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**Our reference:**  
**Your reference:**  
**Date:** 13 November 2024

## **Record of Decisions taken by Cabinet – Tuesday, 12 November 2024**

At a meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 12 November 2024 the following decisions were reached on the items listed in the attached schedule.

**The implementation of any key decisions is suspended until the call-in period has expired without a call-in being validly invoked.**

**Under the Rushcliffe Borough Council Constitution, call-in is applicable to key decisions only.**

The call-in deadline for any key decisions contained in this Decision Notice is before the end of the working day on Thursday, 21 November 2024. Subject to any call-in request being received, all the decisions will be actioned after Thursday, 21 November 2024.

Any Member of the Council shall be entitled to call for a decision to be suspended. To effect the call-in procedure, the appropriate form should be completed and returned to the Chief Executive by the end of the working day on Thursday, 21 November 2024.

## **ENFORCEMENT POLICY UPDATE**

**It was RESOLVED that:**

- a) the adoption of the updated Planning Enforcement Policy be approved; and
- b) the Director – Development and Economic Growth be granted delegated authority to make minor updates to the Policy as required.

## **REASON FOR DECISIONS**

The Council's Corporate Strategy 2024-2027 includes a Corporate Priority for 'The Environment'. The enforcement of planning controls is an important aspect of protecting the natural, built and historic environment. Furthermore, there is a need for the Planning Enforcement Policy to set out clearly for all residents and businesses, including those who may be undertaking development, to understand the approach that the Council will take when investigating alleged breaches of planning control.

It is important to ensure that the Planning Enforcement Policy is regularly reviewed to ensure that it is kept up to date in accordance with the revised legislation and

National Planning Policies.

## **RUSHCLIFFE CARBON OFFSETTING FRAMEWORK - LAND ACQUISITION**

### **It was RESOLVED that:**

- a) the acquisition of the land set out in Option 2 in the report be approved, with the Asset Investment Group being granted delegated authority to a maximum bid as set out within the Financial Implications Section 7.1 of the report, plus all costs associated with the acquisition;
- b) opportunities regarding the Council's own landholdings, as set out at Section 4 and also Option 1 in the report be explored and delivered;
- c) the ring fencing of funds as set out in the Financial Implications Section 7.1 of the report for carbon offsetting for land acquisition and associated costs within the Climate Change Reserve be approved; and
- d) the Asset Investment Group be granted delegated authority regarding future land acquisitions for the purposes of carbon offsetting within the limit of the funds identified in the Financial Implications Section 7.1 of the report.

### **REASON FOR DECISIONS**

In December 2021, Cabinet adopted the Climate Change Strategy 2021-2030. The Strategy reaffirmed the Council's commitment to be carbon neutral from the Council's operations by 2030. It also included a confirmation of its commitment to be "Net Zero" as a Borough by 2050, in line with national government targets. The wording of the Strategy was strengthened, at this time, to recognise the ecological crisis.

Even if all the actions contained in the Carbon Management Action Plan are successfully implemented, there will still be some requirement for carbon offsetting and, therefore, Cabinet approved on 14 May 2024 the creation of the Carbon Offsetting Framework, which represents an important component of the Council's Carbon Management Action Plan to achieve the commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030. The Framework's focus on offsetting within the Borough of Rushcliffe also supports the establishment of a range of habitats to promote ecological connectivity and recovery.

Due to the nature of carbon off-setting and sequestration, it is important that this element of the Carbon Offsetting Framework is delivered early in the time window (leading to 2030), to allow newly planted woodland to mature (as it takes five years to commence sequestering carbon) and meadow / wet land to establish, thereby allowing the project to fully meet the decarbonisation targets required by 2030.

The two land options detailed in this report have been considered by the Council's Asset Investment Group (AIG) at its meeting on 15 October 2024. The outcome was that both options are recommended to Cabinet for approval, along with some

additional recommendations that reflect the need for speed and flexibility, particularly when seeking to acquire land being marketed for sale for sequestration purposes in accordance with the Carbon Offsetting Framework.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Pregon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Sara Pregon**  
**Monitoring Officer**