

**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL
THURSDAY, 26 APRIL 2018**

Held at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber - Rushcliffe Borough Council

PRESENT:

Councillor B Cooper (Mayor)
Councillor Mrs M Stockwood (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors R Adair, S Bailey, K Beardsall, A Brown, M Buckle, B Buschman, R Butler, H Chewings, T Combellack, N Clarke, J Cottee, J Donoghue, M Edwards, A Edyvean, J Greenwood, R Hetherington, S Hull, R Inglis, R Jones, Mrs C Jeffreys, J Lungley, A MacInnes, Mrs M Males, R Mallender, S Mallender, D Mason, S Matthews, G Moore, A Phillips, L Plant, F Purdue-Horan, S J Robinson, Mrs J Smith, J Stockwood, J Thurman, R Upton, G Wheeler and J Wheeler

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

C Caven-Atack	Performance, Reputation and Constitutional Services Manager
M Elliott	Constitutional Services Team Leader
A Graham	Chief Executive
P Linfield	Executive Manager - Finance and Corporate Services
D Mitchell	Executive Manager - Communities
R Mapletoft	Planning Policy Manager
G O'Connell	Monitoring Officer

APOLOGIES:

Councillors G Davidson, K Khan and N Lawrence

Opening Prayer

The Meeting was led in prayer by the Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Andrew Stewart.

49 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

50 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

51 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor referred to the following Mayoral engagements:

- Attending the Cotgrave Children's Music Festival.
- Attending the 209 Air Cadets Squadron's awards evening.
- Attending the St Georges Day Parade in West Bridgford.

The Mayor also provided an update on his fundraising activities and advised that his final fundraising event would be the "Stormy Weather Boys" concert on 18 May.

52 Leader's Announcements

The Leader noted the Council's success of being winning the "Best Entrepreneurial Council Award" at the recent LGC Awards and thanked members and officers for their efforts which had enabled this success. The Leader advised that while awards were welcome what was more important was how the Council was working to use its resources to generate revenue which could then be used to deliver great services to residents. The Leader also advised that the Council had just purchased two more investment properties that would bring £135,000 of revenue in each year to support frontline services.

The Leader advised how pleased he had been that Rushcliffe had been placed as the 15th best place to live in the country in the recent Grant Thornton Vibrant Economy Index and that Rushcliffe had not only scored highly in categories such as the economy and prosperity but also in categories including inclusion and equality. The Leader also advised that there would be a review of the Council's Scrutiny Committees during 2018/19 to ensure that the Council's Scrutiny function was fit for purpose, independent and able to ensure accountability in the Council's decision making processes.

The Leader also advised that with regard to the Council's commitment to reduce the use of single-use plastics all Councillors would be receiving a reusable cup to take out and about with them.

53 Chief Executive's Announcements

The Chief Executive advised that the Council had been shortlisted as a finalist in the "Best Commercial Council" Category at the Municipal Journal Achievement Awards and noted that this showed how the Council was working hard to provide great value and services to the residents of Rushcliffe.

The Chief Executive also wished Councillor Mrs Males many congratulations on the event of her 90th Birthday and presented her with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of all the staff at the Council.

54 Citizens' Questions

There were no questions.

55 Local Plan Part 2

The Portfolio holder for Housing and Planning presented the report of the Executive Manager – Communities seeking approval for the draft Local Plan Part 2 to be published for a six-week representation period, before being submitted for examination by an Independent Planning Inspector.

The new Rushcliffe Local Plan would be formed of two parts with Part 1 of the Local Plan (the Core Strategy) having been adopted by the Council in December 2014. It was noted that Part 2, having been through a process of consultation had now reached the stage where, as required by legislation, it was required to be examined by an Independent Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, before it could be adopted as part of the statutory development plan alongside the Local Plan Part 1. It was noted that the Local Plan Part 2 would identify non-strategic allocations and designations, for both housing and employment uses in the Borough and would also set out more detailed policies (sitting below the Core Strategy's more strategic level policies) for use in the determination of planning applications. The draft Local Plan Part 2 was attached as an appendix to the officer's report and a timetable for the remaining stages of the process for the adoption of the plan, culminating with adoption in December 2018 was tabled at the meeting for information.

The Portfolio holder advised that the proposed sites allocated for housing development would have a significant and positive impact on the Council's ability to demonstrate a five-year housing supply as required by the Government. The Portfolio holder noted that home building in Rushcliffe was not keeping up with demand and that it was becoming more difficult for residents to find a suitable home in their local area. The Portfolio holder advised that the lack of affordable housing was becoming a pressing social issue in Rushcliffe, with the average price of a house currently eight times the average wage in the Borough, so the allocations in the Plan which contained provision for 30% affordable housing would contribute positively to the much needed supply of affordable housing.

The Portfolio holder noted the significant challenge that the Government's requirement on the Council to increase the Borough's housing stock by 28% had presented, and that with development of some of the strategic housing sites in the Borough being slow, it was essential that the Council identified other smaller housing sites in order to be able to demonstrate a five-year housing supply. The Portfolio holder advised that it was essential to be able to show a five-year housing supply, as without one the Council would lose control of where houses were built, which could lead to unwanted and unsustainable developments.

The Portfolio holder advised that the Plan had been through extensive and wide-ranging consultation, but that the time for action was now. It was acknowledged by the Portfolio holder that there was opposition to some of the sites included in the Plan by people who either did not want new housing, were

concerned about the impact on services and infrastructure that new houses would create or did not want to lose open green space. The Portfolio holder advised, however, that not building new houses was not an option, and that if the Council did not identify suitable sites for development then the decisions on where houses should be built would be taken away from the Council and made by the Government. The Portfolio holder noted that in this situation it was preferable that where houses were built was decided locally and determined by a Plan that had been informed by consultation with residents.

The Portfolio holder advised that he believed the Plan to be sustainable and that it was capable of meeting the housing needs of current and future residents of the Borough. The Portfolio holder thanked officers, partners, members of the public who had taken part in the consultations and members of the Local Development Framework Group for their contribution to getting the Plan to the current point.

Councillor Butler in seconding the recommendations advised of the need for the Local Plan Part 2 to be progressed so as to avoid the Council losing control of where new houses were built in the Borough. Councillor Butler noted that while everyone may not be happy with the sites identified for development in the plan that there would be an opportunity for further consultation before the Plan was adopted. Councillor Butler noted the significant work of officers in getting the Plan to its current stage and thanked members of the Local Development Framework Group for their contribution.

Councillor MacInnes welcomed the Plan and noted that it was a robust document that would stand the rigours of a public inspection from an Independent Planning Inspector, as well as showing how the Council would meet the demands of Government Policy in demonstrating a five-year housing supply. Councillor MacInnes noted that with the building of new houses it was essential that their impact on local services and infrastructure was mitigated as far as possible, and that it was essential that the Council, as the Local Planning Authority, engaged with developers and other public service providers at an early stage to ensure that the necessary infrastructure, such as schools and GP surgeries were in place in advance of the new homes. Councillor MacInnes advised that it was essential to support the Plan in order to ensure that the Council was able to oppose uncontrolled and unwanted developments, as well as to enable much needed market value and affordable homes to be built across the Borough.

Councillor Jones expressed his frustration that the Local Plan Part 2, had due to the delays in the commencement of building on sites that had planning permission, needed to include extra housing sites to make up for this shortfall. Councillor Jones noted the potential risk of cramming and pressure on infrastructure including roads, parking provision, schools and health services and that the Council needed to be proactive in engaging with the providers of these services to ensure that it anticipated and responded to the pressures on services that housing development would bring. Councillor Jones also requested that with regard to the Plan's policies on recreational spaces for children and young people the wording of the policies should be strengthened and made more specific. Councillor S Mallender thanked officers for their work in creating the document, noting its thoroughness. Councillor S Mallender noted her disappointment that it had been left to the Council to find extra

housing sites to compensate for sites with planning permission that had not been built on. Councillor S Mallender noted the importance of green spaces, not only surrounding new developments, but in the developments themselves. Councillor S Mallender welcomed the policies contained in the Plan regarding flooding and flood risk to properties neighbouring new developments, but requested that officers looked to strengthen the wording of these policies, as well as the policies on green infrastructure and limiting the number of hot food takeaway units in retail areas.

Councillor Buckle noted the lack of affordable housing across all communities the Borough and that it was essential for the sustainability of these communities that more affordable housing was built. Councillor Buckle also welcomed the control of where future development took place and the control of greenbelt development that the Plan would give to the Council. Councillor R Mallender noted the need for a mix of housing types to be built, including properties for people downsizing, which in turn would assist in the supply of family houses. Councillor R Mallender welcomed the policies on renewable energy and the focus on locally generated renewable and large-scale battery storage.

Councillor Clarke noted that the Council's target for new houses would be very challenging, requiring record numbers of houses to be built, but that this was a challenge that the Council was capable of meeting. Councillor Clarke noted that changes to the mix of housing types may be needed in the future to meet housing needs, and that it was essential that supporting infrastructure and employment opportunities were in place to support the new housing developments. Councillor Cottee noted that, with regard to planning and choosing sites for development, it was impossible to satisfy everybody. Councillor Cottee advised that in Keyworth the allocated sites differed to those included in the Neighbourhood Plan, but that he would be supporting the Local Plan Part 2 as it was a strategic plan for the entire Borough.

Councillor Chewings noted with concern that there was no mention of increasing secondary school provision in the Plan, and advised of the stresses on secondary schools that were currently happening with children having to travel outside of their area to secondary school. Councillor Chewings also advised that the primary schools in Cotgrave were currently nearly at capacity and that soon primary aged children would have to travel out of their area for a school place which was not acceptable and which would also create congestion and parking problems. Councillor Chewings stated that it was essential that housing developers made the required contributions to infrastructure to mitigate the demands on services that new houses would create. Councillor Chewings noted that it was essential that the Local Plan Part 2 included policies to ensure a good housing mix, including social housing, starter and retirement homes. Councillor Chewings advised that she did not think the Plan strong enough to stand up to speculative developers and as consequence could not support the document.

Councillor Edwards noted his concern about education provision to cater for new developments and that a severe weakness in the plans for the new development of Fairham Pastures would be the need for secondary school children to travel to school in East Leake. Councillor Edwards also advised that he did not believe that that the targets for affordable housing provision

contained in the plan were high enough. Councillor Edyvean noted the challenge that enabling a 28% increase in housing stock would provide, but advised that the housing sites proposed in the Plan would create a 5-year housing supply in the Borough, which would enable the Council to turn down applications for unwanted development and to win planning appeals in these circumstances. Councillor Robinson advised that Council acknowledged the demands on infrastructure, particularly education that housing developments would bring and that discussions were being held with delivery partners on meeting these challenges, and noted that he was confident that these challenges would be met.

Councillor Upton responded to the issues raised in the discussion and advised that suggested areas for where the wording of policies could be strengthened would be looked at further. Councillor Upton noted the obligations in the Plan placed on developers to provide the required infrastructure to support new housing developments, and that Nottinghamshire County Council, as the Local Education Authority, had a legal obligation to provide adequate school places, but acknowledged that primary age children having to travel outside of their area to school was not an ideal situation. Councillor Upton noted the time that the Plan had been in production, as well as the comprehensive amount of consultation that had taken place, but that it was now essential that the processes of requiring for the final adoption Plan moved forward

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) the draft Local Plan Part 2 (Land and Planning Policies) and the draft Local Plan Part 2 (Land and Planning Policies) Policies Map be published for a six week representation period.
- b) following the representation period, the draft Local Plan Part 2 and draft Local Plan Part 2 Policies Map be submitted for public examination.
- c) authority be delegated to the Executive Manager---Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Housing and Planning, to make minor drafting amendments to the draft Local Plan Part 2 and draft Local Plan Part 2 Policies Map prior to their publication in order to make necessary corrections or to provide clarification.

56 **Keyworth Neighbourhood Plan**

The Portfolio holder for Housing and Planning presented the report of Executive Manager – Communities seeking approval, subject to a majority vote from the referendum in favour, for the Council to adopt the Keyworth Neighbourhood Plan to help decide planning applications.

The Portfolio holder advised that Keyworth Parish Council had produced the Keyworth Neighbourhood Plan in consultation with the local community and that the Plan contained a number of policies which were intended to form part of the statutory development plan for the Borough and, therefore, to assist the Borough Council in the determination of relevant planning applications. In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, the Borough Council had invited representations on the submitted draft Plan and had appointed an Independent Examiner to examine the Plan and consider all representations received

through the consultation undertaken by the Borough Council. The Independent Examiner had concluded that subject to a number of modifications, the Plan met the required statutory requirements and should proceed to referendum. The Plan, incorporating the Independent Examiner's modifications had been presented to Cabinet on 13 March 2018 where it had been resolved that the proposed Plan met the relevant statutory requirements and should proceed to referendum in order for residents to decide whether the Plan should become part of the statutory development plan. (Cabinet Minute No. 55, 2017/18). The Portfolio holder noted that a referendum had been scheduled for 30 May 2018. The recommendations were seconded by Councillor Edyvean.

Councillor MacInnes thanked Keyworth residents for their efforts in creating the Plan and urged them to take part in the referendum. Councillor S Mallender welcomed the active role that the local community had played in the development of the plan and noted that she hoped local residents would vote in favour of its adoption in the upcoming referendum.

Councillor Cottee noted the five years of hard work that had gone into the production of the Keyworth Neighbourhood Plan and noted that the Independent Examiner had commended the wide-ranging consultation that had taken place, the community engagement and the engagement with the Council that had happened in the production of the Plan. Councillor Cottee noted with disappointment that some negative campaigning had been taking place in Keyworth and advised that while the Plan may not be perfect or please everybody fully, that it was better to have a plan in place that reflected public opinion than no plan at all. Councillor Jones noted his support for the plan and commended the thorough processes involved in its creation.

Councillor Upton responded to the issues raised in the debate and noted that having been involved in the creation of the Radcliffe-on-Trent Neighbourhood Plan he fully understood the effort, as well as the difficult decisions and compromises that had been involved in creating the Plan.

It was **RESOLVED** that, subject to a majority vote from the referendum in favour of using the Keyworth Neighbourhood Plan to help decide planning applications:

- a) the Council 'makes' (adopts) the Neighbourhood Plan.
- b) authority be delegated to the Executive Manager – Communities to issue a statement setting out this decision as soon as possible following the referendum.

57 **Review of the Mayoral Allowance**

The Leader presented the report of the Chief Executive requesting that Council considered increasing the allowances paid to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the 2018/19 civic year, and beyond.

The Leader noted that the last report of the Independent Remuneration Panel which had been considered by Council on 5 March 2015 had recommended that a separate review of the allowances paid to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor take place as these allowances had fallen outside of the remit of the Panel

(Minute No.45, 2014/15). The Leader advised that these allowances had not subsequently been reviewed, and due to the considerable expense and time undertaken by the holders of the offices of Mayor and Deputy Mayor an increase in the allowance was now being recommended. The Leader noted that the level of allowances was needed so to ensure that the office of the Mayor remained attainable and accessible for all of those who aspired to be the Civic Leader of the Borough.

In seconding the recommendations Councillor Moore noted that the Mayoral allowance, like all other allowances, was counted as taxable income and advised that as a former Mayor he had had first-hand experience of the significant extra outgoings that being the Mayor involved. Councillor Moore advised that holding the office of Mayor was a great privilege and honour but that no one should be discouraged from becoming Mayor because of the allowance being insufficient to cover the costs involved.

Councillor Edwards noted the importance of the role of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to the Borough and agreed that it was important that the holders of these roles should not be out of pocket as a result of carrying out the role. Councillor Edwards also noted that other allowances for Councillors had increased in line with staff wage increases, but that the proposed increase to the Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's allowance was 33.35%. Councillor Edwards advised that he was unable to understand how this proposed increase had been arrived at, and that he was concerned that the report contained insufficient reasons and justification for such a large increase. Councillor Edwards advised that he thought the report should be looked at again and brought back to Council with more evidence of why the allowances should be increased.

Councillor Jones advised that the proposed increase to the allowances was far too lavish and was not acceptable. Councillor Jones also noted that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor still received their basic allowance as well as being able to claim for travel costs separately. Councillor Hull spoke on behalf of former Mayor, Councillor Davidson who had given his apologies for the meeting. Councillor Hull advised that Councillor Davidson had stated that he had found the current Mayoral allowance more than adequate for the expenditure that he had incurred whilst as Mayor, and that the proposed increase was far in excess of what was needed to fulfil the requirements of the office. Councillor S Mallender advised that in the current climate of pay restraint in the public sector that this was not the time for a 33.35% increase in the Mayoral allowance. Councillor S Mallender also advised that she believed the role of Mayor could be fulfilled without such huge expenditure and noted that the cost of all travel expenses incurred in Mayoral duties could be claimed separately.

Councillor Purdue-Horan noted that the 2015 review of allowances had removed the allowance paid to the Mayor for chairing Council meetings and that this increase was just bringing back the allowance back to its previous level. Councillor Purdue-Horan noted that holding the office of Mayor was not about the allowance paid but about working in community and promoting the Borough. The Mayor noted that it was impossible to quantify the value of the office of the Mayor to the Borough and its residents.

Councillor Robinson in responding to the issues raised in the debate advised

that it was essential that no one should be discouraged from wanting to become Mayor due the costs involved and that it was essential that the allowance paid to the Mayor reflected these costs adequately.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) the allowance paid to the Mayor to be raised to £8,778.98 for the civic year 2018/19, and beyond.
- b) the allowance paid to the Deputy Mayor to be raised to £2,790.00 for the civic year 2018/19, and beyond.

58 Notices of Motion

No notices of motion had been submitted.

59 Questions from Councillors

There were no questions.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

MAYOR