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Our reference:

Your reference:

Date: 14 May 2024

Record of Decisions taken by Cabinet – Tuesday, 13 May 2025

At a meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 13 May 2025 the following decisions were reached on the items listed in the attached schedule.

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

Under the Rushcliffe Borough Council Constitution, call-in is available in respect 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, 22 May 2025. Subject to any call-in request being received, all the decisions will be actioned after Thursday, 22 May 2025.

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, 22 May 2025.

NON-KEY DECISIONS

COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

It was RESOLVED that the revised and extended Communications and Engagement Strategy 2025-2028 be approved.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

This Communications and Engagement Strategy has been created to map out how the Council communicates to and engages with residents, as well as partners and its internal staff. It provides an overview of the Council's current reach, the channels and methods that it currently uses, and a number of objectives it aims to achieve over the life of the Strategy. The accompanying Action Plan, included at Appendix Two to the report, lists a number of development projects to increase awareness within local communities of Council services and projects, and to expand upon the variety of ways in which the Council will actively seek out and listen to residents' views.

The production of quality communications and meaningful engagement over the next three years will highlight the strategic development work of the Council as well as the delivery of direct, frontline services and updates, which are an essential factor in

continuing to make Rushcliffe a great place to live and work.

RENEWAL OF PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (DOG CONTROL)

It was RESOLVED that the renewal of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Dog Control, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved, to take effect from 8 July 2025, and for the data relevant to the PSPO to be reviewed annually by officers to ensure its effectiveness.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

The Council initially approved a three-year Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) on 7 July 2022, to control anti-social behaviour associated with dog control, which came into effect on 8 July 2022. It is a requirement of the enabling legislation, namely the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, that the Order be reviewed before the expiry of three years. The public consultation and supporting evidence clearly demonstrate the ongoing need to tackle anti-social dog control.

KEY DECISION

RUSHCLIFFE CARBON OFFSETTING FRAMEWORK - LAND ACQUISITION

It was RESOLVED that:

- a) the acquisition of the land set out in paragraphs 4.4 and 4.6 of the report be approved, subject to contract and due diligence;
- b) the identification of external funding to offset woodland design and planting and maintenance be approved; and
- c) if external funding is not available, funding from either the Climate Change Reserve and/or future revenue budget growth be approved.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

In December 2021, Cabinet approved 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.

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

Due to the nature of carbon offsetting and sequestration, it is important that this element of the COF is delivered early in the time window (leading to 2030), to allow

newly planted woodland to mature (as it takes nearly 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.

Therefore, it is vital that the Council continues to explore other acquisition opportunities under the COF and the Council has been working with a land agent who has recently identified an area of land that has been put on the market.

The land as set out in paragraph 4.4 of the report has been considered by the Council's Asset Investment Group (AIG) at its meeting on 4 April 2025 and its acquisition has been recommended to Cabinet for approval.

If the Council were successful in purchasing the land, the 54.42 acres would provide a planting regime delivering around 64% of the Council's current offsetting target.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Pregon'.

Sara Pregon
Monitoring Officer