

Partnership Delivery Group

Chairman's Foreword

This annual report highlights the work of the Partnership Delivery Group over the past year. Through scrutiny, the Council can review and, if necessary challenge the outcome of our investment in partnerships with outside bodies. This scrutiny enables us to be better informed about the work done in our partnerships. The role of the Partnership Delivery Group is to ensure that our many partnerships are worthwhile, mutually beneficial, and meet their desired outcomes.

Effective scrutiny helps improve accountability, performance, policies, future plans and service quality. We hope that by building good working relationships with our partners, that this ensures better outcomes for our residents and provides even better value for money.

I am confident that our work over the last year has enhanced how we all work together, and that this attracts our partners to want to work with us to benefit our residents.

I would like to thank all my colleagues, especially my Vice Chairman, Councillor Jean Greenwood, for their support throughout the year, for the lively and probing discussions and for their engagement and participation.

My thanks also go to our partners for their support in delivering quality services, and to the council staff for attending meetings and for ensuring that the scrutiny process remains effective and efficient.



**Councillor Mrs J Smith
Chairman**



**Councillor J Greenwood
Vice Chairman**

What we are responsible for?

The main role of Rushcliffe's scrutiny groups are to:

- Develop a work programme which scrutinises the Council's priorities.
- Ensure the Group's work helps implement the Council's plans and policies.
- Review, challenge and question how the policy, plans and services are implemented and recommend to Cabinet and Council improvements to services and their performance.
- Ensure the work contributes towards value for money, continuous improvement and best practice.

The Partnership Delivery Group's remit is to:

- Make sure existing partnerships are effective, enabling them to grow and develop
- Help ensure partnership working is the norm to deliver synergy, better asset and resource utilisation, better value for money and remove duplication
- Forge public sector partnerships to deliver community benefits
- Develop future partnership working with both the public and private sector

Our work this year

The Group's main work was to monitor the services of the Council's partners to help develop policy and consultation prior to Cabinet.

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

- Review of Positive Futures
- The Cooperation Agreement for Fleet Maintenance and Garage Services
- Metropolitan Housing Partnership
- The Service Level Agreement with Rushcliffe Community & Voluntary Service
- Waterloo Housing Partnership
- Service Level Agreement with Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire
- Review of all Partnerships
- Rushcliffe Business Partnership
- South Nottinghamshire Community Safety Partnership

Review of Positive Futures

Members of the Group received a presentation from representatives from Positive Futures and Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club which covered the performance of the Positive Futures project. The Group were advised that the number of young people that Positive Futures had worked with had reduced so that there could be more focused one to one support for individuals. Members of the Group were advised that Positive Futures were looking into the behavioural patterns of young people and offered a counselling service for those who suffered from mental health issues. The Group were also pleased to see the successful expansion of Positive Futures into

East Leake where Positive Futures were working with ten young people. The Group were pleased to endorse the work of the Positive Futures programme and welcomed the positive difference that it made to the lives of young people within the Borough.

Review of the Corporation Agreement for Fleet Maintenance and Garage Services.

Members considered and commented on the performance of the Cooperation Agreement for Fleet Maintenance and Garage Service Provision that the Council had entered into with Nottingham City Council in 2014. The Group were pleased to be informed that following on from a positive performance and a budget saving in 2015/16, the end of year financial outturn for 2016/17 showed a saving of £27,280 against a budget of £282,500.

The Group received a presentation from the Transport Manager at Nottingham City Council and considered the performance indicators which had been revised for the third year of the partnership. The Group were pleased that all targets had been exceeded with the exception of the percentage of vehicles returned to the Depot by 7:00am that had narrowly been missed. The Transport Manager outlined the key highlights of the third year review of the agreement and advised that the City Council was currently in the first year of a full review of the Parking, Fleet and Transport service area which had resulted in the implementation of a Fleet Services Improvement Plan which involved reviewing all systems, agreements and improving customer service and management.

Members of the Group welcomed that the Council would continue to work collaboratively with Nottingham City Council to improve performance by considering other areas for joint working and whether it was beneficial for other local authorities to join the partnership.

The Group were pleased to endorse the work of the cooperation agreement partnership.

Review of Metropolitan Housing Partnership

The Group considered the Council's partnership with Metropolitan Housing Trust and received a report and presentation on the company's work during 2016/17. Members of the Group considered and discussed many issues including, the frequency of turnover of properties, the implementation of fixed term tenancies, levels of anti-social behaviour, customer satisfaction and the performance indicators of their new repairs company 'Metworks.' The Group were pleased to be informed that Metropolitan had recently won a Gold Standard Youth Mark Award and that they were working in partnership with the Trent Bridge Community Trust to deliver local jobs clubs in Cotgrave to support 38 residents into employment. The Group were pleased to endorse the work of the Metropolitan Housing Partnership for 2016/17.

Service Level Agreement with Rushcliffe Community & Voluntary Service

The Group considered a report on the Service Level Agreement with Rushcliffe Community and Voluntary Service and noted that the financial value of the Agreement for 2016/17 was £15,000. The Chief Executive of the Rushcliffe Community and Voluntary Service delivered a presentation which provided the Group with an overview of their work during 2016/17. Members were informed that 52 groups and organisations had been helped which secured £37,426 in funding. It was

also noted that 154 groups were able to develop volunteering opportunities and that 649 residents were supported into volunteering roles. The Group were pleased to note that the Rushcliffe Community Voluntary Service were working with Metropolitan to support them with the Ready4Work Clubs which helped unemployed tenants back into work through volunteering.

The Group were also advised that the Rushcliffe Community and Voluntary Service Office was due to relocate to Abbey Road in November 2017. The Group endorsed the work of the Rushcliffe Community Voluntary Service. It was also agreed that due to a reduction in funding of the Service Level Agreement, the procedures for monitoring performance of the Rushcliffe Community Voluntary Service be managed through the Portfolio Holder for Community and Leisure rather than through Partnership Delivery Group.

Review of Waterloo Housing Partnership

The Group received a report and presentation regarding the partnership work undertaken by the Council and Waterloo Housing. Many issues were scrutinised including, rural exception sites, responsiveness to repairs, welfare reform, levels of complaints, call centre customer service, grounds maintenance, methods to engage with residents, housing allocations and the small turnover of void properties in Rushcliffe. It was also noted that Waterloo Housing were currently in talks regarding merging with Fortis Living in Worcestershire which would take their total housing stock to 45,000 which as a consequence would provide greater capacity for development. The Group endorsed the work of the Waterloo Housing Partnership.

Service Level Agreement with Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire

The Group received a presentation from the Delivery and Development Manager at Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire (RCAN) which provided information on the Service Level Agreement with the Council for 2016/17 and for the first nine months of 2017/18. It was noted that with the increased demand for the implementation of Neighbourhood plans, RCAN had held a neighbourhood planning event in March 2017 where 13 Rushcliffe parishes were represented and had resulted in six parish councils asking for follow up appointments in order to take the development of Neighbourhood Plans further. The Delivery and Development Manager noted that during the financial year of 2016/17 support and guidance had been given to 40 different groups, with 11 funding applications submitted and 8 successful applications. The funding for these groups overall was £122,289 which was a £31,289 increase from 2015/16. Following the two successful Town and Parish Forums in 2016/17 the Group noted how useful and informative these events were for Town and Parish councillors to network with each other. It was noted that RCAN were continuing their work with Ruddington and East Bridgford Parish Council to deliver their community led plans. The Group endorsed the work of the Service Level Agreement with Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire.

Review of all Partnerships

The Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods presented a report providing information on all the partnerships that the Council currently maintained, and requested that members of the Group reviewed the procedures for scrutinising the work and performance of each of these partnerships in order that the Group could develop their work programme in highlighting areas for deeper scrutiny as well as considering which partnerships required less frequent consideration. It was recommended that

the Partnership Delivery Group should focus on high profile partnerships as determined by a range of factors such as financial contribution made by the Council or the scale and breadth of outcomes for the community.

The Executive Manager highlighted three new partnerships for potential consideration for scrutiny by the group which were the Communities Nature Conservation partnership with the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, the Building Control Partnership with South Kesteven District Council and the Grantham Canal Partnership with the Canal and Rivers Trust. The Executive Manager also noted that due to a reduction in the financial input made by the Council that the scrutiny of the Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire and Rushcliffe Community Voluntary Service Partnerships could potentially be carried out on a biennial basis in order to allow more time for the Group to scrutinise other partnerships.

The Group agreed that a new work programme be produced with the new partnerships taken into consideration which was subsequently approved by the Group.

Rushcliffe Business Partnership Annual Review

The Group received a presentation on the work undertaken by the Rushcliffe Business Partnership which outlined the history, key aims and objectives, highlights of the past year and priorities for the future of the Partnership. The Service Level Agreement included the delivery of twelve monthly-networking events and one annual, all day showcase event; and the maintenance and upkeep of a dedicated website. In order to support local businesses it was noted that members of the Rushcliffe Business Partnership were being directed to a D2N2 Scale Up programme which offered financial support and coaching to businesses which would help them step up to the next level. It was also noted that Rushcliffe Business Partnership would continue to work with the growth boards in 2018 – 19 in order for them to gain a better understanding of the growth agenda for Rushcliffe.

Review of the South Nottinghamshire Community Safety Partnership

Inspector Craig Berry from Nottinghamshire Police provided a presentation to the Group which covered topics such as changes in demand of policing, crime in Rushcliffe in the past twelve months and integrated partnership working. Members of the Group were pleased to see the introduction of a local policing model from which would see a response team coming under Inspector Berry's control. This model also included the introduction of a new burglary team who commenced work in April 2018. Inspector Berry also informed the Group of the establishment of the multi-agency rough sleeper group which had dealt with 30 cases of rough sleeping within the Borough. Members of the Group welcomed the work of the South Nottinghamshire Community Safety Partnership and are looking forward to reviewing its activities next year.

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 Group will continue to help review and shape policy, ensuring improvements are implemented. This will be done by developing a challenging work programme linked to the Council's transformation strategy and four-year plan.