

**When telephoning, please ask for:** Democratic Services  
**Direct dial** 0115 914 8511  
**Email** democraticservices@rushcliffe.gov.uk

**Our reference:**  
**Your reference:**  
**Date:** Wednesday, 18 September 2024

To all Members of the Council

Dear Councillor

A Meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday, 26 September 2024 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



Sara Pregon  
Monitoring Officer

## **AGENDA**

Moment of Reflection

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declarations of Interest

[Link to further information in the Council's Constitution](#)

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 July 2024 (Pages 1 - 16)

To receive as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 18 July 2024.

4. Mayor's Announcements
5. Leader's Announcements
6. Chief Executive's Announcements
7. Citizens' Questions

[To answer questions submitted by Citizens on the Council or its services.](#)

8. Petitions
9. Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan (Pages 17 - 624)

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

10. Notices of Motion

[To receive Notices of Motion](#)

**a) Councillor Birch**

The current SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) provision by Nottinghamshire County Council is totally inadequate, with long wait times for assessment and insufficient access to services. Consequently, many families in Rushcliffe face significant hardship.

All children, regardless of their educational needs and disabilities, should receive the highest quality education and support.

This Council calls on Nottinghamshire County Council to take immediate action to improve SEND provision across the county, and urges central government to increase SEND funding.

Council resolves to:

- Write to Nottinghamshire County Council to express our dissatisfaction with the current quality of SEND provision.
- Write to Nottinghamshire County Council to demand that they meet their legal obligations with regards to completing EHCPs (Education, Health and Care Plans) within the statutory 20 week timeframe.
- Write to Nottinghamshire County Council to request that they measure the qualitative, as well as quantitative, aspects of their SEND provision.
- Write to both the Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson MP, and the Minister of State for Education, Kelly Tolhurst MP, to request more funding is allocated to SEND education.
- Request that Nottinghamshire County Council gather and properly consider a wider range of views from parent carers and SEND children than just those from the commissioned Nottinghamshire Parent Carer Forum.

- Request that Nottinghamshire County Council implements a customer service desk to give parents of SEND children a central point of contact.
- Request that Nottinghamshire County Council implements a Service Level Agreement between themselves and SEND parents, which guarantees that phone messages and emails will be responded to within two working days.
- Request that Nottinghamshire County Council provides the Oliver McGowan Learning Disability and Autism Training to all teaching staff at schools across the county, as is currently mandated by the NHS.
- Provide the Oliver McGowan Learning Disability and Autism Training to all Rushcliffe Borough Council staff and Councillors.

Rushcliffe Borough Council stands firmly in support of all children with SEND and their families. By adopting this motion, we call on Nottinghamshire County Council, and central government, to recognize the urgency of the situation and to take decisive action to enhance the quality and effectiveness of SEND provision.

#### **b) Councillor Clarke**

This Council is extremely disappointed that the Government has voted to restrict vital Winter Fuel Payments to only pensioners in receipt of means-tested benefits such as Pension Credit.

Age UK estimates that this will mean 2 million pensioners nationwide who depend on this fund to stay warm this coming winter will not receive it.

There are nearly 30,000 pensioners in Rushcliffe. While some pensioners currently in receipt of the Winter Fuel Payment may not require it, many across Rushcliffe will sit just above the cut-off for Pension Credit. These vulnerable residents will be impacted by this sudden, and deeply unfair, change in policy during the coldest months of the year. This will place additional strain on those that need it most and many will face the cruel dilemma of whether to “eat or heat”.

This Council resolves to:

- Urge the Chancellor of the Exchequer to review the decision to means-test the Winter Fuel Payment and to ensure that compensatory payments are included in the October Budget to ensure that vulnerable pensioners, particularly those who do not claim Pension Credit, are protected from fuel poverty this winter.
- Also urge our local Rushcliffe MPs to lobby the Chancellor to introduce measures to help those pensioners in Rushcliffe in

need of additional support this winter, especially those that fall just outside the pension credit threshold.

- Continue the existing successful Council-led local awareness campaign, and work with local partners and charities, to alert those pensioners in Rushcliffe potentially eligible for Pension Credit but who currently do not access it, to apply for their entitlement.
- Work with Nottinghamshire County Council to utilise the Household Support Fund to provide some financial relief to the Borough's most vulnerable pensioners

### **c) Councillor Upton**

This Council is disappointed with the Government's decision to increase Rushcliffe's housing targets. We have given permission for a significant number of homes to be built since our Local Plan was adopted in 2014 and we have led the way on housebuilding in Nottinghamshire.

We have built our fair share of houses and any increase in our housing target is unacceptable due to the extra pressure on our countryside and greenbelt land, and our distinctive rural and semi-rural settlements.

This Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to request:

1. That the housing target for Rushcliffe is not increased in recognition of the number of houses we have already built and already plan to build, and,
2. That under the Duty to Co-operate, Nottingham City Council is urged to allocate our increase in housing numbers, as we did for them in 2014.

## 11. Questions from Councillors

[To answer questions submitted by Councillors](#)

### Membership

Chair: Councillor A Brown

Vice-Chair: Councillor J Cottee

Councillors: M Barney, J Billin, T Birch, R Bird, A Brennan, R Butler, S Calvert, J Chaplain, K Chewings, N Clarke, T Combellack, S Dellar, A Edyvean, S Ellis, G Fletcher, M Gaunt, E Georgiou, P Gowland, C Grocock, R Inglis, R Mallender, S Mallender, D Mason, P Matthews, H Om, H Parekh, A Phillips, L Plant, D Polenta, N Regan, D Simms, D Soloman, C Thomas, R Upton, D Viridi, J Walker, R Walker, L Way, T Wells, G Wheeler, J Wheeler and G Williams

## 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