

# Rushcliffe Borough Council – Scrutiny Matrix

| <b>Councillor Request for Scrutiny</b>  |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Councillor Clarke   |   |  |
| <b>Proposed topic of scrutiny ...</b>   | <b>How the Borough works with partners to plan for the infrastructure required to support growth</b>  |  |
| <b>I would like to understand ...<br/>(key lines of enquiry)</b>              | <p>There is a significant amount of housing growth across the Borough and therefore a requirement for infrastructure to be in place to support this. Councillors would like to understand how the Borough works with partners to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• determine the infrastructure required</li> <li>• Identify the wider strategy for infrastructure and how this is planned to ensure a coherent and coordinated response that takes account of the cumulative impact – now and in the future</li> <li>• How stakeholders are engaged in the development of S106 agreements</li> </ul> <p>Infrastructure covers a wide range of agencies and areas of work therefore the initial request is for a scrutiny item that seeks to understand the current process from RBC perspective. Future items could then come forward focussed on specific areas of infrastructure with the relevant partner agency engaged.</p> |  |
| <b>I think this topic should be scrutinised because ...<br/>(please tick)</b> | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <b>Poor Performance Identified</b>           |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <b>Change in Legislation or Local Policy</b> |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | <b>Resident Concern or Interest</b>          |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <b>Cabinet Recommendation</b>                |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <b>Links to the Corporate Strategy</b>       |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <b>Other (please state reason)</b>           |
| <b>Officer Consideration of Councillor Request for Scrutiny</b>               |   |  |
| <b>Officer Feedback (please tick)</b>   | <b>Officer Comment</b>  |  |

|   |                                       |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| - Issue already being addressed                           | x                                     |  |
| - Issue has already been considered in the last 2 years?  | x                                     |  |
| - Issue is a legal matter                                 | x                                     |  |
| - Issue of a complaint investigation                      | x                                     |  |
| - Issue is a staffing matter                              | x                                     |  |
| - There is an alternative way of dealing with the issue   | x                                     |  |
| <b>Is there sufficient capacity ...</b>                   |                                       |  |
| - Scrutiny Work Programme?                                | ✓                                     |  |
| - Officer Resources?                                      | ✓                                     |  |
| <b>Recommendation</b>                                     | Growth and Development Scrutiny Group |  |
| <b>Lead Officer</b>                                       | Helen Knott / Richard Mapletoft       |  |
| <b>Proposed Timescale for Scrutiny and Scrutiny Group</b> | September 2023                        |  |

Appendix

# Rushcliffe Borough Council – Scrutiny Matrix

| <b>Councillor Request for Scrutiny</b>                                |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Councillor Thomas   |  |  |
| <b>Proposed topic of scrutiny</b>                                     | Council tax options for empty homes  |  |
| <b>I would like to understand (key lines of enquiry)</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current legislation re empty homes, and council tax</li> <li>• Current legislation re second homes, and council tax</li> <li>• Changes to above expected in near future</li> <li>• Data about empty homes in Rushcliffe: i.e. reasons, average length of time vacant, tenure etc - this may mean additional data needs to be collected or residents consulted. Case studies might be helpful.</li> <li>• Understanding of exceptions in legislation for payment of council tax, and for payment of council tax on empty homes</li> <li>• Possibility of exceptions we could add ourselves, or any discretion allowed</li> <li>• Derelict homes/sites and measures that can be taken</li> <li>• Some information about what other councils do.</li> <li>• Assessment of options to change council tax requirement for empty homes and the anticipated impact on (a) the property owners, (b) housing supply, and (c) the council's finances</li> </ul> |  |
| <b>I think this topic should be scrutinised because (please tick)</b> |  | <b>Poor Performance Identified</b>           |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | <b>Change in Legislation or Local Policy</b> |
|   |  | <b>Resident Concern or Interest</b>          |
|   |  | <b>Cabinet Recommendation</b>                |
|   |  | <b>Links to the Corporate Strategy</b>       |
|   |  | <b>Other (please state reason)</b>           |
| <b>Officer Consideration of Councillor Request for Scrutiny</b>       |  |  |
| <b>Officer Feedback (please tick)</b>                                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | <b>Officer Comment</b>                       |
| - Issue already being addressed                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>   |  |
| - Issue has already been considered in the last 2 years?              | <input type="checkbox"/>   |  |
| - Issue is a legal matter   | <input type="checkbox"/>   |  |

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| - Issue of a complaint investigation                      | x   |  |
| - Issue is a staffing matter                              | x   |  |
| - There is an alternative way of dealing with the issue   | ✓   |  |
| <b>Is there sufficient capacity</b>                       |   |  |
| - Scrutiny Work Programme?                                | x   |  |
| - Officer Resources?                                      | x   |  |
| <b>Recommendation</b>                                     | Broader scrutiny matrix submitted by officers |  |
| <b>Lead Officer</b>                                       |   |  |
| <b>Proposed Timescale for Scrutiny and Scrutiny Group</b> | None  |  |

Appendix

# Rushcliffe Borough Council – Scrutiny Matrix

| <b>Councillor Request for Scrutiny</b>                                |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Councillor Thomas (expanded by officers)                              |  |  |
| <b>Proposed topic of scrutiny</b>                                     | <b>Review of the Empty Homes Strategy</b>  |  |
| <b>I would like to understand (key lines of enquiry)</b>              | <p>Councillor Thomas originally proposed a topic for scrutiny focusing on the Council Tax Options for Empty Homes. Officers felt this was too narrow a focus but that much could be gained from a review of the Council's Empty Homes Strategy including the tools at the Council's disposal to bring empty homes back into occupation for the benefit of Rushcliffe residents.</p> <p>Therefore, officers propose that the Scrutiny Group is given a fuller understanding of the existing Empty Homes Strategy and the tools at the Council's disposal to bring homes back into occupation including the option of an additional charge levied alongside Council Tax.</p> |  |
| <b>I think this topic should be scrutinised because (please tick)</b> | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <b>Poor Performance Identified</b>           |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | <b>Change in Legislation or Local Policy</b> |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <b>Resident Concern or Interest</b>          |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <b>Cabinet Recommendation</b>                |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <b>Links to the Corporate Strategy</b>       |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <b>Other (please state reason)</b>           |
| <b>Officer Consideration of Councillor Request for Scrutiny</b>       |  |  |
| <b>Officer Feedback (please tick)</b>                                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | <b>Officer Comment</b>                       |
| - Issue already being addressed                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  |  |
| - Issue has already been considered in the last 2 years?              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  |  |
| - Issue is a legal matter   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  |  |
| - Issue of a complaint investigation                                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  |  |
| - Issue is a staffing matter  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  |  |
| - There is an alternative way of dealing with the issue               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  |  |
| <b>Is there sufficient capacity</b>                                   |  |  |

|   |                                   |  |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| - <b>Scrutiny Work Programme?</b>                         | ✓                                 |  |
| - <b>Officer Resources?</b>                               | ✓                                 |  |
| <b>Recommendation</b>                                     | Communities Scrutiny Group        |  |
| <b>Lead Officer</b>                                       | Geoff Carpenter / Sarah Whittaker |  |
| <b>Proposed Timescale for Scrutiny and Scrutiny Group</b> | July 2023                         |  |

Appendix

# Rushcliffe Borough Council – Scrutiny Matrix

| <b>Councillor Request for Scrutiny</b>  |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Councillors Barney, Brennan, Clarke, Combellack, Dickman, and Upton           |   |  |
| <b>Proposed topic of scrutiny ...</b>   | <b>Sewerage Infrastructure and Discharge within Rushcliffe</b>  |  |
| <b>I would like to understand ...<br/>(key lines of enquiry)</b>              | <p>Councillors are concerned about sewage infrastructure and unlawful discharges in the Borough and the impact on the environment, humans and wildlife locally.</p> <p>Councillors need to be in a position to reassure residents that sewage is fully treated before any discharge to water courses; a better understanding of the sewage system and controls within the Borough and how the situation can be addressed would therefore be helpful.</p> <p>At Growth and Development Scrutiny in September 2022, representatives from Severn Trent Water and the Environment Agency attended to inform Councillors about the situation in Rushcliffe regarding sewage infrastructure and unlawful discharges and their respective roles. At that meeting it was resolved that further scrutiny, related to the issue be brought back to a future meeting of the committee.</p> <p>As the lead local flood authority, Councillors would like to invite Nottinghamshire County Council to attend a meeting of the committee, to provide an overview of their role with regards to Sewerage Infrastructure and Discharge within Rushcliffe and to set out their relevant plans for the coming year.</p> |  |
| <b>I think this topic should be scrutinised because ...<br/>(please tick)</b> | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <b>Poor Performance Identified</b>           |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <b>Change in Legislation or Local Policy</b> |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | <b>Resident Concern or Interest</b>          |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <b>Cabinet Recommendation</b>                |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <b>Links to the Corporate Strategy</b>       |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <b>Other (please state reason)</b>           |

## Officer Consideration of Councillor Request for Scrutiny

| Officer Feedback (please tick)                            |                                       | Officer Comment |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| - Issue already being addressed                           | x                                     |                 |
| - Issue has already been considered in the last 2 years?  | ✓                                     |                 |
| - Issue is a legal matter                                 | x                                     |                 |
| - Issue of a complaint investigation                      | x                                     |                 |
| - Issue is a staffing matter                              | x                                     |                 |
| - There is an alternative way of dealing with the issue   | x                                     |                 |
| <b>Is there sufficient capacity ...</b>                   |                                       |                 |
| - Scrutiny Work Programme?                                | ✓                                     |                 |
| - Officer Resources?                                      | ✓                                     |                 |
| <b>Recommendation</b>                                     | Growth and Development Scrutiny Group |                 |
| <b>Lead Officer</b>                                       | Catherine Evans                       |                 |
| <b>Proposed Timescale for Scrutiny and Scrutiny Group</b> | January 2024                          |                 |

Appendix



# Rushcliffe Borough Council – Scrutiny Matrix

| <b>Councillor Request for Scrutiny</b>                                |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Councillor Thomas   |  |  |
| <b>Proposed topic of scrutiny...</b>                                  | <b>Biodiversity Net gains – New Legislation</b>  |  |
| <b>I would like to understand (key lines of enquiry)</b>              | <p>Under the Environment Act 2021, all planning permissions granted in England (with a few exemptions) will have to deliver at least 10% biodiversity net gain. This expected to be the case from November 2023.</p> <p>Councillors would like better understanding of what this means for the Council, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Method for establishing a baseline required for monitoring</li> <li>• Method for on-going measuring and monitoring</li> <li>• Powers to enforce 10% net gain</li> <li>• Legal agreements between the Council and developers, through S106 or conservation covenants?</li> <li>• Requirements to report to Government.</li> </ul> |  |
| <b>I think this topic should be scrutinised because (please tick)</b> | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <b>Poor Performance Identified</b>           |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | <b>Change in Legislation or Local Policy</b> |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <b>Resident Concern or Interest</b>          |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <b>Cabinet Recommendation</b>                |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <b>Links to the Corporate Strategy</b>       |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <b>Other (please state reason)</b>           |
| <b>Officer Consideration of Councillor Request for Scrutiny</b>       |  |  |
| <b>Officer Feedback (please tick)</b>                                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | <b>Officer Comment</b>                       |
| - Issue already being addressed                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>   |  |
| - Issue has already been considered in the last 2 years?              | <input type="checkbox"/>   |  |
| - Issue is a legal matter   | <input type="checkbox"/>   |  |
| - Issue of a complaint investigation                                  | <input type="checkbox"/>   |  |
| - Issue is a staffing matter  | <input type="checkbox"/>   |  |
| - There is an alternative way of                                      | <input type="checkbox"/>   |  |

|   |                                       |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>dealing with the issue</b>                             |                                       |  |
| <b>Is there sufficient capacity</b>                       |                                       |  |
| - <b>Scrutiny Work Programme?</b>                         | ✓                                     |  |
| - <b>Officer Resources?</b>                               | ✓                                     |  |
| <b>Recommendation</b>                                     | Growth and Development Scrutiny Group |  |
| <b>Lead Officer</b>                                       | Derek Hayden                          |  |
| <b>Proposed Timescale for Scrutiny and Scrutiny Group</b> | July 2023                             |  |

Appendix