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Our reference:
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Date: 26 September 2023

To all Members of the Growth and Development Scrutiny Group

Dear Councillor

A Meeting of the Growth and Development Scrutiny Group will be held on Wednesday, 4 October 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>
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Yours sincerely



Gemma Dennis
Monitoring Officer

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
[Link to further information in the Council's Constitution](#)
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 July 2023 (Pages 1 - 8)
4. Development and Infrastructure (Pages 9 - 18)
Report of the Director – Development and Economic Growth
5. Review of Growth Boards (Pages 19 - 40)
Report of the Director – Development and Economic Growth
6. Work Programme (Pages 41 - 42)
Report of the Director – Finance and Corporate Services



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Membership

Chair: Councillor R Walker

Vice-Chair: Councillor L Way

Councillors: R Butler, K Chewings, J Cottee, S Dellar, C Grocock, P Matthews and D Soloman

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**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY GROUP
WEDNESDAY, 19 JULY 2023**

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

PRESENT:

Councillors R Walker (Chair), L Way (Vice-Chair), R Butler, K Chewings,
J Cottee, S Dellar, C Grocock, P Matthews and D Soloman

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

None

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

C Evans

Service Manager - Economic Growth
and Property

R Churchill

Rushcliffe Oaks Manager

P Phillips

Senior Ecology and Sustainability
Officer

T Coop

Democratic Services Officer

APOLOGIES:

None

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest reported.

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 08 March 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2023 were approved as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

The Chair proposed a change in the order of which the items on the agenda would be discussed, switching item 6, Review of Rushcliffe Oaks Crematorium with item 5, Biodiversity Net Gain. This was agreed by the Group.

3 Role and Remit of Growth and Development Scrutiny Group

The Service Manager – Economic Growth and Property informed the Group of its Terms of Reference, and the purpose of the Group to positively and proactively contribute to the ongoing success and management of the Council.

It was noted that the Group will achieve this by:

- Overseeing significant projects in the Borough to ensure deliverables are met and growth-related outcomes achieved
- Scrutinise infrastructure development to ensure development is progressed in a timely manner and any obstructive barriers are removed or negotiated

- Review the growth in demand for Council services, ensuring all residents can access the services they need
- Consider projects and initiatives to promote economic vibrancy, local democracy and community leadership with local towns and villages
- Review the Council's policies and strategies as appropriate prior to adoption

The Group were advised that the Service Manager – Economic Growth and Property would support and attend the Group meetings.

4 **Review of Rushcliffe Oaks Crematorium**

The Rushcliffe Oaks Manager delivered a presentation that provided the Group with a brief background of the Rushcliffe Oaks Crematorium project and information on its current position, future plans and areas for development.

The Group were advised the crematorium opened for business on 3 April 2023, which was later than had been expected due to delays around Covid and supply chain issues.

The Rushcliffe Oaks Manager advised the Group that there are 4 members of staff, Manager, Senior Attendant and two Attendants who were recruited into post over the past two years, allowing time for training and setting up all required processes, procedures and risk assessments. It was also noted that a member of the Streetwise Team is based at the crematorium full time to take care of the ground's maintenance.

Since opening the doors of the Crematorium it was reported that there has been a steady rise in take up of cremation services and as with any new facility, the first few months have focused on building an excellent reputation and good relationships with partners. Feedback from funeral directors has been positive, with some travelling some distance and returning to use Rushcliffe Oaks over crematoriums nearer to them. The Rushcliffe Oaks Manager expressed that by far the most rewarding feedback has come from families who have got in touch to say thank you. The Rushcliffe Oaks Manager explained that it is difficult to quantify customer feedback due to the sensitive nature of the business.

The Rushcliffe Oaks Manager provided information in respect of communication and engagement with site visits for industry colleagues, local businesses, Councillors and officers prior to opening and an open day scheduled for all on Saturday 22 July 2023. Adverts had been placed in local brochures and where appropriate the team will look to get involved in local events and have aspirations to set up a 'Friends of Group'. Social Media pages were set up to give updates during the build phase and since opening regular posts are created to give out relevant information.

The Rushcliffe Oaks Manager advised the Group of some of the memorialisation options that the Crematorium currently offer including a memorial tree sculpture, engraved slats on a curved bench and curb stones to name a few, all sourced locally using local materials. The Group were asked to consider other ideas to offer in the future.

Members asked specific questions relating to the memorialisation and how quickly are the items on offer likely to fill up and what were the plans to future proof these facilities. The Rushcliffe Oaks Manager explained that statistics for take up of memorialisation's is around 4% and Most are offered as a lease whereby it can be renewed or collected by the family. In addition, the team were looking at other options for example turning ashes to glass in the way of a keepsake.

Members commented on waiting times for funeral services and how distressing this can be for families and where current users were coming from, suggesting the facility is advertised more widely across the borough and beyond to help increase its usage. It was noted that there are no crematoria facilities at Grantham, Newark or Melton Mowbray who's local Authorities boarder the Borough. The Rushcliffe Oaks Manager explained that it is the funeral directors who have direct contact with the crematorium services on offer and that it is them who liaise with family members to arrange a funeral service and therefore obtaining addresses for data capturing has proved difficult, in the instances where family have been prepared to travel the distance to use Rushcliffe Oaks, the deceased has had some connection with the area. It was noted that there are also many independent funeral directors who are not as easy to locate as the larger national ones and Members felt more could be done to locate and approach these smaller funeral businesses to make them aware of the unique services Rushcliffe Oaks can provide.

One Member of the Group commented on the number of services currently being conducted against the target highlighted in the report and questioned what was in place to increase business with the aim of fulfilling the target aspirations and provide value for money. The Service Manager – Economic Growth and Property explained that 3 services per day had always been the initial starting point for the new business, with the intention of increasing numbers with time. The Rushcliffe Oaks Manager added that the facility is limited to a maximum of 6 services per day when fully operational.

Members expressed that reputation and care are good business foundations and were appreciative of officers for their considerations and design in developing a sensitive and quality facility with families at the forefront, providing choices in how they would like services to be conducted and the provision for memorialisation options.

Members asked specific questions in relation to other crematorium facilities nearby and in particular the viability of services at Wilford Hill, and whether Rushcliffe Oaks costs for services were competitive with other crematoriums in the area. The Rushcliffe Oaks Manager advised that Wilford Hill were looking to expand its facility with the provision of an electric cremator. Wilford Hill services were more traditional and are currently cheaper than those offered at Rushcliffe Oaks and Gedling. The Group were also advised that Rushcliffe Oaks had already established good relationships with other crematorium staff in the area, including a networking group where experiences and support is shared.

The Chair praised the work of officers and the Rushcliffe Oaks Team for their

enthusiasm and commitment in establishing the new crematorium facility, adding the importance of the value of time given to families to ensure Rushcliffe Oaks continues to meet its user's expectations.

The Rushcliffe Oaks Manager informed the Group that the work undertaken so far has been very rewarding which is reflected by the Team and relationships with other service providers. The Group were invited to visit the facility so they can see first hand what an excellent provision and business opportunity this is for the Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Growth and Development Scrutiny Group:

- a) Provided comment on the operation of the crematorium to date and proposed that Rushcliffe Oaks is brought back to Growth and Development Scrutiny Group at a later date for further comment and feedback
- b) Shared their aspirations for the future development and Growth of the crematorium

5 **Biodiversity Net Gain - New Legislation**

The Senior Ecology and Sustainability Officer delivered a presentation to the Group which provided information on the Environment Act 2021 and the new Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements for planning under the Act and what this will mean for the Council.

The Group were given a brief explanation of what Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is as follows:

'BNG is an approach to development, and/or land management, that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand'

The Senior Ecology and Sustainability Officer advised the Group that the BNG aspects of the Environment Act 2021 does not come into force until the Secretary of State authorises it, this is expected to be from November 2023 and would mandate Biodiversity Net Gain into the planning process. The Group were advised that the Minimum mandatory gain will be set at 10%, however local authorities would be able to vary this upwards if desired. The mechanism for delivery is within on-site or off-site habitat secured for at least 30 years and as a last resort there will be statutory credits where units for delivery are not available for which revenue generated would only be used at the discretion of the Secretary of State and Natural England.

The Group were asked to note the developments baseline and post intervention biodiversity unit values which are calculated using a standardised Biodiversity Metric, (an extract of the spreadsheet was provided for information), a register for off-site net gain sites will also be mandated. It was also noted that BNG does not change the existing ecological legal protections.

The Senior Ecology and Sustainability Officer outlined the Council's proposal for sites that the Council regards as strategically significant and formally

identified in local strategies, these are development sites which are within or immediately adjacent to:

- Designated Priority Sites for example, designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) or a Local wildlife Site (LWS).
- Listed Green and Blue Infrastructure sites as identified in the Greater Nottingham Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy (January 2022)
- Focal areas identified within the Rushcliffe Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping report
- Sites managed with nature conservation as a major priority as identified in the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy

The Group were asked to note that it is proposed that all Biodiversity Net Gain provided within Rushcliffe but outside areas listed above will be regarded as '*Location Ecologically desirable but not within a local strategy*'. Biodiversity Net Gain outside of Rushcliffe will be regarded as '*Area/compensation not in local strategy*'.

The Senior Ecology and Sustainability Officer explained the BNG procedure at Rushcliffe expressing the first part would be completed at the approval stage for a planning application prior to determination of the planning permission. The Ecologist Officer would check the BNG Metric and BNG initial plan, for all major developments and provide comments and recommendations to planning which would then be discharged by way of planning conditions. At post development ongoing site monitoring would continue. Smaller sites (and where there are no protected species, habitats or sites) would be assessed by planning officers. If planning conditions are not met, then planning enforcement would take enforcement action.

The Chair expressed how much detail there was in the proposals for the Group to understand and the difficulty in endorsing the proposals without seeing sight of the Governments final legislation and guidance resulting in some members of the Group feeling compelled to reject the proposals until the Government provide the statutory information. The Senior Ecologist and Sustainability Officer explained the 10% Net Gain can already be directed by the Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and to do nothing at this stage would leave the Council in a difficult position to meet its planning obligations once the Biodiversity Net Gain legislation is imposed on local authorities in November 2023.

Concerns were raised in respect of small sites where fewer checks that any BNG has been provided and in addition concerns were also raised in respect of the 30year management of BNG's and who would be responsible for checking when the developers pass the development over to a management company. The Group were advised that Rushcliffe is a rural Borough and there is an element of risk with the loss of some ecology; with smaller sites officers rely on google earth to form a risk-based assessment, the more sensitive or bigger the site the higher the risk and importance to put conditions in place at the planning approval stage. With regards to checking the proposal, this would require an alert register to be established, monitoring reports from the site developer/managers, will be a planning condition and legal formulas will be

used to make the proposals enforceable.

A member of the Group suggested that as the nature of the Borough is rural could Town and Parish Council's act as agents to support the Borough with the management of the 30year monitoring. The Senior Ecologist and Sustainability Officer offered to feed this back to planning officers as a solution for some of the more remote rural developments going forward.

Members asked specific questions relating to the Statutory Credits and could the Council put forward locations within the Borough that might benefit from the mechanism of credits where BNG cannot be provided on-site or off-site. The Ecology and Sustainability Officer explained that the details of the Statutory Credits are still unclear, however to date there have been three companies seeking sites within the Borough to provide off-site BNG, which would allow the Council to sign post developers.

Members expressed their concerns in respect of the lack of detail being provided by Government and the proposals being subject to change. Members asked if there were comparisons or experiences from other authorities that officers at Rushcliffe could adapt. The Ecologist and Sustainability Officer advised that he was not aware of any detailed proposals in Nottinghamshire but had taken best ideas from some of the work offered by Warwickshire and Cambridge Council's. In addition, the Group were advised that the proposals used methodology set out by others for example, sites of special scientific interest, Local Nature Reserves, Local Wildlife Sites and the Blue and Green Infrastructure Sites identified in the Greater Nottingham Strategy.

The Group agreed the policy was needed but were concerned at the limited resources available and the lack of detail about the statutory requirements in the proposals they were being asked to approve for recommendation to Cabinet. The Chair requested that consideration be given to officer resources and that this be reflected in the recommendation.

It was **RESOLVED** that Growth and Development Scrutiny Group

- a) acquaint themselves with the new Biodiversity Net Gain in Planning rules and the proposals on how this will be implemented in Rushcliffe
- b) approve the proposals for assessing strategic significance
- c) endorse the proposals on the; consideration, assessment, delivery and monitoring of BNG in Rushcliffe
- d) recommend to Cabinet that the proposals require careful consideration for officer resources before being adopted by Council.

6 **Work Programme**

The Service Manager – Economic Growth and property presented the report of the Director – Finance and Corporate Services, which detailed the proposed Growth and Development Scrutiny Group Work Programme for 2023/24.

The Group requested that a further review be provided for Rushcliffe Oaks Crematorium as it was felt that it had been too soon to comment on the performance of the facility at this early stage. It was agreed that the Growth Scrutiny Group meeting expected to be scheduled for June 2024 would be a more appropriate time for review. It was noted that this would be referred to the Corporate Overview Group for approval.

Councillor Grocock requested whether an item on Nottinghamshire’s activities in respect of people and skills and the impact these have on Rushcliffe residents could be considered for scrutiny by the Group. The Service Manager – Economic Growth and Property advised that a Scrutiny Matrix would need to be completed and approved by the Corporate Overview Group.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Work Programme detailed below be approved by the Growth and Development Scrutiny Group:

4 October 2023

- How the Borough works with partners to plan for the infrastructure required to support growth
- Review of the Growth Boards
- Work Programme

3 January 2024

- Sewerage Infrastructure and Discharge within Rushcliffe
- Management of Open Spaces
- Work Programme

6 March 2024

- Work Programme

Action Table – 19 July 2023

Min No.	Action	Officer Responsible
4	Members requested more clarity on the figures provided in respect of the number of cremations and cost of cremations before the facility is likely to provide a return in income for the Council	The Senior Manager – Rushcliffe Oaks
4	Members requested that the Growth and Development Scrutiny Group visit the facility to provide a better understanding of its operation	The Senior Manager – Rushcliffe Oaks

The meeting closed at Time Not Specified.

CHAIR

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Growth and Development Scrutiny Group

Wednesday, 4 October 2023

Development and Infrastructure

Report of the Director – Development and Economic Growth

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. The report details how the Council works with infrastructure and service providers to identify and deliver infrastructure required to support housing and other growth.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Growth and Development Scrutiny Group considers the contents of the report and whether there are further related matters that the Group wishes to consider at a future meeting or meetings.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. To enable members to understand the current process in place for working with partners to plan for infrastructure to support growth and enable appropriate consideration and scrutiny of this to identify future areas of focus and further scrutiny.

4. Supporting Information

Background

- 4.1. There is significant planned housing, employment and other growth within Rushcliffe which needs to be supported by appropriate infrastructure; whether that be existing infrastructure or through new or improved infrastructure delivered alongside and potentially funded by new development. Consequently, a significant aspect of the planning process undertaken by the Council involves liaising with and working closely with infrastructure providers and others to identify what infrastructure is required to support growth and, where existing provision is not sufficient, to bring about new provision where and when required.

National planning policy and regulatory requirements

- 4.2. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) emphasises the importance of new development being supported by appropriate infrastructure. In particular it sets out the following requirements:

- Local Plans should be shaped by early and ongoing, proportionate and effective engagement between plan-makers and infrastructure providers and operators.
 - Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and design quality of places, including to make sufficient provision for infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk, green infrastructure and community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure).
 - Strategic policies should look ahead over a minimum 15 year period, to anticipate and respond to long-term requirements and opportunities, such as those arising from major improvements in infrastructure.
 - Building a strong, responsive and competitive economy requires identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure; and
 - Local plans should promote sustainable patterns of development, including by seeking to align growth and infrastructure.
- 4.3. National planning policy and relevant national regulations state, however, that infrastructure provision to support new development (known as a planning obligation or planning contributions) is only justified to mitigate the impact of unacceptable development in order to make it acceptable in planning terms. In those cases where new or improved infrastructure is sought to support new development, three statutory tests have to be met. The infrastructure (planning obligation) must be:
- necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms.
 - directly related to the development; and
 - fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

Local Plan preparation and Infrastructure Delivery Plan

- 4.4. The preparation of an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) formed a significant piece of work in preparing the existing Local Plan, and it will do so again as part of the current preparation of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan (by Broxtowe Borough, Gedling Borough, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe Borough councils).
- 4.5. The IDP identified what infrastructure would be required across the Borough as a consequence of cumulative and individual development proposals included within the Local Plan, when the infrastructure would be required and how it would be delivered and funded.
- 4.6. The IDP was also intended to help to assist partner authorities in considering and planning for infrastructure investment across the plan area and to inform both public and private sector funding decisions. The IDP was intended to respond to and inform other decisions, policies, investment programmes and strategies including, for instance:
- S106 agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy.
 - Local Transport Plans.
 - Local Authority Service Plans.
 - Waste Plans; and
 - Health and Education Investment Plans.

- 4.7. The IDP considered a range of infrastructure categories and the extent to which each presented opportunities or constraints to the delivery of the Local Plan's development strategy. Where possible it identified the cost and delivery route for new infrastructure and where the infrastructure was critical to the delivery of the Local Plan's growth proposals.
- 4.8. The following categories of infrastructure were considered by the IDP:
- a) Strategic Transport
 - b) Utilities – Water
 - c) Utilities - Energy
 - d) Utilities - IT
 - e) Flooding and Flood Risk
 - f) Health and Local Services
 - g) Education
 - h) Emergency Services (police, fire and ambulance)
 - i) Waste Management (collection and disposal)
 - j) Green Infrastructure and biodiversity
 - k) Heritage Assets
- 4.9. The IDP was prepared following significant consultation and direct engagement (including conversations and meetings) with infrastructure and service providers, and with reference to wider evidence documents, in order to identify infrastructure requirements and capacity constraints. All conclusions drawn in the IDP were based on information provided directly by partner organisations and service providers. As a general guide, stakeholders and service providers were requested to respond to the following questions:
- Do the proposals within the Local Plan complement or conflict with forward plans/asset management plans?
 - Are there any perceived constraints/capacity limitations to servicing future developments?
 - If so, can these be overcome?
 - Are there expectations of additional costs being met by developers over and above normal site development costs?
 - If there are costs, how have they been calculated and can they be demonstrated to be reasonable?
 - Are there any lead in/forward planning periods required to build capacity for new services?
- 4.10. The infrastructure providers who directly engaged in this process included, for instance, the Highways Agency (now National Highways), Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, Nottinghamshire Police, East Midlands Ambulance Service, NHS Nottinghamshire, Environment Agency, National Grid, Severn Trent Water and local public transport operators.
- 4.11. Arising from the IDP process a schedule of strategic infrastructure required to support delivery of the Local Plan was identified, both for the plan as a whole and for specific allocated sites. Alongside which, the estimated costs of the infrastructure, the anticipated funding source (e.g., public or developer funded), the lead delivery partner and delivery timescales were all identified.

- 4.12. As part of an iterative process, the outcomes of the IDP informed the final policies and proposals of the Local Plan. The critical infrastructure required to deliver the Local Plan, and in particular its allocated sites, was taken from the IDP and directly included within the Local Plan. Moreover, the policy wording and supporting text for each of the Local Plan's site allocations was heavily shaped by the outcomes of the IDP. Site specific policies identified where, for example, major highway improvements and provision of new schools would be a requirement of new development schemes on those sites.
- 4.13. Importantly, as part of the Local Plan process, the Council had to be satisfied that the infrastructure requirements identified as critical to delivery of the plan meet the regulatory tests for planning obligations (as highlighted above at paragraph 4.3). A key aspect of working with infrastructure providers and others (including site promoters) in shaping Local Plan policies and proposals is therefore to reach agreement that new infrastructure sought to support new development is: necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms; directly related; and fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.
- 4.14. Once the draft Local Plan was finalised, infrastructure providers and other stakeholders were engaged with once again. They were given the opportunity, as part of the statutory consultation undertaken at that stage, to comment on whether growth and supporting infrastructure requirement and delivery proposals were sufficiently aligned and robust. Following which, the bodies were invited to participate in the Local Plan's public examination and associated hearings. Certain infrastructure providers attended to support the Council in demonstrating to the Planning Inspector that infrastructure matters had been appropriately addressed. In other cases, where matters remained outstanding, the examination provided the opportunity for these issues to be discussed further and to be potentially resolved.
- 4.15. While not directly part of the Local Plan process but arising from it, one particularly significant example of how the Borough Council has worked directly with infrastructure partners in recent years, is the establishment of a developer contribution strategy to part fund highway improvements to the A52 and A606 associated with new development. The strategy was the outcome of extensive joint work between the Borough Council, National Highways and Nottinghamshire County Council. It involved working together to commission transport assessment evidence, to establish the costs of the highway improvement works, to identify what proportion of the costs should be developer funded and to create a mechanism for securing developer funding.

Planning applications and S106 planning agreements

- 4.16. The Council also engages extensively with infrastructure providers and other stakeholders in respect of more detailed development schemes, which are either in the process of coming forward as planning applications and/or once planning applications have been received and are being determined. The nature and extent of this engagement will depend on the specifics (primarily

scale) of the development proposed (i.e. whether it requires supporting infrastructure) and its location.

- 4.17. In respect of planning applications for sites already allocated in the Local Plan, engagement will be a continuation of what has gone before during the allocation process; working from the broad infrastructure requirements established by Local Plan policy and, from this, identifying and agreeing with infrastructure providers, other stakeholders and the developers the more specific requirements (including detailed costs, the mechanisms for delivery and timing of delivery).
- 4.18. For many of the allocated sites, particularly the major ones, significant engagement usually takes place in the period between allocation and planning applications being first submitted. In the case of development schemes that happen to come forward on non-allocated sites, where supporting infrastructure is or may be required, then the Council will similarly engage with the relevant infrastructure providers and other stakeholders at the pre-application and/or planning application stage.
- 4.19. Exactly which infrastructure providers and other stakeholders are engaged with at the pre-application and application stages, and how they are involved, will depend on the nature and location of the proposed development. In all cases, they will be consulted on whatever plans and other details have been submitted by the developer/site promoter, and given the chance to comment in order to express their views on what infrastructure is required, how it should be delivered and when. Such consultation often then necessitates follow up dialogue in order to further discuss and refine infrastructure requirements and timing/trigger points, with developers frequently involved as part of this process.
- 4.20. Particularly in respect of proposals for major housing, commercial or mixed-use development, engagement involving the Council, infrastructure providers and, where appropriate, developers can be extensive and involve multiple meetings between all parties, other direct discussions and ongoing consideration of draft plans and other preparatory work in order to determine what specific supporting infrastructure needs to be delivered, when and how.
- 4.21. For planning applications, the outcome of much of this engagement and dialogue will inform the preparation of Section 106 (S106) agreements. These are legal agreements between local authorities and developers or Unilateral Undertakings provided by developers which accompany planning permissions and establish the planning obligations (mainly infrastructure items) that have to be delivered as part of the development which has been approved.
- 4.22. In addition to the specific provisions of the S106 agreement being dictated by the outcome of the engagement undertaken between the Council, infrastructure providers, developers and other stakeholders, they are also shaped by the regulatory tests for planning obligations (as highlighted above). There can be occasions when infrastructure providers or others seek infrastructure that, in the Council's view, does not pass the three tests. When this is the case, the Council will typically engage in further discussions in order to attempt to remedy

the situation. If an agreed position cannot be reached, then it is the Council's responsibility to take a final decision as to how to proceed.

Community Infrastructure Levy

- 4.23. The Council adopted and began implementation of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in October 2019. CIL is a financial charge levied by the Council on certain developments in the Borough. Most new development which creates net additional floor space of 100 square metres or more, or creates a new dwelling, is potentially liable for the levy. The charge is then used to fund certain pre-defined infrastructure requirements – for example, off-site secondary education provision. The use of CIL sits alongside and operates together with the use of S106 agreements and also the use of S278 highway agreements for certain highway infrastructure related works.
- 4.24. The preparation of the CIL was heavily informed by the preparatory work for the Local Plan and the associated engagement activity undertaken at the time with infrastructure providers and others. The draft CIL was also subject to its own specific consultation stages and public examination stage, providing further opportunity for infrastructure providers and other stakeholders to comment on and engage further in the CIL preparation process.

5. Risks and Uncertainties

The risk that housing and other growth is not adequately supported by infrastructure are reduced by the Council working closely with infrastructure and service providers and by identifying infrastructure requirements early in the plan preparation process.

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill seeks to replace the current system of developer contributions with a mandatory and locally determined Infrastructure Levy. The Infrastructure Levy would be calculated on a final gross development value of a scheme or phase of a scheme, above a minimum levy threshold. It is intended to replace CIL, S106 and affordable housing developer contributions with a single flat-rate levy based on the final sale values of a development. Although primarily a financial contribution, the Levy could require the contribution of on-site infrastructure within a development. So as it stands, a levy (CIL), in-kind developer contributions (S106) and affordable housing would be replaced with a mandatory levy and in-kind developer contributions (which may or may not include affordable housing). The specific details and timings for introduction of the Levy remain uncertain ahead of finalisation of primary and secondary legislation and relevant national policy and guidance.

6. Implications

6.1. Financial Implications

The workload required in working with infrastructure and service providers to identify and deliver infrastructure required to support housing and other growth is undertaken utilising existing Planning Policy and Development Management resources. Where work is associated with specific planning applications, this is

supported financially by the planning application fees for the planning application. Where additional resources are required this is considered as part of the Council's budget review processes.

6.2. Legal Implications

The Council, as local planning authority, is legally responsible for preparation of the Local Plan and determining planning applications (apart from matters including minerals and waste development over which the County Council has responsibility). The NPPF sets out that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, with the identification and coordination of the provision of infrastructure to support growth identified a key aspect of achieving this.

The CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) sets the legal tests for planning obligations, including for infrastructure provision to support new development. The regulations state that planning obligations are only appropriate to make development acceptable in planning terms.

6.3. Equalities Implications

An Equalities Impact Assessment is prepared as part of the plan making process and due regard is given to the implications identified in it.

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

There are no crime and disorder implications associated with this report.

6.5. Biodiversity Net Gain

There are no biodiversity implications associated with this report.

7. Link to Corporate Priorities

The Environment	The provision of infrastructure alongside and in close proximity to housing and other growth supports environmental objects. New development that is supported by sustainable transport facilities and services (walking, cycling and public transport) lowers impact on the environment. Green infrastructure is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental benefits.
Quality of Life	Ensuring that new development is sufficiently supported by new infrastructure is essential for maintaining the quality of life for both existing and new Rushcliffe residents.
Efficient Services	The provision of efficient services includes ongoing appraisal and alignment of resources to growth aspirations.
Sustainable Growth	A fundamental principle of sustainable growth is that new housing and other growth is supported by adequate and timely infrastructure.

8. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Growth and Development Scrutiny Group considers the contents of the report and whether there are further related matters that the Group wishes to consider at a future meeting or meetings.

For more information contact:	Richard Mapletoft Planning Policy Manager 0115 914 8457 rmapletoft@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for Inspection:	Nil
List of appendices:	Appendix 1: Scrutiny Matrix

Rushcliffe Borough Council – Scrutiny Matrix

Councillor Request for Scrutiny		
Councillor Clarke		
Proposed topic of scrutiny ...	How the Borough works with partners to plan for the infrastructure required to support growth	
I would like to understand ... (key lines of enquiry)	<p>There is a significant amount of housing growth across the Borough and therefore a requirement for infrastructure to be in place to support this. Councillors would like to understand how the Borough works with partners to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determine the infrastructure required • Identify the wider strategy for infrastructure and how this is planned to ensure a coherent and coordinated response that takes account of the cumulative impact – now and in the future • How stakeholders are engaged in the development of S106 agreements <p>Infrastructure covers a wide range of agencies and areas of work therefore the initial request is for a scrutiny item that seeks to understand the current process from RBC perspective. Future items could then come forward focussed on specific areas of infrastructure with the relevant partner agency engaged.</p>	
I think this topic should be scrutinised because ... (please tick)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor Performance Identified
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in Legislation or Local Policy
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resident Concern or Interest
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cabinet Recommendation
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Links to the Corporate Strategy
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please state reason)

Officer Consideration of Councillor Request for Scrutiny

Officer Feedback (please tick)		Officer Comment
- Issue already being addressed	x	
- Issue has already been considered in the last 2 years?	x	
- Issue is a legal matter	x	
- Issue of a complaint investigation	x	
- Issue is a staffing matter	x	
- There is an alternative way of dealing with the issue	x	
Is there sufficient capacity ...		
- Scrutiny Work Programme?	✓	
- Officer Resources?	✓	
Recommendation	Growth and Development Scrutiny Group	
Lead Officer	Helen Knott / Richard Mapletoft	
Proposed Timescale for Scrutiny and Scrutiny Group	September 2023	



Growth and Development Scrutiny Group

Wednesday, 4 October 2023

Review of Growth Boards

Report of the Director Growth and Development

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. Following the report to Cabinet in June 2023 which outlined the process for the review of Growth Boards, this report presents findings from the survey work completed, wider context and considerations and options for the future of the Growth Boards. Feedback is sought from the Group to inform a further report to Cabinet setting out the proposed structure for the new Boards.
- 1.2. The June 2023 report to Cabinet included a lot of the background to the establishment of the Growth Boards and the previous reviews carried out, most recently in 2019. This report focusses on the review itself and some proposed models for the future of the Boards.
- 1.3. The report refers to Growth Boards throughout as this is what these groups are currently called. The focus going forward is the priorities for economic growth and desired outcomes for local businesses and residents. The Council will need to have in place the most appropriate structure in order to identify and achieve the objectives.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Growth and Development Scrutiny Group:

- a) Consider the priorities, contained in the report (paragraph 4.20), for any future Boards and suggest areas of focus and any additional priorities
- b) Based on the preferred option (from paragraph 4.27) set out in the report make a recommendation to Cabinet for the new structure of the Growth Boards.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. It has been identified by Cabinet that a review of the existing Growth Boards is required and to help inform this process they have requested that the Growth and Development Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to inform the outcome of the review.
- 3.2. The feedback from the Scrutiny Group on the recommendations will be used to inform the subsequent Cabinet report later in 2023.

4. Supporting Information

Background

- 4.1. As set out in the report to Cabinet in June 2023, the Growth Boards were established in 2015 and have been reviewed twice since then (in 2017 and 2019). These resulted in some changes to the Boards including the addition of new Boards. There are currently six Growth Boards:
- 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.
- 4.2. In addition, there is the Newton Community Partnership Board and the Sharphill Stakeholder Group which were both established more recently and have a very clear focus on those development sites. The Boards all have terms of reference and an action plan in place. All of the Boards are chaired by a Cabinet Member, supported by a Director and the Economic Growth Team who provide project management support delivering follow up actions/activity identified in meetings.
- 4.3. The Boards have delivered a lot since they were established in 2015 and the remit of some has inevitably changed over time due to the challenges and opportunities in the respective areas. In some cases, this has meant that discussions that are already/should be taking place elsewhere are repeated and some Board members disengage due to the change in focus and the lack of specific interest for them. It is timely to review the Boards again in light of the above, the impacts of Covid-19 and, more recently, the cost of living pressures.
- 4.4. Appendix A is the scrutiny matrix which triggered this report to scrutiny, it is included for reference to ensure that the key lines of enquiry are addressed in the report and presentation at the Scrutiny Group meeting. As Councillors will note, the report has been structured to address the points identified in the matrix.

Additional and related areas of work

- 4.5. As set out in the June Cabinet report, 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. The detail of this can be found in the Cabinet report and as a reminder for Councillors, this includes:
- Newton Community Partnership Board – recently established with a clear focus on the Newton Strategic Urban Extension (SUE) and not considered as part of this review

- Sharphill Stakeholders meetings – established with a clear focus on the Sharphill development in Edwalton as an SUE and not considered as part of this review
 - Fairham Growth Board – clear focus on the Fairham Pastures SUE and not considered as part of this review.
 - Ratcliffe on Soar Parish Forum
 - UK Shared Prosperity and Rural England Prosperity Funding
 - Rushcliffe Business Partnership
 - High street/town centre forums
 - Commercial developer forum
 - Bingham car parking stakeholder meeting as identified in the report to Cabinet in September 2023
 - Big Business Carbon Club.
- 4.6. The UK Shared Prosperity Funding has enabled additional business support activity commissioned by the Council. There is now a comprehensive business support offer including digital high street support, energy efficiency/low carbon support, general business support and grant funding allocations. The Economic Growth Team work closely with businesses across the Borough and their more active engagement in future growth boards would help to enhance this work and the offer.

Existing Boards terms of reference review

- 4.7. Each Growth Board has terms of reference (TOR) and these have been reviewed to consider areas of commonality and variation. The review also allows the opportunity to fully consider if each of the Boards are meeting/have met their original objectives. The Strategic Growth Board TOR were not reviewed alongside the local growth boards as the role of that board is not comparable.
- 4.8. The review of the TOR was carried out on Bingham, East Leake, Radcliffe on Trent and West Bridgford Growth Boards and it found the following areas of consistency:
- All Boards are chaired by a member of RBC Cabinet
 - The Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth is a core member of each Board
 - East Leake, Radcliffe and Bingham have Parish Councillor and Clerk representation and in WB this is covered with the inclusion of 2 ward Councillors as well as the chair of the Local Area Forum
 - A lot of the objectives are broadly the same focussing on developing plans to support the future of the area/town centre
 - All report into the Strategic Growth Board on a quarterly basis.

Areas of variation include:

- East Leake includes 2 ward Councillors whereas the other Boards TOR operating in parish council areas did not have them listed as board members. Bingham and Radcliffe did previously have ward Councillors included however this was changed in the review in 2019 to try and

encourage a more diverse range of attendees and have less of a Council focus.

- The meeting frequency is different and again this was a change implemented following the 2019 review (meeting frequency included at 4.1)
- The East Leake TOR have a very specific list of priorities which were developed with the Growth Board members. These reflect the challenges in East Leake created by the housing development that has happened in the area. Whilst these are more specific many of them are covered by the broader objectives outlined in the other TOR.

4.9. The variation of TOR have broadly arisen as an outcome of previous reviews and were made to reflect the changing focus/demands of the different Boards. Therefore, these differences are appropriate and an inevitable part of the development of Boards that have been established for an extended period of time.

4.10. The terms of reference can be found on the Borough Council [website](#).

4.11. The Boards have achieved a lot of outcomes since they were established as outlined in the report to Cabinet in June 2023. These projects are in line with the objectives of the Boards and have been developed based on the action plans in place for each area.

4.12. The Boards often have broad objectives that remain flexible to be responsive to local challenges, as such some areas of work are long-term and/or ongoing and consideration should be given to whether:

- the Boards (considering the wider audience) are the right place for some of these discussions
- actions can be picked up elsewhere and led by the most appropriate organisation e.g. health, parish council etc.
- a more focussed, task and finish groups for specific projects may be a more appropriate way to achieve outcomes.

4.13. The Boards have worked very well to bring key stakeholders in an area to work together. This has meant that the relationships now exist in these areas and priority projects are being progressed often through discussions outside of the Board.

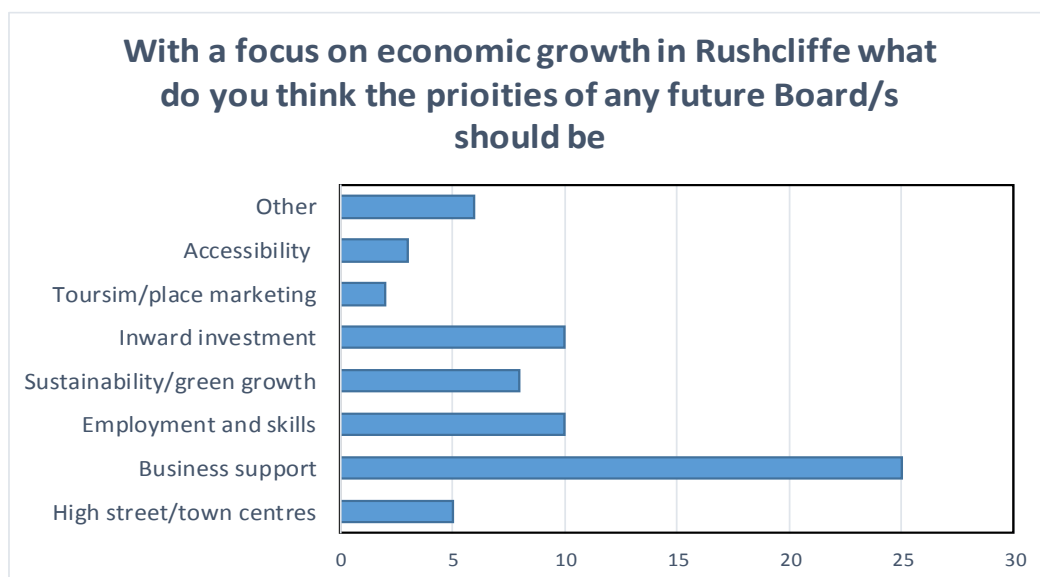
4.14. In most Boards there has been a struggle to engage and maintain local business representation who are key to informing discussions and plans. This could be for a number of reasons, but might be due to the formal nature of the Boards, the timing of them and the topics covered can often be more Council/public sector focussed rather than business/economic growth.

Survey

4.15. Following the Cabinet report, the Economic Growth Team have conducted a survey to gain views on the current Growth Boards and input into priorities for future boards. Two surveys were created:

- one which went to all existing board members and all Rushcliffe Borough Councillors (72 recipients and 14 responses received)
- the other went to around 2500 local businesses – mix of high street and non-high street businesses (44 responses received)
- in addition, a ‘straw poll’ was carried out at Rushcliffe Business Partnership events and networking asking about priorities for economic growth in the Borough, this received 25 responses.

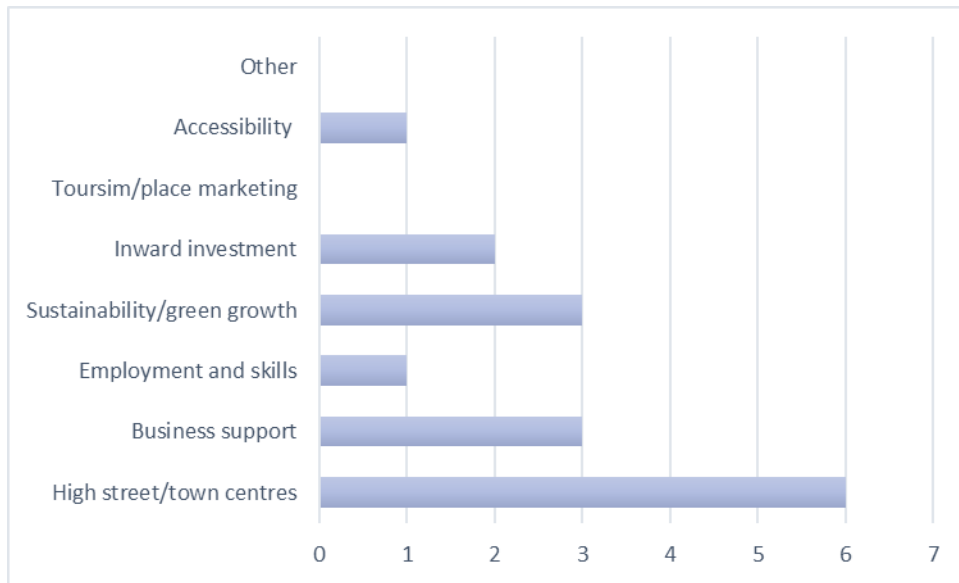
4.16. The questionnaire sent to businesses was shorter and focussed on the future priorities rather than the Growth Boards themselves, as most would not have been previously involved with them. The results of the survey can be found at Appendix B. The 25 responses received to the straw poll have been added to the question about priorities for ease of reference. Therefore, the collective responses from businesses showed the following results:



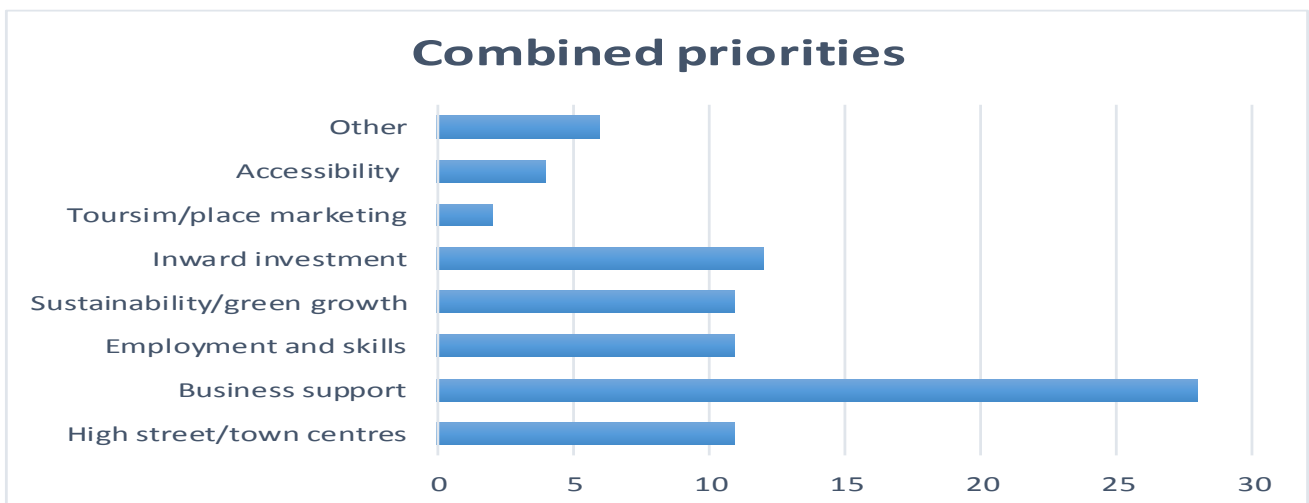
4.17. The survey that was shared with existing growth board members and Councillors included more questions and reference to Growth Boards. The results of this can be found at appendix C. The survey received 14 responses from the 72 people it was sent to and the majority of those were from existing growth board members.

4.18. Based on the feedback, most had found the Growth Boards useful with some comments about needing to engage high street businesses more and the need to refresh strategic objectives. The majority of respondents had no view either way about the proposal for the future of the Growth Boards which was included within the survey introduction (details of proposal below). It was felt it was important to share an option within the survey to gain some feedback on a potential new structure.

4.19. In terms of priorities for the future focus of economic growth activity the responses were:



4.20. The results of both sets of responses to the question about priorities have been combined and is reflected in the following graph:



4.21. As the above graph shows the priority which received the most votes is business support with inward investment, sustainability/green growth, employment and skills and high streets and town centres all receiving similar amounts of votes. Whilst this is not a definitive list and overall response rates were relatively low, it does provide some useful feedback to consider when considering future membership and terms of reference of growth boards.

4.22. It is clear from the survey results that those that responded found value in the Growth Boards, however based on the identified priorities for economic growth, it may be that the existing boards do not have the right objectives, membership etc to deliver on those priorities going forward. The review therefore needs to consider the most effective way to ensure a focus on identified priorities whilst acknowledging other ongoing areas of work.

Retail review

- 4.23. In 2016, the Council commissioned some retail reviews to help inform the work of the local Growth Boards. Earlier this year, the Council requested these reviews be revisited using UKSPF funding in order to assess the current health of our high streets and to suggest ideas for how the Council and its partners can offer support going forward. These reports have not yet been finalised but there are some initial findings which can be shared.
- 4.24. Some key findings from the review of the high streets (Bingham, Cotgrave, East Leake, Keyworth, Radcliffe on Trent, Ruddington and West Bridgford) are:
- Vacancy rates are low compared to regional and national averages
 - There are a higher proportion of service and leisure businesses than the regional and national averages
 - Average footfall per month ranges from 86,000 (Keyworth) to 1.3m (West Bridgford)
 - The number of independents is high in all town centres ranging from 46% in West Bridgford to 82% in Ruddington.
- 4.25. The reviews identify some opportunities for supporting the town centres, some of these are specific to a particular town centre and some are suggestions to be implemented across the Borough. Some of the ideas for initiatives across the Borough include:
- Landlord engagement campaign
 - Business support programmes
 - Local collaboration
 - High street beautification
 - Sustainability/green initiatives
 - Embrace digital integration
 - Encourage adaptive reuse of vacant space.
- 4.26. The outcomes of the retail reviews provide some opportunities for further discussion/development with relevant stakeholders as required.

Proposal for the future of the Growth Boards

- 4.27. When considering the future proposal for the Growth Boards it is important to reflect on the purpose of the Boards and what is considered to be a priority moving forward. The focus of the Boards has naturally drifted over time and the review needs to ensure the revised structure avoids that, by taking a more flexible 'task and finish' approach, governed by the Strategic Growth Board. As a reminder this was the original purpose of the Boards as reflected in the terms of reference:

In order to ensure that Rushcliffe delivers the required future growth it is necessary to adopt a strategic approach with clear economic priorities being identified in partnership with our collaborative partners. It is important to ensure appropriate external expertise and knowledge is used to shape and

inform the Local Growth Boards' work. This is likely to be determined by the type and nature of the matter being considered.

- 4.28. In addition, this report has referred to Growth Boards throughout as this is what these meetings are currently called, however, the question is about what the Council need to have in place to deliver on the priorities for economic growth and therefore outcomes for local businesses and residents. The focus is on what the Council is trying to achieve, not the structure, which should follow.
- 4.29. As referred to earlier in the report, a preferred future model for the Growth Boards was included in the survey which was shared with existing Growth Board members and Councillors. This preferred model was that there are Boards which are established (some which already exist) which focus on the strategic development sites in the Borough. This would therefore include:
- Bingham
 - Fairham (already in place)
 - Newton (already in place)
 - Sharpill (already in place although may require additional representation e.g., developers to align with other)
 - Gamston.
- 4.30. The focus on these strategic housing sites is important to ensure developments are delivered in the right way and engage with local communities to ensure new residents are integrated into existing communities. For information the housing numbers on the above sites are:
- Newton – 550 homes
 - Edwalton – 1650 homes
 - Bingham – 1050 home
 - Fairham – 3000 homes
 - Gamston – 4000 homes.
- 4.31. These Boards would have very clear objectives which would focus on the delivery of the housing and employment on the sites. Whilst they may operate for a number of years, due to size of the sites, they would still be considered 'task and finish' groups as there is a clear objective/outcome to be achieved from the Board's work.
- 4.32. In addition, it is proposed to have a Strategic Board that would have an agenda focussed on identified priorities such as high street/town centre, business support etc. Its role would be to set out the vision/plan for work to then be undertaken with relevant stakeholders between meetings. This could therefore include 'task and finish' groups being established to focus on an identified issue/area etc. This would ensure groups were established with clear objectives and therefore could operate for a period of time and then cease.
- 4.33. This preferred approach would support the development of an Economic Growth Strategy for Rushcliffe, an emerging priority proposed to be included in the Corporate Strategy. This is becoming increasingly important with

proposals for a Mayoral Combined authority being developed to ensure the Council has a clear set of priorities for the economic growth of the Borough.

- 4.34. To complement this, the Council would maintain existing relationships with the 6 largest town and parish councils with meetings approx. bi-annually to discuss local priorities and provide support where required including arranging meetings with other stakeholders on identified issues. The following diagram illustrates the preferred option:



- 4.35. This approach would ensure focus is maintained on the strategic sites, the priorities identified in this review could be addressed through the Strategic Growth Board and the local work would continue with parish councils ensuring ongoing communication and additional support as required. In addition to this, the Economic Growth Team will continue with other areas of work including building relationships with local businesses including those on and off the high street.

- 4.36. This option would mean:

- East Leake Growth Board no longer meet – as outlined above issues that arise can still be dealt with via more focussed groups. For example, the Integrated Care Partnership have now arranged monthly meetings of identified stakeholders to progress the health centre development project
- Bingham Growth Board would no longer meet in its current format – this would switch its focus to the development site. In addition there is the soon to be established Bingham car parking group, supported by the Borough Council.
- Radcliffe on Trent Growth Board no longer meet - as outlined above issues that arise can still be dealt with via more focussed groups.
- West Bridgford Growth Board no longer meet - as outlined above issues that arise can still be dealt with via more focussed groups.

- 4.37. Other options that have been considered as a part of the review are set out in the following table:

Option (option 1 is the one detailed above)	Detail	Strengths	Weaknesses
Option 2	Growth Boards remain as they are	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued focus and stakeholder engagement on projects Boards are established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In many cases projects have separate groups discussing them or there are more appropriate forum for these discussions with the right stakeholders around the table e.g. Bingham car park group as proposed at Cabinet in September and East Leake Health Centre meeting Poor attendance from some important stakeholders e.g. business A review of TOR would be required to attempt to attract members back and ensure focus remains.
Option 3	Some of the existing Boards remain e.g. East Leake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued focus and stakeholder engagement on projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above Additional resource pressure to support existing and new Boards Wide remit makes delivery of outcomes challenging and risks duplication of discussion e.g. town/parish council.
Option 4	New local boards are established e.g. Keyworth and Ruddington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity for development of projects in areas that have not previously had a growth board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional resource pressure to support existing and new Boards Based on experience a more flexible and less formal structure may work better acknowledging existing groups in an area and better complementing that rather than duplicating. The existing growth board funding is already available for these other areas and so projects could be developed without the need for wider discussion/meetings. Preferred approach allows for task and finish groups as required.
Option 4	All Boards cease with no additional boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources redeployed to focus on other areas of economic growth work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes opportunity to enable more coordinated planning/project development on economic growth priorities Local issues/voice not being heard Important work of Growth Boards lost and impact on relationships with stakeholders.

4.38. It may be that the Scrutiny Group has other proposals to be considered and this is something for further discussion.

5. Risks and Uncertainties

5.1. If the existing Boards are maintained, there is a risk that the low level of engagement from some will continue and therefore the valuable contribution they can make to plans will be lost. This is being mitigated by carrying out this review and proposing alternative options for the future of the Boards.

5.2. With any new Boards established there is a risk that the right people/organisations will not attend. This will be mitigated by the right objectives being established at the outset and a focus on delivering outcomes. The revised proposal focuses on more task and finish groups/work rather than Boards that continue to meet for extended periods of time when focus/interest can lapse.

5.3. There is a risk that local relationships will be eroded due to the removal of regular meetings. This is mitigated by the proposal to continue regular dialogue and arrange meetings with additional stakeholders as required. This suggestion was supported by a respondent to the survey who suggested more flexible meeting dates and response to issues as they arise may be a better approach.

6. Implications

6.1. Financial Implications

- In 2022 an allocation of £100,000 was made to support the work of the Strategic Growth Board. To date £50,433 of this has been committed with £30,849 spent and £49,567 remaining. Further funding is likely to be sought from in-year budget efficiencies, via Strategic Growth Board and ultimately Cabinet approval as existing budgets are utilised.

6.2. Legal Implications

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

6.3. Equalities Implications

There are no equalities implications associated with this report.

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

There are no crime and disorder implications associated with this report.

6.5. Bio-Diversity Net Gain

There are no bio-diversity implications associated with this report.

7. Link to Corporate Priorities

The Environment	The Council is committed to sustainable growth and supporting the environment and Growth Boards will operate within this context.
Quality of Life	The Growth Boards' terms of reference demonstrate the range of areas of focus for the boards all of which link to supporting good quality of life for our residents including town centres, infrastructure, education and health.
Efficient Services	The Council has finite financial and staff resources and so needs to work in the most efficient way in relation to the Growth Boards
Sustainable Growth	The Growth Boards' focus has been on supporting the sustainable growth of the Borough, working with stakeholders to create plans delivering outcomes for the Borough's businesses and communities.

8. Recommendations

It is RECOMMENDED that Growth and Development Scrutiny Group:

- a) Consider the priorities, contained in the report (paragraph 4.20), for any future Boards and suggest areas of focus and any additional priorities
- b) Based on the preferred option (from paragraph 4.27) set out in the report make a recommendation to Cabinet for the new structure of the Growth Boards.

For more information contact:	Leanne Ashmore Director of Development and Economic Growth LAshmore@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for Inspection:	Growth Board Review Report to Cabinet June 2023
List of appendices:	Appendix A – scrutiny matrix Appendix B – business survey results Appendix C – growth board and councillor survey results

Rushcliffe Borough Council – Scrutiny Matrix

Councillor Request for Scrutiny			
Catherine Evans – Service Manager Economic Growth and Property			
Proposed topic of scrutiny ...	Review of Growth Boards		
I would like to understand ... (key lines of enquiry)	<p>The current Growth Boards were established in 2015 and have been reviewed a couple of times since then, the most recent being 2019.</p> <p>Cabinet recommended in June that a review be conducted of the Growth Boards. This review should involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of current Boards TOR to review areas of consistency and differences • A survey of Growth Board members – to reflect on work done to date and also consider priorities for future Board/s • Engagement with/survey of local businesses and other key stakeholders – to consider priorities for future Board/s • The findings of the retail reviews (currently commissioned) and what this says about future focus • A report to scrutiny to review options. <p>The report to scrutiny should include the process the review has taken and an option/s for the future structure of Growth Boards.</p>		
I think this topic should be scrutinised because ... (please tick)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor Performance Identified	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in Legislation or Local Policy	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Resident Concern or Interest	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cabinet Recommendation	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Links to the Corporate Strategy	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	
	(please state reason)		
Officer Consideration of Request for Scrutiny			
Officer Feedback (please tick)			
- Issue already being addressed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Issue of a complaint investigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- Issue has already been considered in the last 2 years?	x	Issue is a staffing matter	x
- Issue is a legal matter	x	There is an alternative way of dealing with the issue	x
Is there sufficient capacity ...			
- Scrutiny Work Programme?	✓		
- Officer Resources?	✓		
Recommendation	Schedule for Scrutiny		
Consideration of Request for Scrutiny at COG			
Public Involvement / engagement?			
Expert witnesses?			
Portfolio holder?			
Lead Officer?	Catherine Evans		
Proposed Timescale for Scrutiny and Scrutiny Group	October 2023 for Growth and Development Scrutiny Group		

Planning for the future economic and business growth in Rushcliffe

Rushcliffe Borough Council are currently looking to develop a vision for the future of the Borough and how we can work with local businesses and other organisations to support the growth of local economy and businesses. We want to provide the right support in the right way that best meets our businesses needs.

This work is at the very early stages and the Council are seeking views of local businesses to understand what you think the key challenges and opportunities are for growing our local economy, and the priorities that should be the focus for any partnership groups going forwards.

The survey should only take a few minutes to complete, if you would like to discuss this in any more detail with one of the team please contact: econdev@rushcliffe.gov.uk

Survey

1. Please tell us what sector your business operates in:
 - Retail/hospitality
 - Professional services e.g. finance
 - Digital and creative
 - Manufacturing
 - Healthcare
 - Leisure/tourism
 - Recruitment/HR
 - Construction
 - Other please specify

2. Please tell u the size of your business
 - Less than 5 employees
 - 5 to 10 employees
 - 11 to 25 employees
 - 26 to 50 employees
 - 50+ employees

3. With a focus on economic growth in Rushcliffe what do you think the priorities of any future work should be:
 - High street/town centres
 - Business support
 - Employment and skills
 - Sustainability/green growth
 - Inward investment (attracting new businesses into the area)
 - Tourism/place marketing
 - Accessibility – including walking, cycling, public transport etc.
 - Other?

4. Would you be willing to give your time to support this work as it progresses (if yes please provide some contact details so we can get in touch as required)
 - Yes (space for contact info)
 - No (please tell us why not)

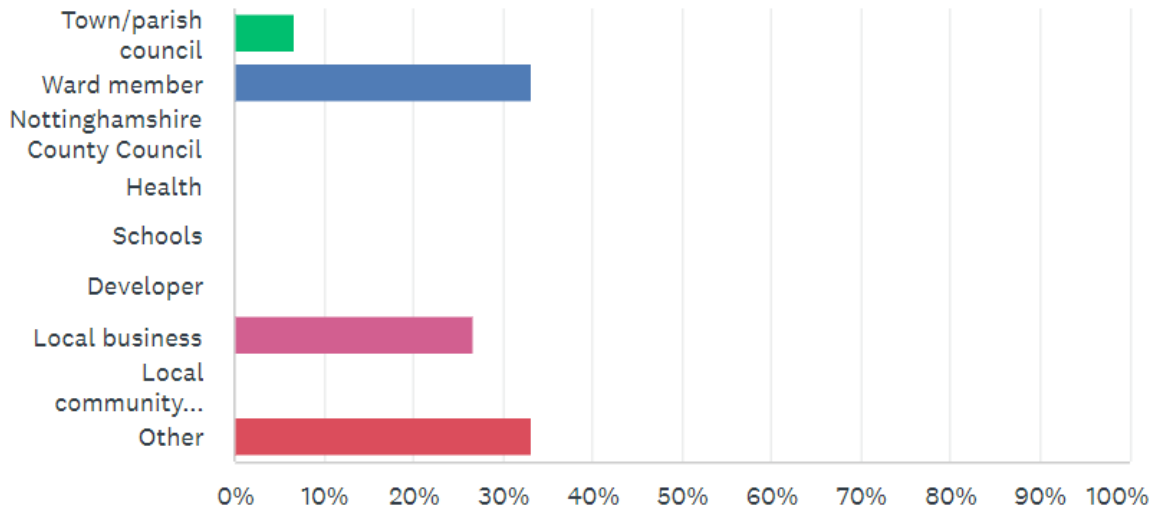
5. For future initiatives can you suggest the best ways for the Borough Council to engage with you to ensure your views and those of your organisation are represented:
 - Wider forums/events
 - Teams/zoom meetings
 - Email correspondence
 - Social media – polls and comments
 - Future surveys

6. Do you have any further comments to make...

Growth Board Review Response Summary

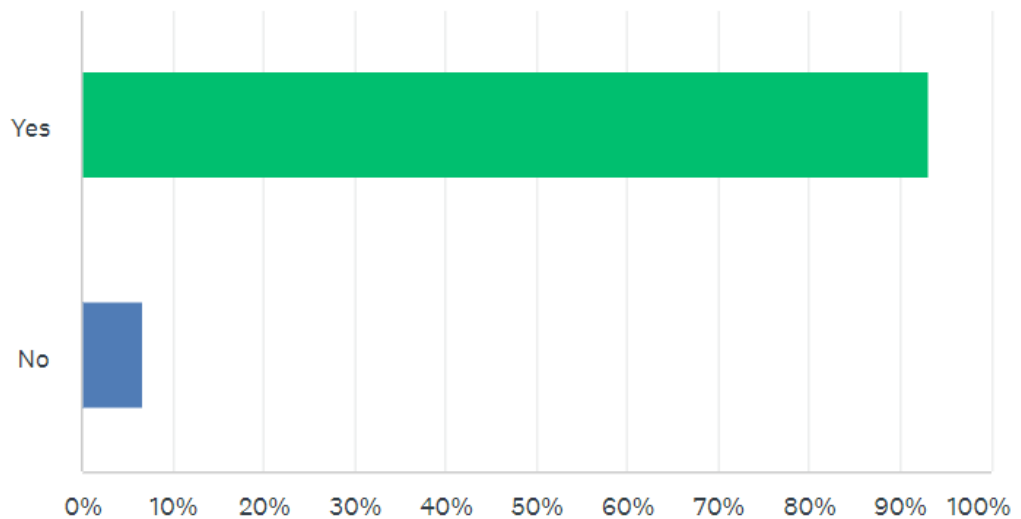
Please tell us a little about you, are you:

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



Have you been involved with one of the existing growth boards? (if yes, please answer questions 3 and 4. If no, please move straight to question 5)

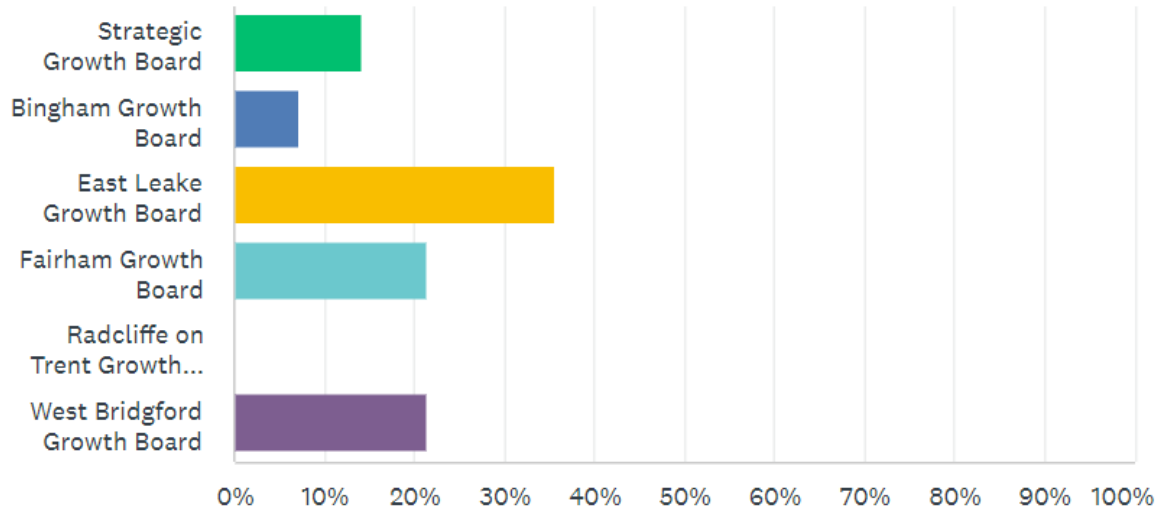
Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



If so, which Board?

...

Answered: 14 Skipped: 1



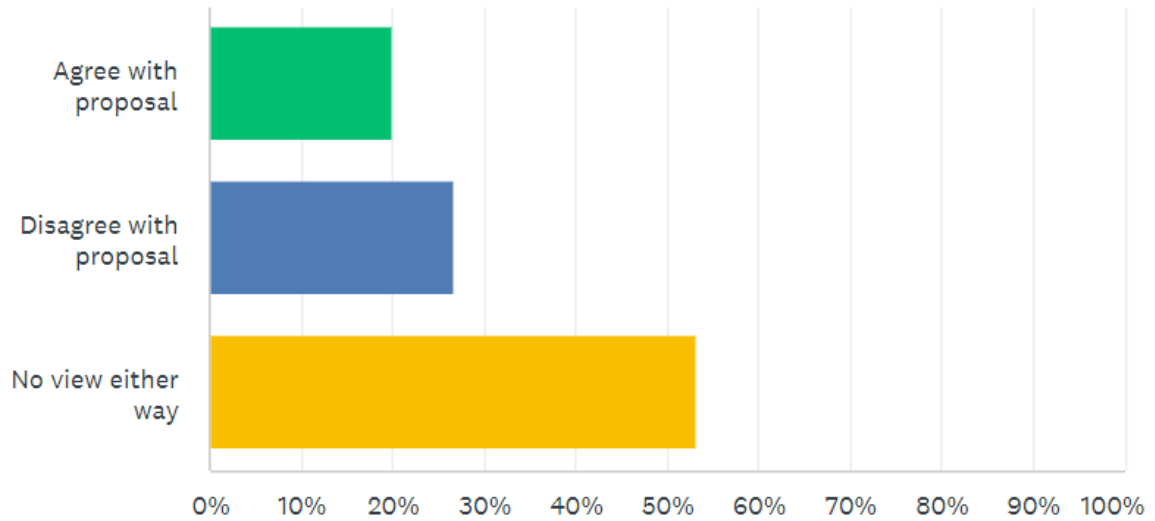
Do you have any comments about the work of the Board and what it has delivered?

See below a summary of the overall response:

- Useful for developing community projects
- Useful for reviewing housing and development infrastructure
- Useful for updating Members/Cabinet
- Needs a refresh of strategic objectives – especially Central Avenue
- Useful for bringing a range of stakeholders together
- Felt like local opinion and thought was sought and valued
- More work to be done to engage the high street

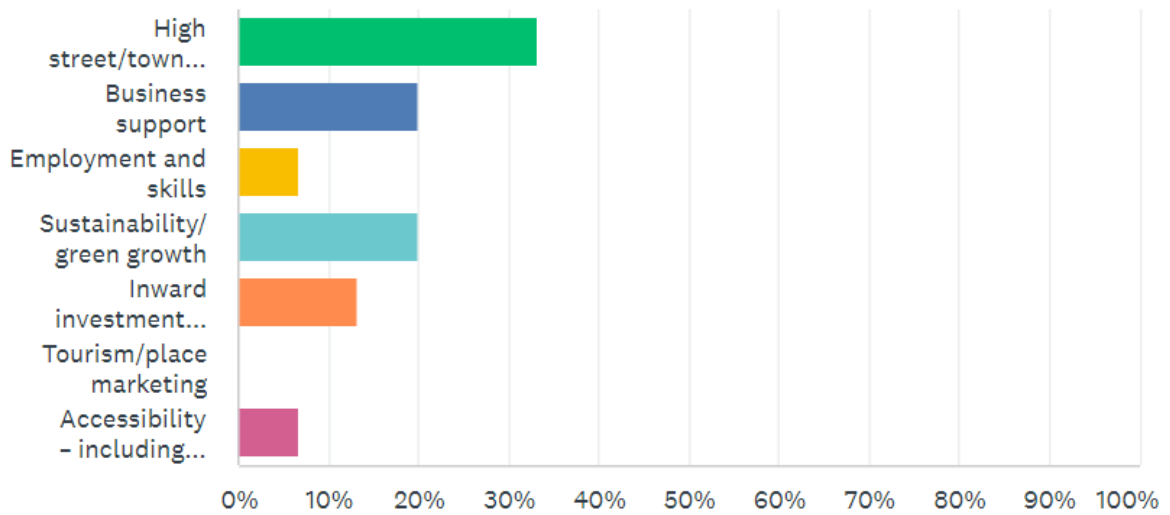
Do you have any thoughts on the proposal set out in the introduction?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



With a focus on economic growth in Rushcliffe what do you think the priorities of any future board/s should be?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



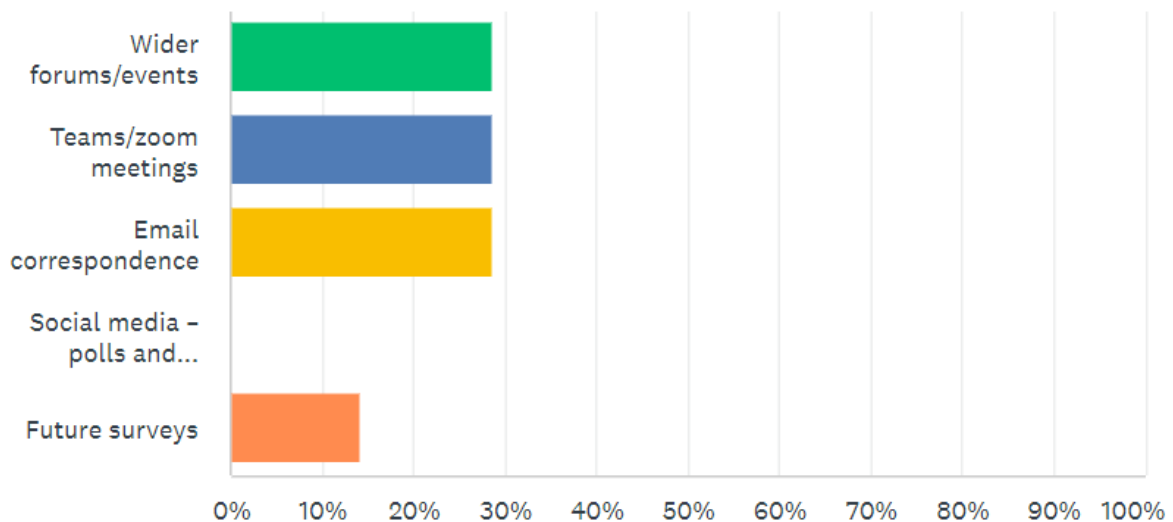
Which organisations do you consider should be invited to sit on the growth board?

Please see below a summary of open responses:

- Flexible meetings dates as issues arise, as opposed to fixed dates.
- Institute of Directors
- Public infrastructure providers
- Local business from a range of sectors
- Similar to Fairham in it's make up
- West Bridgford Local Area Forum
- Big business such as British Gypsum
- Local authority, private sector and relevant agencies

If you cannot commit time to attending a Board can you suggest some other ways, the Borough Council can engage with you to ensure your views and those of your organisation are represented:

Answered: 7 Skipped: 8



Some responses to any further comments to make

- Transparency and community engagement is key
- Needed for all areas where there is housing growth until infrastructure catches up and developer contributions are spent
- Essential link between various village organisations and other bodies, bringing everyone together means everyone has the same information at the same time
- Happy to be involved
- Face to face meetings are more effective and should be maintained.
- The opportunity for hybrid meeting may encourage attendance

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 <p>Rushcliffe Borough Council</p>	<p>Growth and Development Scrutiny Group</p> <p>Wednesday, 4 October 2023</p> <p>Work Programme</p>
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Report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services

1. Summary

- 1.1. The work programme is a standing item for discussion at each meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Group. In determining the proposed work programme due regard has been given to matters usually reported to the Group and the timing of issues to ensure best fit within the Council's decision making process.
- 1.2. The table does not take into account any items that need to be considered by the Group as special items. These may occur, for example, through changes required to the Constitution or financial regulations, which have an impact on the internal controls of the Council.
- 1.3. The future work programme was updated and agreed at the meeting of the Corporate Overview Group on 5 September 2023, including any items raised via the scrutiny matrix.

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

- Quality of Life;
- Efficient Services;
- Sustainable Growth; and
- The Environment

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Group agrees the work programme as set out in the table below.

3 January 2024

- [Sewerage Infrastructure and Discharge within Rushcliffe](#)
- [Management of Open Spaces](#)
- Work programme

6 March 2024

- Work Programme

xx July 2024

- [Review of the Crematorium](#)
- Work Programme

3. Reason for Recommendation

To enable the Council's scrutiny arrangements to operate efficiently and effectively.

For more information contact:	Pete Linfield Director of Finance and Corporate Services 0115 914 8349 plinfield@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers Available for Inspection:	None.
List of appendices (if any):	None.