

When telephoning, please ask for: Democratic Services
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Our reference:
Your reference:
Date: Wednesday, 9 July 2025



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To all Members of the Council

Dear Councillor

A Meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday, 17 July 2025 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

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

Sara Pregon
Monitoring Officer

AGENDA

Opening Prayer

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 May 2025 (Pages 1 - 8)

To receive as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 22 May 2025.

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

Postal address
Rushcliffe Borough
Council
Rushcliffe Arena
Rugby Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 7YG



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

8. Petitions

9. Approval of the Scrutiny Annual Reports 2024/25 (Pages 9 - 48)

The report of the Director – Finance and Corporate Services is attached

10. Appointment of Independent Persons (Pages 49 - 52)

The report of the Monitoring Officer is attached

11. Local Government Reorganisation Update

The report of the Chief Executive [To Follow]

12. Notices of Motion

[To receive Notices of Motion](#)

a) Councillor J Wheeler

Rushcliffe Borough Council was recently re-awarded the Armed Forces Covenant Employer Scheme (ERS) Gold Award in December 2024.

This is the highest honour for organisations that have signed the Armed Forces Covenant, recognising employers who actively support the Armed Forces Community in their workplace and encourage others to follow their lead.

Given it has been over 11 years since the Council first signed up to the Armed Forces Covenant, we as a Council resolve to:

1. Re-affirm this Council's support to for the Armed Forces Covenant by signing up again for the Armed Forces Covenant
2. Welcome Rushcliffe Borough Council being re-awarded of the Gold Award for the Armed Forces Covenant Employer Scheme
3. Place on record our thanks for all those who serve in the Armed Forces, their family and friends and all of our Veterans
4. Encourage all employers in Rushcliffe to sign up to the Employer Recognition Scheme Award.

13. Questions from Councillors

[To answer questions submitted by Councillors](#)

Membership

Chair: Councillor J Cottee

Vice-Chair: Councillor R Butler

Councillors: M Barney, J Billin, T Birch, R Bird, A Brennan, A Brown, 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 Virdi, 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

National legislation permits 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

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 22 MAY 2025

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

PRESENT:

Councillors A Brown (Chair), J Cottey (Vice-Chair), M Barney, 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 Soloman, C Thomas, R Upton, D Viridi, J Walker, R Walker, L Way, T Wells, G Wheeler, J Wheeler and G Williams

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

D Banks	Director of Neighbourhoods
R Clack	Deputy Monitoring Officer
A Hill	Chief Executive
P Linfield	Director of Finance and Corporate Services
E Richardson	Democratic Services Officer
H Tambini	Democratic Services Manager

APOLOGIES:

Councillors J Billin and D Simms

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

2 Minutes of the Meetings held on 6 March and 20 March 2025

The minutes of the meetings held on Thursday, 6 March and 20 March 2025 were approved as correct records and signed by the Mayor.

3 Address of the retiring Mayor

Councillor Brown, Mayor of Rushcliffe for 2024/25, thanked Council for entrusting him with the position of Mayor and stated that he had had a fantastic year, attending over 100 events across the Borough and County. Many of those had been memorable, including closing Proms in the Park, lunch in the historic Palace Garden at Southwell Minster, the Crich Memorial Armed Forces event and serving lunch on Christmas Day at the Friary. He referred to a number of amusing events that had also taken place during his year.

The Mayor thanked the Democratic Services Team, Media Team, former and current Chief Executives, Kath Marriott and Adam Hill, former and current

Monitoring Officers, Gemma Dennis and Sara Pregon and the Deputy Monitoring Officer, Rachel Clack for their help and support. He thanked the Deputy Mayor for his help and support and wished him well for the coming year.

Councillor Brown referred to his last duty as Mayor, visiting the RAF Air Cadets training centre at Wilford, where he presented his cadet Sgt Thomas Freeborough with a tankard.

The Mayor concluded by advising that his charity SSAFA would be receiving £8,000 and thanked all those for supporting his charity events throughout the year and the businesses that had provided prizes and advised that he and his wife had been invited to continue to help SSAFA. The Mayor thanked his wife, Sylvia, who had attended the majority of civic events, including one on her own to represent him, stated that she was a great ambassador for Rushcliffe and that he could not have taken on this role without her and presented her with a gift and flowers.

4 Vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor

The Leader, Councillor Clarke, MBE proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Councillor Brown, and noted that he had been an extremely good ambassador for the Borough, attending a huge number of events, as detailed in the photograph album, which he would be presenting to him shortly. The Leader referred to the Mayor's excellent support of his charity, congratulated him on the money raised and was pleased to hear that he and his wife would be continuing to support SSAFA. The Leader highlighted some of the events including D-Day celebrations, Proms in the Park, opening play areas, fetes and carnivals, flag raising events, Armistice and Christmas events, including serving lunch at the Friary, together with his continued charity fund raising events for SSAFA. The Leader noted that despite this busy year, the Mayor had continued with his community work, which was so important to him. The Leader concluded by thanking Councillor Brown for his tireless service during this year and presented him with his photograph album, Mayor's portrait and past Mayor's badge.

Councillor J Walker congratulated the Mayor on a very successful year and stated that whilst sharing different political views, she believed that they both shared the same goal to serve residents. She referred to his busy year, and to his dedication towards his chosen charity, which had raised awareness and would have a lasting impact. Councillor Walker stated that the Labour Group would like to thank the Mayor for his service to the community and wished the Deputy Mayor every success in his year ahead.

Councillor Thomas thanked the Mayor on behalf of the Leake Independent Group for his effective chairing of meetings and the thought provoking speakers that he had invited.

Councillor R Mallender thanked the Mayor on behalf of the Green Group for the excellent work that he had done and wished him well in the future.

5 Election of Mayor 2025/26

It was proposed by Councillor Inglis that Councillor Cottee be elected as Mayor of the Borough of Rushcliffe for the civic year 2025/26.

Councillor Inglis congratulated the Mayor on his successful year and thanked him for his hard work. Councillor Inglis stated that he felt privileged to nominate Councillor Cottee, as he had encouraged him to stand as a Borough Councillor 10 years ago. Councillor Cottee had lived in the Borough since he was five, was first elected as a Borough Councillor in 2007, and had sat on the majority of committees holding most roles since then. Councillor Inglis stated that Councillor Cottee would bring a wide range of qualities to the role, was well known in the community, a great ambassador for Rushcliffe and would be well supported by his family, who were here this evening. Councillor Inglis hoped that everyone would support this nomination, as it was important to recognise and reward Councillor Cottee for his dedication in representing the community over many years.

In seconding the recommendation, Councillor Edyvean thanked Councillor Cottee for his support and advice over the years and wished him well for the year ahead.

There being no further nominations, it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Cottee be elected as Mayor of the Borough of Rushcliffe for the civic year 2025/26.

Councillor Cottee then read and signed the declaration of acceptance of office and after thanking his proposer, seconder and fellow Councillors, took the Chair and was invested with the Chain of Office.

The Mayor thanked Councillors for entrusting him with the office of Mayor, referred to his chosen charity, the Richard Whitehead Foundation, and asked its founder, Mr Richard Whitehead MBE to say a few words about the charity.

Mr Whitehead mentioned that he had previously lived in Rushcliffe, and still spent time in the area, including today, when he had been running a 'paint run' in a local school. He referred to the importance of promoting the power of sport and engaging with future leaders, by implementing sustainability within the inclusion spectrum. The Foundation did not just support disabled people, it advocated for the leaders of tomorrow within the disability community, together with the wider impact of disability communities. Mr Whitehead stated that he was proud of his disability and promoted this wherever he went, together with understanding the resourcefulness of being different. Mr Whitehead stated that he was proud of being from Nottingham and receiving his MBE in 2013 from the future King, and one of his promises had been to uphold the values of inclusion, and he felt that the support from the Mayor during the year would impact all communities across the region and he hoped that it would lead to sustainable changes.

6 Election of Deputy Mayor 2025/26

It was proposed by Councillor Barney that Councillor Butler be elected as Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Rushcliffe for the civic year 2025/26.

Councillor Barney congratulated the Mayor on his appointment, passed on his thanks to the outgoing Mayor and stated that he was pleased to nominate Councillor Butler, who had always lived in Nottinghamshire, first moving to the Borough aged four, moving to Cotgrave in 1990. Councillor Butler was first elected to Rushcliffe Borough Council in 2003 and had sat on the majority of committees holding most roles since then, including most recently being Chair of the Planning Committee. Councillor Barney stated that Councillor Butler was very principled, kind and decent and the respect felt for him by so many came from that. Councillor Butler had been a member of Cotgrave Town Council since 1999 and Nottinghamshire County Council since 2001 and he was previously employed in retail, advertising and also edited a magazine. Councillor Barney referred to Councillor Butler's commitment to the electorate and fellow Councillors and thanked him for his hard work.

In seconding the recommendation, Councillor Mason congratulated the Mayor and added her support to the nomination of Councillor Butler as Deputy Mayor. Councillor Mason referred to Councillor Butler's commitment and hard work since he first joined the Council and wished him well for the forthcoming year.

There being no further nominations, it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Butler be elected as Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Rushcliffe for the civic year 2025/26.

Councillor Butler then read and signed the declaration of acceptance of office and after thanking his proposer, seconder, and fellow Councillors, was invested with his Chain of Office by the Mayor.

Councillor Butler congratulated the Mayor on his appointment, thanked Councillors for supporting him with the position of Deputy Mayor and thanked Councillor Barney and Councillor Mason. He stated that it was a great honour to be Deputy Mayor and he would do his utmost to support the Mayor and uphold the reputation of Rushcliffe Borough Council.

7 Leader's Announcements

The Leader, Councillor Clarke MBE congratulated the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on their appointments.

He went on to inform Council that earlier today the County Council had met for its Annual Council meeting, where a new Chairman and Leader of the Council had been elected. The Leader confirmed that he had congratulated the new Leader on behalf of the Borough and it had been agreed that talks would take place to work together on behalf of residents in Nottinghamshire and Rushcliffe.

In respect of Local Government Reorganisation, the Leader advised that work was continuing and meetings were being arranged with other local authorities to look at options going forward.

The Leader advised Council that he had spent the last three days in Leeds at the UK's Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum (UKREiIF), which

was an international event showcasing regions. The Leader stated that he had been there representing both Rushcliffe and in his role as Director of the Freeport. The Forum provided opportunities to promote investment in the East Midlands, and Rushcliffe, with the Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station site featuring prominently.

8 Chief Executive's Announcements

There were no Chief Executive's announcements.

9 Appointments of Committees and Member Groups 2025/26

The Leader and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Borough-wide Leadership, Councillor Clarke MBE presented the report of the Director – Finance and Corporate Services, outlining the nominations for the appointment of committees and member groups for 2025/26. The Leader advised that there was an alteration proposed on behalf of the Labour Group to the Barton-in-Fabis Community Governance Review Task and Finish Group, that Councillor Plant should replace Councillor Calvert.

With that alteration, it was proposed by Councillor Clarke MBE and seconded by Councillor Brennan and **RESOLVED** that the nominations to committees and member groups for 2025/26 be approved as follows:

A. Scrutiny Committees

Corporate Overview Group

Councillors Williams (Chair), Combellack, Gaunt, Parekh, Plant, Simms and Way

Governance Scrutiny Group

Councillors Simms (Chair), Gaunt (Vice Chair), Chewings, Gowland, Om, Regan, Thomas, Wells and G Wheeler

Growth and Development Scrutiny Group

Councillors Combellack (Chair), Way (Vice Chair), Brown, Calvert, Chaplain, Ellis, Georgiou, Mason and R Walker

Communities Scrutiny Group

Councillor Parekh (Chair), Plant (Vice Chair), Barney, Billin, Butler, Grocock, R Mallender, Matthews and Soloman

B. Regulatory Committees

Licensing Committee

Councillors Regan (Chair), Billin, Chaplain, Chewings, Cottey, Fletcher, Grocock, R Mallender, Mason, Om, Phillips, Simms, Soloman, G Wheeler and Williams

Planning Committee

Councillors R Walker (Chair), Edyvean (Vice Chair), Birch, Brown, Calvert, Chaplain, Ellis, S Mallender, Mason, Thomas, Wells

Employment Appeals Committee

Councillors Clarke MBE (Chair), Dellar, Georgiou, J Walker and J Wheeler

Interviewing Committee

Councillors Clarke MBE (Chair), Brennan, Dellar, J Walker and J Wheeler

Standards Committee

Councillors Brown (Chair), Bird, Matthews, Plant, Phillips, Simms, A Wood (Parish Member) and K White (Independent Member), H Richardson and C Richards (Independent Persons)

C. Member Groups**Local Development Framework Group**

Councillors Upton (Chair), R Walker (Vice Chair), Bird, Brown, Butler, Calvert, Chewings, Edyvean, Ellis, Gowland, S Mallender, Mason, Plant, Thomas and Wells

Member Development Group

Councillors Matthews (Chair), Birch, Butler, Combellack, Cottee, Gaunt, Plant, Way and Williams

Rushcliffe Strategic Growth Board

Councillors Clarke MBE (Chair), Brennan, Grocock, Phillips, Upton, Viridi, Way, J Walker and J Wheeler

Civic Hospitality Panel

Councillor Cottee (Chair), Billin, Butler, Clarke MBE, Fletcher and Georgiou

West Bridgford Special Expenses and Community Infrastructure Levy Advisory Group

Councillor Viridi (Chair), Chaplain, Calvert, Dellar, R Mallender, Matthews, Om, Parekh and J Wheeler

Barton-in-Fabis Community Governance Review Task and Finish Group

Councillor Brennan (Chair), Bird, Brown, Edyvean, Gowland, Plant, Soloman, Thomas and R Walker.

10 Approval of Timetable of Meetings 2025/26

The Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Borough-wide Leadership, Councillor Clarke MBE presented the report of the Director – Finance and Corporate Services, setting out the timetable of meetings for the municipal year 2025/26.

It was proposed by Councillor Clarke MBE and seconded by Councillor Brennan and **RESOLVED** that the timetable of meetings for the municipal year 2025/26, as attached at the Appendix to the officer's report, be approved.

11 **Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies 2025/26**

The Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Borough-wide Leadership, Councillor Clarke MBE presented the report of the Director – Finance and Corporate Services setting out the appointments to Outside Bodies for the municipal year 2025/26.

The Leader noted that there were three contested positions and moved that Council accept the nominations of the uncontested positions as one vote before moving on to consider the three contested positions.

The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Brennan.

Following the voting for the three contested positions, it was **RESOLVED** that the appointments to Outside Bodies for the municipal year 2025/26 be as follows:

City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee
Leader/Deputy Leader (Substitute)

East Midlands Councils (including other representative roles within this appointment) Leader/Deputy Leader (Substitute)

Greater Nottingham Joint Planning Advisory Board
Appropriate Cabinet Portfolio Holder

Local Government Association – General Assembly (including other representative roles within this appointment)
Leader/Deputy Leader (Substitute)

Nottinghamshire East Midlands Airport Independent Consultative Committee
Councillor Brown

Health and Well Being Board
Appropriate Cabinet Portfolio Holder

D2N2 Joint Leaders Board
Leader/Deputy Leader (Substitute)

Nottinghamshire Joint Leaders Board
Leader/Deputy Leader (Substitute)

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel
Appropriate Cabinet Portfolio Holder

Development Corporation Board
Leader/Deputy Leader (Substitute)

Nottinghamshire Waste Management Board
Appropriate Cabinet Portfolio Holder

Freeport Board

Leader and Deputy Leader (Alternate Board Member)

Rural Community Action for Nottinghamshire

Councillor Inglis

Friends of Rushcliffe Country Park

Councillor Wells

Local Area Forum – West Bridgford

Councillors Calvert (Abbey ward), Om (Compton Acres ward), Parekh (Edwalton ward), J Wheeler (Gamston ward), R Mallender (Lady Bay ward), Matthews (Lutterell ward), Polenta (Musters ward) and Plant (Trent Bridge ward)

Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board

Councillors Billin, Combellack, Fletcher and Wells

The meeting closed at 8.04 pm.

CHAIR



Council

Thursday, 17 July 2025

Approval of the Scrutiny Annual Reports 2024/25

Report of the Director – Finance and Corporate Services

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

1. Purpose of report

The Scrutiny Annual Report, attached as an Appendix, provides a review of the work undertaken by the Council's four Scrutiny Groups during 2024/25.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Council endorses the work undertaken by the four Scrutiny Groups during 2024/25.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

To enable Council oversight of the work and operation of its statutory Overview and Scrutiny function, the function's effectiveness and contribution to the work of the Council.

4. Supporting Information

During the year, the following subjects have been scrutinised and monitored:

Corporate Overview Group

- Consideration of Scrutiny Work Programmes
- Finance and Performance Management
- Diversity Annual Report and update on the Equality and Diversity Strategy
- Annual Update on Strategic Tasks
- Health and Safety Annual Report
- Business Continuity Strategy
- Update on Management of Open Spaces
- Annual Customer Feedback 2023/24 Report
- White Ribbon Action Plan.

Governance Scrutiny Group

- Internal Audit, including quarterly Progress Reports, Annual Report and Strategy
- Risk Management, including half yearly Progress Reports
- Going Concern Assessment
- Capital and Investment Strategy
- Approval of Statement of Accounts
- Capital and Investment Strategy Outturn 2023/24
- Capital and Investment Quarterly Updates
- Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)
- Redmond Review of Public Sector Audit
- Annual Audit Letter
- Annual Audit Completion Report
- External Audit Annual Plan 2023/24
- Annual Governance Statement 2023/24
- Revision of the Council's Constitution
- Annual Fraud Report.

Communities Scrutiny Group

- Use of Community Facilities and Managed Spaces
- Accessible Housing (Joint meeting with Growth and Development Scrutiny Group)
- Residents Survey
- Nottinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Carbon Management Action Plan Review.

Growth and Development Group

- Review of Rushcliffe Oaks Crematorium
- Infrastructure Delivery
- Accessible Housing (Joint meeting with Communities Scrutiny Group)
- Health of our Town and Village Centres
- Management of Open Spaces.

5. Risks and Uncertainties

None.

6. Implications

6.1. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

6.2. Legal Implications

The Council is required by the Local Government Act 2000 to have scrutiny arrangements in place. This report demonstrates the Council's compliance with these requirements.

6.3. Equalities Implications

The role of the relevant scrutiny groups includes monitoring the Equality and Diversity impact of the Councils policies and strategies.

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

There are no Section 17 implications.

6.5 Biodiversity Net Gain

There are no Biodiversity Net Gain implications.

7. Link to Corporate Priorities

The Environment	Effective scrutiny is an essential element of the delivery of the Corporate Strategy and Corporate Priorities
Quality of Life	
Efficient Services	
Sustainable Growth	

8. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Council endorses the work undertaken by the four Scrutiny Groups during 2024/25.

For more information contact:	Peter Linfield Director – Finance and Corporate Services 0115 9148439 plinfield@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for Inspection:	
List of appendices:	
	Appendix – Annual Scrutiny Reports 2024/25

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Annual Scrutiny Report 2024/25



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Corporate Overview Group

Chairman's Foreword

This annual report summarises the main work undertaken by the Corporate Overview Group 2024/25 focusing on the impact of scrutiny. The Corporate Overview Group oversees the Council's other scrutiny group work programmes based on concerns highlighted by quarterly financial and performance monitoring reports, as well as items on the Cabinet Forward Plan and priorities within the Corporate Strategy.

The Corporate Overview Group have ensured that the executive be held to account by approving topics to be discussed at scrutiny groups. Additionally, the Group have scrutinised financial and performance management reports on a quarterly basis to ensure the smooth running of the Council.

Councillor Tina Combella Chairman



What we are responsible for?

The Corporate Overview Group responsibilities include:

- Implementing identified improvements to scrutiny including training of scrutiny members, construction of new work programmes and reporting methods
- Creating and receiving feedback on work programmes for the Growth and Development, Communities and Governance Scrutiny Groups based on the Cabinet Forward Plan, Corporate Strategy, Medium Term Financial Strategy, Investment Strategy and Transformation Plan
- Scrutinising financial and performance management reports on a quarterly basis to ensure the smooth running of the Council and delegate any necessary investigations into concerning elements of these reports to the most appropriate scrutiny group via their work programme
- Reviewing reports in respect of health and safety, diversity and customer feedback to ensure the Council is meeting its statutory duties.

Our work this year

During this year, the Group considered many service areas and issues within its scrutiny role, particularly:

- Consideration of Scrutiny Work Programmes at each meeting
- Finance and Performance Management at each meeting
- Diversity Annual Report and update on the Equality and Diversity Strategy
- Annual Update on Strategic Tasks
- Health and Safety Annual Report
- Business Continuity Strategy
- Annual Customer Feedback Report 2023/24
- White Ribbon Action Plan.

Consideration of Scrutiny Work Programmes

In line with the Terms of Reference, at every meeting the Group's members considered topics for scrutiny that had been put forward by Councillors and Officers. Following discussion, the following items were added to the work programmes of scrutiny groups for the year 2024/25:

- The health of our town and village centres
- Performance of Metropolitan Thames Valley House (MTVH)

In relation to the Housing association customer service and maintenance scrutiny request, the Group agreed for Councillors to work with the Director for Neighbourhoods to refine the request to help clarify the function of the scrutiny request. The Group noted that contact details for the Borough's housing providers were available on the Councillors Portal and a link to it was circulated to the Councillor Group.

The Group agreed that the scrutiny request in relation to playgrounds built on new developments be held until after Open Spaces Management scrutiny had taken place and for a briefing note to be provided about the current situation for how decisions about play areas and decisions about s106 monies were taken.

Quarterly Finance and Performance Management

A report focusing on the Council's finances and performance was delivered at each meeting by officers. Officers provided a summary of the key points in the meeting and the Group was able to discuss any concerns. Over the course of this year, the following issues have been discussed:

- Impacts from changes in interest rates on costs, investment balances and underspend
- the Council's revenue outturn position
- The value of the Council's Multi Asset investments (pooled funds)
- UKSPF and Rural England Prosperity Funding
- the Council bringing Streetwise inhouse
- Performance of Rushcliffe Oaks Crematorium
- Carbon reduction and progress towards achieving carbon neutral status by 2030, including allocating monies towards carbon offsetting and land acquisition potential
- Disabled Facilities Grant
- Fly tipping
- Edwalton Golf Course
- Gypsy and traveller sites within the Borough
- S106 and CIL funding from developer contributions and plans for spending this in the Council budget
- West Bridgford Special Expenses
- Monies allocated to provide affordable housing
- Disabled Facilities Grant
- Progress regarding East Midlands Devolution
- Reporting on usage of community facilities
- Customer Services response to telephone and email enquiries.

Diversity Annual Report and update on the Equality and Diversity Strategy

The Service Manager for Economic Growth and Property presented the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Scheme update and Diversity Annual Report 2023 to 2024 to the Group which included diversity information in relation to Officers, Councillors and applicants. In relation to the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Scheme Action Plan the Group were informed that the Council had established an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Scheme Steering Group, had undertaken a review of the Equality Impact Assessment process and had carried out a review of Equality and Diversity staff training. The Group learned about UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) which had been used to support particular groups of the local community and how the Council was working with the dementia friendly community, partners and community and voluntary organisations.

The Group asked questions relating to:

- diversity of communication with the local community
- gender pay gap reporting
- training on sign language and transexual and LGBT awareness
- information on outputs from the UKSPF projects funding
- the increase in the number of employees not wanting to give their nationality.

The Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
Consider and endorse the information provided for the diversity annual report	The Group reviewed and endorsed the report.
Review the action taken so far as a part of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Scheme action plan and make suggestions for future action or areas of focus	The Group suggested that the Council request Councillor's ethnicity at the next election intake which will be reviewed when the next Councillor election in 2027 is currently scheduled. The Group asked for information on outputs from the UKSPF projects funding which will be provided at the next update to the Group in June 2025

Health and Safety Annual Report

The Strategic Human Resources Manager presented the Health and Safety Annual report for the period of April 2023 to March 2024 which provided an overview of the health and safety risk profile and health and safety provision for the Council and about key activities that had taken place over the last twelve months, including the annual review of Health and Safety policies. It was confirmed that the Council had determined to recruit a permanent Health and Safety Advisor.

The Group asked specific questions relating to:

- progress towards achieving health and safety goals
- work days lost to accidents and injury and asked if these were due to any particular reasons
- workplace assessments and whether the reasons recorded reasons for absence such as for mental health and stress
- health and safety work with Councillors
- Health and safety at the Council's leisure and community facility sites
- chemical storage, including expiration dates
- training completion rates.

The Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
Consider the detailed information contained within the Annual Health and Safety Report	The Group scrutinised and asked questions and provided feedback on the information within the report.
Note that a new permanent Health and Safety Advisor has been appointed	The Group noted the permanent recruitment into the Health and Safety Advisor post.
Note the significant progress made against the health and safety goals and objectives previously agreed by Corporate Overview Group for the financial year 2023/24	The Group noted the significant progress made on the goals set for 2024/25 and endorsed the objectives proposed for 2024/25. An update Health and Safety Annual Report is scheduled to be

Endorse the proposed health and safety objectives for 2024/25 as set out in the report.	presented to the Group at its September meeting.
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Business Continuity Strategy

The Emergency Planning Officer presented the Council's Business Continuity Strategy for 2024-2027 which set out the Council's arrangements to provide critical functions and services in the face of a significant disruptive incident and which provided good resilience to both employees, residents and third-party partnerships. The Group learned that the strategy considered the Council's Risk Management review process and aligned with the latest organisational priorities and was regularly reviewed and updated and that regular training was provided for Officers

The Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
Scrutinise and provide comment on the Business Continuity Strategy	The Group commended the Council's emergency planning response to the past year's storms and flooding events. The Group highlighted the importance of communication and a link to emergency planning information has been added to the Councillors Portal.

Customer Feedback Annual Report

The Service Manager Corporate Services presented the Annual Customer Feedback Report for 2024/25 which provided information about complaints and compliments received by the Council about the services that it delivered and also provided comparisons to previous year's performances and those of other local authorities in the East Midlands. The Service Manager Corporate Services summarised that there were no matters which caused alarm and that the overall picture was one of steadiness and stability.

The Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
Scrutinise and comment on the customer feedback for 2023/24	The Group reviewed and asked questions and provided feedback on the information.
Endorse the Rushcliffe Complaints Policy 2024	The Group noted the low level of complaints received and endorsed the policy.

White Ribbon Action Plan

The Director for Neighbourhoods presented the White Ribbon Action Plan Report which set out how the Council had sought re-accreditation to become a White Ribbon UK organisation and how an Action Plan had been developed, with progress on it to

be reported to the Group. The Group heard how the Council had established a new White Ribbon Steering Group and had shared communications with Officers and Councillors to raise awareness and had put ambassadors and champions in place. Training for Councillors had been provided by Broxtowe Women's Group and the 'It Starts with Men' campaign and White Ribbon Day had been promoted. The Council was committed to collaborating with key partners and supported the Nottinghamshire Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and its associated action plan.

The Group asked specific questions relating to:

- promoting the campaign through the various Council owned community facilities and leisure centres
- ensuring that sub-contractors were aware that the Council fostered this approach
- other safety initiatives in operation such as Ask Angela and the J9 Safe Places.

The Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
Note the progress made since the motion was passed, including confirmation of re-accreditation as a White Ribbon UK organisation	The Group noted the progress made since the Motion had been brought in March 2024 and supported the actions that had taken place. The Group commented that the training provided had been excellent.
Recognise the actions taken to date as listed in sections 4.2 and 4.7 of the report	
Note the forthcoming actions as listed in section 4.6 of the report.	

Member Panels

The Group did not establish any Member Panels this year.

Call-ins

The Group did not discuss any call-ins this year.

Looking forward to the year ahead

Following a busy year for the Council's scrutiny functions, all members of Corporate Overview Group are looking forward to developing comprehensive work programmes for the scrutiny groups in 2025/26.

Governance Scrutiny Group

Chair's Foreword

This annual report summarises the main work undertaken by the Governance Scrutiny Group for 2024/2025 and focuses on the impact of scrutiny. The Governance Scrutiny Group scrutinises and approves the Council's finances, approach to risk, as well as other corporate issues. I am pleased to report the Governance Scrutiny Group have proceeded as planned and all items programmed for 2024/2025 were considered.

The Group has explored the Council's responsibilities in line with the Council's priorities within the Corporate Strategy, which include:

- Reviewing the outcomes of both internal and external audit investigations to ensure the Council is compliant with legislation and best practice;
- Monitoring the Annual Governance Statement to ensure compliance with the Council's Code of Corporate Governance
- Scrutinising and approving the Statement of Accounts
- Reports on the Council as a 'Going Concern'
- Considering the Council's Risk Management Framework annually to ensure current risks are being monitored, and effective controls and mitigating actions are in place
- Considering regular reports on Asset and Investment Management to ensure prudent use of Council resources is being made to fulfil the objectives of the Investment Strategy and Annual Capital Programme
- Monitoring the operation of the Council's constitution to ensure that it is being upheld and to recommend to Council any necessary fundamental changes.

Councillor Andy Edyvean
Chairman Governance Scrutiny Group



Councillor Andy Edyvean
Chairman



Councillor Dora Polenta
Vice Chair

What we are responsible for?

The Governance Scrutiny Group's responsibilities include:

- **Statement of Accounts:** To examine the outturn and statement of accounts resulting in its approval.
- **Annual Governance Statement:** To consider the annual report on applying the Council's system of internal control. This statement ultimately comprises a key element of the Council's Statement of Accounts.
- **Going Concern:** To consider the report of the Council's S151 officer on the status that the authority, its functions and services will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.
- **Capital and Investment Management:** To consider the annual and interim reports on capital and investment management activity. Ensuring that practice has complied with the approved Capital and Investment Strategy, making recommendations to Cabinet or Full Council as appropriate. Including changes to the Capital and Treasury Management Codes of Practice, which includes reporting on the position concerning both treasury and non-treasury (commercial) investments.
- **Protecting against fraud:** To consider the annual report on fraud and irregularities in order to make an informed judgement on the corporate governance and internal control statements, making recommendations to Cabinet on improvements. To consider any matters arising as a result of irregularity referred to it by Cabinet.
- **Internal Audit:** To consider the three year internal audit plan and periodic reports on the progress of audits undertaken throughout the year in order to make an informed judgement on corporate governance and internal control statements, making recommendations to Cabinet on improvements.
- **External Audit:** To consider the annual report of the external audit and consider significant findings and the Value for Money opinion and to agree the annual audit plan for the forthcoming audit.
- **Risk Management:** To consider periodic reports on controls over key risk areas as identified in the risk register in support of making an informed judgement on the corporate governance and internal control statements, making recommendations to Cabinet on improvements.
- **Annual Constitution Review:** To monitor the operation of the Council's constitution and recommend to Council any necessary changes in accordance with section 37 of the Local Government Act 2000, including any amendments to the Councillor's Code of Conduct.
- **Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA):** To consider the regulatory powers that govern the use of covert surveillance and investigations by public bodies.

Our work this year

During this year, the Group considered many service areas and issues within its scrutiny role, particularly:

- Internal Audit, including quarterly Progress Reports, Annual Report and Strategy
- Risk Management, including half yearly Progress Reports
- Going Concern Assessment
- Capital and Investment Strategy
- Approval of the Statement of Accounts
- Capital and Investment Strategy Outturn 2023/24
- Capital and Investment Quarterly Updates
- Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)
- Redmond Review of Public Sector Audit including the recommended appointment of an Independent Member
- Auditors Annual Report and Value for Money conclusion
- Annual Audit Completion Report
- External Audit Annual Plan 2023/24
- Annual Governance Statement 2023/24
- Revision of the Council's Constitution
- Annual Fraud Report

Internal Audit, including quarterly Progress Reports, Annual Report, and Strategy

The Governance Scrutiny Group considered the Council's internal audit executed by BDO the Council's Internal Auditors. Representatives from BDO attended each meeting to present the quarterly Progress Reports and at the meeting in February 2025 they presented the Internal Audit Strategy report for 2025/26.

Across all four meetings the Group debated:

30 May 2024

- The Fleet Management audit and processes for maintaining driver records and monitoring carbon emissions
- The E-Financials Systems Controls audit and review of controls in place to minimise the risk of override
- The Crematorium audit and process in place to ensure timely receipt of income

19 September 2024

- The Budgetary Control Audit and recommendations to consider the Council's budgetary monitoring, consistency and officer training requirements.
- The Main Financial Systems Audit and the Council's processes to ensure accuracy and consistency with information and reconciliation of journals, including payroll which is supported by Gedling Borough Council.
- The Workforce and Succession Planning Audit including key findings around workforce gap analysis and AI Strategy and a framework around identifying high performing staff.

28 November 2024

- Cyber Security Audit which was considered as an exempt report.

23 February 2025

- The Carbon Management Action Plan highlighted two medium recommendations around the actions and the monitoring of delivery of the actions.
- The Housing Benefits Audit highlighted some minor housekeeping findings over documentation and the review and approval process of discretionary housing payments.

At the meeting in September 2024 Ms Thomas from BDO the Council's internal auditors advised that an advisory review of the Council's Fraud Risk Assessment had been completed to assess the Council's position against best practice.

At the meeting in February 2025, Mr Armstrong from BDO informed the Group of an update in professional standards for internal audit advising that in December 2024, the Internal Audit Standards Advisory Board published an Application Note, Global Internal Audit Standards in the UK Public Sector. The Group noted that BDO had been involved in the consultation process for the Application Note and would be reviewing their audit processes.

The Group were also asked to consider BDO's Internal Audit Strategy 2025/26.

The Group discussed the Council's Internal Audit report 2023/24 which summarised the work undertaken and management actions arising from the audit. It also provided the annual opinion of the Head of Internal Audit required by the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

At the meeting in June 2025 Mr Causton, the Independent Person for Governance Scrutiny joined the Group

The Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
Approve the quarterly Internal Audit Progress reports	Management take audit findings and recommendations onboard as a scope for improvements within the Council's systems and processes. Follow up on agreed management actions take place throughout the year.
Approve the Internal Audit Annual Report 2023/24	
Approve the Internal Audit Strategy 2025/26 and the Internal Audit Charter	

Approval of the Statement of Accounts

At its meeting in September 2024 the Head of Finance presented the Council's statutory Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2023/24. The Group noted that there had been a delay in audit finalising the completion of the Statement of Accounts audit due to delays in the pension assurances with Nottinghamshire County Council.

The Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
Approve the Statement of Accounts for 2023/24, including the Annual Governance Statement	The Statement of Accounts was approved at the 19 September 2024 meeting.

Annual Audit Completion Report 2023/24

In September 2024 Ms Vance from Forvis Mazars the Council's external auditors presented the Audit Completion Report and Management Representation Letter which provided the key conclusions in the audit process for 2023/24. The Group discussed some of the key risks that were highlighted including:

- Matter relating to pensions with Nottinghamshire County Council still remained outstanding but would not require modification of the audit
- The draft financial statements presented for audit had contained a number of accounting disclosures that could be considered to be immaterial and that the Council should review its accounting policies to ensure any adjustments are transparently considered
- A contract payment that covered two partial years had an immaterial misstatement that was not adjusted due to its immateriality.

The Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
Note and approve the Audit Completion report and approve the Management Representation Letter for 2023/24	The audit completion report and management representation letter were scrutinised at the 19 September 2024 meeting. On 13 January 2025 Forvis Mazars confirmed that all outstanding matters had been resolved which concluded the audit process for the 2023/24 Statement of Accounts.

Risk Management

The Governance Scrutiny Group considered the Council's Risk Register at its meetings in September 2024 and February 2025. The Head of Finance updated the Group about the Council's risk management activities as well as changes to risks in the Council's risk register. The Group noted that work to evaluate risk descriptions to better structure wording had been completed and adopted into the 2024/2025 Service Plans.

At its meeting in February 2025 the Head of Finance presented a Risk Management Progress report which highlighted three new corporate risk's relating to local government reorganisation and one operational risk around a potential loss of housing benefit subsidy linked to potential supported housing providers.

The Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
Considered and made recommendations on the new risks and any risks that had a red alert status	Feedback from the Group has been relayed to the Council's Risk Management Group.

Going Concern Assessment

At its meeting in September 2024, the Director – Finance and Corporate Services presented the Council's Going Concern status. The Group were advised that as a requirement of the Code of Practise on Local Authority Accounting the Statement of Accounts are prepared with the assumption that the Council will continue to operate within the current and anticipated resources available. The main factors that underpin the going concern assessment were discussed as follows:

- The Council's current financial position
- The Council's projected financial position
- The Council's governance arrangements
- The regulatory and control environment applicable to the Council as a local authority

The Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
Approve the outcome of the assessment made of Rushcliffe Borough Council's status as a 'Going Concern' for the purpose of the Statement of Accounts	The Council's position is monitored throughout the year with the 2024/25 assessment due to be seen by the Group in September 2025

Capital and Investment Strategy Quarterly Updates

Quarterly updates are presented to the Group and provide a summary of the Council's capital and investment activities during the year and in line with the Council's Capital and Investment Strategy 2024/25-2028/29. The Group were asked to consider the Council's capital investment plans and whether they are affordable, prudent and sustainable in accordance with CIPFA's Code of Practice for Treasury Management.

The Group discussed some of the key capital and investment headings as follows:

Economic Forecast
Investment Income
Capital Expenditure and Financing
Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators
Commercial Investments

At its meeting on 19 September 2024, the Group commented on the portfolio and diversity of investments and how these were measured and controlled. The Chair also

highlighted the Council's commercial investments and the 100% occupancy rates being an outstanding achievement.

At its meeting on 8 November 2024, the Group discussed the liquidity of investments and S106 funding in relation to internal lending and how interest is calculated on S106 monies.

At the meeting in February 2025, the Group discussed inflation and its potential effect on materials and labour for projects in the Council's capital programme, particularly in the later years..

At its meeting on 19 June 2025, the Group discussed the spread of risk across the Council's investments and commented on the S106 funds being held for Nottinghamshire County Council.

The Governance Scrutiny Group had received Treasury training in December 2024.

The Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
Note the Capital and Investment Strategy quarterly updates provided at each of its meetings during 2023/24	Capital and Investment training is provided annually by the Treasury Management Advisors and was last provided in December 2024 as part of the Councillor Training programme

Capital and Investment Strategy 2025-2026 to 2029-2030

At the meeting in February 2025 the Finance and Business Partner presented the Council's Capital and Investment Strategy 2025/26 to 2029/30 which focused on traditional treasury activity and the Council's commercial property investments in light of CIPFA's updated Prudential and Treasury Management codes.

The Group discussed the impact and risk of global events on interest rates and the Council's investments and the advice provided by Arling-close the Council's Treasury Advisors.

The Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
Note and approve the Council's Capital and Investment Strategy for 2025/26 to 2029/30 including the Capital Prudential Indicators and limits, the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement, the Treasury Management Strategy and Treasury Indicators and the Commercial Investment Indicators and limits for 2025/26 to 2029/30	Annual training was last provided in December 2024 with the next planned for December (2025) or January (2026)

Annual Audit Letter and Value for Money Conclusion

In September 2024, Mrs Vance from Forvis Mazars the Council's External Auditors presented the Draft Auditors Annual Report including the Council's Value for Money arrangements.

Mrs Vance advised the Group that the report was very positive given the continued pressures and backlog of audits across the financial sector and that no major concerns had been raised and no actions are required in relation to the report.

On 13 January 2025, Forvis Mazars confirmed all outstanding items had been resolved and formally concluded the audit of the 2023/24 accounts.

The Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
Approve the Annual Audit Letter and Value for Money arrangements	The deadline for audit to sign off 2024/25 Local Authority Accounts is 27 February 2026 . The audit has already commenced and is planned to conclude in the autumn..

External Audit Annual Plan 2024/25 accounts

In June 2025, Ms Norman from Forvis Mazars the Council's External Auditors presented the External Audit Plan which summarised the Council's audit activity with regard to the final accounts process and their approach to value for money work. The Group were informed of the implementation of IFRS 16, a risk assessment around lease transactions which will require the Council to re-classify its lease arrangements in line with these new standards. It was noted the that the Council was not experiencing the problems other local authorities are facing with back log of audits and a final review of financial statements and value for money report is expected to be completed in autumn 2025.

The Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
Approve the External Audit Plan	The external audit plan was approved in June 2025. Work has already commenced on the audit and progress so far is in accordance with the plan. The Auditors Annual Report including Value for Money conclusion will be reported in autumn.

Annual Governance Statement 2023/24

At its meeting in June 2024 the Group were presented the Council's Annual Governance Statement which reflects the requirements of the CIPFA/SOLACE

principles within the Local Government Code. The group were advised that this was a living document and was subject to change. The document referenced recent Peer Review recommendations, potential risks going forward, and a potential new government. The AGS included an assessment against CIPFA's financial management code and an action plan to address key issues arising from this report.

The Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
Approve the annual Governance Statement 2023/24 and any actions for the forthcoming year	Nothing to update

Revision of the Council's Constitution

At its meeting in February 2025 the Group were asked to consider and recommend adoption by Council revisions to the Council's Constitution. The Monitoring Officer presented the report and proposed amendments following on from feedback from Councillor, Officers and Members of the public.

The Group discussed amendments to the following:

- Part 1 – Citizens rights and clarification that the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsmen will only consider complaints where the Council's formal complaints procedure has been followed
- Part 3 – Clarification that the delegation to the Director for Development and Economic Growth in respect of development management extends to determination of approvals and consent under the Local Development Order.
- Part 4 – Amendments to the Standing Orders – Council to ensure the efficient running of council business, to take account of best practice and ensure the Council complies with its equality duty in respect of accessibility

The Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
Approve the recommendations for adoption by Council, including the additional amendments to Part 4 of the Constitution as proposed by the Group	The revisions and amendments of the constitution were approved by Full Council at its meeting on 6 March 2025

Review of Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act Policy

At its meeting on 28 November 2024 the Monitoring Officer presented the Review of Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act Policy and explained the Investigatory Powers Commissioners Office (IPCO) which requires that Councillors are updated annually on the Council's use of powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA).

The Group were informed that there had been no authorisations for directed surveillance by the Council since the report was last brought to Governance Scrutiny Group in November 2023.

The Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025
Endorse the Council's RIPA Policy in line with the IPCO inspection regulations	Nothing further to add

Redmond Review of Public Sector Audit

At its meeting on 28 November 2024 the Director for Finance and Corporate Services presented the Redmond Review of Public Sector Audit, which updated the Group on the principle of appointing an Independent Member and audit matters arising from CIPFA's Self-assessment 'Effective Scrutiny of Treasury Management' and enhancing the Council's audit function and improving transparency.

The Group discussed the benefits of an independent Member, how they would be appointed and their appropriate qualifications and experiences.

With regard to the audit matters, the Group discussed best practice, audit fees and publishing of the Council's accounts.

The Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2024
Appoint an independent member to the Governance Scrutiny Group subject to approval by full Council	Council approved the appointment of an independent member at the March 2025 meeting. Mr Causton was appointed and attended his first Governance Scrutiny Group in June 2025.
Consider the recommendations arising from CIPFA's Self-assessment 'Effective Scrutiny of Treasury Management'	Recommendations approved

Annual Fraud Report

In May 2024, Mr Armstrong from BDO the Council's Internal Auditor presented the Council's Annual Fraud report, which summarised any incidences of fraud and fraud prevention activities undertaken by the Council. The Group were provided an overview of the counter fraud arrangements of the Council. These included:

- Preventing and Detecting Fraud
- Whistleblowing Policy
- National Fraud Initiative (NFI)
- Council Tax Single Person Discount
- Council Tax Energy Rebate payments
- Fraud Awareness Training and Counter Fraud Staff Survey

The Internal Audit had confirmed that no incidents of fraud directly associated with the Council had been identified.

The Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
Consider the Annual Fraud Report for 2023/24	No further updates

Member Panels

The Group established a Member Panel to support amendments to the Council's Constitution at, Part 3 - Responsibility for Function and Scheme of Delegation and Part 4 - Standing Orders, Rules and Financial Regulations in relation to Planning Committee.

Call-ins

The Group did not discuss any call-ins this year.

Looking forward to the year ahead

The Governance Scrutiny Group has a comprehensive work programme for the year ahead.

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Communities Scrutiny Group

Chair's Foreword

This annual report summarises the main work undertaken by the Communities Scrutiny Group 2024/25 focusing on the impact of scrutiny. This Group specifically focuses upon the Council's community partnerships, areas of community concern and the Council's responsibility to be environmentally sustainable.

The Group has explored the Council's Communities responsibilities in line with the Council's priorities within the Corporate Strategy, which include:

- Reviewing the Council's partnerships to ensure that community needs are being met and the partnership is providing good value for money.
- Identifying areas of community concern, exploring how this can be met and making recommendations to that effect.
- Considering concerns specific to the local area in terms of health and wellbeing and making recommendations to improve the health and wellbeing of local residents.
- Considering projects and initiatives to further the Council's efforts to protect the environment of the Borough and promote environmental sustainability to our residents.

Councillor Gareth Williams
Chair



Councillor Liz Plant
Vice-Chair



What are we responsible for?

The Communities Scrutiny Group's remit is to consider relevant topics, in line with the Council's priorities, taking into account the Corporate Strategy and those of officers and councillors for inclusion in a work programme agreed by the Corporate Overview Group.

Both Councillors and officers are required to complete a scrutiny request to outline a topic they would like to be considered for scrutiny. The request summarises the issue of concern as well as the key lines of enquiry for review.

Our work this year:

During this year, the Group considered many service areas and issues within its scrutiny role, particularly:

- Use of Community Facilities and Managed Spaces
- Accessible Housing (jointly with Growth and Development Scrutiny Group)
- Residents Survey
- Nottinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Carbon Management Action Plan Review.

Use of Community Facilities and Managed Spaces

The Community Development Manager presented the Use of Community Facilities and Managed Spaces report to the Group which provided an update on current facilities operated by the Council, including management arrangements, their present occupancy and income generated. The report focussed on Community Venues and Playing Fields and the Group learned that bookings for the year were slightly down against target due to challenges around Covid recovery and refurbishment of some of the venues to improve their carbon emissions and AV technology provision. The Group were informed about the various ways that pitches, and open spaces could be booked and about improvements that were planned at the sites, including green technologies and a new accessible Changing Places facility.

The Group asked questions relating to:

- Fees and charges and concession rates for users
- Parking and traffic
- Information about specific venues and events
- Marketing and promotion of facilities.

The Joint Scrutiny Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
Consider the report and presentation and provide comments on the provision of community facilities operated by the Council.	The Group noted the comprehensive review of the Council's facilities and were impressed with the Council's extensive offer of community venues and playing fields for hire and supported the introduction of the new booking system. This digital transformation of enabling

	customers to view availability, make bookings and pay online was particularly welcomed ensuring that The Council was responsive to customers changing needs and demands.
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Accessible Housing

At the joint meeting with Growth and Development Scrutiny Group on 17 October 2024, Councillor Matthews was appointed as Chair and Councillor Plant as Vice-Chair.

Councillor Thomas presented her scrutiny request on Accessible Housing and her reasons for submission:

- Adaptation of existing housing
- Adaptation of new housing being built
- Disabled Facilities Grant funding.

The joint scrutiny group received a presentation from the Strategic Housing Manager and the Planning Policy Manager which provided an overview of some of the key features around accessible housing. The Group discussion covered:

- Registered providers making a financial contribution towards adaptations in their properties and laws or regulations to make them contribute
- Viability considerations in relation to Greater Nottinghamshire Strategic Plan, land charges, the Local Plan Policy process and costs to developers in delivering adapted housing
- Nottinghamshire County Council's top up budget and the Boroughs Accessible Housing allocation being the lowest locally when the Council delivered a high number of adaptations
- The application process and delivery of work for adaptations including community awareness and understanding of the process and how this could be improved
- The national policy regarding Disabled Facility Grants (DFG) and local authority topups.

As well as the recommendations provided by Officers the Group made the following suggestions:

- Increase the supply of accessible and adapted homes, including wheelchair user dwellings
- Advocate for an increase in funding relative to local need to address the current funding disparities
- Review of the customer pathway and exploration of joined up systems to create efficiencies and risk sharing
- Cross sector investment (health & social care) to reduce demand on health care systems and enable people to remain independent at home.

The Joint Scrutiny Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
Comment on the information provided by officers to enhance the provision of accessible housing; and	Approved the reintroduction of discretionary grants of up to £10,000 per case.

	<p>Amend existing policies to support Exceptional & Compelling Cases.</p> <p>Phased RBC efficiency savings funding of £200,000 over four years to support ongoing initiatives.</p> <p>Initiate a pilot programme using uncommitted in-year funds across 7 District/Borough Councils to assist councils facing local needs shortfalls (subject to each LA's governance).</p> <p>Countywide Housing Subgroup to engage with all Registered Providers to address DFG funding challenges and consider financial contributions towards property adaptations.</p> <p>Publication of the final draft Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan including new policy standards for accessible housing. The draft plan and its policies are due to be considered by planning inspector before it can be finalised and implemented.</p> <p>Overall, progress aligns with scrutiny recommendations to enhance accessible housing and optimise resource use.</p>
Explore actions that the Council could take to meet the housing needs of residents with disabilities	<p>Use of the Council's Capital Grant to increase accessible and adapted housing, aiming for higher standards in S106 affordable housing schemes.</p> <p>Ongoing lobbying of central Government for increased funding, resulting in additional DFG funding for 2024-25 and 2025-26.</p> <p>Focus on improving customer pathways and community awareness to streamline adaptations and reduce delays; RBC waiting list decreased from 11 to 6 months during 2024-25.</p>

Residents Survey

The Communications and Customer Services Manager presented the Residents Survey Report and a presentation to the Group which highlighted the key outcomes, including, response rate and trends compared with 2021, headline results, national versus local indicators, open text comments, responding to communities' needs and aspirations and how the Council currently engaged and listened.

The Group commented and raised questions in relation to:

- Providing clarification about which functions and services were provided by the Borough Council
- Possible location information gathering for survey respondents
- Use of social media and the local press to engage with different resident demographics and with harder to reach members of the community
- Use of different media such as video and QR codes to gather feedback

The Joint Scrutiny Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
Discuss the results and identify if any further actions should be taken as a result of the survey findings	The Group reviewed the results and made suggestions for possible additional and alternative ways of collecting feedback.
For the Council to include relevant follow up actions in its Communications and Engagement and Customer Access Strategies 2025-2028 relating to ways in which residents can contact engage and feedback on services.	The Group agreed the tasks in the Communications and Engagement Strategy action plan increasing the ways residents can engage and feedback including using surveys on frontline services, events and legislation changes such as Simpler Recycling.

Nottinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

The Senior Ecology and Sustainability Officer presented the Nottinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) report and provided a presentation and shared a video with the Group which highlighted the various habitats and wildlife in the local area and which encouraged participation in the survey to help shape nature recovery in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. The Group learned that the LNRS was a new statutory system for spatial strategies for nature's recovery, which was being locally led and which following a public consultation and notification to the Secretary of State, could potentially be adopted and published in summer / autumn 2025. A review of the Strategy would be completed by DEFRA at some point between 3 –10 years after publication.

The Group asked questions including in relation to:

- Landowner involvement
- Linking up pieces of land across the County
- Tree planting
- Water courses
- The review and governance framework

- Public submission of possible sites

The Joint Scrutiny Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
Support the draft LNRS, and support Nottinghamshire County Council going out to public consultation on the draft LNRS	The Group reviewed the draft LNRS and commented on and supported it going out for public consultation. The Group was keen for the consultation to be communicated and promoted widely and noted that the County Council Officer's role would end in August and expressed concern about potential impact on resourcing – an advert for a senior Ecologist has since been issued. An update report on LNRS is scheduled to be presented to Cabinet in autumn 2025.
Make recommendations for any additions or alterations that they consider should be made to the draft LNRS (if required)	
Support the Council responding to the Supporting Authorities consultation by Nottinghamshire County Council with the decisions given at 2a and 2b.	

Carbon Management Action Plan Review

The Communities Manager introduced the Carbon Management Action Plan Review report and provided an overview of how the Council measured emissions, including direct and indirect emissions and carbon offsetting, and how it recorded information to capture its progress towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030. The Team Manager for Environment presented an overview of specific information to the Group, including for Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, property and assets, fleet and transport, contracts and procurement, waste and recycling, business and the community and carbon sequestration.

The Group asked questions including in relation to:

- Hydrogenated vegetable oil
- Solar canopies on carparks
- Tree planting
- Parish council energy audits and funding grants
- Air quality
- Recycling
- EV charging points

The Joint Scrutiny Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
Consider the progress to date of the adopted carbon management action plan; and	The Group reviewed the information presented and asked a variety of questions about aspects of the Plan and the activities and actions undertaken by the Council and noted the progress made. An update report is scheduled to be presented to the Group in April 2026.
Contribute towards the emerging carbon management actions for 2025/26.	

Member Panels

The Group did not establish any Member Panels this year.

Call-ins

The Group did not discuss any call-ins this year.

Looking forward to the year ahead

The Communities Scrutiny Group is looking forward to developing a comprehensive work programme for the year ahead.

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Growth and Development Scrutiny Group

Chairman's Foreword

This annual report summarises the main work undertaken by this scrutiny group during 2024/25 focusing on the impact of scrutiny. I am very pleased to note that the business of scrutiny has proceeded as planned and all topics programmed for 2024/25 were considered.

The Group has explored the Council's Growth and Development responsibilities in line with the Council's priorities within the Corporate Strategy, which include:

- Overseeing significant projects contributing towards growth in the Borough to ensure deliverables are met and growth-related outcomes achieved
- Scrutinising infrastructure development which acts as a catalyst for growth in the Borough to ensure such developments progress in a timely fashion and any obstructive barriers are removed or negotiated
- Reviewing the growth in demand for Council services ensuring all residents can access the services they need in a timely and cost-efficient manner
- Considering projects and initiatives to promote economic vibrancy, local democracy and community leadership within local towns and villages contributing towards the overall Council goal of creating Great Place and Great Lifestyle
- Reviewing the Council's policies and strategies as appropriate prior to adoption.

Councillor Phill Matthews
Chairman Growth and Development Scrutiny



Cllr Phill Matthews
Chairman



Cllr Lesley Way
Vice Chair

What are we responsible for?

The Growth and Development Scrutiny Group's remit is to consider relevant topics, in line with the Council's priorities, taking into account the Corporate Strategy and those of officers and councillors for inclusion in a work programme agreed by the Corporate Overview Group.

Both Councillors and officers are required to complete a scrutiny request to outline a topic they would like to be considered for scrutiny. The request summarises the issue of concern as well as the key lines of enquiry for review.

Our work this year

During the year, the Group considered many service areas and issues within its scrutiny role, particularly:

- Review of Rushcliffe Oaks Crematorium
- Infrastructure Delivery
- Accessible Housing (Joint meeting with Communities Scrutiny Group)
- Health of our Town and Village Centres
- Management of Open Spaces

Review of Rushcliffe Oaks Crematorium

At its meeting on 19 July 2023, the Group had agreed that a review of Rushcliffe Oaks was brought back to Growth and Development Scrutiny in order that the Group could capture and comment on the first 12 months in business.

At its meeting on 17 July 2024 the Group received a presentation from the Rushcliffe Oaks Manager, which provided an update on the businesses progress including:

- The number of services held in its first year and financial information in respect of income generated compared with target income and projected income.
- The number of services had steadily increased in comparison to the previous year
- Memorialisation sales had initially been slow but with the opening of the bottom third of the site to include a wildflower meadow, memorialisation sales were expected to increase
- Feedback had been sought from local funeral directors saying that the services provided were professional and welcoming, accommodating all types of services, faiths and also included a comfort dog which had proved popular
- Competition, Communications and Marketing had involved visiting other funeral businesses to establish how best to share news, adverts in hospital bereavement brochures and quarterly newsletters to local funeral directors. The crematorium had also held two Open Days which had been very well attended.

- A visit from 34 delegates from South Korea to observe and learn about the carbon neutral technology and the sites biodiversity

The Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
Review and provide comment on the actions taken in response to their suggestions at the Scrutiny Group in July 2023.	Councillors were pleased to hear updates on the work that had been done following the last report to scrutiny including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of Funeral Directors and visits to them • Communications • Feedback survey with Funeral Directors after one year of operating
Identify new opportunities to further promote and develop the offer at Rushcliffe Oaks	Councillors supported proposals presented. A further update will be provided to G&D Scrutiny after Rushcliffe Oaks has been operating for 5 years.

Infrastructure Delivery

The Group had previously considered reports presented to it in October 2023 relating to Infrastructure Delivery via Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (s106) which had raised further questions.

At its meeting on 17 July 2024 the Group received a presentation to provide answers to the questions raised around:

- Infrastructure Triggers and what measures are in place to track and enforce developers to deliver the infrastructure agreed
- Delays in Infrastructure Delivery Programmes and how the Council engages with Communities and Town and Parish Council's
- Changes to an Infrastructure Delivery Programme and the role of the Borough Council
- How the Council engages with local stakeholders, including Town and Parish Council's and how this can be improved
- Reflecting on lessons learned through the delivery of existing infrastructure in the Borough as a result of housing growth

The Group discussion that followed covered:

- The need to engage Town and Parish Council's at the consultation stage of any new development and to provide information on s106 and CIL funding at a future Town and Parish Forum
- The need for Councillors to be able to scrutinise and monitor infrastructure delivery and feedback information to their respective town and parish councils on infrastructure projects

- Deeds of Variation and whether these could be summarised to provide town and parishes with details of variations and whether a town and parish councils following agreement of a variation
- The excellent stakeholder and community engagement that had taken place for the Fairham development

The Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
Consider and comment on the infrastructure Monitoring report that would be brought to Growth and Development Scrutiny on an annual basis	<p>The Annual Infrastructure Statement (IFS) is published in December each year to cover the previous financial year. The IFS was circulated to all Councillors in December 2025 as well as being published.</p> <p>Councillors may propose future items on particular aspects of infrastructure delivery and monitoring.</p>

Accessible Housing – Joint meeting with Communities Scrutiny Group

At the joint meeting with Communities Scrutiny Group on 17 October 2024, Councillor Matthews was appointed Chair and Councillor Plant Vice-Chair.

Councillor Thomas presented her scrutiny request on Accessible Housing and her reasons for submission as follows:

- Adaptation of existing housing
- Adaptation of new housing being built
- Disabled Facilities Grant funding

The joint scrutiny group received a presentation from the Strategic Housing Manager and the Planning Policy Manager which provided an overview of some of the key features around accessible housing. The Group discussion covered:

- Registered providers making a financial contribution towards adaptations in their properties and laws or regulations to make them contribute
- Viability considerations in relation to Greater Nottinghamshire Strategic Plan, land charges, the Local Plan Policy process and costs to developers in delivering adapted housing
- Nottinghamshire County Council's top up budget and the Boroughs Accessible Housing allocation being the lowest locally when the Council delivered a high number of adaptations
- The application process and delivery of work for adaptations including community awareness and understanding of the process and how this could be improved
- The national policy regarding Disabled Facility Grants (DFG) and local authority top ups

As well as the recommendations provided by officers the Group made the following suggestions:

- Increase the supply of accessible and adapted homes, including wheelchair user dwellings
- Advocate for an increase in funding relative to local need to address the current funding disparities
- Review of the customer pathway and exploration of joined up systems to create efficiencies and risk sharing
- Cross sector investment (health & social care) to reduce demand on health care systems and enable people to remain independent at home

The Joint Scrutiny Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
<p>Comment on the information provided by officers to enhance the provision of accessible housing; and</p>	<p>Approved the reintroduction of discretionary grants of up to £10,000 per case.</p> <p>Amend existing policies to support Exceptional & Compelling Cases.</p> <p>Phased RBC efficiency savings funding of £200,000 over four years to support ongoing initiatives.</p> <p>Initiate a pilot programme using uncommitted in-year funds across 7 District/Borough Councils to assist councils facing local needs shortfalls (subject to each LA's governance).</p> <p>Countywide Housing Subgroup to engage with all Registered Providers to address DFG funding challenges and consider financial contributions towards property adaptations.</p> <p>Publication of the final draft Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan including new policy standards for accessible housing. The draft plan and its policies are due to be considered by planning inspector before it can be finalised and implemented</p> <p>Overall, progress aligns with scrutiny recommendations to enhance accessible housing and optimise resource use.</p>

Explored actions that the Council could take to meet the housing needs of residents with disabilities	<p>Use of the Council's Capital Grant to increase accessible and adapted housing, aiming for higher standards in S106 affordable housing schemes.</p> <p>Ongoing lobbying of central Government for increased funding, resulting in additional DFG funding for 2024-25 and 2025-26.</p> <p>Focus on improving customer pathways and community awareness to streamline adaptations and reduce delays; RBC waiting list decreased from 11 to 6 months during 2024-25.</p>
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Health of our Town and Village Centres

At its meeting on 29 January 2025 the Head of Service for Economic Growth and Property delivered a presentation on the health of the Boroughs town and village centres highlighting comments submitted by Councillor Williams via a scrutiny request approved by the Corporate Overview Group.

A recent retail review commissioned for each of the Boroughs 7 larger town and village centres had highlighted some of the challenges and opportunities and had set out recommendations identified in the review. The Group were also asked to consider the Council's Economic Growth Strategy and plan and UKSPF funding and the work being progressed.

The Group discussion covered:

- The UKSPF allocations for the Borough
- The need for an up-to-date retail review to provide a more realistic view of the Borough's town and villages and any economic changes
- Cabinets ambition for Public Realm improvements to Central Avenue in West Bridgford and the accessibility study that had been commissioned by Nottinghamshire County Council including public support for any change
- The Masterplan for West Bridgford and the wider area of Gamston and Tollerton
- The feasibility of exploring additional banking services due to recent bank closures
- Support for town and village centres and local businesses and how these are measured by way of proven success
- Social media support for businesses

The Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
Review and comment on the data that had been provided on the Boroughs town and village centres	<p>The areas of focus for the Economic Growth Strategy in 2025/26 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism

Considered and identified the priorities and initial actions from the Economic Growth Strategy and suggested actions to be prioritised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Bridgford masterplan • Development of allocated commercial land • Business Support (UK Shared Prosperity funding) • Big Business Forum
Prioritise the closure of banks within the Boroughs town and village centres and to research opportunities for mobile banking and/or banking hubs	<p>Letters were sent to the LGA and DCN highlighting the Council's concerns around recent bank closures and the absence of banking services on the high street.</p> <p>The Economic Growth Team continue to try to make contact with banks and have recently had a meeting with Barclays.</p>

Management of Open Spaces on New Developments

At its meeting on 26 March 2025 the Director for Development and Economic Growth provided an overview of the Management of Open Spaces on New Developments, it's scrutiny objective and its progress since it was last discussed at a meeting of Growth and Development Scrutiny Group in January 2024. The Group were reminded of the Cabinet decision in May 2024 which affirmed the Council's position to not adopt open spaces, but to support a Good Practice Guide, support the work of the scrutiny group and continue lobbying Government.

The Group received a presentation from the Director for Development and Economic Development highlighting the Council's draft Good Practice Guide to encourage developers to provide good practice and had been designed to represent a reasonable, achievable commitment from developers and management companies in the interest of achieving the best quality service for residents.

The Leader of the Council also addressed the Group to advise members of a roundtable discussion he held in July 2024, which brought together cross-party Councillors, developers, management companies and residents to have conversations around the four Good Practice themes:

- Service
- Fairness
- Transparency
- Community

The Group discussion that followed covered:

- Need for further roundtable discussions to ensure developers and management companies were aware of the guidance and be prepared to sign up to it
- How would the guidance be made accessible including a list of developers who had signed up to it
- Adoption of open spaces and the possibility for a town or parish council to adopt the space if they wished to

- The decision for the Council not to adopt open spaces and how this was not unique to Rushcliffe and is an issue across the housing development sector
- The unfairness of the management company model and the financial burden for those residents living on new development.
- Maintenance of open spaces being far more complex with the introduction of SUD's, play parks and landscaping

The Group agreed to:	Progress Update – June 2025:
Endorse the Good Practice Guide for the Management of Open Spaces and for it to be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration	Changes have been made to the Good Practice Guide following feedback from the Scrutiny Committee and other stakeholders. A report is being taken to Cabinet in July to adopt the Guide.
The continuing to lobby Government to regulate the governance of management companies to ensure transparency and to remove charges unrelated to the management of open spaces	A response was received from Baroness Taylor, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Housing and Local Government and a further meeting is to be arranged with officials from the Freehold Estates Reform Team.
Examine the deployment of the document and continue to investigate any measurable outcomes and requested a second roundtable meeting at an appropriate time in the future and report any findings back to Growth and Development Scrutiny Group	The Guide will be shared after Cabinet in July, any future review and further meetings to be arranged.

Member Panels

The Group did not establish any Member Panels this year.

Call-ins

The Group did not discuss any call-ins this year.

Looking forward to the year ahead

Growth and Development Scrutiny are looking forward to a comprehensive programme of scrutiny topics in 2025/26 that will deliver economic growth and ensure sustainable, prosperous and thriving communities.



Council

Thursday, 17 July 2025

Appointment of Independent Persons

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Portfolio Holder for Finance, Transformation and Governance, Councillor D Viridi

1. Purpose of report

This report recommends the continued appointment of Mr Christopher Richards and Ms Helen Richardson as the Council's Independent Persons for standards matters as required by the Localism Act 2011 (the Act).

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED the Council extends the appointment of Mr Christopher Richards and Ms Helen Richardson as its Independent Persons for standards matters under section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011 for a period of two years, with authority for the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee, to extend the appointment up to an additional two years.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

The Council is required pursuant to Section 28 ((7) of the Act to have access to at least one Independent Person to consult on Member Code of Conduct matters.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1. On 30 September 2021, Council approved the appointment of Mr Christopher Richards and Ms Helen Richardson as its Independent Persons. They have remained in post as the Council's Independent Persons since that date and their appointment is now due for review.
- 4.2. Mr Richardson and Ms Richards undertook a period of training during the first 12 months of their appointment and were supported during this period by the previous Independent Person who had been in post for eight years. The Independent Persons are consulted by the Monitoring Officer on Member Code of Conduct matters in accordance with the Council's approved arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints and are invited to attend Standards Committee meetings.
- 4.3. Given the uncertainties of Local Government Reorganisation, it is proposed that Mr Christopher Richards and Ms Helen Richardson continue in the role for a

further period of two years. Furthermore, it is proposed that the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee, be delegated authority to extend the appointment up to a further two years.

- 4.4. The appointment of the Independent Persons must be approved by the majority of the membership of the Council.

5. Alternative options considered and reasons for rejection

At this time, it is not considered cost effective to commence a recruitment process to appoint new individuals to this role. New appointees would require training on the role and support over at least a 12 month period. The Council must have at least one Independent Person appointed in order to comply with the Act.

6. Risks and Uncertainties

The Council would fail to meet its statutory obligations as prescribed by the Act if it did not have access to at least one Independent Person. Previously the Council has appointed only one person to this role. Guidance now states that local authorities should have access to at least two. The current Independent Persons have supported administration of the Code of Conduct and process for considering complaints against members of both the Borough Council and Parish and Town Councils within the Borough.

7. Implications

7.1. Financial Implications

An annual allowance is payable to the post-holders in accordance with the Allowance Scheme approved by Council, which is met by existing budgets.

7.2. Legal Implications

The legal implications are set out in the body of this report.

7.3. Equalities Implications

There are no direct implications as a result of this report.

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

The Independent Persons will be consulted upon complaints concerning member misconduct, including allegations that could constitute criminal offences, such as the failure to declare disclosable pecuniary interests under the Members' Code of Conduct.

8. Link to Corporate Priorities

The Environment	The appointment of Independent Persons supports all Corporate Priorities.
Quality of Life	
Efficient Services	
Sustainable Growth	

9. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED the Council extends the appointment of Mr Christopher Richards and Ms Helen Richardson as its Independent Persons for standards matters under section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011 for a period of two years, with authority for the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee, to extend the appointment by further periods up to an additional two years.

For more information contact:	Sara Pregon Monitoring Officer 0115 914 8480 spregon@rushcliffe.gov.uk Rachel Clack Deputy Monitoring Officer 0115 9148419 rclack@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for Inspection:	N/A
List of appendices:	N/A

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