



Tuesday, 3 December 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

A meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, 11 December 2024 in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Foster Avenue, Beeston NG9 1AB, commencing at 7.00 pm.

Should you require advice on declaring an interest in any item on the agenda, please contact the Monitoring Officer at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully

Chief Executive

To Councillors:

D Bagshaw	H Land
S A Bagshaw	D L MacRae
P J Bales	R D MacRae
L A Ball BEM	T J Marsh
R E Bofinger	G Marshall
M Brown	J W McGrath
R Bullock	W Mee
G Bunn	J M Owen
B C Carr	P J Owen
C Carr	S Paterson
S J Carr	D D Pringle
A Cooper	M Radulovic MBE
H L Crosby	H E Skinner
T A Cullen	P A Smith
S Dannheimer	V C Smith
H J Faccio	A W G A Stockwell
K A Harlow	C M Tideswell
G S Hills	D K Watts
S P Jeremiah	S Webb
S Kerry	E Williamson
H G Khaled MBE	E Winfield
A Kingdon	K Woodhead

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
To receive apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest (Pages 9 - 16)
Members are requested to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interest and/or other interest in any item on the agenda.

3. Minutes (Pages 17 - 24)
Council is asked to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2024.

4. Mayor's Announcements

5. Leader's Report
To receive a report from the Leader and to receive questions and answers on the report should there be any.

6. Public Questions

7. Portfolio Holder Reports
 - 7.1 Portfolio report for Resources and Personnel Policy (Pages 25 - 32)
 - 7.2 Portfolio Holder Report Housing (Pages 33 - 34)
 - 7.3 Portfolio report for Leisure and Health (Pages 35 - 42)
 - 7.4 Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change (Pages 43 - 48)
 - 7.5 Portfolio report for Community Safety (Pages 49 - 56)
 - 7.6 Portfolio report for Economic Development and Asset Management (Pages 57 - 64)

8. Update on Scrutiny Matters

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will provide an update to full Council on Scrutiny matters.

9. References

9.1 Interim Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Pages 65 - 68)

Governance, Audit and Standards Committee
25 November 2024

To ask Council to consider the recommendations of the Governance, Audit and Standards Committee at its meeting held on 25 November 2024.

9.2 Community Governance Review (Pages 69 - 90)

Governance, Audit and Standards Committee
25 November 2024

To ask Council to consider the recommendations of the Governance, Audit and Standards Committee at its meeting held on 25 November 2024.

9.3 Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2025/26 (Pages 91 - 94)

Cabinet
3 December 2024

To seek approval for arrangements to operate in 2025/26 in respect of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme.

Members will receive an update from the Cabinet meeting which was held on 3 December 2024 following the publication of this agenda.

10. Programme of Meetings from May 2025 to April 2026 (Pages 95 - 100)

To seek approval of the Programme of meetings for May 2025 to April 2026

11. Motions

11.1 The following motion has been submitted by Councillor S J Carr on behalf of the Broxtowe Independent Group:

There is a major infestation of Japanese Knotweed adjacent to the Sandy Lane Nature Reserve on the border of Bramcote and Beeston North Ward.

This Council notes:

1. This infestation is one of the largest in the UK
2. It is having a disastrous effect on bio-diversity
3. Spraying would involve 200 litres of dangerous chemicals being used twice a year for 10 years on a major aquifer.
4. The knotweed is threatening nearby residential properties

This Council calls for all interested parties to work together pragmatically to find an urgent resolution to eradicate this infestation.

11.2 The following motion has been submitted by Councillor D K Watts on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group:

The following motion has been submitted by Councillor D K Watts on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group:

“The Council notes:

- 1) The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 Parties at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, France, on 12 December 2015. It entered into force on 4 November 2016. Its overarching goal is to hold “the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and pursue efforts “to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.”
- 2) The UK led the world with the Climate Change Act of 2008, and did so again with its commitment to Net Zero by 2050.
- 3) Despite the stated aim of the Paris Climate Agreement it is highly likely that global temperatures are already at or close to 1.5 degree above pre-

industrial levels.

- 4) Broxtowe Borough Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 with a target of being carbon neutral by 2027.
- 5) Broxtowe Borough Council have adopted the Green Futures programme to reduce its own carbon footprint and to encourage residents in the borough to do the same.
- 6) In 2020 the Climate Change Committee in Parliament said: “The UK’s net-zero target will not be met without changes in how we use our land. Those changes must start now.”
- 7) On 28 October 2024 the United Nations released its “Synthesis Report” which assesses the combined impact of nations’ current national climate plans on expected global emissions in 2030, among other measures. This report shows that National Climate Plans “fall miles short of what’s needed.” The United Nations said that the Synthesis Report must be a turning point, ending the era of inadequacy and sparking a new age of acceleration, and called for much bolder new national climate plans from every country to be produced by the end of 2025.
- 8) The United Nations went on to say that much bolder new national climate plans can not only avert climate chaos – done well, they can be transformational for people and prosperity in every nation. Bolder new climate plans are vital to drive stronger investment, economic growth and opportunity, more jobs, less pollution, better health and lower costs, and more secure and affordable clean energy, among many others benefits.
- 9) The consequences of climate change are now very clear to see and affect every community, including Broxtowe. Changes in weather patterns mean that events that were previously described as a 1 in 100 years’ event are now occurring on a much more frequent basis.

This Council Believes:

- a) Climate Change is the biggest challenge facing the planet. The need to take action to tackle climate

change is now more urgent than ever;

- b) Both national and local government can and must provide a lead on this;
- c) That the previous commitments of the UK government, whilst better than most countries, have not gone far enough. The UK's current targets are far from sufficient to achieve the 1.5°C limit and that there is a significant 'Ambition Gap' between what successive governments have spoken about and what is actually needed.
- d) The Climate and Nature Bill represents an important step forward in the UK tackling climate change.

This Council further notes that if made law the Climate and Nature Bill would ensure that the UK:

- 1) Creates a joined-up plan—the crises in climate and nature are deeply intertwined, requiring a plan that considers both together.
- 2) Cuts emissions in line with 1.5°C—ensuring UK emissions are reduced rapidly, for the last chance of limiting warming to 1.5°C.
- 3) Not only halts, but also reverses the decline in nature—setting nature measurably on the path to recovery by 2030.
- 4) Takes responsibility for our overseas footprint—both emissions and ecological.
- 5) Prioritises nature in decision-making, and ends fossil fuel production and imports as rapidly as possible.
- 6) Ensures no-one is left behind—through fairness provisions.
- 7) Involves the public—giving people a say in finding a fair way forward through a Climate & Nature Assembly, an essential tool for bringing the public along with the unprecedented pace of change required.

This Council therefore expresses its support for the Climate and Nature Bill and calls on the two Members of Parliament representing Broxtowe to vote in favour of it when the bill comes up for debate.”

12. Youth Mayor's Update on Broxtowe Youth Voice Activities

An update will be provided at the meeting.

13. Members' Speeches on Ward Issues

14. Questions on Outside Bodies

15. Members' Questions

16. Appointments to Committees and Working Groups

To make appointments to Committees and Working Groups.

Council is asked to RESOLVE that Councillor E Williamson replaces Councillor R D MacRae as the Broxtowe Independent Group's representative on the Local Joint Consultative Committee.

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Report of the Monitoring Officer

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Purpose of Report

Members are requested to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interest and/or other interest in any item on the agenda. The following information is extracted from the Code of Conduct, in addition to advice from the Monitoring Officer which will assist Members to consider any declarations of interest.

Part 2 – Member Code of Conduct

General Obligations:

10. Interest

10.1 You will register and disclose your interests in accordance with the provisions set out in Appendix A.

Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Monitoring Officer to establish and maintain a register of interests of Members of the Council. The register is publically available and protects you by demonstrating openness and willingness to be held accountable. You are personally responsible for deciding whether or not you should disclose an interest in a meeting which allows the public, Council employees and fellow Councillors know which of your interests gives rise to a conflict of interest. If in doubt you should always seek advice from your Monitoring Officer.

You should note that failure to register or disclose a disclosable pecuniary interest as defined in Appendix A of the Code of Conduct, is a criminal offence under the Localism Act 2011.

Advice from the Monitoring Officer:

On reading the agenda it is advised that you:

1. Consider whether you have any form of interest to declare as set out in the Code of Conduct.
2. Consider whether you have a declaration of any bias or predetermination to make as set out at the end of this document
3. Update Democratic Services and the Monitoring Officer and or Deputy Monitoring Officers of any declarations you have to make ahead of the meeting and take advice as required.
4. Use the Member Interest flowchart to consider whether you have an interest to declare and what action to take.
5. Update the Chair at the meeting of any interest declarations as follows:

‘I have an interest in Item xx of the agenda’

'The nature of my interest is therefore the type of interest is
DPI/ORI/NRI/BIAS/PREDETERMINATION
'The action I will take is...'

This will help Officer record a more accurate record of the interest being declared and the actions taken. You will also be able to consider whether it is necessary to send a substitute Members in your place and to provide Democratic Services with notice of your substitute Members name.

Note: If at the meeting you recognise one of the speakers and only then become aware of an interest you should declare your interest and take any necessary action

6. Update your Member Interest Register of any registerable interests within 28days of becoming aware of the Interest.

Ask yourself do you have any of the following interest to declare?

1. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPIs)

A "Disclosable Pecuniary Interest" is any interest described as such in the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 and includes an interest of yourself, or of your Spouse/Partner (if you are aware of your Partner's interest) that falls within the following categories: Employment, Trade, Profession, Sponsorship, Contracts, Land, Licences, Tenancies and Securities.

2. OTHER REGISTERABLE INTERESTS (ORIs)

An "Other Registerable Interest" is a personal interest in any business of your authority which relates to or is likely to affect:

- a) any body of which you are in general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority; or
- b) any body
 - (i) exercising functions of a public nature
 - (ii) anybody directed to charitable purposes or
 - (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a Member or in a position of general control or management.

3. NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS (NRIs)

"Non-Registrable Interests" are those that you are not required to register but need to be disclosed when a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to your financial interest or wellbeing or a financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate that is not a DPI.

A matter "directly relates" to one of your interests where the matter is directly about that interest. For example, the matter being discussed is an application about a particular property in which you or somebody associated with you has a financial interest.

A matter “affects” your interest where the matter is not directly about that interest but would still have clear implications for the interest. For example, the matter concerns a neighbouring property.

Declarations and Participation in Meetings

1. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPIs)

1.1 Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to one of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests which include both the interests of yourself and your partner then:

Action to be taken

- **you must disclose the nature of the interest** at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent, whether or not such interest is registered in the Council’s register of interests of Member and Co-opted Members or for which you have made a pending notification. If it is a sensitive interest you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest
- **you must not participate in any discussion** of that particular business at the meeting, or if you become aware of a disclosable pecuniary interest during the meeting you must not participate further in any discussion of the business, including by speaking as a member of the public
- **you must not participate in any vote** or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting and
- **you must withdraw from the room** at this point to make clear to the public that you are not influencing the meeting in anyway and to protect you from the criminal sanctions that apply should you take part, unless you have been granted a Dispensation.

2. OTHER REGISTERABLE INTERESTS (ORIs)

2.1 Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your Other Registerable Interests i.e. relating to a body you may be involved in:

- **you must disclose** the interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent, whether or not such interest is registered in the Council’s register of interests of Member and Co-opted Members or for which you have made a pending notification. If it is a sensitive interest you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest
- **you must not take part in any discussion or vote** on the matter, but may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting
- **you must withdraw from the room** unless you have been granted a Dispensation.

3. NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS (NRIs)

3.1 Where a matter arises at a meeting, which is not registrable but may become relevant when a particular item arises i.e. interests which relate to you and /or other people you are connected with (e.g. friends, relative or close associates) then:

- **you must** disclose the interest; if it is a sensitive interest you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest
 - **you must not take part in any discussion or vote**, but may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting; and
 - **you must withdraw** from the room unless you have been granted a Dispensation.
-

Dispensation and Sensitive Interests

A “Dispensation” is agreement that you may continue to participate in the decision-making process notwithstanding your interest as detailed at section 12 of the Code of the Conduct and the Appendix.

A “Sensitive Interest” is as an interest which, if disclosed, could lead to the Member, or a person connected with the Member, being subject to violence or intimidation. In any case where this Code of Conduct requires to you to disclose an interest (subject to the agreement of the Monitoring Officer in accordance with paragraph 2.4 of this Appendix regarding registration of interests), you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, if it is a Sensitive Interest in such circumstances you just have to disclose that you have a Sensitive Interest under S32(2) of the Localism Act 2011. You must update the Monitoring Officer when the interest is no longer sensitive, so that the interest can be recorded, made available for inspection and published.

BIAS and PREDETERMINATION

The following are not explicitly covered in the code of conduct but are important legal concepts to ensure that decisions are taken solely in the public interest and not to further any private interests.

The risk in both cases is that the decision maker does not approach the decision with an objective, open mind.

This makes the local authority’s decision challengeable (and may also be a breach of the Code of Conduct by the Councillor).

Please seek advice from the Monitoring Officer or Deputy Monitoring Officers, if you need assistance ahead of the meeting.

BIAS

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias. If you have been involved in an issue in such a manner or to such an extent that the public are likely to perceive you to be biased in your judgement of the public interest:

- a) you should not take part in the decision-making process
- b) you should state that your position in this matter prohibits you from taking part
- c) you should leave the room.

PREDETERMINATION

Where a decision maker has completely made up his/her mind before the decision is taken or that the public are likely to perceive you to be predetermined due to comments or statements you have made:

- a) you should not take part in the decision-making process
- b) you should state that your position in this matter prohibits you from taking part
- c) you should leave the room.

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Registerable Interests

These are interests that you are required to register in accordance with the Code of Conduct. They are interests that you would know about in advance of an item coming up (e.g. land you own) and you should have included them when filling in your register of interests.

What type of Registerable Interest do you have in this matter?

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

These are any interests that are described as DPIs under the Code of Conduct and include both the interests of yourself and of your partner.

Other Registerable Interests

These are personal interests that relate to certain types of bodies that you may be involved in as set out in the Code of Conduct.

Does the matter directly relate to one of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests?

No

Does the matter directly relate to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your Other Registerable Interests?

No

Does the matter affect a financial interest or the wellbeing of yourself or of a friend, relative or close associate?

No

Is the financial interest or wellbeing affected to a greater extent than the financial interests or wellbeing of the majority of inhabitants?

No

Would a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest?

No

You must:

- Disclose the interest;
- Not speak on the matter;
- Not participate in any discussion or vote; and
- Not remain in the room unless you have a Dispensation

You must:

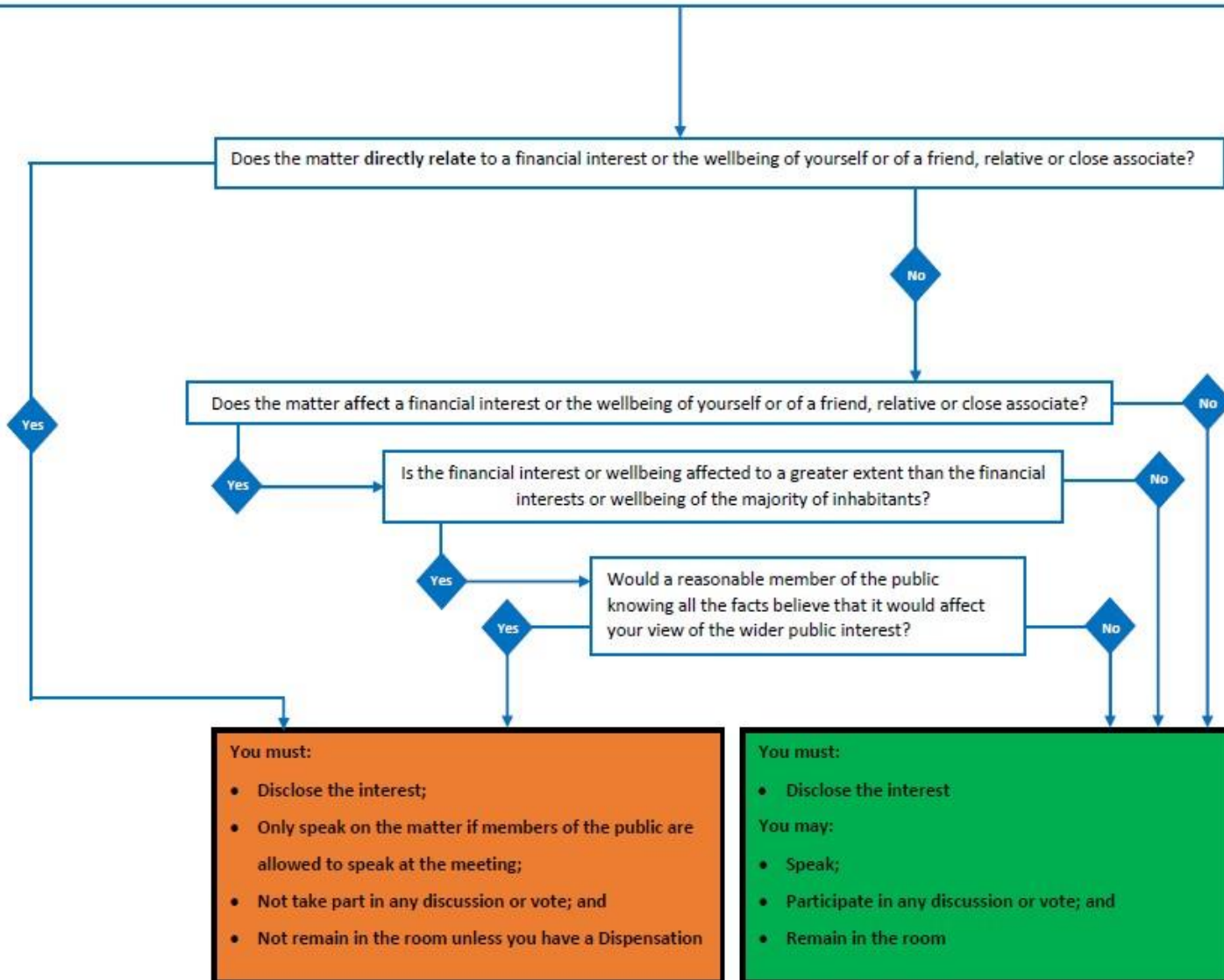
- Disclose the interest;
- Only speak on the matter if members of the public are allowed to speak at the meeting;
- Not take part in any discussion or vote; and
- Not remain in the room unless you have a Dispensation

You must:

- Disclose the interest
- You may:
- Speak;
 - Participate in any discussion or vote; and
 - Remain in the room

Non-Registerable Interests

These are interests that you are not required to register but may become relevant when a particular item arises. These are usually interests that relate to other people you are connected with (e.g. friends, relatives or close associates) but can include your own interests where you would not have been expected to register them.



COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2024

Present: Councillor S Paterson, Mayor

Councillors: P J Bales
L A Ball BEM
R E Bofinger
M Brown
R Bullock
G Bunn
C Carr
A Cooper
T A Cullen
S Dannheimer
H J Faccio
G S Hills
S P Jeremiah
S Kerry
H G Khaled MBE
A Kingdon
H Land
D L MacRae
R D MacRae
T J Marsh
G Marshall
J W McGrath
W Mee
J M Owen
P J Owen
D D Pringle
M Radulovic MBE
H E Skinner
P A Smith
V C Smith
A W G A Stockwell
C M Tideswell
D K Watts
S Webb
E Williamson
E Winfield

40 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Bagshaw, S A Bagshaw, B C Carr, S J Carr, H L Crosby, K A Harlow and K Woodhead.

41 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor R D MacRae declared an other-registerable interest in item 8.5 due to the nature of his daughter's employment, minute number 48.1 refers.

42 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2024 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

43 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor gave a brief résumé of her engagements since the previous Council meeting.

44 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader stated that the Premier League, the Football Association and the Football Foundation recently confirmed an additional £1.4 million grant to support the new Hickings Lane in Stapleford. The grant would help to create two 3G pitches, one small-sized and one full-sized, and was in addition to over £7m already being invested in the new community pavilion from the Government's Towns Fund. The new base is to be the location for the first Steven Gerrard academy outside the North West. This additional investment was the result of painstaking partnership working by the Economic Development Section and was a tremendous achievement.

Since the last Council meeting, Raleigh had established their new presence in Durban House, which was refurbished extremely promptly in response to a very demanding time schedule. It was a great achievement to secure the continuing presence of this iconic brand in Broxtowe, entirely through the initiative and action taken by the Economic Development Section.

The plans to implement the Kimberley levelling up bid had taken another step forward with the submission of a planning application for new industrial units. The Town Centre Grants Programme in Kimberley had also been well received. The Leader stated that he met with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government minister, Alex Norris MP recently to brief him on the levelling up bid for Kimberley and to encourage him to ensure that the full funding committed to levelling up and towns fund schemes would be made available so that all the plans could be fully implemented.

45 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The following question was submitted by Ilana Parrwood, a resident of the Borough, for the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change:

"The science is clear that meat and dairy are major contributors to the climate and ecological emergencies. Other councils, for example Nottingham City, Oxfordshire County, Oxford City, Cambridge City, and Calderdale Borough, are ensuring that all

food served at internal events is plant-based, and I'd like Broxtowe to do the same. Therefore, my question is, given the climate emergency and Broxtowe's stated aim to reduce their emissions and be net zero by 2027, will Broxtowe Borough Council ensure that all food and drink provided at internal events is plant-based, as other councils have done? This is the logical and necessary next step after having declared a climate emergency and signals a clear intent to protect nature and reverse biodiversity decline."

In response, the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change thanked Ms Parwood for her question and stated there were very few buffets ordered at this Council and generally the attitude was to encourage rather than to enforce. The Council had shown its commitment to the reduction in emissions which included the Green Rewards Scheme and the encouragement of serving vegetable based meals.

46 PORTFOLIO HOLDER REPORTS

46.1 PORTFOLIO REPORT FOR RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL POLICY

The Portfolio Holder for Resources and Personnel Policy presented his report. Responses to comments included stating that the number of missed calls that come into the Council were not yet satisfactory, but it should be remembered that performance was good when considering the amount of calls that are handled by the Council that overall performance was good.

46.2 REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR LEISURE AND HEALTH

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health presented her report and in relation to a question about provision in the north of the Borough the Portfolio Holder stated that it was Kimberley School that was responsible for the closure of the swimming pool and not the Borough Council.

46.3 REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change presented her report and responses to questions included stating that the Council was working with students on recycling rates and student ambassadors were passing on their knowledge to younger students. Further responses included that there was not, as yet, a timetable for the refresh of the Blue/Green Infrastructure and work would be undertaken with Nottinghamshire County Council in relation to footpaths.

46.4 REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Asset Management addressed the meeting. Responses to comments included stating that the Bennerley project, being part of a wider scheme, had to be mindful of the surrounding area. Any jobs would have to be met by the Council's vision for the environment.

46.5 REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety presented her report. Responses to questions included that it was important for all Members and residents to report cases of anti-social behaviour, and Members would be informed of future events in relation to the work of the Night Angels.

46.6 REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HOUSING

The Portfolio Holder for Housing presented her report. Responses to questions included that information on tenant engagement was in the newsletters distributed to Members, however, the Portfolio Holder would share information when the next visit to Independent Living areas in Trowell were held.

47 REFERENCES

47.1 GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

47.2 BRAMCOTE BEREAVEMENT SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE AGREEMENT

An Agreement was made between the two constituent Councils in 1977 for the provision, operation, maintenance and management of the Crematorium. This was revised in July 2001 to recognise the change to executive responsibilities for the Joint Committee.

The Joint Committee meeting of 20 January 2005 considered a report on Corporate Governance and resolved that appropriate scrutiny arrangements be implemented by the constituent Councils and that the delegation arrangements and Agreement be reviewed. The Agreement was last amended in September 2006. Due to the passage of time since the last review it is considered necessary to review and amend the Agreement further to accommodate the current legislative requirements and reflect operational practices.

Erewash Borough Council was due to consider the Agreement at a meeting of its Executive prior to a full Council meeting on 31 October 2024.

RESOLVED that the revised Agreement be approved and that the consequential changes to the Constitution be made, subject to the constituent approval at the Erewash Borough Council meeting on 31 October 2024.

Reason

This review has taken place to ensure the Joint Committee continues to operate with a sound governance structure that fairly apportions the risk and reward of operating the Crematorium site. The review has incorporated changes in legislation and reflects current operational practices.

47.3 DEPUTY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Members were informed that the Constitution allows the Leader to appoint Portfolio Holders but was currently silent on the appointment of Deputy Portfolio Holders. The Leader of the Council had stated his intention to allow for the appointment of Deputy Portfolio Holders, which would necessitate an amendment to the Constitution.

RESOLVED that the Constitution be amended to allow the Leader of the Council to appoint Deputy Portfolio Holders as appropriate to undertake functions such as those set out in the report.

Reason

The appointment of Deputy Portfolio Holders will assist with reporting procedures.

48 LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

48.1 MODERNISATION OF CONDITIONS TO BE ATTACHED TO LICENCES ISSUED FOR PREMISES PROVIDED MASSAGE, SPECIAL TREATMENTS, LASER TREATMENTS, TANNING AND SAUNA SERVICES – RESULT OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Members were advised of the response to the public consultation on the draft conditions to be attached to licences issued under Nottinghamshire County Council Act 1985.

RESOLVED that the conditions be approved for adoption. To give licence holders fair notice and opportunity to meet the new standards, the new standards will be introduced on 1 January 2025.

Reason

These conditions derive from the Nottinghamshire County Council Act 1985 (Part IV). This is applicable to all the relevant licensing authorities in Nottinghamshire and is to ensure a high safety standard across the board and to ensure consistency.

48.2 REVIEW OF THE GAMBLING ACT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES 2025-2027

Members were advised of the response to the consultation on the Council's draft revised Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles for 2025-2027.

RESOLVED that the Statement of Principles be approved for adoption for publication on 3 January 2025 and implementation on 31 January 2025 by full Council on 11 December 2024.

Reason

The statement of licensing policy must be reviewed and if necessary revised every three years with the Statement of Licensing Policy then being published.

49 UPDATE ON SCRUTINY MATTERS

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee updated the Council as to the work of the Committee since the last Council meeting.

50 MOTIONS

The following motion was proposed by Councillor P J Owen and seconded by Councillor D D Pringle:

“This Council notes:

The Labour Government’s recent decision to restrict Winter Fuel Payment to only pensioners in receipt of means-tested benefits like Pension Credit as announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

This Council resolves to:

1. Bring forward a Council-led local awareness campaign to alert those eligible for Pension Credit to help them access the Winter Fuel Payment.
2. Request that the Leader of the Council write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer urging a review of the decision to means-test the Winter Fuel Payment and asking the Government to ensure that vulnerable pensioners, particularly those who do not claim pension credit are protected from fuel poverty.
3. Commit the Council to signing the 'Save the Winter Fuel Payment for Struggling Pensioners' being run by Age UK and urge all members to individually sign the petition.
4. Encourage local efforts to promote Pension Credit uptake through council services and partnerships with local charities and community organisations to ensure that all eligible pensioners in the Broxtowe Borough Council area are supported in claiming their entitlement.”

An amendment was proposed by Councillor M Radulovic MBE and seconded by Councillor G Marshall that the suggested wording be amended to replace the words ‘bring forward’ in the first paragraph with the word ‘continue’, and the word ‘urging’ with the words ‘formally requesting’ in the second paragraph. Councillor P J Owen and Councillor D D Pringle who had seconded the motion, accepted the proposal.

The amended motion was as follows:

“This Council notes:

The Labour Government’s recent decision to restrict Winter Fuel Payment to only pensioners in receipt of means-tested benefits like Pension Credit as announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

This Council resolves to:

1. Continue a Council-led local awareness campaign to alert those eligible for Pension Credit to help them access the Winter Fuel Payment.
2. Request that the Leader of the Council write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer formally requesting a review of the decision to means-test the Winter Fuel

Payment and asking the Government to ensure that vulnerable pensioners, particularly those who do not claim pension credit are protected from fuel poverty.

3. Commit the Council to signing the 'Save the Winter Fuel Payment for Struggling Pensioners' being run by Age UK and urge all members to individually sign the petition.
4. Encourage local efforts to promote Pension Credit uptake through council services and partnerships with local charities and community organisations to ensure that all eligible pensioners in the Broxtowe Borough Council area are supported in claiming their entitlement.”

A recorded vote was requested and the voting was as follows:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
P Bales		C M Tideswell
L A Ball BEM		
R E Bofinger		
M Brown		
R Bullock		
G Bunn		
C Carr		
A Cooper		
T A Cullen		
S Dannheimer		
H J Faccio		
G S Hills		
S P Jeremiah		
S Kerry		
H G Khaled MBE		
A Kingdon		
H Land		
D L MacRae		
R D MacRae		
T J Marsh		
G Marshall		
J W McGrath		
W Mee		
J M Owen		
P J Owen		
S Paterson		
D D Pringle		
M Radulovic MBE		
H E Skinner		
P A Smith		
V C Smith		
A W G A Stockwell		
D K Watts		
S Webb		
E Williamson		
E Winfield		

RESOLVED that the motion be carried.

51 YOUTH MAYOR'S REPORT ON BROXTOWE YOUTH VOICE ACTIVITIES

The Youth Mayor, Libby Bales, updated Members and stated that she had attended events such as the D H Lawrence Awards, play days, the Green Festival at Eastwood, Stapleford by the Sea and the Wonderful Women of Broxtowe.

52 MEMBERS' SPEECHES ON WARD ISSUES

Councillor A G W A Stockwell updated the Council on issues in relation to the ward of Greasley.

53 QUESTIONS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no questions in relation to Outside Bodies.

54 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

The following question had been submitted by Councillor A Kingdon for the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change:

“Japanese Knotweed has spread from private premises onto the Sandy Lane/Alexandrina Plantation Nature Reserve. Can the Council please reassure Members and residents in Bramcote/Beeston North by committing to a survey to determine the extent of the affected area so that an action plan for removal of this infestation can be developed.”

The Portfolio Holder responded by stating that the Japanese Knotweed had not strayed into the Nature Reserve but it was the responsibility of all to remain vigilant and act on the Knotweed if it appears.

Councillor Kingdon requested that a further visit be made to the Nature Reserve.

55 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND OUTSIDE BODIES.

There were no updates to Committees, Working Groups and Outside Bodies.

Portfolio for Resources and Personnel Policy Councillor G Marshall

Report to Council – 11 December 2024

Finance Services Update

Audit of the Statement of Accounts

The draft Statement of Accounts for 2023/24 are published on the Council's website at [Annual Accounts : Broxtowe Borough Council](#). The accounts are being scrutinised by the appointed external auditors, Forvis Mazars. Whilst the audit is progressing well, the auditors are not yet in a position to present their Audit Completion Report. This is likely to follow in January, with Broxtowe being in a similar position to the other district councils across the county.

Forvis Mazars has not indicated any significant findings from its audit testing to date and an update was presented to Governance, Audit and Standards Committee on 25 November 2024. The aim remains to achieve a clean and unqualified audit opinion on the accounts.

Business Planning and Budget Setting 2025/26

The production of business plans and the budget setting process for 2025/26 is well underway. Officers are busy preparing new business plans, revenue and capital budgets and reviewing the lists of fees and charges.

The proposed business plans and financial estimates will be scrutinised by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20 and 21 January 2025, in advance of consideration at Cabinet on 4 February 2025 with a final recommendation onto Council to approve the budget on 5 March 2025.

This is inevitably going to be another challenging budget round. The latest Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), presented to Cabinet on 5 November 2024, showed that the Council continues to experience significant budgetary pressures. These include the cost of pay awards and price inflation on energy, fuel, construction and other supplies. The MTFS identified a potential budget gap of £1.8m for 2025/26, although this projection assumed only limited additional financial support being received from central government. The refreshed Business Strategy identified £950k of additional growth and income and potential efficiency savings to meet the projected shortfall.

Following the new Chancellor's Autumn Statement in October, we are awaiting the details in the local government financial settlement nearer to Christmas. Officers will continue to review the situation as part of the budget setting process and update the MTFS accordingly.

Budget Consultation

The Budget Consultation for 2025/26 has recently concluded and, once again, there has been an encouraging level of public engagement with almost 1,300 responses. The survey, which included questions relating to a resident's opinion on Council services, was actively promoted through the usual channels, with responders that chose to be, being entered into a prize draw. The results of the survey are being considered for the latest budget round, with the outcomes due to be presented in a report to Cabinet in early January.

Internal Audit

A slight revision to the Internal Audit Plan was considered at Governance, Audit and Standards Committee on 25 November 2024. Internal Audit work remains focussed on higher-risk areas, including key financial systems, which are integral to the Council's service delivery. The Chief Audit and Control Officer was keen to ensure that key control frameworks within the systems remain robust and operational, particularly in light of well-publicised national issues relating to system integrity and fraud.

Revenues, Benefits, Quality & Control and Customer Services

Revenues

The Revenues Team are responsible for the administration of Council Tax and Business Rates, including the recovery of these.

Council Tax is collected by Broxtowe Borough Council on behalf of the main major precepting authorities, such as Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Nottinghamshire Fire as well as the Parish Councils. In 2023/24, the net charge is £79.9m, with 8% of this being retained by Broxtowe.

Business Rates is a significant income generator for the Council, the Council retains 40% of the amounts collected (with limits imposed by Central Government), with the remaining amounts being split between Central Government, NCC and Nottinghamshire Fire. A business is evaluated on its Rateable Value, as determined by the valuation office agency. This Council now collects over £28m in business rates.

The Council Tax collection rate for 2023/24 was 97.6%, an improvement of over 0.2% on the previous year. The projected collection rates on both Council Tax and Business Rates is in line with the target.

Future changes - During the recent Autumn statement the Chancellor announced changes to the Business Rates discounts and multipliers. From 2025/26 the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure discount will reduce from 75% to 40%. This reduction will mean those businesses in that sector will have more business rates. However, those that have a Rateable Value under 50,000 will have their multiplier (that amount

against which their Rateable Value is calculated against) will be frozen at 49.90, the same rate since 2020.

In 2026/27, the number of multipliers used in calculations will increase from 2 to 6. This will create additional complications but is designed to ensure those big businesses support smaller businesses.

Benefits

The Benefits Team is responsible for the administration of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support. Both of these are designed to support the most vulnerable in our community. With the introduction of Universal Credit (UC) the Council has seen a reduction in the number of Housing Benefit claims processed; however, most of those receiving UC will still be required to apply for assistance through Council Tax Support.

The role out of Universal Credit has increased during 2023/24 and as a result the number of Housing Benefit cases continue to reduce. The Benefits Team was restructured in December 2023 in preparation for this and has managed the migration well, with performance in Benefits continuing to be in the upper quartile.

Current performance figures have the team processing New Applications in an average of under 9 days and change in circumstances in around 4 days. Both indicators are top quartile performance.

Future changes - The Department of Working Pensions (DWP) have written to the Council highlighting that they are starting preliminary work on establishing a plan to merge Housing Benefit in to Pension Credit. This is in its infancy and as it stands there are no proposed timeframes been shared with the Council.

Quality and Control

Quality and Control (Q&C) is a small team that is responsible for the recovery of Sundry Debtors, Housing Benefit Overpayments and the Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP's).

DHP's are to assist those receiving Housing Benefit or the Housing Element of Universal Credit and experiencing hardship. This pot of money is received from Central Government but is reducing year on year. This year's balance is £88k, which is equivalent to the 2023/24 amount but lower than previous years. Nottinghamshire County Council have awarded a further £28k that the Council can add to the DHP fund through their allocation of Household Support Fund (HSF). It has recently been announced that a further phase of HSF will be provided and an additional £28k has been provided to the Council. However, the number of applications for DHP has reduced in 2024/25. Work is being carried out to maximise the number of awards to ensure the maximum spend is achieved.

Future changes -No specific future changes highlighted.

Customer Services

The Customer Services Team is responsible for handling phone calls and face to face interviews for the following 7 services as well as the switchboard. Outside of these, it is the responsibility of the back office team.

- Council Tax
- Housing Benefits & Council Tax Support
- Business Rates
- Housing Rents
- Grounds Maintenance
- Street Cleansing
- Refuse

The Council receives over 100,000 telephone calls / year (on average 380 per day), as well as an average of 200 switchboard calls. In addition to this, they provide a reception service at the Beeston Council Offices as well as seeing customers face to face.

The main Key Performance Indicator for Customer Services is the number of abandoned calls as a percentage of calls received. The latest available figures are October 2024 in which the abandonment rate in Customer Services was 6.3% against a target of less than 10%.

Future changes- In line with Housing Repairs, the Customer Services Team have been evaluating different options in respect of a new Contact Centre telephone system. At the point of writing, there is a preferred supplier and further discussions are ongoing. Further updates will be provided regarding the system but it is anticipated that the new system will go live between January and April 2025.

Payroll and Job Evaluation

Payroll

The Payroll team manages three payrolls at the Council: Broxtowe Borough Council, Liberty Leisure and Broxtowe Elections. Payrolls for Broxtowe Borough Council and Liberty Leisure are processed every month paying over 700 employees. The Broxtowe Elections payroll is processed when required and can be for up to 400 workers.

On 23 October 2024, the pay award for 2024/25 was agreed with an effective date of 1 April 2024. The pay award increased all salary points at the council for grades 2 – 15 by £1,290 per annum. Grades CO1-CO5 received an increase of 2.5% on all salary points. The increase of 2.5% for grades CO1-CO5 represents the equivalent increase received at the top of grade 15 (point 74) for the pay award. In December 2024, all employees will receive their pay increase and relevant back pay for pay received since 1 April 2024. Employees on Universal Credit can opt to have their pay award back pay spread over 4 months. For someone in receipt of Universal

Credit, receiving a large back pay amount in one pay month can significantly impact their benefits for that given month. By allowing the spread of back pay an employee's Universal Credit payment may not be impacted as significantly.

Job Evaluation

The Job Evaluation team manages the GLPC job evaluation scheme for the Council. All jobs between grades 2-15 are evaluated using the GLPC scheme. Currently the Council has 251 job groups which are evaluated using the GLPC scheme. For any post graded CO1-CO5 the HAY scheme is used, via an external company called KornFerry. For more senior roles, the HAY scheme allows for a more detailed evaluation process.

Since January 2022 the Job Evaluation team and panel have undertaken a Council-wide review, evaluating all jobs at the Council. Less than five posts remain in need of evaluation. As of 30 September 2024, the additional salary costs (including on costs) incurred as a result of the review currently stands at £553,000. Since the review began in January 2022 the job evaluation panel have evaluated 473 posts with 213 posts increasing in grade. This represents an increase in pay for 45% of jobs at the Council. The initial phases of the review allowed for the removal of temporary market supplements by increasing the grades of these posts via the job evaluation scheme. This helped fill a number of vacant posts within key departments such as Planning, and Environmental Health.

Complaints and Compliments

Regular Complaints and Compliments reports have started to be submitted to Cabinet quarterly in accordance with the new Complaints Policy, in addition to the reports being submitted to the Governance, Audit and Standards Committee. This enables a wide-range of cross-party Members to consider complaints submitted to the Council in a Committee forum. Areas of potential improvement are included in the recommendations provided by the Complaints and Compliments Officer to the service areas.

The Council has currently received 222 Stage 1 complaints and 41 complaints were investigated under Stage 2 of the complaints procedure. Four were investigated by the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) or Housing Ombudsman (HO).

Under the Stage 2 complaints procedure, nine complaints were not upheld, 10 complaints were upheld. The Ombudsman investigated four complaints made against the Council in quarter 2, of which two were upheld and two were not upheld.

The Council has also received a total of 103 compliments in quarter 2.

ICT Services

There are several improvements being delivered this financial year to enhance the Council's security, availability, business continuity, and user experience. These improvements will provide efficiencies, and leverage benefits of existing investments.

Future Changes

Windows 11, Office 365, and Microsoft OneDrive will soon be deployed to all employees and Councillors who use corporate owned devices. These changes will provide greater flexibility for agile and remote working and increase system availability using the latest Cloud technologies Microsoft have to offer.

A new storage and computing environment designated to run Council systems and store data is being purchased to replace the existing solution. The replacement technology will reduce the Council's carbon footprint through power efficiencies, and provide additional layers of protection from cyber-attacks. It is anticipated that these enhancements will be delivered by the end of quarter 4.

Communications and Civic Services

Budget consultation

The Communications Team worked throughout November to promote the 2025/26 Budget Consultation sharing this across all social media channels, Email Me bulletins, local Facebook community groups and working with stakeholders such as Broxtowe Youth Voice, Citizens Advice Bureau, Sahara Asian Elders Group and Eastwood and District u3a – resulting in over 1,290 responses.

Severe Weather

Communications are being shared with residents regarding how they can be prepared for flooding following previous incidents such as storm Babet and Henk. Signposting residents to flooding alerts and how they can prepare themselves and their homes should a flood event happen.

Communications and Marketing Projects

Recent projects undertaken by the Communications Team include:

- Environment – The launch of our new Recycle It Right Campaign to help reduce contamination rates, by working with our refuse teams to get the right items in the right bins. The campaign launched during Recycling Week, gaining national coverage on East Midlands Today. November also saw the return of the popular free trees giveaway and this year the programme was oversubscribed in less than a week.
- Economic Development – Working to promote local organisations and charities that have benefitted from UKSPF funding including Broxtowe Women's Project, Eastwood AF and RideWise. Kimberley Means Business light installations for Halloween and Christmas, along with case studies on Kimberley businesses that have received booster grants.
- Christmas Light Switch On events – promoting events across the Borough in Beeston, Eastwood, Stapleford and Kimberley. Including the promotion of the sensory Santa sessions which were fully booked.
- Bramcote Crematorium pre-payment – working with the team at Bramcote Crematorium on the new pre-payment cremation deed encouraging residents

across Broxtowe and Erewash to take advantage of this opportunity to help with the cost of dying. Charities report that the cost of dying has significantly increased in recent years. The new prepaid cremation deed allows anyone 60 or over to benefit from fixing the cost of cremation at today's prices.

Civic Office

The Civic Team delivered a successful Remembrance Parade on Sunday 10 November working with the army at Chetwynd Barracks. The parade had a higher attendance this year with around 800 residents, the event saw more youth uniformed organisations join the parade and over 100 joined the church service.

The Mayor raised the White Ribbon Flag on Monday 25 November to mark the start of 16 days of action with this year's theme: 'It starts with men'.

The Mayor has a very busy festive season spending time with our employees at the Beeston Offices, Kimberley Depot, the D.H. Lawrence Museum and Bramcote Crematorium to thank them for their hard work throughout the year. Along with tea and cake with our Freeman and Alderman.

The Mayor will also host her first thank you afternoon tea in Eastwood on 18 December, with those that have contributed to our local communities in Eastwood and surrounding areas.

Preparations are also underway as the Mayor will host a volunteer dinner next year with nominations opening up in January.

The team are also making preparations for Holocaust Memorial Day with the annual event at Bramcote Hills where all Members are invited to attend.

Human Resources

National Pay Award Negotiations

The 2023/24 Local Government Pay Award was agreed on 22 October 2024. The offer was agreed as a £1,290 flat increase across all pay points below Heads of Service and will be implemented (with back pay) in December 2024 pay.

Learning and Development

The Council's rolling Institute of Leadership and Management course has commenced and is about half way through. We have 14 employees across departments who are undertaking certificates in Level 3 and Level 5 in Leadership and Management. From the previous Level 5 cohort, thirteen have already passed, with three still working in the process of completing.

The HR Team continues to deliver its rolling programme of support to Managers, providing face to face training sessions covering Probation, Capability, Attendance Management, Disciplinary, Annual Leave along with additional support relating to managing bereavement in the workplace and how to support employees.

Further Trauma training is being booked for the new year, with an in-depth, bespoke session being arranged for front-line employees within our Communities and Housing Teams to provide knowledge, practical advice and resilience.

The Learning and Development Co-ordinator continues to deliver one on one e-learning sessions with new colleagues in Housing Repairs on a regular basis along with weekly inductions.

Work Experience

Throughout October, the Council welcomed two Work Experience students – one at D.H. Lawrence Museum and one who will be assisting the Events Team with Christmas Lights switch-ons.

Apprenticeships

The Council won another award for its Apprenticeships Programme at the East Midlands Regional Ceremony in October 2024 – the Social Justice Employer of the Year at the National Apprenticeship and Skills Awards 2024. The Social Justice Employer of the Year Award recognises employers who can demonstrate their commitment in creating opportunities and support packages for disadvantaged and underrepresented groups.

The Council's Human Resources and Apprenticeships Officer is Chair of the East Midlands Area Apprenticeship Network, and is continuing to promote the Council's interests and profile both regionally and nationally.

The Council currently has sixteen apprenticeship courses being undertaken, with a further five in the pipeline including two Level 7 Apprenticeships for Heads of Service.

Other News

The Human Resources Team provided flu jabs for employees in the Council Offices and Kimberley Depot. These were free of charge and around 100 employees took advantage of the offer to support them in the Winter months.

The Human Resources Team continues to have a weekly presence at Kimberley Depot, every Wednesday from 5.30 a.m. to support our front-line colleagues.

Portfolio for Housing Councillor V C Smith

Report to Council – 11 December 2024

Independent Living Open Days

To celebrate Older Person's day on the 1 October the Housing section hosted three Open Days at Council owned Independent Living Schemes. Residents who have expressed an interest in Independent Living schemes via the Council's Homechoice systems were invited. Over 60 residents attended and spoke to various teams at three venues: Venn Court, Beeston; The Glebe, Eastwood, and Lombardy Lodge, Toton. A number of tenants kindly agreed to open their homes so that people could see the accommodation available.

Our Activities Co-ordinators set up an activity corner where visitors were able to share the different types of activities and clubs that tenants can get involved in. There are very few landlords that offer this type of service, but we understand how important it is to combat loneliness and provide opportunities for people to make new friends and learn new skills.

Due to the success of the events, the Housing Service are looking to host their first Spring Independent Living Open Days next year. This will give the opportunity to promote some of the fantastic outside spaces and gardens that our schemes have and demonstrate some of the Council's outdoor activities.

Right to Buy Changes

The recent budget included some significant changes for Right to Buy, including the reduction of Right to Buy discounts, increase to the cost floor provision and retention of Right to Buy receipts. This is part of the Government's continuing efforts to reform the Right to Buy and to "deliver a fairer and more sustainable scheme, where longstanding tenants can buy their own homes but where Councils can replace those homes".

This news is very welcome and should provide the Council with more resources and flexibility in its housing delivery programme. The retention of 100% of Right to Buy receipts by the Council will enable all receipts from council house sales to be fully reinvested into the housing delivery programme, including acquisitions. Previously Councils could only use 50%. The Council will now also be able to combine Right to Buy receipts with Section 106 contributions, something which was not previously possible. The cap is also being lifted on the percentage of replacements that can be delivered as acquisitions.

Repairs Improvements

A number of system improvements have been introduced over the last two months to improve our repairs service. A new online form has been launched which makes it easier for tenants to report non-urgent repairs online. The tenant will receive a prompt response within one working day with an appointment which is in line with the

times that tenants have stated they are available. In the back office a new diagnosis software and improved schedule of rates has been introduced. This assists Repairs Customer Services Officers to ensure that Repairs are correctly diagnosed each time through presenting them with visual information and helpful prompts. The improved schedule of rates also ensures that the Council has accurate costing information for all repairs jobs.

Annual Tenant Survey

To find out the views of our tenants and to meet the requirements of the Regulator of Social Housing, the Housing Service are undertaking our annual tenant survey from November 2024 until January 2025. The same external company is being used as last year to undertake the survey on the Council's behalf. Every tenant will be sent a paper copy of the survey, but there is also the opportunity to complete online or via telephone. The Regulator of Social Housing sets the questions that must be asked, which means that we can benchmark the results with the previous year and other housing providers.

Private Sector Housing

Since July 2024

A Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Remedial Notice has been served.

A prosecution of a private landlord has concluded for a breach of a Section 16 (requisition for information) and a Section 235 Notice requiring documents. A band E fine of £581 based on income of £700 per month and reduced by 10% for a very late guilty plea. A Victim Surcharge of £232 was levied and we were awarded full prosecution costs as per Costs Schedule: £1,129.16.

Seventeen Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) were completed between July and October 2024.

The total spend for mandatory and discretionary DFG's for the year to the end of October 2024 is £560,343.64 with an approved grant commitment of £248,278.14.

Recruitment for two vacant posts are underway for a Housing Grants Officer and a Private Sector Housing Officer.

Portfolio for Leisure and Health Councillor T Cullen

Report to Council – 11 December 2024

Mental Health Event

A Mental Health event will be held in January in Broxtowe North with relevant agencies being contacted to support the event in which we hope to advise the community and signpost to mental health support services and provisions across Broxtowe.

Highlights from the Nottinghamshire Food Summit

Over 140 people came together to talk about sustainable Food in Nottinghamshire and network to form connections with each other. The event took place at the Great Hall at the University of Nottingham with people representing a variety of groups, organisations and sectors within the food landscape and represented academia, community food growing, small businesses, farming, food banks and social eating groups, local authorities, elected members and many more.

It was an opportunity to see how far the Nottinghamshire Sustainable Food Network has come, celebrate local networks, the Sustainable Food Places Bronze Award and all the hard work across Nottinghamshire being done to improve the food system.

Posters and displays showing examples of work in each District and some research collaborations were displayed around the room and received much interest from attendees.

Lunch was provided by Pulp Friction whose members helped present their film as well as their delicious food, which was provided from surplus by Fareshare and would have been wasted had it not been redistributed. This was a great demonstration of this good work in practice.

A film made by Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service (CVS) on the importance of partnership working and connecting across food support projects to add value to communities and maximise the impacts of funding was also shown. Links will be shared in the evaluation report which will be distributed in the next month.

Councillor Bethan Eddy, Chair of the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board, and Dawn Jenkin, Consultant in Public Health for Nottinghamshire County Council, introduced the event which had presentations from across the whole food system nationally and showed local examples. It was concluded by Dr Zoe Wilson who summarised the importance of connection and working together to help overcome some of the key issues to help transform the current food system.

The outcomes will drive the Nottinghamshire Food Plan led by the Nottinghamshire Sustainable Food Strategy Group and will align with district food plans where possible.

Dementia

The Dementia Event attracted over 60 people and looked at how to support people and their carers to live well with dementia.

Table workshop discussions generated priorities for improvement.

The main concerns are;

People with dementia who are admitted to hospital

- Many had observed rapid deterioration of their loved ones in hospital
- No care plans for patients with dementia
- Patients with dementia were often not fed when needed. (Sometimes this was because they simply needed help to put in their teeth. Instead, the food was left and later taken away untouched)
- Carers had to visit at mealtimes to ensure that the relatives were fed.
- Beds were not changed promptly, leaving patients in wet sheets.
- There was no support to take patients who could walk to the toilet.
- There was no stimulation and no opportunity for physical exercise to retain mobility. A dramatic contrast between day and night (agency staff) with night staff failing to communicate appropriately with patients with dementia and neglecting their needs.

Carers cannot have medical treatment because of their caring responsibility

- Some dementia carers' health needs could be neglected.
- Some had to postpone or cancel medical appointments for inpatient and outpatient treatment because of their caring role.
- Although they could arrange short-term support from family and friends for short appointments, the physical demands of the caring role – day and night – make it impossible for carers to rest after medical treatments unless someone else does the caring.

Better communication and signposting

- Carers at different stages on the dementia care pathway felt 'overwhelmed' with information at times, while the knowledge they needed in a crisis was not to hand.
- A mismatch between the printed, online and human resources that are available
- Those carers who are not comfortable using IT for phone messaging or online searches are at a disadvantage.
- Carers of working age or with young children have additional time commitments that are stressful.
- Carers needs for counselling support or talking therapy, wellbeing advice and respite care – all targeted to their own situation at the right time.

- Financial advice is crucial and an early consultation with CAB was recommended. Information given was not reliable, or carers had to continually had to repeat their story.
- Fighting to get support when needed, and waiting months for appointments, services and assessments.
- There was a call for individualised and proactive advice to help carers navigate the system.

Carers Roadshows

A Carers Roadshow will be held next year with a date to be confirmed. Planning for the event has already begun.

Tackling Loneliness Collaborative (TLC) Conference Event

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire held its first tackling loneliness conference on 12 November 2024. The conference shared loneliness related research and new information that could support stronger partnership working and working within communities. A TLC Friendly Connector model is being developed as is a new TLC Website. Members will be updated on the details once available.

Family Hubs

Children's Centre buildings will be changing into Family Hubs offering services

for families from pregnancy through to a young person's eighteenth birthday by April 2025. The first hubs have just been launched in Retford, Newark and Sutton in Ashfield. Family Hubs in Broxtowe will be launching in March 2025 in existing Children's Centres. Family Hub Networks will be launched around the same time to support the hubs.

Eastwood Integrated Neighbourhood Group Children and Young People sub group

A group has been formed as part of the local design team from the integrated care network (INW) to help support the aspirations and opportunities for young people in Eastwood. The Communities Team has supported two meetings so far which have involved positive plans (waiting on confirmation with schools) such as:

- Family litter picks/ scavenger hunt in 2025
- A Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) program for secondary students involving hot food as well as an aspirational activity.
- Street Artwork to take place involving Eastwood Town Council and Hall Park students.

Holiday Activities Fund (HAF)

The Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF) supports the wellbeing of children between 5 and 16 years by providing a variety of activities and food during school holidays. The HAF figures for Autumn term 2024 are shown in the table below.

Broxtowe	Total Venues	7
	Total Funded Places	314
Provider	Venue	Funded Places per venue
Nottingham Forest Community Trust	Eastwood Community Football Club	40
Premier Education	Hollywell Primary	48
Premier Education	Round Hill Primary	48
Premier Education	Trowell Parish Hall	48
Rattle and Roll Performance	William Lilley Infants	50
Rattle and Roll Performance	Banks Road Infant & Nursery School	24
Sport4Kids	The Kimberley School	56

For more information please visit [HAF website](#) (opens in new window)

Youth Conference

A proposal for a youth conference is being considered for 2025. If schools are supportive, the Communities Team will be working with Ellen Froustis to engage schools over the next few months.

Schools will help to shape the conference following a series of presentations to parents, schools and community organisations about how best to facilitate collective efforts to support young people's sense of identity and connection with mentors, role models and adults supporting them, it was proposed that a community event could bring together key stakeholders in a youth conference to further these goals.

Ellen Froustis is a Doctoral Research Fellow at the University of Oxford, Rees Centre, Department of Education supporting research to improve education, policy and practice for children in social care. She has 18+ years' experience in education and school counselling, developing interventions and curricula to support teachers, parents and youth in schools on youth leadership development, social-emotional, restorative and trauma-informed practices. Her service learning work, bridging vulnerable youth with peer mentors, community role models and Nobel Peace Laureates for inclusion and positive youth development has been awarded by the Near East South Asia Council of Overseas schools, the Nobel Peace Laureate initiative- Billion Acts of Peace, the Loukoumi-Make a Difference Foundation and best practices in character education by CharacterOrg. Ellen has a Master of Education—Special Emphasis School Counselling and a Master of Clinical Psychology.

Automated External Defibrillators

Following the Cabinet meeting on 1 October 2024, concerning the provision of Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) and bleed control kits across the Borough, the Leader requested the formation of a group to oversee the delivery of this important programme. I am pleased to report that our first working group meeting was held on 13 November 2024, where we developed a work programme and clear milestones. As we move forward, our primary focus will be on rolling out the AED's to sports pavilions, ensuring compliance with the Nottinghamshire coroner's report

following the tragic death of 13 year old Samuel Akwasi. We will then turn our focus to AED provision elsewhere in the Borough and the possible deployment of bleed control kits. We will be bringing an update report to Cabinet in the spring of 2025.

Liberty Leisure Limited

Current Performance

We are currently forecasting to have a deficit of £27k for 2024/25 which is £68k better than the original budget and with some potential for this position to improve further. Expenditure is forecasting at budget with the gains being realised on increased income. This increased level of income is projected to continue into future years which is helping the business cope with the increased National Insurance and National Non Domestic Rates from the latest budget.

New Bramcote Leisure Centre

The planning application is due to be submitted week commencing 18 November 2024 and the design process has continued to be well managed and is progressing well. The financial benefits have been captured in the business plan financial figure which cover up to 2027/28 which is set to be the first full year the centre will be open.

Business Plan Financials

As part of the business planning process draft budget figures have been produced for the next few years. As stated above, achieving high levels of income will help to mitigate increased National Insurance Contributions and NNDR business rates which will cost the business £70k+ per year and a reducing management fee but the expected operating position is in a deficit each year. It is hoped that with careful budget management and developing income lines that these deficits can be minimised further.

Junior Referrals

From 1 December Leisure will be offering exercise referral to 11+ junior members. This is an area partners are very keen for us to expand in to and gives an opportunity to help embed healthy exercise habits from an earlier age in a safe environment.

Cultural Services

D.H. Lawrence Museum

The Museum hosted another sell out event for Gin and Gaslight in October where attendees enjoyed a taste of Victorian decadence to learn and sample give gins, whilst experiencing the magic of the museum at night.

Christmas at the Museum

This year the museum will be offering a Victorian Christmas on Saturday 7, 14 and 21 December 2024. There will be costumed guides on hand to guide visitors through

the museum's historic rooms and there will be Christmas crafts for all ages to make and take away.

Visitors can also browse the unique items in the gift shop, whether that's a Lawrence related item, one of the range of decorations, special jewellery, traditional toys or one of the other novel gifts.

D.H. Lawrence Trail

The museum has been allocated £10,000 for the reinterpretation and refurbishment of the popular D.H. Lawrence Trail in Eastwood. Plans are being finalised that will see a modified route, new information boards being created and a new name. The D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum is developing enriched content online that will enhance the visitor experience.

The refurbishment of the approximately two-mile trail aims to create a heritage and cultural offering which is widely accessible, with a variety of interpretations that can engage people from different backgrounds and interests. The D.H. Lawrence Society has donated towards the project and the Museum plans to use the society's wealth of knowledge to help develop content.

Starting from the Museum, the trail links notable locations in Lawrence's early life which feature in his writings and gives visitors an excellent tour of historic Eastwood. There will be new information boards with QR links to website content that will enhance the visitor's experience.

Christmas Light Switch On Events

The events team have delivered Christmas Light Switch On events in Beeston, Stapleford and Eastwood throughout November. Unfortunately, Storm Bert resulted in a reduced event at the Stapleford Christmas Light Switch On event on Saturday 23 November, due to heavy rain and high wind speed. Santa did still arrive to meet children and families and the lights were switched on with a smaller number of residents. Sensory Santa returned for the second year with slots fully booked ahead of the events. Residents enjoyed Christmas markets, fairground rides, live entertainment from Spark! Drummers, carol singers, a nativity trail, community stalls. The Mayor of Broxtowe attended for the official light switch on as well as the firework finale at all events.

The Events, Arts, Culture and Heritage Working Group (EACH) will be considering the proposed events programme for 2025/26 at its next meeting in January 2025, in preparation to submit to Cabinet for approval.

Environmental Health

Reportable disease notifications have started to rise with 16 being received and investigated since the start of September. This includes another confirmed Legionella case which will require water sampling at a person's home address to attempt to find the source of the infection.

Sampling at tattooist studios is planned for December and January. Environmental swabs will be taken as well as samples of green soap to check how well cleaning and disinfection is being undertaken at the studios visited.

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Portfolio for Environment and Climate Change Councillor H Skinner

Report to Council – 11 December 2024

Environment

The Environment team continue to work hard to deliver on their commitment to Protect the Environment for the future, engaging with residents on sustainability issues as well as working on ways to enhance biodiversity and increase carbon capture using the Borough's natural assets. These are some of the key projects that have or will be taking place.

Waste and Recycling

Recycling Update on the Campaign

I am pleased to inform Members that the recycling campaign launched in October for National Recycling week has proved really popular. The recycling campaign is now in full swing and has benefited from a large amount of exposure, including a spot on BBC's East Midlands today. Social media reactions to the videos have been positive and have attracted a lot of attention on Facebook. I will be able to update Members in the spring as to the affect that this campaign has had on recycling results.

Having a Sustainable Christmas

45% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions relate to the things we buy, how we use them, and how we dispose of them – from food to fashion. By recycling, re-using, cutting food waste or not buying things in the first place, we can all make this year's Christmas a more sustainable one. Making small changes add up to a big difference, so if you are not sure if an item can go in the recycling bin, residents can either check online using Broxtowe's A to Z of waste or check the front of their new bin collection calendar, which has been delivered to all householders in November.

Cleanliness Survey

I am pleased to inform Members that the recent cleanliness survey results have shown a marked improvement compared to the same period last year. The teams this year have achieved an average score of 99.5% (96% for the same period last year) for litter and 95% (87% for the same period last year) for detritus.

This improvement has been due to the implementation of a hot spot list, which allows teams to respond proactively to areas needing attention. If Members notice any areas in the Borough that require attention could they please notify the Environment team.

Leaf Fall/Blocked Drains and Gullies

Autumn and Winter time is always a busy time for the sweeper and street cleansing teams, as they need to deal with significant amounts of leaf fall. As well as keeping carriageways and gullies clear, they also try to keep high footfall areas, such as the four town centres and the main pedestrian routes, free of leaves. This work is weather-dependant. At times, leaves fall steadily, which means that the team can keep up with the work, but at other times, large amounts of leaves fall very quickly across the whole Borough. This then results in an operational challenge for the section. Please can Members report any areas of concern to the Environment Team.

Can I also remind Members to report to the County Council, any blocked or full drains.

(<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/report-a-flooding-or-drainage-problem>)

Parks and Open Spaces

Winter works planned by Grounds Maintenance

The Grounds maintenance teams are currently gearing up for autumn and winter works. Whilst the grass and hedges have slowed their growth, winter works are just beginning. These are important because it helps to prevent any hazards and helps to prepare the parks and open spaces for healthy growth in the spring. These include:

- Pruning and planting shrubs and trees.
- Sweeping paths and car parks.
- Weeding.
- Mending fences, tying back climbing plants, repairing holes and bare patches in grass areas.
- Sports pitch maintenance. The pitches and facilities still need to be maintained through the winter.
- Snow clearance - if there are falls of snow, the Council's teams have to be ready to clear paths and roadways to provide access at the crematorium, cemeteries and at sheltered housing accommodation.

Trees

In November 2024, the Council received confirmation from Forestry England that it had been successful for the fourth consecutive year in obtaining funding for trees under its Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTFC). This funding will be used to plant 57 trees at the following locations:

- Jubilee Park, Eastwood.
- Smithhurst Road Open Space, Giltbrook.
- Banks Road Open Space, Toton.
- Leyton Crescent Recreation Ground, Beeston.

The funding not only pays for the purchase and planting of the trees but also three years of maintenance, allowing the trees to fully establish.

Over the last four years the Council has been successfully granted £152,250 from Forestry England.

This winter, there are also a number of other tree planting schemes taking place across the Borough. This includes a community orchard, replacement of trees that have failed, along with some under planting in existing woodland and hedging.

The sites that will receive this work are the following:

- Brinsley Headstocks, Brinsley
- Colliers Wood, Moorgreen
- Banks Road Open Space, Toton
- Pit Lane Open Space, Trowell
- Manor Farm Recreation Ground, Toton
- Spinney Crescent, Toton
- Bramcote Hills Park, Bramcote
- Hetley Pearson Recreation Ground, Beeston
- Ilkeston Road Recreation Ground, Stapleford
- Archers Field Recreation Ground, Stapleford
- Queen Elizabeth II Park, Stapleford

Blue infrastructure

As part of a £25million Environment Agency funded Natural Flood Management Programme, Nottinghamshire County Council are looking to provide the Boundary Brook catchment area in Trowell with a natural flood management solution. This would include the installation of natural flood management measures to reduce flood risk for Trowell. These measures use processes that protect, restore and mimic the natural functions of catchments and floodplains to slow and store water. (Source: [Natural Flood Management Programme](#))

A positive meeting with Officers from the Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and the Environment Agency looked at the potential to implement measures to retain water on the catchment site for short periods of time during episodes of extreme rainfall. This included using tree planting and the creation of shallow pools and scrapes to slow the flow. The works would have additional biodiversity benefits as it would create new habitats.

Blue/Green infrastructure

The Wilder Crow Hill habitat restoration project at Bramcote Hills Park is now well underway. A successful planting session with young people from nearby Foxwood School saw native spring bulbs and wildflowers planted in October. Local tree growing volunteers, Canopy 2050, will soon be on site to plant the saplings they have grown from locally sourced tree seed. The project aims to restore wildlife habitat and connect the woodland on Crow Hill to the more extensive woodland on the park.

New Gates

As part of the 2024/25 Capital Programme, a range of security improvements, including new gates, has been undertaken to deter unauthorised encampments across the parks and open spaces.

After an increase in the number of unauthorised encampments in recent years a thorough assessment was made of the existing security measures in 2023. Sites were ranked in order of vulnerability and estimates made for potential improvements. Work is now complete on all high risk sites and work on the majority of medium risk sites has also been completed.

Brinsley Headstocks

Works at the Brinsley Headstocks site continue. Ground investigation works took place Tuesday 11 October. The investigative works show that the Headstocks location sits on five metres of made ground, which possibly indicates the position of additional mine shafts. Despite this, conditions look good and the Environment Team are hopeful that a simple raft foundation will be sufficient for the new Headstocks.

Climate Change

Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP)

I am delighted to inform Members that work on the Local Area Energy Plan for Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe is now underway. Consultants Mott MacDonald and IES have been appointed to complete this fundamental piece of work across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

A Local Area Energy Plan sets out to identify the most effective route for a local area to contribute to meeting the national net zero target, as well as meeting local net zero targets. The work will support key actions on retrofit, renewable energy and electric vehicle charging strategies.

Stakeholder engagement will be commencing in January 2025.

Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Project

Nottinghamshire County Council updated consortium members of the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Project also referred to as LEVI in the inaugural Board Meeting held on 24 October. This project is funded by the Department for Transport and focuses on standard (7-12kWh) chargepoint installations in residential areas without access to off street parking. Approximately 1,600 chargepoints are to be installed across approximately 800 sites.

This work supports strands within the Council's recently adopted Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (EVI) Strategy.

Current LEVI project milestones include;

- Going out to tender in December 2024.
- Tender evaluations and moderation in March 2025.

- Signed award of contract to be completed in December 2025.
- Chargepoint installations commencing from 2026 to be completed by 2030.

The initial chargepoint mapping exercise indicates that Broxtowe Borough will potentially benefit from 226 sites covering all four towns. This is an exciting and ambitious project for our residents and their transition to electric vehicles. The Board will meet quarterly and I shall update you all again in Spring 2025.

It is important to note that this project is being delivered separately to the electric vehicle cable channel pilot programme, which is also being delivered by Nottinghamshire County Council.

Seed funding

Three Secondary schools and one Primary school have received £200 each to support their environmental activities.

Alderman White school, in Bramcote have been in touch to say that the money has been used to purchase and install a new water butt and has helped to create a new micro pond. It has also been used to purchase additional plants and fruit bushes for their garden.

Progress on Carbon Management Action Plan

The Climate Change and Green Futures Programme Board met on the 1 October to discuss quarter 2 progress on the 88 actions within the Carbon Management Action Plan. Of the 88 actions, 2% are completed, 82% are in progress and 16% are yet to be started.

The Board will meet again on 14 January 2025. Programme Theme Leads have completed a review of the actions that they are responsible for. New actions for 2025/26 have also been considered and these, along with an update so far will be presented to Cabinet in March 2025.

Green Rewards

I am pleased to inform you that as of 19 November 2024 there are 3,155 Broxtowe Borough residents signed up to the Green Rewards platform. This takes us over the 3,000 milestone. Our residents have avoided emitting over 400 tonnes of carbon since the platform was launched in October 2021 (That's enough gas to fill 400 hot air balloons).

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**Portfolio for Community Safety
Councillor H Faccio**

Report to Council – 11 December 2024

Operation Potassium

On 4 October 2024 the Councils' Communities Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Team and Beeston Neighbourhood Policing Team won a Police Problem Solving Award for Effective Collaboration during Operation Potassium, the Police operation in response to a rise in ASB in Beeston. The operation saw the Neighbourhood Policing Team and the ASB Team working very closely, being innovative in identifying how the problem could be resolved, coordinating work across agencies and successfully applying for funding and implementing diversionary activity. The teams were presented with a glass trophy for the Police Station and a framed certificate each by the Chief Constable Kate Maynell.

The Communities Team successfully applied for funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Transform Training to deliver the youth diversionary element of Operation Potassium in the north of the Borough between July 2024 and March 2025 targeting a group of identified young people who are involved in Crime, Violence and Child Criminal Exploitation.

Safer Streets 5

All the elements of Safer Streets 5 have now been implemented with the final two projects to install help points in Beeston Square and Broadgate and purchase carpark ticket advertising for Safer Streets completed in early November.

Refugees

There have been 97 Ukraine safeguarding visits since the start of this year with most of these being rematch cases. This is a contrast from the previous year which has resulted in many more guests with positive experiences with their hosts and vice versa and a lot more guests who have moved on to independent living, even hosting their own guests and family members.

Community Cohesion Event

On 8 November the Council hosted a community cohesion event as part of the Hate Crime Action Plan 2023-2026 which was attended by 50+ guests. The event was in response to the riots earlier this year and brought together the community to celebrate diversity in Broxtowe and our refugees (Syrian, Afghan, Hong Kong, Ukraine).

Young Persons' Event

The Communities Team is working in partnership with the Police and Montrose Court Community Centre Stapleford to host a young persons' event in January, with the precise date to be confirmed. The event will share community safety messages with

young people in Broxtowe and signpost them to relevant agencies, while involving them directly in creative activities.

Kindness Tree Project

The Kindness Tree project is being delivered in partnership with Broxtowe Women's Project. The project will see a kindness tree created from messages from the community. This project was also delivered in the Community Cohesion Event as a kindness and cultural tree and attendees were encouraged to leave a message in their own language. More of these trees are expected to be created at future events and workshops in schools building up to International Women's Day which is in the first week of March 2025.

ASB and Crime

The ASB team continues to work in close partnership with local Police across both the north and south of the Borough to reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour and crime. Together, they identify hotspot areas and specific issues within communities, tackling them collectively.

Crime Prevention Advice and Resources

Crime prevention advice and resources have been distributed at events attended by either the ASB team, the Police, and partners such as the University of Nottingham's Student Outreach Team and Ambassadors, helping to enhance community outreach whilst ensuring that resources are targeted towards our hotspot areas or crime types.

As the darker nights bring us closer to Christmas and New Year's Eve, safety tips and guidance on staying safe while out and about, including advice for Christmas shopping will be available through the Council's website.

ASB Initiatives and Events

ASB Awareness Week started on 18 November 2024 with Partnership Day. The ASB team, along with the Local Neighbourhood Policing Team and students from a nearby school, led a litter pick in central Beeston and nearby parks. This initiative aims to encourage the community to stand against ASB and raise awareness of actions residents can take to address and report issues.

The ASB team holds regular ASB meetings with partner agencies to review hotspots and implement actions to mitigate ASB in the Borough. This collaborative work often includes targeted, on-the-ground efforts with local organisations where applicable.

Educational Sessions

In the new year educational sessions focused on online safety and understanding sexual offences are being planned. These sessions are aimed at students in years 5 and 6, who are already often active online or very soon will be. Educating this age group on safe internet practices is essential to proactively protecting their well-being and promoting safe online interactions.

White Ribbon Work with Schools

Members of the Communities' team alongside Broxtowe Women's Project and White Ribbon Ambassador Jeff Buck have visited Lawrence View School and Priory Catholic School in the lead up to White Ribbon day on 25 November. Messages of kindness were shared with schools and they were encouraged to integrate the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) agenda and Respectful Relationships programmes into the curriculum. Successful workshops took place with high parent participation in painting kindness rocks as well as workshops helping to foster safer environments and healthier relationships among young people, assemblies and the reading of a poem on kindness by a Communities' Officer.

Substance Misuse Action Plan Development

The Communities Team are starting to develop a broader Substance Misuse Action Plan than the current version following the prioritising of Substance Misuse in the Corporate Plan. The plan will involve the work of partners services such as Change Grow Live (CGL) and Hetty's, a Charity who support families affected by drug and alcohol misuse.

Domestic Abuse

Broxtowe's White Ribbon flag raising happened on 25 November with attendance from the Mayor, Broxtowe's Senior Leadership, Broxtowe Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue as well as many other partners across the Borough.

A successful event for the Odd Socks Anti-Bullying Campaign and White Ribbon campaign took place on 12 November advertising Broxtowe's support for the campaign.

The Communities Team and the White Ribbon Steering Group have promoted White Ribbon at local community events through information stands to ensure awareness of the campaign is raised as much as possible.

A training session for Broxtowe front line staff on coercive control, is to be held in February, organised through Equation.

Sanctuary

There have been 40 applications for Sanctuary made so far in 2024, which is a significant increase on 2023. Nine applications were rejected as they did not meet the criteria.

Since the Council took over the running of Sanctuary property assessments the scheme has been running well however a joint Communities and Housing Repairs database would improve the management of cases, so this will be designed in 2025.

The Sanctuary scheme was audited recently with no major problems arising and we will implement all recommendations that come from the audit team once the report is released to ensure a good level of service is maintained.

Violence

A total of 79 cases from Broxtowe have been heard at multi-agency risk and control meetings (MARAC) including actions to reduce risk taken since 1 June 2024.

Serious Violence Duty

The Serious Violence Duty is being delivered and Broxtowe is currently meeting all targets required and is on track with the commitments.

The Communities Team is currently working towards implementing recommendations from the Violence Reduction Partnership around a recent report conducted looking at first time entrants into the youth criminal justice system.

Licensing

Since July 2024 the following have been issued:

Personal licences – 9

Temporary Event Notices – 44

Designated Premise Supervisor Variations – 9

Premise Licence Transfers – 5

New Premise Licences – 2

Minor Variation of Premise Licence – 2

New taxi driver licence – 1

New Hackney Carriage vehicles – 4

Partnership working – Nights of action for the festive season have been planned where Licensing Officers will be carrying joint compliance checks with members of the Police Licensing Team and Environmental Health ensuring that members of the public have a safe night out.

Work with the Business Transformation Officer is underway to increase the number of different licence types that can be paid online using the e-store, therefore improving the customer experience and providing first time resolutions.

Licensing and Appeals Committee

A driver attended a hearing at the Licensing and Appeals Committee on 10 September 2024. Members unanimously agreed the he was not a fit and proper person to hold a taxi licence and agreed to revoke his licence. The court had disqualified the driver from driving for 12 months following an accident where a member of the public was seriously injured by driving a vehicle without due care and attention (DVLA code CD33).

An applicant for a taxi driver's licence attended the Licensing and Appeals Committee on 12 November 2024. Members agreed that the applicant was not a fit

and proper person to hold a taxi licence and refused the licence application. The applicant had previously been a member of an organisation, which is classed as a UK Government proscribed terrorist organisation/group. Members were not satisfied regarding the applicant's background and also his lack of comprehension of English and his ability to communicate without the need of an interpreter.

Environmental Protection

During September and October 2024, 173 requests for service were received resulting in the service of:

Community Protection Warnings – 1

Community Protection Notices – 1

Abatement Notice – 2

Fixed Penalty Notices Issued – 1

The smoke control order revocation has been submitted to the Secretary of State for approval. This was expected to have been returned by 31 October but has been delayed by DEFRA. A new smoke control order will be sealed and brought into effect once complete – estimated June/July 2025. An education campaign will be undertaken in Spring 2025.

A Noise Abatement Notice was served on a pub for loud music and patron noise. An appeal has been received and will be heard shortly.

An Abatement Notice was served relating to another pub for noise nuisance. This is likely to have been resolved with the DPS now moving to another premises.

Ongoing investigations are underway for breach of Noise Abatement Notice for another licensed premises.

In September a hearing for breach of an Abatement Notice relating to disposal of waste in a manner likely to cause harm to human health and/or environment resulted in not guilty pleas being entered for five offences and the case has been listed for trial in March 2025. Three officers are involved in this case.

A not guilty plea was also entered in the case relating to a Breach of a Criminal Behaviour Order, and the case is listed for trial in February 2025. ASB and animal welfare offences continue to be reported from residents in relation to this case and two Officers will be required at the trial.

Food, Occupational Safety and Health Protection

Food Safety

The turnover of businesses and number of new food businesses continues at pace and is still having an impact on the team. There have been 92 new food business registration forms received since 1 April 2024. Officers are finding that many of

these new businesses require assistance prior to opening due to lack of food safety knowledge, adding to their workload.

A new privately operated market that trades on the third Saturday of every month in Beeston town centre was visited in September and October to ensure all food traders were compliant. As a result of these visits separate traders:

- was prevented from selling alcohol due to not having the correct licence.
- was referred to a neighbouring Environmental Health Team due to poor food labelling.
- was referred to another Environmental Health Team due to poor food hygiene and temperature control on site.

Regular monthly food and environmental sampling continues with Officers following national sampling plans. Whole raw shell eggs (non-Lion Branded) and pre-packed cheeses are the current projects.

Health and Safety/Special Projects

There have been seven reportable accidents at businesses where the Council is the enforcing authority for health and safety since 1 September 2024 and these are being investigated by Officers.

Joint working with the new Head of Health and Safety, Compliance and Emergency Planning has been undertaken to start re-introducing Safety Advisory Groups (SAGs) for events held in the Borough. In the last six weeks Broxtowe Borough Council's light switch on events and remembrance parades have been reviewed, as well as events being held in and around Kimberley and Brinsley. SAGs will become a regular fixture in 2025 to provide assistance and guidance to event organisers, with the intention of ensuring safe and successful events across the Borough.

Animal and Special Treatments Licensing

Allegations of unlicensed dog breeders continue to be received and investigated. Investigation into the breeding and selling of puppies is complex and requiring formal information requests to local veterinarians, national online animal selling platforms and microchip companies to try and establish the extent of activities taking place.

Animal licence renewals for pet shops, home dog boarders and commercial kennels, which expire at the end of the year are in progress.

Officers are continuing to monitor and ensure compliance at the Borough's only licensed Dangerous Wild Animals site.

Two further Officers have now completed and passed their Level 3 Certificate in Inspecting Licensable Activities Involving Animals after months of hard work. Two officers who joined the team last year are working to finish their qualification.

A lot of new tattooing, piercing and acupuncture registrations have been received and processed over the last three months generating significant amounts of work. In

addition, the team have been dealing with a number of complex queries and renewals for the licensing of lasers used for hair and tattoo removal.

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**Portfolio for Economic Development and Asset Management
Councillor M Radulovic MBE****Report to Council – 11 December 2024****Planning Policy****Strategic Plan**

Consultation on the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan is currently being undertaken. The Plan has been produced in partnership with Gedling, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe Councils to ensure there is a strategic approach to meeting Greater Nottingham's development needs and delivering vital infrastructure to support growth. In Broxtowe, the Plan includes a large logistics allocation at the former Bennerley Coal Disposal Point and significant growth at Toton/ Chetwynd. The Plan will be submitted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate in late Spring 2025.

We have recently consulted on the Reduction of Carbon in New Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which has been produced in conjunction with Nottingham City Council. The SPD sets out how new developments can meet low carbon requirements through energy and carbon reduction and sustainable construction and is a key action identified within the Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy. The comments received are now being considered and the document will then be updated accordingly prior to the Council considering whether the SPD should be adopted.

Neighbourhood Plans

Four Neighbourhood Plans have now been adopted by Broxtowe Borough Council as the Chetwynd: The Toton and Chilwell Neighbourhood Plan was adopted by the Borough Council in May 2024 and the Cossall Neighbourhood Plan was adopted in March 2024. Both the Awsworth Neighbourhood Plan and the Nuthall Neighbourhood Plan were adopted in earlier years. The Borough Council is continuing to support Town and Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Forums in relation to their Neighbourhood Plans and is also working with a number of them in relation to other planning matters. It is anticipated that the next Neighbourhood Plans to come forward will be the Bramcote and Stapleford Neighbourhood Plans.

Economic Development

The Town Centre Initiatives and Contracts Manager, has now been appointed. The postholder has increased the capacity of the team to improve interaction with local businesses in the four Town Centres, and a series of business forums have taken place which has increased our engagement with local businesses in Town Centres.

The appointment of this role, has also meant that over time the team can do some more business as usual economic development work, which has not happened recently, due to the need to maintain momentum with the funding targets.

Stapleford Town Deal

Key Project Updates

Programme update

Monitoring and reporting for H1 2024/2025 was submitted to the Government on the 20 November 2024

The Wheels and Skate park project is now funded by the Active Travel scheme within the Towns Fund funding envelope.

Library Learning Facility

The project was completed in July 2024 and outputs continue to exceed targets.

Community Pavillion Main Build

- GEDA started on site in August 2024, and are expected to handover the project in October 2025.
- The memorial bench relocation was completed
- The last trees were removed from the site to enable the carpark and substation works.
- Demolition of the old pavilion has been completed
- Foundations are in place with steel superstructure underway.

Football

- The Football Foundation (FF) Funding including MUGA has been approved at £1.415m, with an additional £66k from the Premier League Stadium Fund. Both the 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) and Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) will be delivered by McArdles. Co-ordination work is in hand with GEDA and McArdles.
- McArdles are working to discharge planning conditions
- Quotes for Cricket pitch contractors have been assessed and a direct award (value £270k) granted to Talbot Landscapes.
- Significant issues around requirements and therefore costs of the temporary facilities Bowls and temporary relocation of Football club are being worked through.

Youth Centre and Community Centres

- A grant has been offered to the Youth Centre but no request for payment made as yet.
- Existing Community Groups have stated an intention to remain in their current buildings.

The Pencil Works

- RIBA 4 design is nearing completion.
- A planning application was submitted on the 1 October 2024 with a decision expected from 4 December 2024 Planning Committee.
- Procurement: Stage 1 tender has been completed, with Stage 2 closing date 18 November 2024. A preferred contractor will be identified by 25 November for appointment by 20 December
- Expected on site by end April 2025.

Derby Road Car Park (131-133, Derby Road)

- GEDA appointed with Focus as the project managers .
- The contractor started on site on the 28 October. Carpark progressing well and is expected to open February 2025.
- A 44 space car park is replacing 51 spaces on Victoria Road.

Town Centre COVID-19 Recovery Grants and UKSPF

- The project is 98% complete with the remaining £53k being used to support the Grants being managed by UKSPF.

Street Improvement Scheme

- VIA have now produced a detailed feasibility study of the Walter Parker VC Memorial and Officers are waiting for a full cost breakdown for review.
- Focus is completing a street audit to declutter the Towns Centre. A report with costs and recommendations is expected by the end of November.

Active Travel Network and Associated Infrastructure

- The Skate park procurement is underway, (open tender 21 days), to appoint a design and build contractor. An application was submitted to FCC Communities Fund on the 20 November, and Officers are awaiting a response.
- Works on designs for Pastures Road improvements, including new Albany School crossing and pavement works, have been commissioned. This is being conducted through a service level agreement with the County Council
- Designs for Pasture Road Recreation Ground to Mill Road cycle route have been requested. Pit Lane is a contingency route.
- A consultant has been approached who works on promoting cycling to promote/increase cycling within Stapleford. The Cycle Hub has been very successful – completing 1159 bike repairs.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

The UKSPF ends on 31 March 2025 so all projects must be completed by this time with a final report required due by 1 May 2025. There are 16 Broxtowe led projects still to be completed, most of which are in the final stages of delivery or are profiled to last throughout 2024/25. All projects have been graded and resources deployed to get as much completed as soon as possible. There is some funding likely to be devolved to Broxtowe via the EMCCA for next financial year but it will be reduced and there is no indication of when the funding will be announced and exactly what will be eligible.

Communities and Place

One of the projects which has recently been completed was the re-location of the statue in Beeston Square and decluttering which has improved the square for events and markets. Other projects which are doing exceptionally well are the Cost of living project, Communities and Place Green Doctor and Food Bank Co-ordination projects are well above target. 13 of the 15 grant funded projects delivered by Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations are also nearly complete.

People and Skills

The highlight of the work so far is the work on developing Start in South Notts Portal which launched earlier in the quarter. All projects are on course although a refresh of Skills Quest has been deferred till next year due to a key member of the team on long term illness. Work has been carrying on at pace on a proposal for a community hub in Eastwood which will allow local access to Job Centre Services currently only available outside the Borough.

Business Support

The highlight in this quarter is the release of all the UKSPF funding in the final round of grants to local businesses. Just under 50 businesses in total were awarded grants and all offer letters that have cleared due diligence should be completed by 25 November 2025. Retail Forums in Beeston, Kimberley, Stapleford and Eastwood were held and a proposal for Town Centre Business Support is nearly complete.

Last month the Team published a highlights and impact report which can soon be found on the Council's Web Site. Copies will be available for the meeting.

The Kimberley Means Business project (formerly Levelling Up Fund)**Bennerley**

There was a return of the soil settlement issues resulting in a crack appearing close to the top of the ramp. Parties appear confident this is simply settlement but may now need to wait until Spring for final remedial works. A temporary solution is being worked on to restore pedestrian access by the end of the month.

Contractors are on site and have started work on the Visitor Centre.

Industrial Units

Heads of Terms have been agreed and signed for the Harworth site north of Bennerley, with design now taking place. Discussions for another site are ongoing.

Active Travel

The project is now reduced to a section between Kimberley School and Bulwell and some other links in Kimberley. Designs are almost completed, including a concept piece for the Town Centre. Members should be aware that an LTN 1/20 compliant route would have had radical implications for traffic flow and parking in Kimberley Town Centre.

Parish Hub

There are some issues with tendering which we are working hard with Kimberley Town Council to resolve and hope to do so shortly.

Illuminations

The project is largely completed, Halloween, Christmas and Remembrance events have already been held.

Sports

Work is proceeding on the Stag Pavilion with a Project Manager appointed and designs nearly agreed. Funding was found for the Cricket Club with new nets, drainage, and car park provided. A seven to nine side pitch has now been agreed to be improved at Swingate.

Business Grants

This work has now largely been completed with only a few minor issues left to resolve on a few cases.

Streetscene

Improvements have been completed to Toll Bar Square and other locations in town. Feedback was largely positive, including from Kimberley Town Centre.

Asset Management

2024/25 Delivery Performance

A one-year planned maintenance programme has been produced for this financial year which aligns with the extended contract period with current suppliers.

The core work streams are shown in the table below. All works identified as requiring replacement are undergoing sense checks and validation through physical inspection by our Modernisation Officers so the work in progress can be managed, with attritions and additions to the programme.

This work will be further supported by the recently commissioned stock condition survey of our properties which will continue to inform the ongoing programme of planned maintenance over future years.

The Council has also recently recruited to the vacant Disabled Adaptation Officer role and they have been working through the backlog of aids and adaptations with the majority of the backlog of major adaptation requests now dealt with.

Work Stream	Forecast	Ordered	Completed (Oct 24)
16910/9002 Heating Replacement and Energy Efficiency Works (Planned)	225	64	129
16910/9002 Heating Replacement and Energy Efficiency Works (Beyond economical repair and unplanned)	200	20	109

Work Stream	Forecast	Ordered	Completed (Oct 24)
16919/9002 Housing Modernisation Programme (Kitchens)	90	23	66
16919/9002 Housing Modernisation Programme (Bathrooms)	50	16	32
16919/9002 Housing Modernisation Programme (Roofs)	40	9	25
16946/9002 Window and Door Replacement (Doors)	150	44	74
16946/9002 Window and Door Replacement (Windows)	450	80	297

Major Projects Executive Summary Chilwell Quarry

Derbyshire Geo-Technical were appointed to carry out remedial works which commenced in July 2024. The stabilisation of the collapsed cliff is now largely complete within the programmed timeframe. Positive feedback has been received from the residents including on how the contractors have communicated the works to residents. Fairhurst, the Council's employer's agent, are currently undertaking an assessment of the wider quarry which the Council is due to receive by the end of November 2024. Fairhurst have provided a management plan which has identified risk areas of the trees in the wider quarry. Engagement has now started with contractors to obtain quotations for the identified works. The Council is currently within the approved budget for works and this will continue to be monitored. There is still capacity within the existing agreed budget to implement recommendations from the management plan. Once the recommendations from the management plan and associated costs are understood, Cabinet will be updated further on the budget position.

Beeston Council Offices Update

Whilst most of the works are complete, there has been delay to the installation of the new reception desk. The original supplier went into liquidation. An order has been placed through a new supplier and the new reception desk is scheduled for installation in January 2025.

Procurement on Capital Works Contracts

After carrying out a market testing exercise to identify a procurement approach, the Council has decided to progress with Procure Plus, who are a framework provider to help to carry out a procurement exercise on all Capital Works activities to ensure there is demonstration of Value for Money.

The invitation to tender is now live and will close in October with a target to enter into new contracts by the end of the year.

Energy Performing Certificates(EPC) Programme

3,791 EPCs have been completed to date. Following the significant improvement of our EPC data, the Council can now report an improved average EPC score of 69/C. The Council now has two suppliers delivering EPCs. Alongside obtaining EPCs on the housing stock without an EPC, over 400 properties have been identified where a new EPC is required following improvement works. This will further improve the average EPC rating. A breakdown of the current EPCs by band is shown below.

EPC Band	Completed
A	2
B	66
C	2214
D	1357
E	139
F	9
G	2
Total	3791

Stock Control Programme

The Council has instructed Michael Dyson Associates to undertake the stock condition survey and the first 1,000 properties will be completed by October 2024. The stock condition template has been agreed and surveys will be uploaded to systems upon internal validation.

Bramcote Leisure

Works that have taken place since Cabinet approval.

- ✓ RAAC exposure works and surveys
- ✓ Roof works to clear debris to allow for inspection
- ✓ Concrete repair works for the training pool
- ✓ Additional design works to support the defective RAAC
- ✓ Multiple asbestos surveys and instruction of a management plan.
- ✓ The Basement concrete column is to be monitored at six monthly intervals rather than repaired following further advice from the Engineer.

Next Steps:

- Understand the cost and risk for future operation delivery of services at the centre (RAAC/Asbestos)
- Quotes have been obtained for the asbestos encapsulation and/or removal of asbestos in key areas of the plant room.
- Quotations have been sourced for roof and window repairs. The window repairs have been instructed and will commence in January, whilst options for the roofing repairs are being considered

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Interim Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

1. Purpose of Report

To ask the Committee to recommend to Council the proposed changes to polling places as set out in the appendices to the report.

2. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND to Council that the proposed changes to the designation of polling places set out in Appendix 2 be approved.

3. Detail

At the Governance, Audit and Standards Committee on 23 September 2024 a report was noted regarding the proposed arrangements for a review of polling districts and polling places. The purpose of this review was specifically to consider changes to two polling places but comments from any interested party were also welcomed on all other existing polling districts and polling places. Following a public consultation during October 2024, just one representation was received, this is shown in **Appendix 1**, along with (Acting) Returning Officer comments. No representations were received regarding the current polling district boundaries.

Appendix 2 details the proposed amendments to polling places. The changes are recommended following preliminary consultation work, feedback from polling staff and current polling places being no longer available. The new polling places will need to be designated by Council so that they are effective for the elections in May 2025 onwards.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no additional financial implications to consider at this stage with activity being contained within existing budgets. Any significant budget implications going forward, over and above virement limits, would require approval by Cabinet.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

The Representation of the People Act 1983 places a legal duty on the Council to carry out a review of polling districts and polling places within each parliamentary

constituency in its area. The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews.

Chapter 3 Part 1 of the Scheme of Delegation in the constitution allows the Chief Executive to make necessary changes to polling stations at short notice before an election with any permanent changes being approved at Full Council.

6. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

7. Union Comments

Not applicable.

8. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

11. Background Papers

Nil.

Appendix 1

Representations Received During Public Consultation

Reference	Connection to polling district	Polling District(s) commented on	Representation	(Acting) Returning Officer Comments
PDR/001	Ward Councillor	KIM2/3/4 KIM5	<p>KIM2/3/4 - Kimberley Parish Hall is to be demolished and rebuilt over the next year. It will not be available in May 2025.</p> <p>KIM5 - Hollywell School is no longer available, older people must make their way down to Kettlebrook Lodge. Not aware of an alternative location.</p>	<p>Kimberley Parish Hall was not available for the elections in May 2024 so Rumbletums Café was successfully used on that occasion. This location could be used again for the election in May 2025.</p> <p>Hollywell School was used as a polling place until 2019. Following building works in the school they felt they could no longer accommodate a polling station. No complaints have been received by the Council directly regarding the new station at Kettlebrook Lodge. It will be kept under consideration and should an appropriate location be found it will be reconsidered at a future review.</p>

Appendix 2

Recommended Changes to Polling Places

Ward/Polling District/Current Polling Station Electorate	Current Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Comments
Beeston West BEW2 / BEW3 Polling Station Electorate: 927 / 638	Our Lady of the Assumption Church Hall, Foster Ave, Beeston	The Pearson Centre, Nuart Road, Beeston	Our Lady of the Assumption Church Hall was no longer available as a polling station so a replacement polling place was required for elections in 2024. The Pearson Centre was identified as a suitable alternative. It has good level access and facilities and is close to the previous polling place. It has been used twice with no issues reported and positive feedback from polling staff.
Toton and Chilwell Meadows TCM1 Polling Station Electorate: 1,454	Coronation Hall, Portland Road, Toton	Lombardy Lodge, Portland Road, Toton	Lombardy Lodge was used as a polling place for many years. It moved to Coronation Hall in 2021 when COVID-19 requirements meant that it was preferable to have more space. In May 2024 polling staff raised concerns regarding lighting and access at Coronation Hall so Lombardy Lodge was used for elections in July 2024. The feedback from staff and voters confirmed that this was a better venue and being a Council property it is free of charge.
Kimberley KIM2 / KIM3 / KIM4 Polling Station Electorate: 1,071	Kimberley Parish Hall, Newdigate Street, Kimberley	Rumbletums Café, Newdigate Street, Kimberley (on a temporary basis)	Kimberley Parish Hall is not available in 2025 due to it being redeveloped. Rumbletums Café was used successfully as a polling station in May 2023 and feedback from the polling staff on this occasion was positive. The Café is very close to Kimberley Parish Hall and has good access.

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Community Governance Review

1. Purpose of Report

To ask the Committee to consider the report prior to forwarding a recommendation to full Council to conclude the Community Governance Review 2023.

2. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND to Council that the following be approved:

- 1. Not to proceed with the recommendation (Option1) as per the Council meeting held on 23 May 2024, following evidence gathered during the statutory consultation.**
- 2. There to be no change to the existing Community Governance Arrangements within the North of the Borough and the Community Governance Review 2023 be concluded.**
- 3. To address outstanding boundary changes, with a new Community Governance Review, to commence after May 2025, following initial consultation with relevant stakeholders and with the timetable to be agreed.**

3. Detail

On 23 May 2024, full Council considered a recommendation on the Community Governance Review (CGR) submitted by the Governance, Audit and Standards Committee following consideration of information supplied by a Member Task and Finished Group (TFG) which had been formed to consider options for the CGR.

To assist Members in determining how to proceed with this CGR of the North of the Borough, Members will find attached the following: **Appendix 1** update position on the CGR and TFG recommendation, **Appendix 2** the analysis of the consultation responses and a link to the full responses, **Appendix 3** Key Considerations.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no additional financial implications to consider with there being no changes in the governance arrangements. All activity up until now has been contained within existing budgets.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

The Council has responsibility for undertaking community governance reviews and are able to decide whether to give effect to recommendations made in those reviews within their areas. Chapter 3 of Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 is the overarching legislation that devolves the power to take decisions about matters such as the creation of Parishes and their electoral arrangements to local government and local communities. In making decisions the Council are required to take account of the views of local people. The 2007 Act provisions are intended to improve the development and coordination of support for residents and community groups so that they can make the best use of empowerment opportunities. Failure to follow the legal process set out in the 2007 Act could put the Council at risk of a legal challenge and a cost award being made against the Council.

Further legal requirements are set out in the appendices to the report.

6. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

7. Union Comments

Not applicable.

8. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

11. Background Papers

Links to the background papers are provided in the appendices.

Appendix 1**Background and Recommendation from Task and Finish Group****Background**

A CGR was conducted in 2021 for the whole of the Borough, however, there were elements of that review relating to the North of the Borough that could not be solved at that time due to tight time constraints of completing the Community Governance Review (CGR) and the need to fully consider the complex community relationships of these Parishes which bordered each other. The relevant Parishes were Brinsley, Eastwood, Greasley, Kimberley and Nuthall. The Council, therefore, agreed that no changes should be made to the boundaries of these Parishes to the North of the Borough at that time, but instead agreed a further CGR, limited to those areas be carried, so that further consultation could take place.

On 27 November 2023 the Governance, Audit and Standards Committee ('GAS') approved the Terms of Reference (ToR) for a CGR of the North of Borough, consultation proposals and approved the appointment of a Task and Finish Group (TFG) whose remit was to consider the responses received during the two consultation stages and to make recommendations in light of the responses.

The Terms of Reference were published on 1 December 2023, therefore the CGR would need to be completed within 12 months from this date. The review was to consider the following in relation to the North of the Borough:

- the creation, merger, alteration or abolition of Parishes;
- the naming of Parishes and the style of new Parishes;
- the electoral arrangements for Parishes (i.e. the ordinary year of election, Council size, number of Councillors to be elected to the Council, and Parish warding); and
- the grouping or de-grouping of Parishes

Two consultations took place, the first one took place between 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024, the purpose of this consultation was to seek the residents/interested parties' views on which of the three options to proceed with.

The second consultation took place between 15 July 2024 to 6 October 2024 to seek the residents/interested parties' views on the Council's recommendations to proceed with Option 1.

Recommendation of the Task and Finish Group

The TFG met at each relevant stage of the process. On 11 November 2024 the TFG considered the second consultation responses in detail, received advice from Officers on the analysis of the consultation responses and received advice on key considerations.

The TFG were also informed of a legal letter which had been submitted on behalf of Greasley Parish Council challenging the process being followed.

The TFG having carefully considered the above information, unanimously recommend:

1. not to proceed with the Option 1 as set out in the second consultation and instead to leave the boundaries in the North of the Borough as they are. As it was evident to the TFG from the consultation responses that there was an overwhelming negative response to proceeding with Option 1.
2. not to proceed with any other element of Option 1 as there is insufficient support from the consultation responses to be able to deal with any boundary amendments to the North of the Borough. To conclude the CGR 2023 without making any changes to the community governance arrangements.
3. The TFG, therefore, recommend that a further CGR commence after May 2025, to deal with the outstanding boundary issues in the North of the Borough. Consultation to commence after engagement with all relevant stakeholders has taken place to assist with framing the scope of the CGR.

Appendix 2

Analysis of the Consultations

There were two consultation stages:

Stage 1 consultation

This took place between 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024, three options were proposed, the purpose of this consultation was to seek views of residents/interested parties on which of the three options to proceed with.

The consultation method was by letter whereby comments could be submitted to an email address specific to the CGR, an online consultation form was available on the website.

The three options that were proposed at this stage were:

Option 1 – Dissolve Eastwood, Greasley and Kimberley Parish Councils to give effect to the following:

- the creation of a new Parish Council (name to be determined) comprising of all of Eastwood Parish area, Giltbrook, Newthorpe, Moorgreen and the outlying properties in Greasley Parish.
- the inclusion in Brinsley Parish of 8 properties on Willey Lane, Saint's Coppice Farm, Cordy Lane, Felley Mill Farm and Old Hags Farmhouse, Mill Lane and 2 properties on Mansfield Road from Greasley Parish. This was however, amended in the Draft Recommendations to only include Saint's Coppice Farm and the properties on Mansfield Road and to take a boundary including land accessed from Cordy Lane.
- the inclusion in Nuthall Parish of the 555 properties on the Larkfields estate currently in Greasley Parish and 3 properties on Woodside Avenue currently in Kimberley Parish.
- the inclusion in Kimberley Parish of 879 properties currently in the Watnall Ward of Greasley Parish, 3 properties on Nottingham Road, 2 on Knowle Hill and 4 properties addressed to Swingate currently in Strelley Parish.
- the transfer of a small piece of land from Trowell to Unparished at Balloon Woods, affecting no electors or properties.
- additionally, the return of Oldmoor Farmhouse and Turkey Fields Farm to Strelley Parish from Cossall was added to the Draft Recommendations following representations received on the basis of access.

Option 2 –Address boundary anomaly issues only as follows:

From	To	No of Properties
Eastwood	Greasley	34 on Brandyline Gardens
		73 on Charles Avenue
		17 on Commons Close
		8 on Daisy Farm Road
		23 on Dovecote Road
		1 on Fairdale Drive
		9 on Halls Lane
		2 on Hilltop Rise
		4 on Lower Beauvale
		2 on Mary Road
		8 on Metcalfe Road
		43 on Mill Road
		85 on Newthorpe Common
		13 on Nottingham Road,
		3 on Scargill Walk
		3 on Stanhope Close
		7 on Violet Avenue
		9 on Wheeler Avenue
		28 on Wyvern Close

From	To	No of Properties
Greasley	Brinsley	Saints Coppice Farm
		2 properties on Mansfield Road

From	To	No of properties
Greasley	Eastwood	81 on Beamlight Road
		53 on Braemar Avenue
		4 on Brookside
		15 on Butterfly Place
		48 on Coach Drive
		3 on Daniel's Court
		15 on Dovecote Road
		14 on Fryar Road
		23 on Garland Drive
		20 on Hewer Close
		11 on Jenkin Close
		1 property on Main Street
		1 property on Nether Green

		24 properties on Meadow Close
		7 properties on Mill Road
		6 properties on Nether Close
		54 properties on Park Crescent
		41 properties on Robey Drive
		46 properties on Thorn Tree Gardens
		15 properties on Thorpe Road
		8 properties on Vale Close

From	To	4 on Coatsby Road
Greasley	Kimberley	11 on Gilt Hill
		2 properties on Nottingham Road

From	To	
Greasley	Nuthall	555 on the Larkfields Estate
Kimberley	Nuthall	3 properties on Woodside Avenue

From	To	
Kimberley	Greasley	13 properties on Chilton Drive
		32 properties on Cloverlands Drive
		31 properties on Hillcrest Close
Nuthall	Kimberley	3 Properties on Nottingham Road
		2 Properties on Knowle Hill
Strelley	Kimberley	4 Properties addressed Swingate
Trowell	Unparished	A small piece of land at Balloon Woods

Option 3 – Retain existing boundaries, no changesSummary of consultation responses**Consultation responses to Option 1**

Residents Comments – 7 in support, can be summarised as:

- Improved community cohesion
- Felt more aligned with Kimberley not Greasley
- Abolish all Town and Parish Councils
- Use Kimberley more

Residents comments – 9 against, can be summarised as:

- No evidence of any benefit
- Destruction of local history
- Does nothing for community cohesion
- Does not resolve the boundary issues
- Will not resolve anything
- Bad for Kimberley Town Council
- Increase in costs
- If it is not broken leave it
- Financial burden
- Parish of Greasley is historic

Kimberley Town Council comments in support of Option 1 were:

‘The Council strongly supports Option 1 with one minor amendment, to extend the boundary line between the new “Eastwood” Parish and Kimberley Parish from IKEA Island directly along Gilt Brook to Brook Breasting Farm, and then continues to the M1. This amendment has no bearing on existing properties but the Council believes this forms a stronger, future-proof boundary, and follows a geographic feature (as recommended in the review Terms of Reference) rather than an arbitrary division. Kimberley Town Council reached this conclusion based on the following points:

- *Logical and demonstrated community links between Watnall & Kimberley, including schools, leisure, hospitality, recreational facilities, sporting club memberships/activities, community events and more.*
- *The proximity of Watnall to Kimberley, in comparison to its current Parish of Greasley, where all other services/provision lie 3 miles away by car. There is a clear and indisputable community divide currently, which this Option addresses.*
- *Previous survey results submitted at the last CGR from residents of Greasley Parish within the current affected area all positively indicate residents own view of being closely linked to Kimberley as a community.*

Eastwood Town Council's comments in support of Option 1 were:

Eastwood Town Council welcomes the Community Governance Review for the North of the Borough (deferred from the 2021 review). We offer the following comments to form stage two of the review. Option 1 – 19 Councillor combined Eastwood and Greasley Council. Eastwood Town Council welcomes the proposals for a combined Council covering the North of the Borough (excluding Brinsley and Kimberley, Watnall and Nuthall areas), but feel that the proposals are currently undefined and vague. We note that the proposal would create a new Parish Council covering primarily the Borough Wards of Eastwood Hall, Eastwood St Mary's, Eastwood Hilltop and Greasley Borough Ward; such a Council is forecast to encompass a population of 15,338 after 5 years. We suggest that the name of the new Parish should keep the name of the two existing Parishes and be called Eastwood and Greasley Town Council or alternatively Eastwood, Newthorpe and Giltbrook Town Council to reflect the principal settlements. The Eastwood Hall Ward of Eastwood Town Council currently includes Mansfield Road, Greenhills Road, Garden Road, Mill Road and associated side streets. Under the new Council this should be expanded to include the Coach Drive estate and the Brunel Avenue and Engine Lane area from the Greasley Parish Ward of Lower 2 Eastwood Town Council Community Governance Review 14th March 2024 Beauvale so that it becomes contemporaneous with the Borough Ward; it is our view that it should be represented by 3 Parish Councillors. Eastwood St Mary's and Eastwood Hilltop Wards are currently contemporaneous with the Borough Wards and it is Eastwood Town Council's view that they should remain so with exception of the Beamlight estate and Braemer Avenue which are currently part of Greasley but are disconnected from the rest of the Ward; these streets should become part of St Mary's Ward. Both Wards are of a similar size and should be represented by 5 Parish Councillors each. Greasley Ward at Parish level is currently represented by 9 Councillors, under our revised proposals this would be reduced to 6 although we note not all positions on Greasley Parish Council were filled at the recent elections. Proposal regarding option 1 for stages 2 and 3 Community Governance Review Eastwood Town Council formally proposes that for stages 2 and 3 of the review that option 1 should consist of a combined Council of 19 Councillors covering the Eastwood and Greasley areas, this new Council should be warded based on the current Borough Wards as set out below. Ward Number of Councillors Eastwood Hall 3 Eastwood Hilltop 5 Eastwood St Mary's 5 Greasley 6 Total 19.

Greasley Parish Council comments objecting to Option 1 were:

We do not believe that Option 1 is a viable option under any circumstances. Greasley Parish Council and Eastwood Town Council currently serve very different communities with contrasting requirements, views and needs. To merge the two would only be of detriment to both area's residents. By keeping these two areas independent of each other, both the historical identities and community values of Greasley and Eastwood would be preserved. Greasley Parish Council is dedicated to efficiently delivering

essential services and ensuring accurate representation for its semi-rural residents. Among these services are the maintenance of two parks, management of 36 allotments, and operation of the Greasley Sports and Community Centre. Serving as the sole remaining Council-owned and supported gym and fitness centre after the closure of Kimberley Leisure Centre, the Greasley Sports and Community Centre offers a diverse range of classes, a well-equipped fitness suite, and extensive sports facilities including a sizeable sports hall and a multi-use games area installed in partnership with the local primary school. Additionally, it accommodates a Parish Hall and Committee Room, regularly used by various community groups, social clubs, and healthcare providers such as the NHS. Through these vital amenities and services, the Parish Council significantly contributes to the physical, mental, and overall well-being of our community, extending its benefits not only to Greasley but also to neighbouring areas including Kimberley, Nuthall, Eastwood, Jacksdale, and Selston.

Consultation response to Option 2:

Residents comments – 7 in support can be summarised:

- Logical in terms of joining properties would form a natural community
- Important that people within the area to continue to retain their sense of identity
- Prefer to move from Greasley to Nuthall
- Support for proposals as outlined, maintain the status quo
- Acceptable proposals suggested

Residents comments – 2 objections can be summarised:

- Makes no sense at all
- Residents overwhelmingly in favour of staying part of Kimberley

Kimberley Town Council – Comments in support of Option 2:

Kimberley Town Council: Option 2 – To make minor amendments to the existing Parishes. As pointed out during the 2022 review: • The built-up areas of Watnall and Kimberley are a continuous community centred around Kimberley Town centre and are heavily socially integrated as outlined above. • The Cloverlands and Hillcrest areas are less than 300m from the central square in Kimberley. There is no justification under the guidelines of the CGR for those areas being within Greasley Parish, the centre of which is 3 miles away. The Option actually splits the Cloverland estate in half.

Eastwood Town Council – Comments in support of Option 2:

Eastwood Town Council welcomes proposals to address issues with the current boundary where it cuts across streets and through properties. We welcome the proposed inclusion of Coach Drive and Beamlight estates into Eastwood Parish. We note that these areas, although currently part of Greasley Parish, are disconnected from the rest of Greasley; it is only possible to access these areas by traveling through Eastwood and many residents in these areas often contact Eastwood Town Council

regarding local issues. Eastwood Town Council also notes the proposals to run the revised boundary along the middle of Mill Road, Dovecote Road and Newthorpe Common which would divide streets between Eastwood Parish and Greasley Parish where no such division currently exists. We note we raised objections previously to these proposals and have a particular concern with regards to the proposals in the Dovecote Road and Charles Avenue areas and the impact this would have on the allotment site owned and managed by Eastwood Town Council. The allotment site itself is currently in Greasley Parish but the access from the site off Charles Avenue is currently in Eastwood, the revised proposals to run the boundary between the properties on Charles Avenue and Nottingham Road would remove the access from Eastwood Parish. In the 2021 review we objected to these proposals and made representations that the Parish boundary should continue to cut across Dovecote Road at its current location and be amended to include all the properties on Stanhope Close. We propose it should then continue along the rear of the properties on Dovecote Road (with minor revisions to remove the odd two properties on Fairdale Drive and Hilltop Rise) before turning southeast to run along the boundary of the Dovecote Road allotments and Hilltop Rise. The Parish boundary would then follow the boundary of the allotments and properties on Mary Road to its south-western corner. The boundary would then follow the rear property boundaries on Charles Avenue to Wheeler Avenue cutting across Mary Road slightly further to the west than the current alignment. The revised boundary would then cut across Wheeler Avenue to follow the property boundary of 82 Charles Avenue and 2 Wheeler Avenue to connect with the new proposed boundary on the footpath between Nottingham Road and Wheeler Avenue, (see map - page 21). This revised proposal would keep all of Charles Avenue in Eastwood Parish whilst resolving the issue of the current boundary cutting across, Stanhope Close, Mary Road, Wheeler Avenue and Scargill Avenue leading to odd properties on those streets being in Eastwood while the rest of the streets are in Greasley Parish.

Greasley Parish Council comments in support of Option 2:

However, we acknowledge the validity of your suggestion regarding Option 2, provided that some changes are made to the proposal. After further examination, we find the following amendments to be reasonable and aligned with the best interests of our community:

- Coach Drive Area Stays in Greasley: Retaining the Coach Drive area within Greasley Parish ensures continuity and cohesion for residents in that locality. Residents from this area regularly attend Greasley Parish Council meetings and have voiced to us that they feel more aligned with Greasley Parish than Eastwood Town. We do, however, acknowledge that the public opinion in this area is divided. We understand that access to the Coach Drive area is currently an issue as the boundary follows the historical line of Beauvale Brook rather than an access road. Whilst there are many footpaths which lead

to this area, we suggest that the boundary follows the line of Greenhills Road if access via vehicle is required to satisfy the terms of the Review.

- Lower Beauvale fields and recreation ground remain in Greasley: Greasley Parish Council owns and maintains Greenhills/Lower Beauvale Park which would become Eastwood under the current Option 2 proposal and have recently entered a contract with the Greenwood Community Forest Initiative to maintain trees on this park for 15 years. This is a valuable green space within the Greasley community.

- Mill Road, Dovecote Road and Vale Close stay in Greasley: Maintaining Mill Road and Vale Close within Greasley Parish ensures consistency and community identity. During our consultation, residents in this area were particularly aggrieved by the proposal to shift the boundary to include them in Eastwood. These residents live in close proximity to Greasley Sports and Community Centre, use our services and facilities very regularly, and feel that they would be segregated by the proposal as it stands. They would also have trouble accessing their new polling station, and feel this may impact on residents' ability to vote. We suggest Vale Close, 7 properties on Mill Road and 15 on Dovecote Road remain in Greasley.

- Newthorpe Common, Chewton Street, and access to the area known as "Matkins Tip" enter Greasley: Inclusion of these areas into Greasley Parish fosters unity and shared community values. Residents from this area regularly attend Greasley Parish Council meetings and involve themselves in Parish life. To solve the issue of access, we propose the boundary extends down the centre of Chewton Street, Main Street, and Newmanleys Road. We do, however agree with your proposals on the following points:

- Hilltop and Newthorpe Common move to Greasley: Altering the boundary to include Charles Avenue and eastern side of Newthorpe Common neatens up a currently impractical layout.

Giltbrook area is incorporated into Kimberley: Transitioning Giltbrook, north of Gilt Hill, to Kimberley aligns with geographical and community ties.

- Larkfields area enter Nuthall: Integrating Larkfields into Nuthall facilitates cohesive governance and service provision. Our consultation responses agree that residents in Larkfields feel closer to Nuthall Parish Council than to Greasley Parish Council.

- Brinsley Brook and Saints Coppice area move to Brinsley: This proposal seems reasonable and will further neat historical boundaries. Should these conditions be met; Greasley Parish Council would be amenable to considering Option 2 as a viable alternative. We believe that such adjustments would promote harmony and efficiency within our community while ensuring that the interests of all residents are adequately represented.

Nuthall Parish Council comments in support of Option 2:

Nuthall Parish Council, at its February meeting supported the proposal that the whole of Larkfield Estate, plus Little Holland Gardens plus the 'bakery estate should be part of Nuthall Parish Council.

Consultation Responses to Option 3:

Residents - 12 comments in support can be summarised:

- Kimberley should remain as Kimberley
- Precept will rise so leave as it is
- No change with Greasley Parish Council
- No changes to be made
- In favour of retaining the current arrangements

Resident – 1 objection:

- Option 3 isn't sensible as it does not resolve any problems

Greasley Parish Council comment in support of this option:

After consulting our residents on the proposed options, the Parish Council is inclined to favour Option 3, which suggests no changes to the current boundaries of Greasley Parish. We believe that maintaining the status quo will uphold the continuity and stability of our community.

Kimberley Town Council comments objecting to Option 3:

This option is not suited to the current urban environment of Kimberley and Watnall, there are very little, if any, social or economic links between these areas and as such this proposal does not meet the criteria laid down in the goals of the CGR guidelines.

There were further suggestions made by residents which can be found in the GAS Committee report of 20 May 2024 on the following link:

www.broxtowe.gov.uk/cgr

Stage 2 consultation

Members were provided a copy of the full consultation responses in the report, it was recommended to consult on Option 1, as this was deemed the most appropriate way to deal with the boundary changes. This was to:

Dissolve Eastwood, Greasley and Kimberley Parish Councils to give effect to the following:

- the creation of a new Parish Council (name to be determined) comprising of all of Eastwood parish area, Giltbrook, Newthorpe, Moorgreen and the outlying properties in Greasley Parish.

- the inclusion in Brinsley Parish of 8 properties on Willey Lane, Saint's Coppice Farm, Cordy Lane, Felley Mill Farm and Old Hags Farmhouse, Mill Lane and 2 properties on Mansfield Road from Greasley Parish. This was however, amended in the Draft Recommendations to only include Saint's Coppice Farm and the properties on Mansfield Road and to take a boundary including land accessed from Cordy Lane.
- the inclusion in Nuthall Parish of the 555 properties on the Larkfields estate currently in Greasley Parish and 3 properties on Woodside Avenue currently in Kimberley Parish.
- the inclusion in Kimberley Parish of 879 properties currently in the Watnall Ward of Greasley Parish, 3 properties on Nottingham Road, 2 on Knowle Hill and 4 properties addressed to Swingate currently in Strelley Parish.
- the transfer of a small piece of land from Trowell to Unparished at Balloon Woods, affecting no electors or properties.
- additionally, the return of Oldmoor Farmhouse and Turkey Fields Farm to Strelley Parish from Cossall was added to the Draft Recommendations following representations received on the basis of access.

Stage two consultation took place between 15 July 2024 to 6 October 2024 seeking views on the Council's recommendations of Option 1.

The consultation method was by letter whereby comments could be submitted to an email address specific to the CGR, in writing, or an online consultation form was available on the website. Greasley Parish Council also provided a form that residents were able to submit in response to the consultation.

In total the Council received 1028 responses to this consultation, 1010 were received from the members of the public. In terms of the response method, 612 were submitted in a paper format, 384 submitted electronically via an online form, 24 via email and 8 by letter.

All the responses were coded into themes to allow the responses to be quantified, to reflect how many responses supported the recommendation, how many were against the recommendation and to categorise the reasons given, to support Member consideration of the responses.

Consultation responses to Option 1:

Responses to the consultation were received on an online form, emails and letters to the Council, also on a form provided by Greasley Parish Council.

A summary of the responses is below

- 1010 from members of the Public

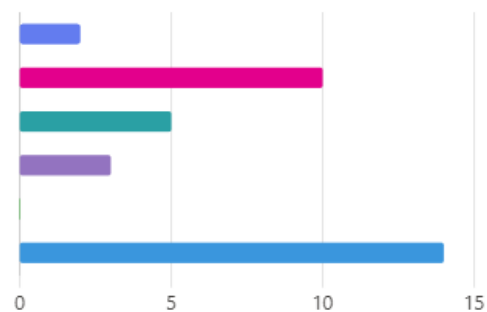
- 1 from a Parish Clerk in a private capacity
- 1 from Parish Councillor acting in private capacity
- 2 from Borough Councillors acting in official capacity
- 1 from County Council
- 13 categorised as other

Officer analysis in relation to whether the respondent objected or supported the boundary changes.

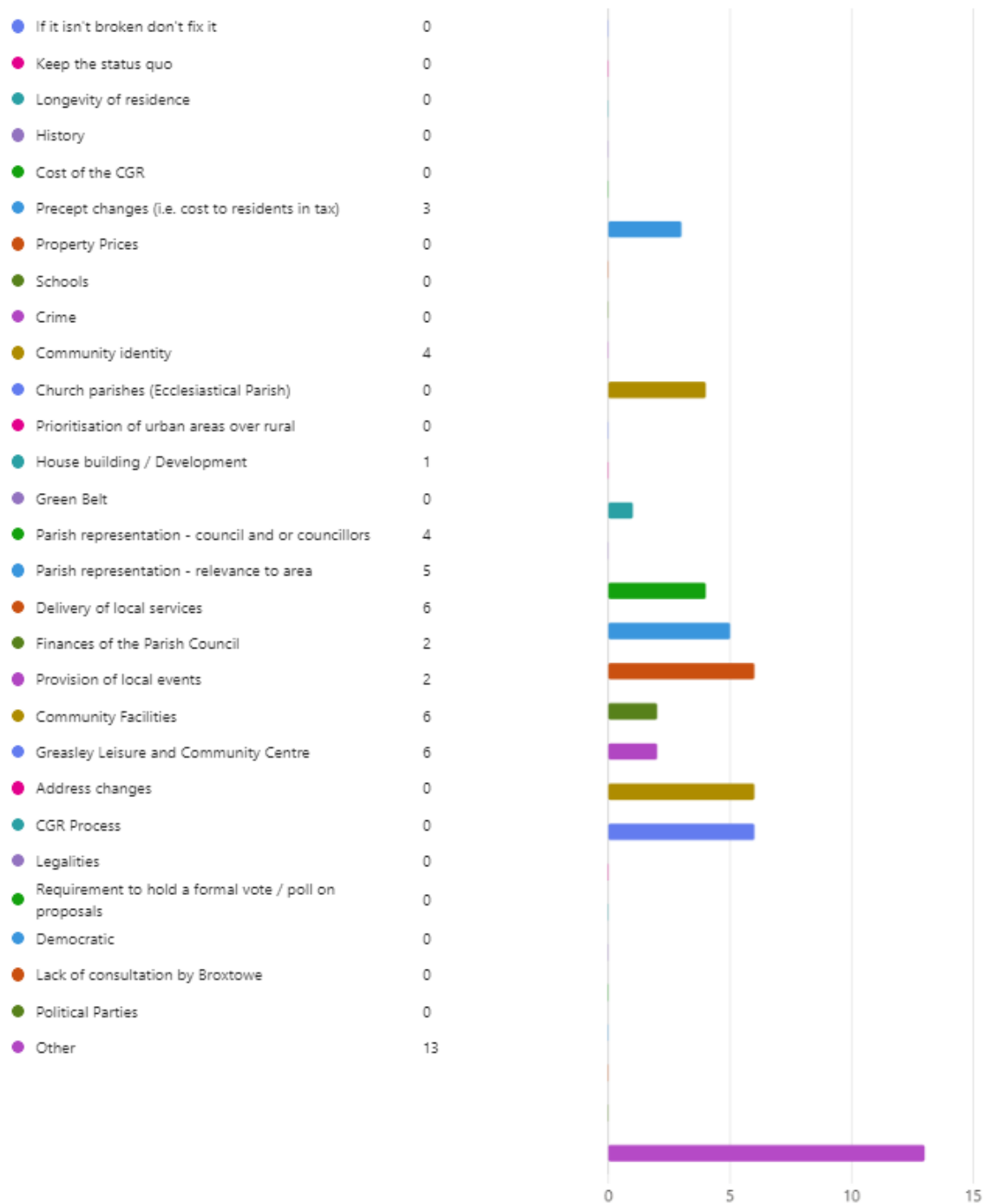
- 954 objected
- 42 supported
- 7 mixed responses
- 9 unsure
- 16 not stated

Support reasons:

● Access to properties	2
● Community Cohesion	10
● Effective Electoral Arrangement	5
● Sustainable Boundaries	3
● Split streets	0
● None of the above	14

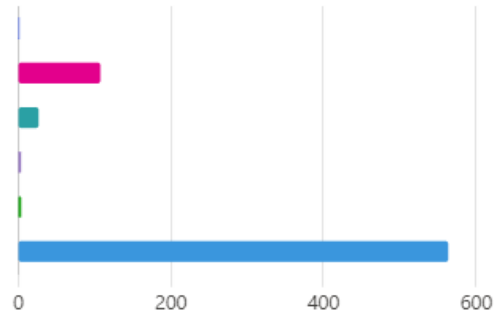


Support reasons – other



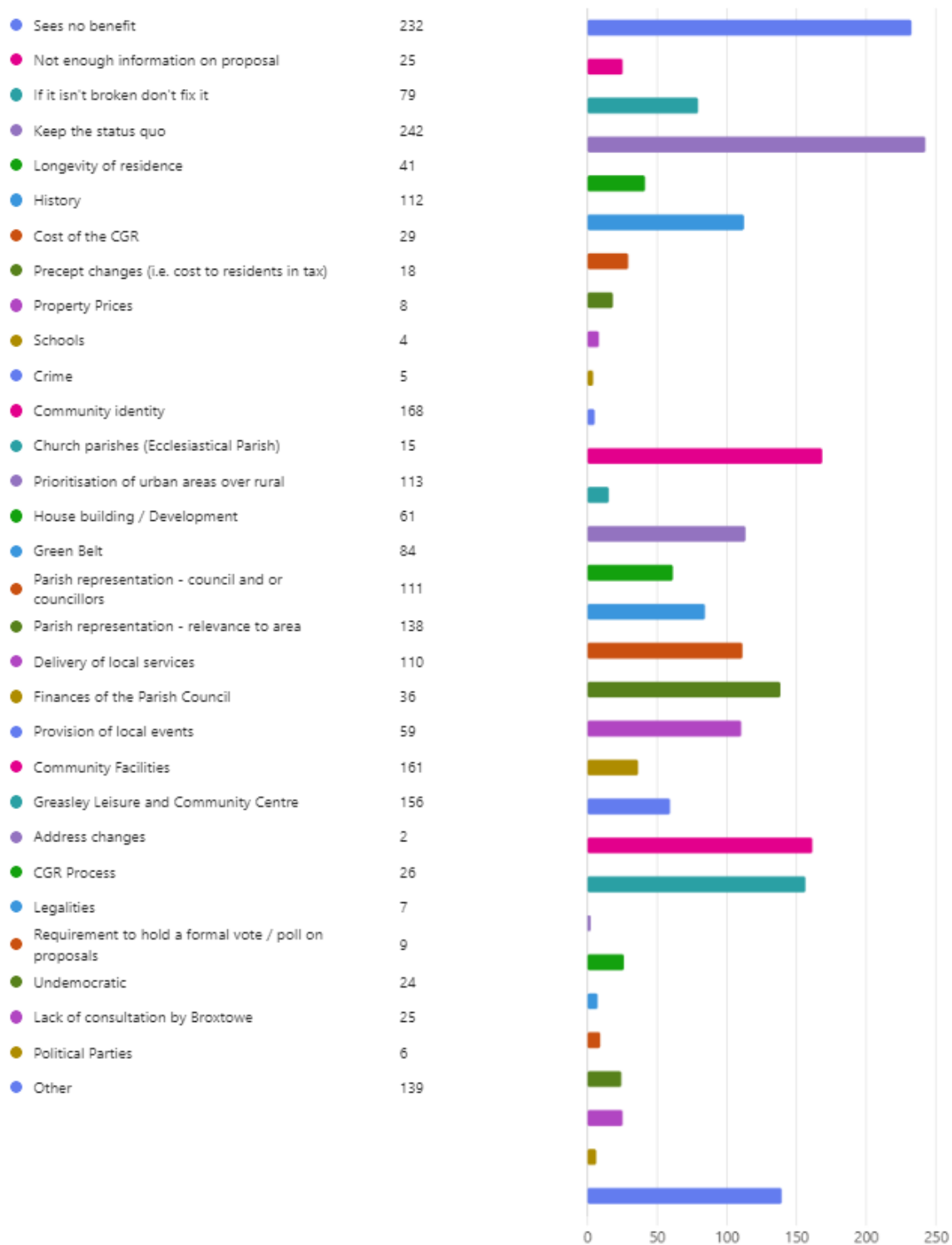
Objection reasons

● Access to properties	1
● Community Cohesion	107
● Effective Electoral Arrangement	26
● Sustainable Boundaries	3
● Split streets	3
● None of the above	563



REFERENCE

Objection reasons – other



A link to all the consultation responses for both consultations has been provided below:

www.broxtowe.gov.uk/cgr

Appendix 3

Key Considerations

Key considerations Members should take into account in reaching a decision as to whether to proceed with the recommendation made at GAS Committee on 20 May 2024 and then full Council on 23 May 2024.

The relevant legislation is set out in Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (“the 2007 Act”), which sets out the duties of a “principal authority” (Broxtowe Borough Council) when undertaking a CGR, in particular:

- Section 79 (1) - A CGR is a review of the whole or part of the Council's area, for the purpose of making recommendations of the kinds set out in sections 87 to 92.
- Section 79(2) - The Council must comply with the CGR's ToR.
- Section 79(3). - Before undertaking a CGR, the Council must notify the County Council for its area –that the review is to be undertaken and of the ToR of the review.
- Section 81(2) - the ToR of a CGR must specify the “area under review”.
- Section 81(5) - as soon as practicable after deciding the ToR, the Council must publish them.
- Section (82) - the Council may undertake a CGR.
- Section (93) - The Council must consult the following – a) the local government electors for the area under review; b) any other person or body (including a local authority) which appears to the Council to have an interest in the review.
- Section 93(4) - The Council must “have regard” to “the need to secure that community governance within the area under review: a) reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area, and b) is effective and convenient.
- Section 93(5) - In deciding what recommendations to make, the Council must take into account any other arrangements (apart from those relating to Parishes and their institutions) - a) that have already been made, or b) that could be made for the purposes of community representation or community engagement in respect of the area under review.
- Section 93(6) - the Council “must take into account” any representations received in connection with the review.
- Section 93(7) - As soon as practicable after making any recommendations, the Council must - a) publish the recommendations; and b) take such steps as it considers sufficient to secure that persons who may be interested in the review are informed of those recommendations.

Guidance on Community Governance Reviews, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in March 2010 (“The Government Guidance”) recommends in making its final decision Members need to take into account their duty to secure that community governance within the area under review:

- a) reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area, and
- b) is effective and convenient

Relevant considerations which should influence the Council's judgement against these two principal criteria include the impact on community cohesion, and the size, population and boundaries of the proposed area.

The Government Guidance at paragraph 62 provided further criterion by *stating that the effectiveness and convenience of local government is best understood in the context of a local authority's ability to deliver quality services economically and efficiently, and give users of services a democratic voice in the decisions that affect them.*

The Council is required to consult with local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body which appears to have an interest in the review. It must take into account representations received in connection with the review. In making its final recommendations, the Council should consider the information it has received in the form of expressions of local opinion, representations made by local people and other interested persons, and also use its own knowledge of the local area.

The Council in accordance with the Government guidelines can determine whether a governance arrangement changes are in the interests of either the local community or surrounding communities, and whether changes the governance arrangements would affect community cohesion.

Conclusion

Having regard to the Guidance, the 2007 Act, and fully considered the two public consultation responses, the analysis of the responses is as follows:

- There is an overwhelming response from residents, interested parties which includes Greasley Parish Council not to dissolve Eastwood, Greasley and Kimberley Parish Councils and to create a new Parish Council comprising of all of Eastwood, Giltbrook, Newthorpe and Moorgreen and outlying properties in Greasley Parish.
- In relation to the remaining elements of Option 1 the consultation responses have not confirmed support or objections to these elements and as such it is not clear whether the requirements of the 2007 Act and Guidance have been met.

The TFG supported by Officer advice, considered the consultation responses overwhelmingly demonstrate that Option 1 is not considered to be in the interests of the community and reflects the community considers there will be a negative impact on community cohesion if the Council were to proceed with this Option. Furthermore, the Council could be at risk of legal challenge, and cost if they proceed. The TFG supported by Officer advice also consider there to be insufficient support to proceed with any other element of this Option, to be able to proceed with any other boundary changes to the North of the Borough.

Therefore, TFG's unanimous recommendation, which is supported by Officer advice is not to proceed with any of the elements of Option 1 and to make no changes to the existing Community Governance arrangements and to conclude this review. The TFG however, recognise that there are still outstanding issues that do need resolving in the North of the Borough, particularly in relation to boundaries in Greasley, Eastwood Brinsley, Nuthall, Strelley and Kimberley. The TFG, therefore, propose that a further CGR could reconsider how to deal with these issues and allow for residents to be consulted again, as there is insufficient time to re-consult under the current CGR.

REFERENCE

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Report of the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Personnel Policy

Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2025/26

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for arrangements to operate in 2025/26 in respect of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTSS).

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to RECOMMEND to Council that the current Local Council Tax Support Scheme remains in place for 2025/26.

3. Detail

Members will recall that council tax benefit ceased at the end of 2012/13 and was replaced by a LCTSS defined by each local authority. The Broxtowe scheme was first approved by Council on 19 December 2012. The new scheme was effectively the government's default scheme with due allowance being made to allow the continuation of the discretionary policy relating to the treatment of war pensions.

The current scheme allows for up to 100% of the council tax liability to be paid in council tax support. The majority of local authorities have not adopted this approach and most have passed on some of the reduction in funding to LCTSS recipients. The Council had benefitted from the overall bill for LCTSS falling in early years as the numbers of claimants requiring support reduced. Since 2017/18, the level of LCTSS has risen slightly each year, with a significant increase in 2020/21 as a result of the pandemic. The current year 2023/24 includes additional support that was provided as part of the Cost of Living support offered. This scheme provided an amount up to £85 for each council tax support claim.

Should members wish to make any alterations to the scheme then any changes would have to go through a formal consultation process. This would require planning of an alternate scheme and consultation with residents of the Borough before the deadline of March 2025.

The LCTSS does not provide a direct cost to the Council with the scheme incorporated within the Council Tax Base calculation.

4. Key Decision

This report a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more Wards or electoral divisions in the Council's area.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no direct financial implications arising from the proposals in respect of LCTSS. The revenue budget for 2025/26 will be set on the basis of existing estimates of take-up and collection.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

8. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

9. Union Comments

Not applicable.

10. Climate Change Implications

Not applicable.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

13. Background Papers

Nil.

Appendix

Council Tax Support to Date

The Council has maintained a consistent approach to the administration of LCTSS, which has been influential in the continued high level of Council Tax collection. Many local authorities adopted schemes which required all those Council Tax payers receiving support to pay a minimum of 8.5% up to 100% of their liability.

In doing this, they have seen a significant increase in the number of small levels of Council Tax required to collect, with the associated costs that come with this approach. The methodology at Broxtowe of continuing with a scheme, almost identical to Council Tax Benefit, has ensured a greater understanding for residents of the Borough, whilst also seeing an improvement in relation to collection.

The estimated charge for the LCTSS in 2024/25 is £7,749,687. The table below shows the comparison between the years:

Year	LCTSS charge (£)
2023/24	7,739,723
2022/23	7,278,206
2021/22	7,304,375
2020/21	7,889,034
2019/20	6,858,435
2018/19	6,786,378
2017/18	6,676,016
2016/17	6,661,822

Proposals for 2025/26 Onwards

The current scheme has worked successfully with no administration issues. Although the overall LCTSS spend has increased, it is still felt that this outweighs the increase in expenditure that would be incurred in recovering or writing off small amounts of Council Tax charge.

From 2014/15, the LCTSS grant to local authorities has not been separately identified but has been subsumed within the overall funding assessment. The government has on several occasions indicated that it has made no moves to further reduce funding towards the LCTSS but this cannot be quantified due to the lack of a financial breakdown.

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Report of the Monitoring Officer

Programme of Meetings from May 2025 to April 2026

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for the Programme of Meetings from May 2025 to April 2026.

2. Recommendation

Council is asked to RESOLVE that the Programme of Meetings for May 2025 to April 2026, as set out in the Appendix, be approved.

3. Detail

The proposed Programme of Meetings, is shown in the **Appendix**. The dates for the Bramcote Bereavement Services Joint Committee are agreed by that Committee.

Consideration has been given to the requirements of the timing of meetings to approve the relevant budget reports for financial purposes.

In accordance with the Member Development Charter criteria the programme takes into account school holidays, cultural and faith commitments and has been composed so as to avoid collision with any significant dates.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no financial implications to consider as part of this report. The timing of meetings to align with the requirements of the budget setting process and the approval of the annual financial statements is acknowledged and appreciated.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

6. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

7. Union Comments

Not applicable.

8. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

11. Background Papers

Nil.

Appendix

Meeting dates for May 2025 to April 2026

Date	Meeting
14 May 2025	Council
19 May 2025	Governance, Audit and Standards Committee
3 June 2025	Cabinet
5 June 2025	Policy Overview Working Group
10 June 2025	Licensing and Appeals Committee
11 June 2025	Planning Committee
16 June 2025	Advisory Shareholder Sub-Committee
18 June 2025	Local Joint Consultative Committee.
19 June 2025	Bramcote Bereavement Services Joint Committee
25 June 2025	Events, Arts, Culture, and Heritage Working Group
26 June 2025	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
1 July 2025	Cabinet
3 July 2025	Policy Overview Working Group
9 July 2025	Planning Committee
16 July 2025	Council
21 July 2025	Governance, Audit and Standards Committee
24 July 2025	Annual Borough Council
29 July 2025	Cabinet
31 July 2025	Policy Overview Working Group
2 September 2025	Cabinet
4 September 2025	Policy Overview Working Group
8 September 2025	Advisory Shareholder Sub Committee
10 September 2025	Planning Committee
16 September 2025	Licensing and Appeals Committee
22 September 2025	Governance, Audit and Standards Committee
25 September 2025	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
30 September 2025	Cabinet

Date	Meeting
2 October 2025	Policy Overview Working Group
8 October 2025	Planning Committee
15 October 2025	Council
4 November 2025	Cabinet
6 November 2025	Policy Overview Working Group
11 November 2025	Licensing and Appeals Committee
12 November 2025	Planning Committee
13 November 2025	Events, Arts, Culture, and Heritage Working Group
17 November 2025	Governance, Audit and Standards Committee
19 November 2025	Local Joint Consultative Committee
27 November 2025	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
2 December 2025	Cabinet
4 December 2025	Policy Overview Working Group
10 December 2025	Planning Committee
17 December 2025	Council
6 January 2026	Cabinet
8 January 2026	Policy Overview Working Group
14 January 2026	Planning Committee
19 January 2026	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Budget)
20 January 2026	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Budget)
26 January 2026	Advisory Shareholder Sub-Committee
27 January 2026	Licensing and Appeals Committee
3 February 2026	Cabinet
5 February 2026	Policy Overview Working Group
11 February 2026	Planning Committee
4 March 2026	Council
10 March 2026	Cabinet
12 March 2026	Policy Overview Working Group
16 March 2026	Advisory Shareholder Sub Committee
18 March 2026	Planning Committee

Date	Meeting
23 March 2026	Governance Audit and Standards Committee
25 March 2026	Local Joint Consultative Committee
26 March 2026	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
14 April 2026	Cabinet
15 April 2026	Planning Committee

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