



## **Growth and Development Scrutiny Group**

**Wednesday, 3 January 2024**

### **Sewerage Infrastructure and Discharge within Rushcliffe**

## **Report of the Director – Neighbourhoods**

### **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1. At Growth and Development Scrutiny in September 2022, representatives from Severn Trent Water and the Environment Agency attended to inform Councillors about their respective roles and how they worked with relevant departments at the Borough Council on sewage infrastructure and discharge.
- 1.2. At that meeting it was resolved that further scrutiny related to the issue be brought back to a future meeting of the Group. Councillors were particularly interested in the role that Nottinghamshire County Council plays as Lead Local Flood Authority.
- 1.3. Councillors were also interested to obtain a response from Severn Trent Water and the Environment Agency on the request to establish an action plan for preventative measures in respect of new developments to assist Officers and Councillors when applying conditions to planning applications. An Officer from the Environment Agency will attend the meeting to provide an update. Despite numerous attempts no response has been received from Severn Trent Water to requests to attend the meeting.

### **2. Recommendation**

It is RECOMMENDED that the Growth and Development Scrutiny Group:

- a) review the scrutiny matrix and notes of the previous meeting (21 September 2022) and ask questions of the expert witnesses
- b) identify if there are any areas where further work or further updates are required e.g. communications or engagement between organisations.

### **3. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1. The purpose of the report and supporting presentation from Nottinghamshire County Council is to support the Group in their understanding of the role of different organisations in relation to sewage infrastructure and discharge and planning for the growth of the Borough. This will enable Councillors to better respond to residents' concerns and questions on this issue, and to identify areas where further work is required.

## **4. Supporting Information**

- 4.1. As outlined in the scrutiny matrix (Appendix A), and in previous discussions at scrutiny in September 2022, Councillors are concerned about sewage infrastructure and unlawful discharges in the Borough, and the impact on the environment, humans and wildlife locally. At the meeting in September 2022, Councillors heard from Severn Trent Water (STW) and the Environment Agency (EA) on:
- Both agencies role in relation to strategic planning and planning
  - Overview of the sewage system
  - The role and responsibilities of each organisation
  - STW Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (published in December 2022).
- 4.2. During discussions at the meeting Councillors raised concerns in respect of surface water flooding, and the relationship between the water authority, the Environment Agency and the local flood authority. It was therefore identified that as the lead local flood authority, Councillors would like to invite Nottinghamshire County Council to attend a meeting of the Group, to provide an overview of their role with regard to Sewerage Infrastructure and Discharge within Rushcliffe and to set out their relevant plans for the coming year. Officers from Nottinghamshire County Council will be at the meeting in January 2024 and will be delivering a presentation for Councillors.
- 4.3. Officers from the Environment Agency will attend the meeting to provide an update since the last meeting and to share an overview of their recently published Adaptive Investment for Growth document.
- 4.4. Councillors also noted problems with public access to information and being able to report areas of concern and flood occurrences. STW and EA both identified that this can be complex however it was identified that if more information was publicly available Councillors would be in a better position to provide advice. STW and EA were keen that concerns from residents continue to get reported to them so they are able to respond as required but agreed that more publicly available data may assist with awareness and when to report.
- 4.5. Following the meeting, to highlight the above concerns, a letter was sent to STW and EA which requested that an action plan for preventative measures in respect of new developments be developed, which would assist Officers and Councillors when applying conditions to planning applications. To date no response has been received to the letter and Severn Trent Water were also invited to the meeting in January but have yet to respond to these requests.

## **5. Risks and Uncertainties**

- 5.1. There are no risks associated with this report and presentation as it is for Councillors information to support understanding of the role of the Lead Local Flood Authority.

## **6. Implications**

### **6.1. Financial Implications**

6.1.1. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

### **6.2. Legal Implications**

6.2.1. There are no legal implications associated with this report.

### **6.3. Equalities Implications**

6.3.1. There are no equalities implications associated with this report.

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

6.4.1. There are no crime and disorder implications associated with this report.

### **6.5. Biodiversity Net Gain Implications**

6.5.1. There are no biodiversity net gain implications associated with this report.

## **7. Link to Corporate Priorities**

Quality of Life	Having the right infrastructure in place for our local communities and businesses is important to support their quality of life.
Efficient Services	It is important to understand the role of different agencies to ensure the Council is working effectively with partners to deliver efficient services to residents.
Sustainable Growth	The Borough is accommodating a lot of housing growth and this has an impact on the capacity of all infrastructure. It is important to ensure the right processes and solutions are in place to respond to this growth.
The Environment	The requirements for sewage and infrastructure in the Borough are impacted by changes in the climate and these need to be considered as part of plans for the future and new developments in the Borough.

## 8. Recommendations

It is RECOMMENDED that the Growth and Development Scrutiny Group:

- a) review the scrutiny matrix and notes of the previous meeting (21 September 2022) and ask questions of the expert witnesses
- b) identify if there are any areas where further work or further updates are required e.g. communications or engagement between organisations.

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Dave Banks Director Neighbourhoods dbanks@rushcliffe.gov.uk
<b>Background papers available for Inspection:</b>	Sewage infrastructure and discharge report to Growth and Development Scrutiny Committee – 21 September 2022  Minutes of Growth and Development Scrutiny Committee – 21 September 2022
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix A: Scrutiny Matrix