment land allocated and identify ways in which the Borough Council may be able to support in bringing forward development on those sites. It is intended that this Forum will meet before the end of the year.

Next steps

- 4.25. A large number of stakeholders have been involved in the Growth Boards over the last eight years and it is important that their views are reflected in any review that takes place. It is, therefore, proposed that a short survey is developed to be sent out to all Growth Board members to inform the review recommended to take place via the Growth and Development Scrutiny Group.
- 4.26. It is proposed that a report be prepared to go to Growth and Development Scrutiny Committee to present some options for the future of Growth Boards in Rushcliffe. The Group will have the opportunity to review and shape these, identifying a preferred option to be reported back to Cabinet later in the year.

5. Alternative options considered and reasons for rejection

- 5.1. The Boards could be left to operate as they currently do. Whilst the Boards are effective and have achieved a lot as outlined in the report, due to the impact of changes over the last few years it is felt that a review is needed to ensure the Boards continue to add value.
- 5.2. The Boards could be removed completely. It may be that it is agreed that some of the Boards are removed as an outcome of the review; however, it is recommended that the review happens first to ensure the right decision is made when all available information has been considered.

6. Risks and Uncertainties

There is a risk that by not reviewing the Boards they will become ineffective and be a waste of time for all. The Council wants to ensure that they continue to serve a purpose and are responsive the changes in our communities and for our businesses over the last four years.

7. Implications

7.1. Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications of this report, the review will be conducted by officers of the Council. The Strategic Growth Board was allocated a budget of £100k in April 2022 and, to date, approximately £55k has been spent.

7.2. Legal Implications

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

7.3. Equalities Implications

There are no equalities implications associated with this report.

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

There are no Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act implications of this report.

8. Link to Corporate Priorities

Quality of Life	The Growth Boards were established to facilitate working with local stakeholders to proactively plan for and manage growth in Rushcliffe. Ensuring local communities and businesses are supported as they grow ensures that the quality of life is maintained.
Efficient Services	There are no links to this priority in this report.
Sustainable Growth	The Growth Boards were established to facilitate working with local stakeholders to proactively plan for and manage growth in Rushcliffe. This includes ensuring the opportunity that this growth provides is maximised for the benefit of our local town centres and businesses.
The Environment	There are no links to this priority in this report.

9. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:

- a) endorses the work of the Growth Boards to date;

- b) supports the proposal to take a report to Growth and Development Scrutiny Group to review options and identify a new approach; and
- c) agrees that a further report be brought to Cabinet in November 2023; detailing the outcome of the review and the Scrutiny Group discussions.

For more information contact:	Catherine Evans Service Manager Economic Growth and Property 0115 914 8552 cevens@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for Inspection:	Growth Boards Report to Cabinet in December 2014 Growth Board Terms of Reference report to Cabinet in January 2015 Growth Boards Review report to Cabinet in September 2017 Growth Boards Review report to Cabinet in July 2019
List of appendices:	None



Cabinet

Tuesday, 13 June 2023

LGA Debate not Hate Campaign

Report of the Monitoring Officer

**Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Borough-wide Leadership,
Councillor N Clarke**

1. Purpose of report

This report seeks to inform Cabinet of the Local Government Association (LGA) Debate not Hate Campaign, specifically, the outcomes of the research carried out in 2021 and the recommendations made to Local Government, and other partners, as a result of this work.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet recommends that Council endorse and support the LGA campaign by signing the online LGA Debate not Hate public statement.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

Abuse and intimidation are unacceptable behaviours and serve to silence democratic voices and deter people from engaging with politics. As a Council, we should support our councillors in whatever ways we can, working with our partners to stamp out unacceptable behaviours.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1. Councillors are at the centre of local democracy; they are elected from amongst their local community and form a vital link between councils and residents. It is a privilege and responsibility to be elected to public office. However, increasing levels of abuse and intimidation in political and public discourse are negatively impacting politicians and democracy at local and national levels.
- 4.2. There is a considerable volume of evidence of the impact of abuse, intimidation, and aggression at a national level, including extreme incidents such as the murder of Jo Cox MP and Sir David Amess MP.
- 4.3. To understand the impacts on local government and councillors, the LGA launched a call for evidence of abuse and intimidation of councillors in October 2021. Respondents were asked to set out their personal experiences of abuse and intimidation as councillors or candidates, or abuse of councillors they had

witnessed. The LGA report sets out the findings and recommendations for the future of local democracy. One headline finding from the report was that seven in ten councillors reported experiencing abuse and intimidation in the previous 12-month period. A link to the report and its full conclusions and recommendations is available to view at the Appendix of this report.

- 4.4. The report recommends that councils and other relevant partners should take greater responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of councillors and take a proactive approach to preventing and handling abuse and intimidation against councillors. This should include addressing the impacts of abuse on councillors' mental health and wellbeing and working in partnership with other agencies and councils to ensure that threats and risks to councillors' safety, and that of their families, are taken seriously.
- 4.5. Other recommendations of particular relevance to local councils are that Government should prioritise legislation to put it beyond doubt that councillors can withhold their home address from the public register of pecuniary interests.
- 4.6. Other proposals within the report include the recommendation that social media companies and internet service providers should acknowledge the democratic significance of local politicians and provide better and faster routes for councillors reporting abuse and misinformation online.
- 4.7. The report also makes recommendations around the role of the police and suggests replicating successful approaches taken with MPs or candidates during elections and providing a specialist Single Point of Contact for councillors in the local police force. Another approach suggested is having a Safety Liaison Officer (SLO) as is provided for journalists across many forces in England; SLOs oversee cases related to crime against journalists and intervene only when necessary.
- 4.8. There is currently no clear offer of support or leadership from the Government in relation to the safety of local councillors, despite serious incidents taking place in the last few years and concerns about the vulnerability of councillors' and the impact of abuse on local democracy. This is in contrast to the centrally coordinated support provided to MPs in relation to abuse, harassment, and personal safety.
- 4.9. The LGA are calling on local government leaders, the Government and relevant partners like the police, political parties, and social media companies to come together through a government convened working group to produce and implement an action plan that addresses the abuse and intimidation of elected members and candidates and ensures their safety while they fulfil their democratic roles.
- 4.10. It is considered of great importance, that as a Council we endorse the work that has been done so far by the LGA and the recommendations that have been made and be ready to consider and implement where appropriate any forthcoming action plan provisions around this very important issue.

5. Alternative options considered and reasons for rejection

Cabinet could decide not to recommend to Council that we endorse the Debate Not Hate campaign by signing the public statement, but it is not considered that this would be an appropriate response. As a Council we should take responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of our elected councillors and take a proactive approach to preventing and handling abuse and intimidation against them.

6. Risks and Uncertainties

The risk to the Council if we do not sign up to support this campaign is both to our current councillors, our in-action could lead to incidents of abuse and intimidation against them, and future councillors in terms of what they are expected to endure .

7. Implications

7.1. Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7.2. Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7.3. Equalities Implications

There are no direct equalities implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

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

There are no direct Section 17 implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

8. Link to Corporate Priorities

Quality of Life	Our residents' quality of life is our first priority, signing up to this campaign will help to contribute to our aim of creating great, safe communities to live and work in.
Efficient Services	This report does not contribute to this corporate priority.
Sustainable Growth	This report does not contribute to this corporate priority.
The Environment	This report does not contribute to this corporate priority.

9. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet recommends that Council endorse and support the LGA campaign by signing the online LGA Debate not Hate public statement.

For more information contact:	Gemma Dennis Monitoring Officer 0115 914 8584 gdennis@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for Inspection:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix - Debate Not Hate: The impact of abuse on local democracy Local Government Association