

**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
CABINET
TUESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2024**

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 N Clarke (Chair), A Brennan (Vice-Chair), R Inglis, R Upton, D Virdi
and J Wheeler

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors Birch, R Mallender, Thomas and J Walker

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

L Ashmore	Director of Development and Economic Growth
D Banks	Director of Neighbourhoods
R Clack	Deputy Monitoring Officer
P Linfield	Director of Finance and Corporate Services
K Marriott	Chief Executive
H Tambini	Democratic Services Manager

The Leader advised that three questions had been submitted by Opposition Group Leaders at Item 5. As the questions related to Item 8 – Rushcliffe Carbon Offsetting Framework – Land Acquisition, which was an Exempt Item, the questions would be considered during the Exempt session of the meeting.

20 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

21 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 October 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 8 October 2024 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

22 Citizens' Questions

There were no citizens' questions.

23 Enforcement Policy Update

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing, Councillor Upton presented the report of the Director – Development and Economic Growth outlining proposed amendments to the Planning Enforcement Policy.

Councillor Upton stated that since the adoption of the current Policy in 2021,

there had been relevant changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other legislation, and the proposed revisions took into account those changes. The NPPF recommended that local planning authorities should consider publishing a local enforcement policy, to effectively manage enforcement in a way appropriate to their area. Councillor Upton referred to the importance of enforcing planning control to protect the local environment, with a policy that clearly set out the Council's approach when investigating alleged breaches. Cabinet noted that a failure to deliver an effective service could negatively impact public confidence in the planning regime and the Council's reputation. The amended Planning Enforcement Policy, attached as Appendix A to the report ensured compliance with legislation and statutory guidance and promoted consistent enforcement decisions.

In seconding the recommendation, Councillor Inglis endorsed this important Policy and stated that it was important that the Council clearly stated how it would effectively deal with enforcement, as positive action would act as a deterrent.

It was RESOLVED that:

- a) the adoption of the updated Planning Enforcement Policy be approved; and
- b) the Director – Development and Economic Growth be granted delegated authority to make minor updates to the Policy as required.

24 Exclusion of the Public

It was resolved that under Regulation 20 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

25 Opposition Group Leaders' Questions

Questions to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Clarke MBE were submitted by Councillor Thomas, Councillor J Walker and Councillor Birch in relation to Exempt Item 8 on the agenda – Rushcliffe Carbon Offsetting Framework – Land Acquisition.

The Leader responded to each question.

Supplementary questions to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Clarke MBE were asked by Councillor Thomas, Councillor J Walker and Councillor Birch.

The Leader responded to each supplementary question.

26 Rushcliffe Carbon Offsetting Framework - Land Acquisition

The Leader and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Borough-wide

Leadership, Councillor Clarke presented the report of the Director – Neighbourhoods, which provided an update on land acquisition in respect of Rushcliffe’s Carbon Offsetting Framework.

The recommendation was proposed by the Leader and seconded by Councillor Brennan.

It was RESOLVED that:

- a) the acquisition of the land set out in Option 2 in the report be approved, with the Asset Investment Group being granted delegated authority to a maximum bid as set out within the Financial Implications Section 7.1 of the report, plus all costs associated with the acquisition;
- b) opportunities regarding the Council’s own landholdings, as set out at Section 4 and also Option 1 in the report be explored and delivered;
- c) the ring fencing of funds as set out in the Financial Implications Section 7.1 of the report for carbon offsetting for land acquisition and associated costs within the Climate Change Reserve be approved; and
- d) the Asset Investment Group be granted delegated authority regarding future land acquisitions for the purposes of carbon offsetting within the limit of the funds identified in the Financial Implications Section 7.1 of the report.

The meeting closed at 7.33 pm.

CHAIR