



Wednesday, 20 November 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held on Thursday, 28 November 2024 in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Foster Avenue, Beeston, NG9 1AB, commencing at 6.00 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: S Dannheimer (Chair)  
T J Marsh (Vice-Chair)  
E Williamson (Vice-Chair)  
H L Crosby  
K A Harlow  
H Land  
R D MacRae

J M Owen  
A W G A Stockwell  
C M Tideswell  
S Webb  
E Winfield  
K Woodhead

## A G E N D A

1. Apologies

To receive apologies and to be notified of the attendance of substitutes.

2. Declarations of Interest

(Pages 5 - 12)

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 13 - 16)

The Committee is asked to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2024.

Council Offices, Foster Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 1AB

**[www.broxtowe.gov.uk](http://www.broxtowe.gov.uk)**

4. Consideration of Call-In

To consider any matter referred to the Committee for a decision in relation to the call in of a decision.

5. Recommendation from the Licensing and Appeals Committee (Pages 17 - 18)

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider the following reference from Licensing and Appeals Committee to add to its work programme.

Licensing and Appeals Committee  
10 September 2024

Members were advised of the response to the consultation on the Council's draft revised Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles for 2025-2027. The Committee noted a number of comments that had been received following the consultation and agreed the recommendations from GamCare within Appendix 1 be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**The Committee RECOMMENDS that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the recommendations within Appendix 1 from GamCare at a future meeting.**

6. Spotlight Review-Markets

Members will receive a presentation on the review of Markets in the Borough at the meeting.

7. Early Budget Setting Review 2025/26 including Fees and Charges (Pages 19 - 54)

To provide this Committee with an early opportunity to scrutinise and input into the Council's annual budget setting process, in particular with regards to the Business Strategy and the approach to the setting of fees and charges for 2025/26.

8. Equality, Inclusivity and Diversity at the Council (Pages 55 - 108)

To present the findings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Working Group's review into Equality, Inclusion

and Diversity at the Council. This is in accordance with the Council's corporate values.

9. Cabinet Work Programme (Pages 109 - 110)

To inform the Committee of items on the Cabinet's work programme, from which items for scrutiny may be identified.

10. Work Programme (Pages 111 - 120)

The Committee is asked to approve its Work Programme, including identifying topics for scrutiny, that will help to achieve the Council's key priorities and associated objectives.

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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.**

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#### **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.

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**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.

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## **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:

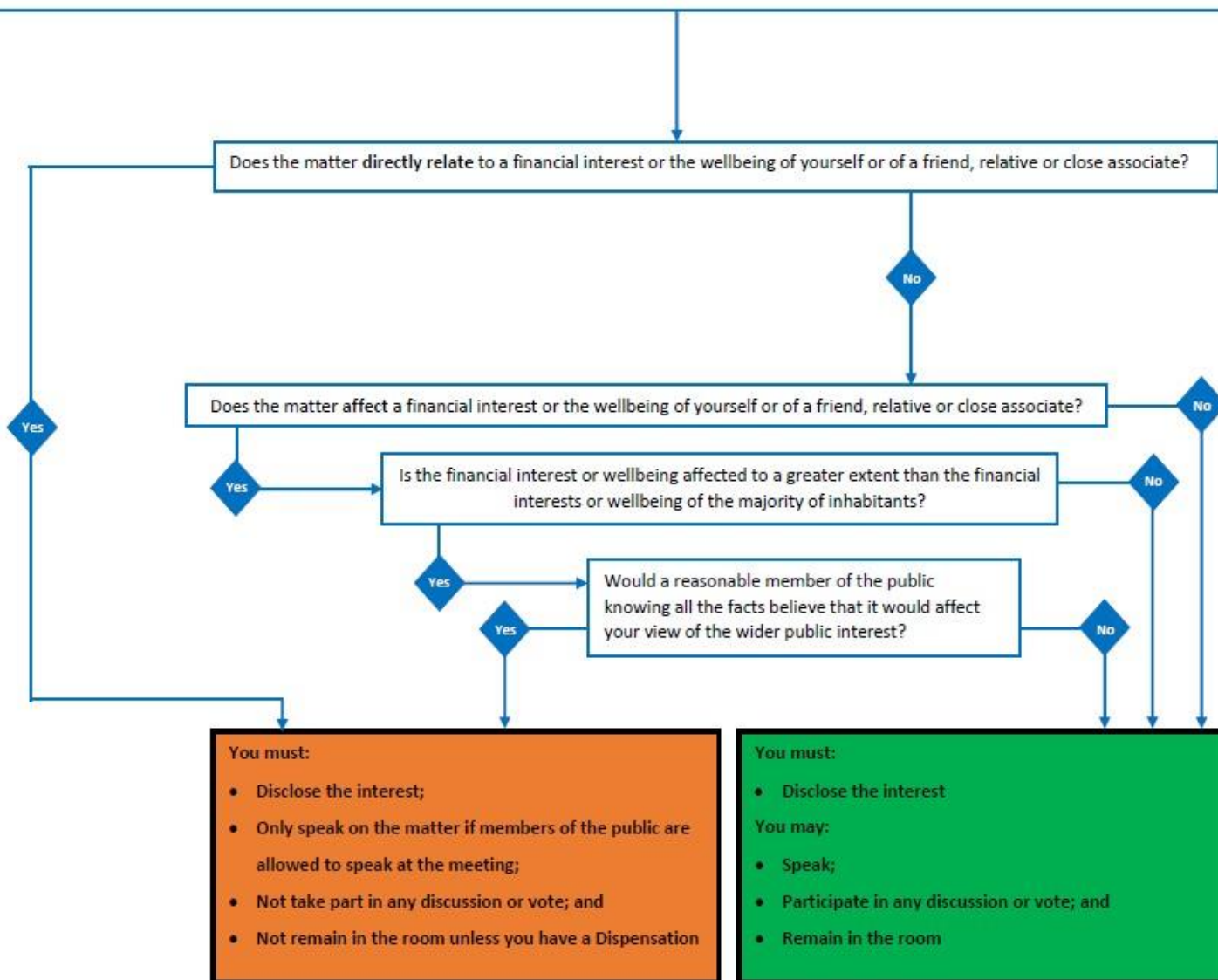
- Disclose the interest;
- Only speak on the matter if members of the public are allowed to speak at the meeting;
- Not take part in any discussion or vote; and
- Not remain in the room unless you have a Dispensation

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.





## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2024**

Present: Councillor S Dannheimer, Chair

Councillors: T J Marsh  
H L Crosby  
R D MacRae  
A W G A Stockwell  
C M Tideswell  
S Webb  
E Winfield  
K Woodhead  
L A Ball BEM (Substitute for J M Owen)  
A Kingdon (Substitute for H Land)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Williamson, K Harlow, H Land and J M Owen

### 6 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### 7 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2024 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### 8 **CONSIDERATION OF CALL - IN**

There were no call-ins to be considered.

### 9 **SPOTLIGHT REVIEW-MARKETS**

The Committee noted the update provided on the Spotlight Review on Markets and welcomed a further update and presentation at the November meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Members discussed the issues they found with markets and the impacts of town centres locations, stall holders already committed to other markets and challenges the town centres were facing with footfall. Benefits of holding one off events and street food events were recognised as alternatives to regular weekly markets.

10 UPDATE FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Members noted the update from the Leader of the Council of the decision from the recommendations presented to 3 September 2024 Cabinet meeting from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. A working group would be arranged shortly and be chaired by the Deputy Leader. This group would meet twice a year. The Leader further discussed the issues with the democratic arrangements with the East Midlands Combined County Authority and requested to the Committee they consider the issues as a scrutiny topic. The Chief Executive had proposed to update all Members of the arrangements at a date to be confirmed and the Committee decided to hold the request until further information was made available.

The Leader felt that the current fines issued for fly tipping offences were very small considering the environmental impact and resources required to clean up and prosecute. He wanted the Committee to consider writing to the Secretary of State for Environment to look at the current environmental legislation and increase the penalties issued. The Committee unanimously agreed to add the item to the work programme and look at scoping the topic within a Working Group. It was proposed that Councillor E Winfield would be Chair and Vice Chair Councillor S Webb. Councillor A W G A Stockwell would also support the group.

**RESOLVED to set up a Working Group to scope the topic of Environmental Enforcement fines.**

11 RECOMMENDATION FROM THE LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

This item was deferred until the next meeting due to the Chair of Licensing sending their apologies.

12 WORKING GROUP UPDATE

An update was provided to the Committee from the Chair of the Equality, Inclusivity and Diversity Working Group. Members of the group had visited 5 parks in the Borough and the Portfolio for Environment and Climate Change was also in attendance. The group considered paths, gates, seating and play equipment as part of the review. The report will be presented to the Committee at the next meeting.

13 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

Members noted the Cabinet Work Programme.

14 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee reviewed the current work programme and agreed that some of the items on the plan were no longer relevant. Members agreed for the Disabled Facilities Grants, Homes for Life and Resident Engagement Review to be removed.

Members agreed for Councillor T Marsh suggestion to add Council Agenda's to the work programme to review the content and size of the agenda's, impact on resources

and to conduct an evaluation from Members. A working group would be Chaired by Councillor T Marshall and Vice Chair, Councillor R D MacRae.

Councillor E Winfield expressed an interest on the Child Poverty topic, that was already committed on the work programme. It was recommended that delegation to the Chair and Vice Chairs to timetable the work programme of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee going forward with consideration of resource provided by the Democratic team to the Committee.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1. the work programme be approved with Council Agenda's and Environmental Enforcement Fines being added and to remove Disabled Facilities Grants, Homes for Life, and Resident Engagement Review.**
- 2. to delegate to the Chair and Vice Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to timetable the work programme going forward.**
- 3. The Chief Executive give a presentation to all Members of the Council of the East Midlands Combined County Authority Governance Arrangements before a decision is made to add the request from the Leader of the Council to the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme.**

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**Licensing and Appeals Committee 10 September 2024**  
**Gambling Policy Representation Response**

Representation	Comment	Action Recommended
<b>GamCare's comments on the revision of the statement of principles:</b>	<p>GamCare is an independent charity and the leading national provider of information, advice, support and free treatment for anyone affected by problem gambling. They operate the National Gambling Helpline, provide structured support for anyone harmed by gambling, and create awareness about safe gambling and treatments.</p> <p>GamCare interacts with all parties involved in Gambling.</p>	<p>The response is noted and appreciated. However no action is required.</p>
<div>•</div> <div>We welcome the position Broxtowe Borough Council is taking to go beyond the mandatory and default conditions of the Gambling Act 2005 in its statement of principles.</div>		<p>Noted. No action.</p>
<div>•</div> <div>Local authorities can play a greater role in reducing gambling harm, particularly for those of our clients who experience harm in land-based gambling venues, due to council's licensing responsibilities.</div>		<p>Noted. No action.</p>
<div>•</div> <div>It is vital that Broxtowe Borough Council develops a local picture of the level of gambling harms, in order to best target resources and tailor service provision. This could be achieved by gathering data from the National Gambling Helpline, as well as those already providing services in the area.</div>		<p>Noted. It is suggested that the Committee consider putting this forward as a potential topic for a future Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p>

Representation	Comment	Action Recommended
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building on the proactive approach the council is already taking, we would like to see Broxtowe Borough Council commit in its statement of principles <b>to a public health approach</b> to gambling.</li> </ul>	<p>Whilst it is recognised that Public Health is not a licensing objective. NALG entered into dialogue with the County's Public Health Team a number of years ago as part of the licensing process. The team has written paragraph 2.8 to reflect the GC concerns and give an overview of the issue.</p>	<p>Noted. No action.</p>
<p>Page 18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This commitment should include training frontline and primary care staff to recognise the signs of gambling harm and develop referral pathways to the National Gambling Helpline or local treatment providers. GamCare has worked with Haringey Council to implement a similar system, that has received widespread support.</li> </ul>		<p>Noted. The Council will explore the training undertaken by Haringey Council and consider whether to adopt a similar approach.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the absence of Cumulative Impact Assessments as a method by which the "aim to permit" approach can be challenged, Broxtowe Borough Council should continue to pursue a <a href="#">Local Area Profile</a> approach that specifically analyses gambling risk, and use this data as a basis from which to scrutinise and possibly oppose a licensing application.</li> </ul>		<p>Noted. No action. See above comment relating to the potential to refer this to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The changes to Broxtowe Borough Council's statement of principles should be viewed in the context of the Gambling Act Review and subsequent process of white paper consultations, so take account of the rapidly changing regulatory environment.</li> </ul>		<p>Noted. No action</p>

**Report of the Deputy Chief Executive**

<b>Early Budget Setting Review 2025/26 including Fees And Charges</b>
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1. Purpose of Report

To provide this Committee with an early opportunity to scrutinise and input into the Council's annual budget setting process, in particular with regards to the Business Strategy and the approach to the setting of fees and charges for 2025/26.

2. Recommendation

**The Committee is asked to consider the report and RECOMMEND accordingly into the budget and fees and charges setting process for 2025/26.**

3. Detail

This Committee will receive the proposed Business Plans 2025/26 to 2027/28 for each corporate priority on 20 and 21 January 2025. As part of this report, Members will also consider proposals for revenue and capital budgets and fees and charges, with a view to recommending these onto Cabinet and then full Council to approve the Council's overall budget for 2025/26.

This early report provides this Committee with an opportunity to scrutinise and input into the budget setting process at an earlier stage, in particular to scrutinise the approach to setting of fees and charges.

Overall Budget Context

As reported to Cabinet on 23 July 2024, there was an underspend of £1.826m on the General Fund revenue budget in 2023/24 resulting in a General Fund balance of £6.060m as at 31 March 2024. The net budget variation was predominantly due to a variety of underspends, additional income, budget carry forwards, changes in provisions, government grants and effective financial management across the Council.

There are a number of significant issues concerning local government finance that will have a major impact upon the financial position of this Council. These include the prevailing economy; the financial impact of inflation on pay and prices; uncertainty on the outcome of financial settlements from central government; and the delayed Fair Funding Review that intends to review the level of Business Rates retention.

There are two significant budget pressures that continue to impact on the Council's budgets, namely the level of pay awards and inflationary pressures on the cost of energy, fuel, construction and property services.

### Medium Term Financial Strategy and Business Strategy

A Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) is produced as the Council's key financial planning document. The updated MTFS recently presented to Cabinet was prepared using the latest information and assumptions and projected a budget gap of £1.844m for 2025/26. This prudent forecast was made using cautious assumptions on central government funding, with details of the funding settlement not being anticipated until shortly before Christmas.

In order to mitigate against risks presented by the financial challenges facing the Council, a Business Strategy is maintained which sets out initiatives that will be pursued to reduce costs, generate additional income and/or improve services. The latest Business Strategy approved by Cabinet on 5 November 2024 identified £950k of efficiency savings and additional income for 2025/26.

A copy of the MTFS and Business Strategy is included at **Appendix 1**.

### Fees and Charges

It is anticipated that further savings can be achieved through the detailed budget setting process. This is well underway with the Finance Services team working closely with budget managers in all services across the Council's operations.

A key part of the process is the setting of proposed fees and charges for the new financial year. This provides the Council with a real opportunity to maximise its revenue generating potential whilst meeting the impact of rising costs. Management reviews of service fees and charges schedules are being considered, with the underlying need to maximise potential revenue generation opportunities. The approach in setting fees and charges has been to:

- Recognise where standard and mandatory charges are fixed centrally
- Consider an uplift in prices of at least 5%, where possible
- Undertake benchmarking to understand local market conditions and identify opportunities to maximise potential revenues
- Understand the cost base of services to ensure a full cost recovery where appropriate.

The proposed fees and charges lists for 2025/26 are not yet available for consideration by Members. These will be presented to this Committee for recommendation onto Cabinet on 20 and 21 January 2025. A list of the 2024/25 fees and charges, as previously recommended by this Committee in January 2024, are provided in **Appendix 2** for reference.

In the meantime, some key lines of scrutiny for this Committee to consider at this stage could include the vital income generated from garden waste and trade waste subscriptions, recycling, rental from commercial and industrial units, enforcement income, leisure fees, car parking and planning fees.



Members could also consider if there are any new potential income generating opportunities for the Council.

4. Financial Implications

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

The financial implications are included in the report narrative and appendices.

5. Legal Implications

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

There are no direct legal implications that arise from this report.

6. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

7. Union Comments

Not applicable.

8. Climate Change Implications

The Council's response to Climate Change is a key consideration as part of the budget setting process.

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

As there is no change to policy an equality impact assessment is not required.

11. Background Papers

Nil.

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## Appendix 1

## GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS 2024/25 TO 2028/29

	Revised Estimate 2024/25 £'000	Estimate 2025/26 £'000	Estimate 2026/27 £'000	Estimate 2027/28 £'000	Estimate 2028/29 £'000
<b>BASE BUDGET</b>	14,603	15,720	15,960	16,542	17,086
<b>CHANGES TO BASE</b>					
Revenue Developments – Net changes in year not required going forward	877	(522)	41	200	-
Inflation – Pay Award/JE Outcomes	131	542	306	312	318
Inflation – Energy and Fuel Prices	Included	71	33	29	30
Inflation – Price Others	Included	94	96	98	100
Increased Fees and Charges (General)	Included	(76)	(76)	(77)	(79)
Capital Borrowing Costs – MRP and Interest	109	131	182	(19)	(156)
<b>BUDGET REQUIREMENT BEFORE SPECIAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>15,720</b>	<b>15,960</b>	<b>16,542</b>	<b>17,085</b>	<b>17,299</b>
Beeston Special Expenses	25	25	25	25	25
<b>BUDGET REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>15,745</b>	<b>15,985</b>	<b>16,567</b>	<b>17,110</b>	<b>17,324</b>
<b>FINANCED BY:</b>					
NNDR Business Rates	3,793	3,869	3,946	4,025	4,106
NNDR Share of Previous Years Collection Fund Deficit	19	-	-	-	-
NNDR Section 31 Grants	3,068	3,129	3,192	3,256	3,321
NNDR Growth Levy/Safety Net to/from Pool	(1,311)	(1,337)	(1,364)	(1,391)	(1,419)
NNDR Returned Levy from Notts Business Rates Pool	800	800	800	800	800
Council Tax	6,602	6,801	7,006	7,218	7,436
CT Share of Previous Years Collection Fund Surplus	72	-	-	-	-
Government Grant - Revenue Support Grant	129	129	129	129	129
Government Grant - Services Grant	20	20	20	20	20
Government Grant - New Homes Bonus	255	255	255	255	255
Government Grant - CSP Funding Guarantee	471	480	490	500	510
Beeston Special Expenses	25	25	25	25	25
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>13,943</b>	<b>14,171</b>	<b>14,499</b>	<b>14,837</b>	<b>15,183</b>
<b>DEFICIT/(SURPLUS) TO BE MET BEFORE MOVEMENT IN RESERVES</b>	<b>1,802</b>	<b>1,814</b>	<b>2,068</b>	<b>2,273</b>	<b>2,141</b>
<b>MOVEMENT IN RESERVES</b>					
Movement into Earmarked Reserves	30	30	30	-	30
Movement from Earmarked Reserves	-	-	-	(200)	-
<b>PLANNED (SURPLUS)/DEFICIT AFTER MOVEMENT IN RESERVES TO BE FUNDED FROM GENERAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>1,832</b>	<b>1,844</b>	<b>2,098</b>	<b>2,073</b>	<b>2,171</b>

	Revised Estimate 2024/25 £'000	Estimate 2025/26 £'000	Estimate 2026/27 £'000	Estimate 2027/28 £'000	Estimate 2028/29 £'000
<b>FORECAST BALANCES - 31 MARCH</b>					
General Fund Opening Balances	6,060	4,228	2,384	286	(1,787)
In-year Net Movement in Reserves	(1,832)	(1,844)	(2,098)	(2,073)	(2,171)
<b>General Fund Closing Balances</b>	<b>4,228</b>	<b>2,384</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>(1,787)</b>	<b>(3,958)</b>
<b>BALANCE OF RESERVES</b>					
Minimum Balance	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Available Reserves	2,728	884	<b>(1,214)</b>	<b>(3,287)</b>	<b>(5,458)</b>
(Figures in <b>bold</b> - below minimum balance)					
Earmarked Reserves Opening Balance	2,778	1,528	1,558	1,588	1,388
In-year Net Movement in Reserves	(1,250)	30	30	(200)	30
Earmarked Reserves Closing Balance	1,528	1,558	1,588	1,388	1,418
Council Tax Base	35,224	35,576	35,932	36,292	36,654
Basic Council Tax	£187.42	£191.17	£194.99	£198.89	£202.87
Change on previous year	2.94%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%

## **BUSINESS STRATEGY** (Agreed by Cabinet on 5 November 2024)

Since 2015 the Council has developed a Business Strategy which is designed to ensure that it will be:

- Lean and fit in its assets, systems and processes
- Customer focused in all its activities
- Commercially-minded and financially viable
- Making best use of technology.

A number of initiatives within the Business Strategy have been implemented and have resulted in either reduced costs or additional income and/or improved services for the Council.

The Business Strategy is complemented by the Commercial Strategy, which seeks to implement a more business-like approach to service analysis and delivery. A number of initiatives within both the Business Strategy and the Commercial Strategy have been implemented.

The latest refreshed Business Strategy proposals for 2025/26 are set out below and will be incorporated within the Medium Term Financial Strategy once agreed. A number of these proposals will arise from discussions with officers and will require further detailed engagement and development.

**BUSINESS STRATEGY 2025/26 AND 2026/27 PROPOSALS**

Proposal	Business Impact	Financial Impact – Additional Income/ Reduced Expenditure
<b>2025/26 Proposals</b>		
Business Rates Growth	An assessment of a reasonable target based on the latest economic forecasts, local knowledge and estimated performance of property inspectors.	£50,000 additional income
Council Tax increase	<p>Assuming that the Government's Council Tax increase referendum limits are retained at the same level as recent years, then a Council Tax increase at £5 for a Band D equivalent equates to an increase of around 3% compared to the current MTFS forecast which includes a 2% rise for 2025/26.</p> <p>However, if the Government changes its referendum limits and allows districts to increase Council Tax up to 5%, then the further 2% increase would result in an additional £120,000.</p>	£60,000 additional income (MTFS assumes 2%, whilst £5 increase Band D provides to an additional 1% rise).
Garden Waste Income	Expected similar volumes of service users in 2025/26. Additional income assumes a rise of £2 to £45 per annum and no additional attrition.	£47,000 additional income
Beeston Phase 2 development income	Rental income to include new operators and a full review of the budget. The total additional income will be confirmed as part of the forthcoming budget setting process.	£65,000 additional income
Industrial units income	Planned increase in industrial unit rents over a two year period, but remaining below market rents.	£30,000 additional income

Proposal	Business Impact	Financial Impact – Additional Income/ Reduced Expenditure
Durban House income	Following refurbishment of Durban House, additional income is anticipated from lettings income	£43,000 additional income
Enforcement income	Net income collected by enforcement allocated to the Environment Services	£10,000 additional income
Homelessness government grant income	Government grant allocated to assist the management of the homelessness service , including the impact of Ukrainian refugees	£150,000 additional income
Bramcote Crematorium	<p>Potential additional income from the introduction of a pre-paid cremation deed, and other possibilities for Bramcote Bereavement Services, following the previous development and implementation of a new marketing strategy.</p> <p>The impact of the new cremators on energy savings also needs to be considered with an anticipated 2024/25 installation. The cost of fuel to heat the Crematorium offices and water should be completely offset by the introduction of the heat exchange system.</p> <p>Furthermore, the efficiencies derived from the new cremators should result in additional income, although this maybe partially offset by rising gas prices. It is anticipated that the cost of borrowing for the new cremators will be offset by energy savings and the additional income generated. Fee income is directly impacted by the prevailing death rate and a better assessment of income will be known following the launch of the pre-paid cremation deed in October.</p> <p>The rise in the cremation fees will generate approximately an additional £100,000 income.</p>	£50,000 additional income

Proposal	Business Impact	Financial Impact – Additional Income/ Reduced Expenditure
Staffing efficiencies	<p>Leverage technology and the use of new software, taking advantage of vacancies to restructure to save money, manage vacancies and reduce administration. Where possible, the Council will aim to bring together and consolidate services under fewer senior managers where turnover allows and services can be improved. Also, continually aiming to reduce reliance on agency staff.</p> <p>The current General Fund (GF) staffing budget in 2024/25 is forecast to significantly underspend, and therefore over-achieve the £600,000 turnover target (4.1% of GF salary budget).</p> <p>In view of the inflationary increases and growth in the overall salaries budget it is recommended to increase the savings target to £750,000 (4.9% of the anticipated GF salary budget £15.2m).</p>	£150,000 reduction in salaries expenditure, due an increase in the savings target
Price inflation (non-contractual)	The MTFS assumes a level of price inflation on premises, supplies and services budgets at 1% (energy and fuel budgets see a higher percentage and are shown separately), which adds around £60k to the base budget in 2025/26. There is an opportunity freeze those budgets at current levels, thereby challenging budget managers to absorb this inflationary cost within operational activity. The impact would be spread across the General Fund services.	£60,000 reduction in costs

Proposal	Business Impact	Financial Impact – Additional Income/ Reduced Expenditure
Insurance Portfolio – Premiums	A significant increase in insurance premiums was anticipated in advance of the scheduled 2024/25 tender exercise due to increased property sums insured and a hardening insurance market. This was duly recognised in the base budgets. The outcome of the insurance tender was better than expected and has resulted in a budget saving for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Liberty Leisure Limited. The target reduction for the General Fund in 2025/26 is included here.	£80,000 additional savings
Reshape the Leisure Offer	Current cost of the annual leisure management fee paid to Liberty Leisure Limited is £369,000. Proposal to reduce the management fee to £269,000 in 2025/26. Some of this saving will be achieved by implementing the outstanding recommendations of the efficiency review of the company, carried out by 'Active-4-today', which identified additional savings and income totalling £300,000. It is assumed that the remaining elements of the review can be implemented in 2025/26.  Liberty Leisure Limited held general reserves of £442,033 as at 31 March 2024.	£100,000 saving from further reduction in the management fee
Council Tax Single Persons Discount	Completion of the Single Persons Discount review in 2024, it is expected that additional Council Tax income can be achieved.	£5,000 additional income
Review of Council Tax discounts and exemptions	Completion of a review of Council Tax discounts and exemptions, including second homes and empty homes.	£50,000 additional income
	<b>Total 2025/26 additional savings and income identified</b>	<b>£950,000</b>



Proposal	Business Impact	Financial Impact – Additional Income/ Reduced Expenditure
<b>Additional savings and income proposals considered – no financial targets recommended in 2025/26</b>		
Procurement	Re-packaging and re-tendering contracts will bring efficiencies and savings, which will be predominantly capital savings.	Capital budget savings
Trade Waste Income	No additional income should be expected as the introduction of food waste for trade waste customers is likely to have an initial revenue cost which will negate any planned increase.	Nil
Leasing of Council Offices	Lease of newly refurbished office space to public, voluntary or private sector organisations, taking advantage of businesses re-locating out of other nearby office buildings. Further opportunities for letting will be continually investigated following the refurbishment of the ground floor reception area.	Nil
Grant Aid to Parish and Town Councils	A review of grant aid provided to parish and town councils, and consideration of bid writer to support parish and town councils accessing various external grants thereby allowing a reduction in Council's grants.	Nil
Planning Income	Planning income in 2024/25 is significantly below its income budget (£253,000 forecast shortfall), therefore no further increases are proposed in the income budget.	Nil
Housing - Lifeline Income	Potential income from the additional marketing of lifeline. No further income targets for this service.	Nil

Proposal	Business Impact	Financial Impact – Additional Income/ Reduced Expenditure
Homelessness – Reduce bed and breakfast.	Effective management of homelessness with the aim of reducing the use of bed and breakfast accommodation may generate a saving on the current base budgets. No savings targets proposed for this service.	Nil
<b>2025/26 – 2026/27 Proposals subject to commercial negotiations</b>		
Sale of Crematorium Land (capital receipt)	Commercial negotiations with a developer to sell land adjacent to Bramcote Crematorium. Any proceeds would be shared 50/50 with Erewash Borough Council. The site has planning approval for housing.	Revenue savings arising from the use of capital receipts can replace borrowing costs (MRP and interest) and result in revenue savings.
Tram Compensation	Tram compensation negotiations with Nottingham City Council have been completed, with final balance of settlement anticipated in 2023/24.	Provide resources for the capital programme.
Sale of the 'Argos' block in Beeston Square	Following Cabinet approval, commercial negotiations are progressing with a developer on converting the 'Argos' block into a medical centre. This could generate a significant capital receipt.	Revenue savings arising from the use of capital receipts to replace borrowing costs (MRP and interest).

## Appendix 2

**Fees and Charges 2024/25 (current year) approved by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 29 January 2024****COMMUNITY SAFETY – REVIEW OF FEES, CHARGES AND ALLOWANCES**

*All fees and charges are quoted exclusive of VAT, which will be added where applicable.*

**1. Licensing fees**

(i) Licences for which the fees are fixed by statute and amended from time to time by statutory instruments	Charges 2024/25 £
<b>Licensing Act 2003</b>	
Premises Licences Band A - New application/Vary	100.00
Premises Licences Band A - Annual fee	70.00
Premises Licences Band B - New application/Vary	190.00
Premises Licences Band B - Annual fee	180.00
Premises Licences Band C - New application/Vary	315.00
Premises Licences Band C - Annual fee	295.00
Premises Licences Band D - New application/Vary	450.00
Premises Licences Band D - Annual fee	320.00
Premises Licences Band E - New application/Vary	635.00
Premises Licences Band E - Annual fee	350.00
Premises Licence Minor variation – All Bands	89.00
Personal Licence Applications/Renewals	37.00
Temporary Event Notice	21.00
Change of Address	10.50
Vary designated premises supervisor	23.00
Transfer Premises Licence	23.00
Interim Authority	23.00
Replace Personal/Premises Licence	10.50
Freeholder Notification	21.00
<b>Gambling Act 2005</b>	
Lotteries and Amusements - Registration	40.00
Lotteries and Amusements - Renewal	20.00

**Gambling Act 2005 (continued)**

Type of Application Permit Type	Application Fee £	Renewal Fee £	Existing Operator Grant £	Transitional Application Fee £	Transfer Fee £	Change of Name £	Copy of Permit £
Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre	300.00	300.00	100.00	N/A	N/A	25.00	15.00
Prize Gaming	300.00	300.00	100.00	N/A	N/A	25.00	15.00
Notification of two machines	50.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	25.00	15.00
Licensed premises gaming machine	150.00	50.00	N/A	100.00	25.00	25.00	15.00
Club machine permit/club gaming permit	200.00	50.00	N/A	100.00	N/A	25.00	15.00
Temporary use notice	350.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Type of Application Permit Type	Application for Re-instatement £	Application for Provisional Statement £	Licence Application (Provisional Statement Holder) £	Copy Licence £	Notification of Change £
Existing Casino	See note	See note	See note	See note	See note
New Small Casino	See note	See note	See note	See note	See note
New Large Casino	See note	See note	See note	See note	See note
Regional Casino	See note	See note	See note	See note	See note
Bingo Club	See note	See note	See note	See note	See note
Betting Premises excluding tracks	See note	See note	See note	See note	See note
Betting Premises Tracks	See note	See note	See note	See note	See note
Family Entertainment Centre	See note	See note	See note	See note	See note
Adult Gaming Centre	See note	See note	See note	See note	See note

The charges in the above table are set by the Gambling Commission. Please visit their website for more details.

**Licences for which the fees are at the discretion of the Council:**

	Previous 2023/24 £	Present 2024/25 £
<b><u>Private Hire/Hackney Carriage</u></b>		
Private Hire/Hackney Carriage Operators (5 years)		
- 1 vehicle	103.00	115.00
- 2-5 vehicles	200.00	220.00
- 6-10 vehicles	426.50	470.00
- 11-15 vehicles	722.00	790.00
- 16-20 vehicles	958.00	1,050.00
- 21 or more vehicles	1,372.00	1,500.00
Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Vehicle (1 year) (initial inclusive of refundable plate deposit of £40)	342.00	376.00
Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Vehicle (1 year) (renewal)	216.00	237.00
Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Vehicle (6 month) (renewal) over 5 years old	185.00	203.00
Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Driver Application (1 year)	149.00	163.00
Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Driver Application (3 year)	259.00	284.00
Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Driver Renewal (1 year)	114.00	125.00
Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Driver Renewal (3 year)	224.00	246.00
Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Driver Topography test or retest	53.00	55.00
Replacement of lost badge	31.50	32.00
Replacement of lost plate per plate	31.50	32.00
Transfers – Change of Operator details/ownership	53.00	55.00
Transfer – Change of details	53.00	55.00
Re-inspection of vehicle if examination failed or failed to keep appointment	53.00	55.00
<b><u>Miscellaneous</u></b>		
Establishments for Massage and Special Treatment/Sunbed/both for grant and renewal	187.50	205.50
Establishments for Massage and Special Treatment and Laser New	410.00	450.00

	Previous 2023/24 £	Present 2024/25 £
Establishments for Massage and Special Treatment and Laser Renewal	299.00	330.00
Sex Establishment – Application	1,037.00	1,140.00
Sex Establishment – Grant	2,593.50	2,852.00
Sex Establishment – Transfer	1,037.50	1,140.00
Street and House-to-House Collections	No legal provision to make a charge	No legal provision to make a charge

## 2. Environmental Health Licences

(Licences and registrations are exempt from VAT - all other charges are VAT inclusive)

	Previous 2023/24 £	Present 2024/25 £
<u>Animal Boarding Establishment</u>		
Only cats or only dogs < 40	300.00*	330.00*
Cats and Dogs < 40	335.00*	365.50*
For every additional 50 animals above 40	75.00*	82.50*
*plus veterinary or other advisers' fees		
<u>Dog Care</u>		
Dog Sitting (domestic 4 dogs max) Grant/Renewal (incl HOSTS)	215.00*	237.00*
Dog Sitting/Home Boarding – Providers / Franchisors	180.00*	198.00*
Dog Day Care/Creche Grant/Renewal	335.00*	365.50*
*plus veterinary or other advisers' fees		
<u>Dog Breeding Establishment</u>		
Domestic up to 5 breeding bitches		
• Grant	375.00*	415.00*
• Renewal	275.00*	305.00*
Domestic up to 6-12 breeding bitches		
• Grant	425.00*	475.00*
• Renewal	375.00*	415.00*
Commercial up to 10 breeding bitches		
• Grant	475.00*	525.00*
• Renewal	425.00*	475.00*
Commercial - Grant/Renewal for every additional 6 (or part thereof) breeding bitches above 10	100.00*	100.00*

	Previous 2023/24 £	Present 2024/25 £
*plus veterinary or other advisers' fees		
<u>Pet Shop / Vending</u>		
Single Species - Grant/Renewal	290.00*	320.00*
Multiple Species - Grant/Renewal	340.00*	370.00*
*plus veterinary or other advisers' fees		
<u>Dangerous Wild Animals</u>		
Licence (2 years)	800.00*	880.00*
Licence – Reduced Fee, less than 20sq m handling Areas. Limited number of species.	400.00*	440.00*
Amendment of species or new accommodation	400.00*	440.00*
Variation (number kept if can be contained in existing accommodation)	100.00*	110.00*
*plus veterinary or other advisers' fees		
<u>Riding Establishment</u>		
Grant/Renewal	300.00*	330.00*
Variation (number kept)	75.00*	85.00*
*plus veterinary or other advisers' fees		
<u>Zoo</u>		
Licence (4 years)	2,000.00*	2,000.00*
Renewal (6 years)	3,000.00*	3,000.00*
Zoo – New Primate Licence (maximum 2 animals of same type or in small domestic settings)	600.00*	600.00*
Zoo – New Primate Licence (more than 2 animals, large or external enclosures)	900.00*	900.00*
Zoo – Amendment	150.00*	165.00*
*plus veterinary or other advisers' fees		
<u>Performing animals</u>		
Grant/Renewal (3 years)	300.00*	330.00*
Amendment - no additional visit required	86.50*	95.00*
*plus veterinary or other advisers' fees		
<u>Other Animal-Related</u>		
Combination of activities applied for at the same time	less 30% of lowest fee	less 30% of lowest fee
Animal Rerating Inspection	122.00*	140.00*
*plus veterinary or other advisers' fees		

	Previous 2023/24 £	Present 2024/25 £
<u>Residential Caravan Site</u>		
New Licence	800.00 plus 15.00 per pitch	800.00 plus 17.00 per pitch
Transfer/Minor Amendments	200.00	220.00
Major Amendments	325.00	360.00
Annual fee	17.00 per pitch	17.00 per pitch
Deposit of site rules	175.00	175.00
Residential Caravan site – Application for Fit and Proper Person to be added to the register	325.00	355.00

### 3. Registrations

	Previous 2023/24 £	Present 2024/25 £
<u>Acupuncture, Semi-permanent Skin Colouring, Tattooing, Cosmetic Piercing and Electrolysis</u>		
Person	140.00	155.00
Premises	175.00	190.00
Amendments to Registrations (e.g. name/address/replacement of certificate)	25.00	35.00
<u>Tattoo Hygiene</u>		
Rating Application	125.00	125.00
Rating Rescore	80.00	85.00

### 4. Miscellaneous

	Previous 2023/24 £	Present 2024/25 £
<u>Food Hygiene</u>		
Food Condemnation Certificates * plus waste costs	150.00*	157.50*
Food Export Certificates	180.00	180.00
Health and Safety Statements	120.00	120.00



	Previous 2023/24 £	Present 2024/25 £
<u>Scrap Metal Dealers and Motor Salvage Operators</u>		
Site (3 year issue)	350.00	380.00
Collector (3 year issue)	150.00	165.00
Variation of Site Manager	75.00	85.00
Change of licence	200.00	220.00
<u>Contaminated Land Information</u>		
Full Report	122.00	120.00
Per pre-determined question	25.50	25.00
Extracts from Environmental Protection Act Part 1 Registers	1.00 per entry	1.00 per entry

## 5. Private Water Supplies

	Previous 2023/24 £	Present 2024/25 £
Risk Assessment (Maximum permitted charge £500)	25.00 per hour	25.00 per hour
Sampling (Maximum permitted charge £100)	25.00 per hour	25.00 per hour
Investigation in event of test failure (Maximum permitted charge £100)	25.00 per hour	25.00 per hour
Authorisation – application for temporary breach during remediation (Maximum permitted charge £100)	25.00 per hour	25.00 per hour
Analysis – Regulation 10 domestic supplies (Maximum permitted charge £25)	25.00 each	25.00 each
Analysis – Check Monitoring – Commercial Supplies (Maximum permitted charge £100)	Labour Cost Plus time	Labour Cost Plus time
Analysis – Audit Monitoring – Commercial Supplies (Maximum permitted charge £500)	Labour Cost Plus time	Labour Cost Plus time

## 6. Environmental Permitting

	Previous 2023/24 £	Present 2024/25 £
In accordance with DEFRA Schedule		

7. **Houses in Multiple Occupation**

	Previous 2023/24 £	Present 2024/25 £
Full licence fee/renewal	725.00	765.00
Reduced fee if landlord is making an application in respect of a second or subsequent HMO	665.00	705.00
Immigration Housing Certificate	150.00	150.00

## Fees and Charges 2024/25 (current year) approved by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 29 January 2024

### ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE – REVIEW OF FEES, CHARGES AND ALLOWANCES

*All fees and charges are quoted exclusive of VAT (unless stated), which will be added where applicable.*

#### Refuse Charges

##### Trade Refuse - Charges for Facilities

The collection charges show a 5% increase which is in line with previous years.

The increase of 7% in disposal charges reflects a potential inflation related increase in the Nottinghamshire County Council charge. The disposal element may need to be adjusted when the County Council notify this Council of actual disposal costs.

##### Current Charges 2023/24

	<u>Bag</u> £	<u>140L bin</u> <u>(wheeled)</u> £	<u>240L bin</u> <u>(wheeled)</u> £	<u>660L bin</u> <u>(wheeled)</u> £	<u>820L bin</u> <u>(wheeled)</u> £	<u>1100L bin</u> <u>(wheeled)</u> £
Broxtowe BC Collection/Admin	1.64	3.29	5.09	9.81	11.05	13.55
Notts. CC Disposal Charge	1.82	3.60	5.61	15.32	18.76	24.41
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.46</b>	<b>6.89</b>	<b>10.70</b>	<b>25.13</b>	<b>29.81</b>	<b>38.96</b>

##### Proposed Charges 2024/25

	<u>Bag</u> £	<u>140L bin</u> <u>(wheeled)</u> £	<u>240L bin</u> <u>(wheeled)</u> £	<u>660L bin</u> <u>(wheeled)</u> £	<u>820L bin</u> <u>(wheeled)</u> £	<u>1100L bin</u> <u>(wheeled)</u> £
Broxtowe BC Collection/Admin	1.70	3.50	5.35	10.30	11.60	14.25
Notts. CC Disposal Charge	1.95	3.85	6.00	16.40	20.10	27.20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.65</b>	<b>7.35</b>	<b>11.35</b>	<b>26.70</b>	<b>31.70</b>	<b>41.45</b>

	Previous 2023/24 £	Present 2024/25 £
<b>Domestic Refuse</b>		
140 litre wheeled bin	32.00	34.00
240 litre wheeled bin	36.00	38.00
Replace when not through fair wear and tear		
<b>Special Collections</b>		
First Item	21.00	22.00
Each additional item	8.00	9.00
Collection of a shed	100.00	150.00
<b>Collection of Garden Waste</b>		
Standard Annual Charge	38.00	43.00
Additional Bins	24.00	25.00
Standard Annual Charge after 1 October	33.00	25.00
Additional Bins after 1 October	12.00	12.50
<b>Sponsorship of dog and litter bins</b>		
Per Bin (inc. VAT)	25.00	28.00
10 Bins (inc. VAT)	225.00	252.00
<b>Stray Dog Service</b>		
Stray dog returned to owner without kennelling	25.00	25.00
Administration	50.00	65.00
Kennelling (per day or part day) (ex VAT)	10.50	11.25
Vaccination (ex VAT)	16.66	20.00
Overnight in night kennel (ex VAT)	20.00	21.00
Flea/Worm treatment, if necessary (ex VAT)	11.20	13.00

<b>Environmental Enforcement</b>	2023/24	*Early repayment	2024/25	*Early repayment
FPN Littering	75.00	50.00	500.00	100.00
FPN Fly Tipping	400.00	300.00	1,000.00	500.00
FPN Dog Fouling	50.00	N/A	50.00	N/A
FPN Fly Posting	75.00	N/A	150.00	75.00
FPN Abandoned Vehicles	200.00	N/A	200.00	120.00
FPN Graffiti	75.00	N/A	500.00	100.00
Breach of CPN Individual	75.00	50.00	100.00	50.00
Beach of CPN Business	75.00	50.00	100.00	75.00

\* Reduced fees if paid within 14 days

	Previous 2023/24 £	Present 2024/25 £
<b>Football</b> (including VAT)		
Senior Pitch 11-a-side	64.60	68.00
Junior Pitch 11-a-side	38.90	41.00
9v9 football	35.70	37.50
7v7 football	33.30	35.00
5v5 if using changing facilities	27.30	29.00
Pit lane	27.30	28.50
17.5% discount on match fees if clubs mark their own pitches		
<b>Cricket</b> (including VAT)		
Square including use of pavilion with showers		
Senior	73.50	77.50
Concession	44.10	46.50
Service charges for facilities where clubs are involved in management/maintenance		
Bramcote Cricket Club (square and pavilion)	45.70	48.00
Manor Farm and Hetley Pearson Recreation Grounds (square)	48.30	51.00
Eastwood Cricket Club (pavilion)	50.90	53.50
Kwik Cricket (concession only)	27.80	30.00
<b>Bowls</b> (including VAT)		
Rink per hour per person		
Senior	4.70	5.00
Concession	2.90	3.50
Junior (u17) playing with a registered club member	Free	Free

	Previous 2023/24 £	Present 2024/25 £
Season tickets		
Senior	73.00	77.00
Concession	44.10	46.50
50% reduction of season ticket price after 1 August		
<b>Use of rinks by season ticket holders is restricted to 2 hours at any one time if others are waiting to play</b>		
Competitions (singles, pairs, triples and fours)		
Season ticket holder	Free	Free
Visitors/non-season ticket per person, per match		
Senior	4.70	5.00
Concession	2.90	3.50
Match booking - per rink per match	11.00	12.00
New players playing with a registered club member (First 5 hourly sessions free of charge)	Free	Free
<b>Tennis</b> (including VAT)		
Grass Court per person per hour		
Senior	3.80	4.00
Concession	2.30	2.50
Hard Court per person per hour		
Senior	2.00	3.00
Concession	1.20	1.50
Season ticket Hard Court only		
Senior	38.00	40.00
Concession	23.00	24.50
<b>- use of courts by season ticket holders are restricted to 2 hours at any one time if others are waiting to play.</b>		
Club use - charge per court per hour block booking fee summer period/or part of	44.00	46.50
Club use - charge per court per hour block booking fee winter period/or part of	80.00	84.00
Coaching - per person per hour		
Senior	4.00	4.50

	Previous 2023/24 £	Present 2024/25 £
Concession	2.40	3.00
Matches - 3 Courts		
Senior	58.00	61.00
Concession	35.00	37.00
Tennis is free at King Georges Park and the Inham Nook Recreation Ground		
<b>Note: Any bookings which qualify as a "series of lets" are exempt from VAT, providing all conditions for exemption are met and the option to tax has not been exercised.</b>		
<b>Hire of Pavilion</b> (including VAT)		
Charge per hour per site, sites with summer attendant (May-Sept)	16.80	20.00
Charge per hour other sites (All year round)	26.25	28.00
Official key holders all year round per hour	13.65	15.00
Concession per hour (play groups/charities)	7.00	8.00
<b>Hire of Parks/Recreation Grounds for Events</b> (including VAT)		
Fun fairs		
up to 4 days	1,420.00	1,500.00
each additional day	410.00	440.00
<b>Cycle cross/orienteering/cross country</b> (including VAT)		
Senior	163.00	172.00
Concession	100.00	105.00
<b>Bookings with mixed age categories, holiday clubs and Forest schools will be charged at the full rate. There will be no charge for charity events/training events or events with less than 10 participants. Events with no entry charge for participants will be charged at the concessionary rate.</b>		
<b>Fun days/galas (non-charity)</b> (including VAT)	163.00	172.00
<b>Major Events</b> (including VAT) – charge per day minimum charge, actual rate by negotiation plus additional labour and admin costs	494.00	520.00
<b>Fitness Training Organisation Using Parks</b> (including VAT)		

	Previous 2023/24 £	Present 2024/25 £
Rate per session		
Large/Medium organisation using one or more sites	0.00	20.00
Small organisation using one site only	0.00	15.00

Charges were removed between 2021/22 – 2023/24 due to the pandemic. Charges have been re-introduced for 2024/25, as there are no longer any restrictions. Organisations must provide all necessary insurance and risk assessment documents.

### **Allotments**

	Present Charge for 12 months (Effective 01/01/24)		Present Charge for 12 months (Effective 01/01/25)		Agreed Charge for 12 months (Effective 01/01/26)	
	Full	Concession	Full	Concession	Full	Concession
Per plot – standard plot size 250m <sup>2</sup>	38.00	19.00	39.00	19.40	41.00	20.40
Water charge per plot 126m <sup>2</sup> and above	21.00	n/a	21.00	n/a	22.00	n/a
Water charge per plot 125m <sup>2</sup> and below	10.50	n/a	10.50	n/a	11.00	n/a

The 2026 proposed allotment charges have been included as advance notice must be given to allotment holders. This advance notice can be sent out with the invoice saving posting and printing costs.

New plot holders are charged £35 deposit. Returned if plot left in reasonable condition and key handed back at the end of the tenancy. The concessionary rate for allotments includes concessions for the state pensionable age, disabled and unemployed. A 50% discount plot rental rate applies when a plot is let from July onwards for the final six months of the year; this reduces to a nil charge when the plot is let from October for the final three months of the year. There is also no water charge from October for the final three months.



**Cemeteries**

Charges for facilities (including VAT where applicable)	Persons 18 Years and over		Persons 17 Years and under	
	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	2023/24 £	2024/25 £
<b><u>Administration Fees</u></b>				
Purchase right of burial, including register of deed. # (All graves including vaults).	804.00	877.00	804.00	877.00
Right to construct a vault.	830.00	906.00	830.00	906.00
<b><u>Interment Fees</u></b>				
(Both earth graves and vaults)				
4'6" (new and re-open)	825.00	900.00	Nil	Nil
6' (new and re-open)	893.00	974.00	Nil	Nil
8' (new and re-open)	987.00	1,077.00	Nil	Nil
<b><u>Cremated remains</u></b>				
Purchase plot, including register of deed.	247.00	270.00	247.00	270.00
Interment of cremated remains. ~ Rate for 2 caskets at the same time is 1.5 the standard rate.	226.00	247.00	Nil	Nil
Scattering of cremated remains in Garden of Remembrance or on purchased grave space.	46.00	50.00	Nil	Nil
Exhumation of cremated remains	226.00	247.00	Nil	Nil
Concrete Pre Excavated Burial Figure includes: Purchase right of burial including register of deed, interment fee for 6' grave, right to construct a vault fee and single interment surcharge. The persons under 17 charge does not include the interment fee in line with other burials.	2,898.00	3,162.00	2,006.00	2,189.00

~Interment rate for two caskets at same time is 1.5 times the standard rate.

# A temporary grave marker will be provided free of charge on all graves which do not already have a wooden cross or other memorial, indicating the name of the deceased present on the grave.

The definition of persons 17 years and under includes Stillborn (after 24 week's gestation) and Non-Viable Foetus (pre 24 week's gestation).

Extra charge for Burials scheduled for after 14:00 on a normal working day, or who arrive after 14:30, or the coffin is committed to the grave after 14:30 will incur an extra charge of £207.00 (except when direct to a pre-excavated vault at Chilwell Cemetery.)

Weekend and Bank Holiday Surcharge – to cover the associated costs of providing the service, there is an additional fee of £138.00 per weekend or Bank Holiday burial (only available for burial straight to a pre-excavated vault).

Restricted depth charge (single interment surcharge to partially cover loss of multiple burials) - £407.00 double for non-residents.

Charges for non-residents are double those of residents. Except in the case of Council Tax payers who have become non-residents due to ill health or infirmity. This exception applies for a period of five years after moving out of the Borough.

Unused and unwanted graves can be bought back by the deed holder at the current grave purchase fee minus a £55.00 administration charge.

A charge for cancellation of a burial within 48 hours of the funeral will be applied. This will be the interment rate for the cancelled burial.

Late arrival of the funeral at the cemetery. A charge of £110.00 will be applied unless prior notice of the delay is provided.

Charges for facilities (including VAT where applicable)	All Ages 2023/24 £	All Ages 2024/25 £
<u>Memorials</u>		
Right to erect headstone with inscription	226.00	247.00
Right to erect small headstones with inscription (permitted only in areas with existing kerbstones only).	226.00	247.00
Right to erect kerbstones with inscription (permitted in areas with existing kerbstones only)	625.00	682.00
Right to erect cremated remains/grave plaque with inscription.	137.00	150.00
Right to additional inscription on all memorials	46.00	50.00
Vase with inscription up to 450mm in height.	76.00	83.00

<u>General</u>		
Service in chapel (Beeston Only)	150.00	164.00
Grave transfer fee(Basic)	42.00	46.00
Grave transfer fee(Complex)	68.00	75.00
Genealogy - cost for providing grave location map	11.00	12.00

Notes

1. Human Tissues and Organs  
Fees charged for the burial or scattering of remains held under the Human Tissue and Organ Act, released by hospitals, will be charged at the Councils discretion dependent on casket/coffin size and depth of the grave.
2. Interment Fees - Incorrect Coffin Sizes  
Additional 30% surcharge to Funeral Directors.
3. 10' Graves  
Only existing pre-purchased graves to this depth will be allowed.
4. Grave Transfer Fees  
If the grave owner is alive and submits a request, then there is no charge.
5. Coffin Exhumation  
The cost depends on the location, depth and soil conditions. It is based on cost of works plus 20% administration fee.

## Fees and Charges 2024/25 (current year) approved by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 29 January 2024

### LEISURE AND HEALTH – REVIEW OF FEES, CHARGES AND ALLOWANCES

*All fees and charges are quoted exclusive of VAT, which will be added where applicable.*

#### 1. Museum Admission

	Present 2023/24 £	Proposed 2024/25 £
Self-guided adult	5.00	7.50
Self-guided concession*	4.25	6.75
Self-guided Broxtowe resident / LLeisure gym members	Free	1.50
Guided adult (including Broxtowe residents / LLeisure gym members)*	6.50	10.00
Guided concession	5.75	9.25
Children under 18 (all types of admission)	Free	Free
School visits	3.50 per child, accompanying adults free	3.50 per child, accompanying adults free
Historic Houses Association Members*	Free	Free
Broxtowe resident / LLeisure gym members annual membership (unlimited self-guided access)	10.00	10.00

Notes \*:

1. Concessions are available for over 60s, disabled visitors and one carer, full time students and those who are unemployed.
2. 25% discount per head offered for group bookings of more than 10 people.
3. Historic Houses is a national trust type scheme whereby people pay a membership fee and get free entry into attractions. The museum then gets paid by Historic Houses for being part of the scheme.

**Fees and Charges 2024/25 (current year) approved by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 30 January 2024**

**HOUSING – REVIEW OF FEES, CHARGES AND ALLOWANCES**

*All fees and charges are quoted exclusive of VAT unless otherwise stated.*

	Previous 2023/24 £	Present 2024/25 £
<b>Lifeline</b> - Charge per week	3.93	4.13
<b>Lifeline Plus</b> - Charge per week	5.90	6.20
<b>Guest Room</b> - Room per night (includes VAT)	24.00	25.00
<b>Temporary Accommodation</b> (Daily Charge)		
50 Nether Street	18.50	18.50
52/54/56 Nether Street	16.25	16.25
Knapp Avenue	14.00	14.00
Plowmans Court	16.25	16.25
<b>Management Charge</b>		
Independent Living Scheme – Level 4	13.82	14.88
Independent Living Scheme – Level 3	13.30	14.32
Independent Living Scheme – Level 2	12.78	13.76
Independent Living Scheme – Level 1	11.05	11.90
General Needs Charge	1.50	1.62
<b>Decorating Allowances</b> <i>up to maximum as indicated</i>		
Electrical Rewire 1/2 Bed Flat	130.00	130.00
Electrical Rewire 2 Bed House	160.00	160.00
Electrical Rewire 3 Bed House	190.00	190.00
Electrical Rewire 4 Bed House	220.00	220.00
Partial Rewire/Decoration 1/2 Bed Flat	up to 110.00	up to 110.00
Partial Rewire/Decoration 2 Bed House	up to 130.00	up to 130.00
Partial Rewire/Decoration 3 Bed House	up to 160.00	up to 160.00
Partial Rewire/Decoration 4 Bed House	up to 180.00	up to 180.00

	Previous 2023/24 £	Present 2024/25 £
Heating Installation where back boiler removed	up to 50.00	up to 50.00
Plastering Repairs (per room depending upon extent of damage)	between 20.00 and 50.00	between 20.00 and 50.00
Rechargeable Repairs Invoices (Admin Fee)	10%	10%
<b>Resident Involvement Grants and Allowances</b>		
Maximum start up grant for local tenant/leaseholder groups	160.00	160.00
Maximum training grant for tenants to attend approved courses	110.00	110.00
Maximum one off grant to local tenant/leaseholder groups for purchase of equipment	160.00	160.00
Maximum on-going grants for local tenant/leaseholder groups to match local fund raising £ for £ approved items	270.00	270.00
Travelling allowance rates for attendance at meetings, training sessions, seminars and conferences	Applicable casual car user allowances	Applicable casual car user allowances
<b>Garages</b>		
Garage tenant and leaseholder (per month)	40.85	40.85
Garage non-tenant (per month)	49.02 including VAT	49.02 including VAT

**Fees and Charges 2024/25 (current year) approved by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 30 January 2024**

**BUSINESS GROWTH – REVIEW OF FEES, CHARGES AND ALLOWANCES**

*All fees and charges are quoted inclusive of VAT where applicable.*

**Economic Development**

	Previous 2023/24 £	Present 2024/25 £
<b><u>Beeston, Eastwood and Stapleford Squares:</u></b>		
Supply of electricity:		
General	20.00	20.00
Charitable organisations, schools and community groups	10.00	10.00

There are charges attached to permits granted for the commercial use, which are based on the information provided in the application but follow no set fee schedule.

	Previous 2023/24 £	Present 2024/25 £
<b><u>Commercial Use:</u></b>		
Beeston Square - Administration charge for an application for permission to trade within a “consent street” area	60.00	60.00
Eastwood, Stapleford, Kimberley - Administration charge for an application for permission to trade within a “consent street” area	30.00	30.00

	Previous 2023/24 £	Present 2024/25 £
<b><u>Market Fees:</u></b>		
Based on a single market day, 3x3m plot	15.00	15.00
Advance payment (1 month plus or more paid in advance) - per day	10.00	10.00

	Previous 2023/24 £	Present 2024/25 £
<b><u>Craft Event Fees:</u></b>		
Based on a single event day, 3x3m plot (Food stalls, Beeston Craft Fair)	25.00	25.00
Based on a single event day, 3x3m plot (Eastwood, Stapleford and Kimberley events)	15.00	15.00



## Fees and Charges 2024/25 (current year) approved by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 30 January 2024

### RESOURCES – REVIEW OF FEES, CHARGES AND ALLOWANCES

*All fees and charges are quoted exclusive of VAT, which will be added where applicable.*

#### 1. Fees for Local Land Charges/Enquiries

	Previous 2023/24 £	Present 2024/25 £
Land Charges Search/Standard Enquiries *	96.00	102.72
Additional enquiries (standard)	14.00	15.00
Additional enquiries (other)	20.00	21.40
Additional parcels	16.00	17.14

\* The proposed figure for 2024/25 includes £27.25 payable to Nottinghamshire County Council in respect of questions answered by the County Council. Since April 2017 VAT has been payable on CON29 information.

#### 2. Summons Charges

In line with many other Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire authorities, the Council levies a charge of £80 for a summons with no cost added for the liability order.

#### 3. Use of Council Accommodation

	Previous 2023/24 £	Present 2024/25 £
<b>Council Chamber</b>		
Weekdays per hour (up to 5pm)	44.00	47.00
Weekdays per hour (after 5pm)	48.00	51.00
Saturday/Sunday per hour	n/a	n/a
Daily Rate Weekdays Only (up to 5pm)	105.00	112.00
Half Day Rate Weekdays Only	63.00	67.00
<b>Reception Meeting Room</b>		
Half Day Rate Weekdays Only	11.00	12.00

The rates above apply to the hire of the room to a commercial organisation. A 50% reduction will be applied for non-profit making organisations.

Rooms will not be hired to any organisation for political or religious purposes unless the use relates to Council business or the primary purpose is for the benefit of the community as a whole.

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**Report of the Monitoring Officer**

<b>Equality, Inclusivity and Diversity at the Council's Parks</b>
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**1. Purpose of Report**

To present the findings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Working Group's review into Equality, Inclusion and Diversity at the Council. This is in accordance with all of the Council's corporate values.

**2. Recommendation**

**The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to RECOMMEND to Cabinet that the following recommendations be CONSIDERED and to RESOLVE accordingly.**

- 1. That all entrances to parks are audited, to allow wheelchair/mobility access where possible.**
- 2. Where a play park is fenced around, to ensure the access gate for a wheelchair is close to any accessible/inclusive play equipment or to consider the surface for the travel to the equipment.**
- 3. Where possible, that every play park in the Borough has access to a minimum of one piece of accessible/inclusive play equipment.**
- 4. To introduce further sensory play panels to the parks with some possibly away from climbing frames in quiet areas.**
- 5. When replacing play equipment that a double slide be provided instead of a single slide option.**
- 6. Exploring options to provide sensory gardens in parks and, where appropriate, to provide a sensory experience for all users to touch, smell, hear and see. To consider utilising parks already established with garden areas in the first instance.**
- 7. To provide signage across all parks for users to establish areas of rewilding, butterfly and bee planting, sensory and park areas.**
- 8. To consider the toilet options in large multi-use parks that are not near town centre facilities.**
- 9. To consider accessibility/inclusive benches as standard across all parks in the Borough and investigate the triangular benches with back supports as the standard park bench.**

**10. The results from the Parks Survey are made available to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.****3. Detail**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Working Group reviewed this topic with the purpose of the following outcomes:

- To develop recommendations to support improvements.
- To improve the overall Equality, Diversity and Inclusion within the Council including service users, Members and employees.

The report is circulated with this agenda, which includes recommendations.

**4. Key Decision**

This report is a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 as it will be significant 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. Financial Implications**

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

Whilst there are no additional financial implications to consider at this stage, the proposed recommendations would include additional cost implications, both revenue and capital, which may not be contained within existing budgets. Any significant budget implications in the future, over and above virement limits, would require approval by Cabinet.

**6. Legal Implications**

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

The Public Sector Equality Duty came in to force in April 2011, s.149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires Councils when carrying out their functions, to have due regard to the need to achieve the objectives set out under s149 of the Equality Act 2010.

This is to:

- a. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- b. advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c. foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The proposed recommendations as set out in the report supports compliance with the above legal obligation.

7. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

8. Union Comments

Not applicable.

9. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

10. 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.

11. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

12. Background Papers

Nil.

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**Broxtowe  
Borough  
COUNCIL**



## Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee



## Review of the Parks in the Borough

**Second part of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion  
at the Council Report.**



[www.broxtowe.gov.uk](http://www.broxtowe.gov.uk)

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## Summary

1. Broxtowe Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee established a review of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at the Council, to be carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Working Group was appointed at the meeting on 23 November 2023. The review was requested by Councillor S Dannheimer, who suggested that a review should consider whether the Council met the needs of all service users, Members and employees.
2. The review is in accordance with the Council's Priorities for Leisure and Health, and Environment, with the objectives of developing a programme of investment for Broxtowe's parks and open spaces, including accessible facilities, litter bins, picnic tables, signage, and enhanced bike trails. Furthermore, by developing the implementation of a new public toilet strategy in order to renew and improve these facilities, and supporting the development of community support for people with mental health issues and for people living with dementia and their carers.
3. The Working Group met on 2 August 2024 after receiving information from the Head of Environment and Climate Change to assist the Group in relation to the specific points on the scoping report. The Group also met on 16 August 2024 to visit Rushcliffe Country Park.
4. The purpose of the review was to achieve the outcomes outlined in the scoping report<sup>1</sup>. The review sought the following outcome:
  - To develop recommendations to support improvements.
  - To improve the overall Equality, Diversity and Inclusion within the Council including service users, Members and employees.
5. This report sets out the review process that was adopted and the recommendations to be made.

## Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Working Group

1. The Working Group was chaired by Councillor S Dannheimer, with Councillor S Webb as the Vice Chair.
2. Councillors E Winfield, E Williamson and C Tideswell was also part of the Working Group.

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<sup>1</sup> The scoping report is attached at appendix 1.

3. The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change was in attendance on the site visits around the chosen parks.
4. The Working Group was assisted by the Head of Environment and the Democratic Services Manager.



*Figure 1 Accessible and Inclusive Swing*



*Figure 2 Accessible and Inclusive Roundabout*

## **Recommendations**

**The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to RECOMMEND to Cabinet that the following recommendations be CONSIDERED and to RESOLVE accordingly.**

- 1. That all entrances to parks are audited, to allow wheelchair/mobility access where possible.**
- 2. Where a play park is fenced around, to ensure the access gate for a wheelchair is close to any accessible/inclusive play equipment or to consider the surface for the travel to the equipment.**
- 3. Where possible, that every play park in the Borough has access to a minimum of one piece of accessible/inclusive play equipment.**
- 4. To introduce further sensory play panels to the parks with some possibly away from climbing frames in quiet areas.**
- 5. When replacing play equipment that a double slide be provided instead of a single slide option.**
- 6. Exploring options to provide sensory gardens in parks and, where appropriate, to provide a sensory experience for all users to touch, smell, hear and see. To consider utilising parks already established with garden areas in the first instance.**
- 7. To provide signage across all parks for users to establish areas of rewilding, butterfly and bee planting, sensory and park areas.**
- 8. To consider the toilet options in large multi-use parks that are not near town centre facilities.**
- 9. To consider accessibility/inclusive benches as standard across all parks in the Borough and investigate the triangular benches with back supports as the standard park bench.**
- 10. The results from the Parks Survey are made available to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

## Background

1. The topic was suggested by Councillor S Dannheimer to consider the Equality, Inclusivity, Diversity and Accessibility at the Council.
2. The review was scoped at the meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee Working Group on 23 November 2023 which sought to provide explanatory data.
3. The Working Group took the following principles into account when visiting the parks – Accessibility is about removing barriers that may prevent users from taking part. Inclusion is about going that step further, to offer opportunities to promote integration, creativity and fun. When thinking about play, there are many principles to follow including plan to go, plan to access, plan to play, plan to rest and recharge, and plan to engage.

## Considerations at the Working Group Meetings and Site Visits

1. There were a number of lines of enquiry from the full scrutiny topic of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at the Council. The relevant line of inquiry is detailed below for Parks in the Borough.
  - Accessibility for leisure provided across the Borough, including parks and play equipment. Benchmark across other Authorities.
2. A briefing note was provided to the Scrutiny Group by the Head of Environment. The briefing provided background information relating to parks and open spaces across the Borough and clarified how many pieces of equipment are installed and maintained in the play areas. A table of information was provided regarding the location of inclusive play equipment included a replacement programme which aimed to enhance the play areas and play surfaces. The briefing note is included at **Appendix 2**:
3. Members were provided with a guide from Scope, which is included at **Appendix 3**. Scope is the disability equality charity which had produced a guide to support parents of disabled children. This provided guidance to Members to assist with the site visits with also provided ideas and a checklist of areas for consideration<sup>2</sup>.

The social model, as stated in the Scope report helps recognise barriers that make life harder for disabled people. Removing these barriers creates equality and offers disabled people more independence, choice and control. These included:

- Flat paths with a well maintained, solid surface both into and around the playground

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<sup>2</sup> [Campaigning for Inclusive Playgrounds Guide | Disability charity Scope UK](#)

- Inclusive play equipment on solid surfaces like rubbery ground, or concrete
  - Fences around the playground
  - Accessible toilets, including [changing places toilets](#).
4. Members selected five parks to visit from the list provided at **Appendix 2**.
- Mansfield Hall Park
  - Hall om Wong
  - Beeston Fields
  - Bramcote Hills Park
  - Queen Elizabeth Park, Stapleford
5. Members considered the entrances into the parks and play areas and reviewed the car parking spaces and any marked out for disabilities. The Group assessed gate accesses to assess if they were floor level and where paths met they remained flat. If there were steps were in the park, Members discussed whether they could be seen as a barrier, in all cases there were accessible entrances to the park and play area. However, in most cases, where there were multiple entrances, these were not clearly signposted, especially in larger parks. The Group considered that in some cases, accessible entrances to the play equipment was the furthest away from the car parking area.
6. Members assessed whether the main access to the parks was adjacent to a main road, and if there was a barrier to enter the park, such as a gate with a latch, or barriers to prevent entry to motor bikes, and steps or an uneven surface. Some of the parks had multiple entrances but were not clearly signposted. Furthermore, the nearest entrance for accessibility may not always have been the main entrance into the park. For example, Hall om Wong Park had several entrances with only one being accessible. The other entrances were either stepped or had footpath barriers to prevent bikes, it was considered that these kind of entrances may prevent a wheelchair user from accessing the park. The Group stated that all park entrances should be assessed across the Borough to determine whether the barriers could be removed where appropriate, especially where there was housing, zebra crossing, and bus stops nearby to consider making more accessible. Members, in addition, assessed the park entrances adjacent to housing estates, bus routes, zebra crossings, wide pathways, and barriers around the playgrounds for accessibility. It was stated that an audit of all entrances should be undertaken to consider if any changes could be made, where possible for accessibility.
7. Members stated that the different surfaces in the play areas worked well as long as the travel to the accessible/inclusive play equipment was considered. The paths around the parks were all wide and flat and well maintained and all led to the play equipment area. Beeston Fields Park had a path that went around the main grassed area and reached both entrances to the park. However, it was noted that the accessible group swing within the play area

was furthest away from the accessible gated entrance to the play park. Furthermore, the nearest entrance to the play park from the car park had steps, and the accessible entrance was not clear from the car park entrance. The entrance was slightly raised and may be difficult for a wheelchair to easily access.

8. Queen Elizabeth Park had an accessible swing but no pathway to travel to use it. Members stated that there should be some consideration for the travel to accessible play equipment in future planning of parks. The fence around the park equipment provided protection for young children especially if there was a car park or main road nearby. The gates around the play equipment areas were wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair. However, it was noted that sometimes this was furthest away from the car park or entrance to the park. Equipment for older age groups was outside the main park in some cases, for instance the zip wire or group swing at Bramcote Park. Members would like to see pathways to the accessible equipment for ease of travel in a wheelchair, especially in areas of bark or if the play equipment had been installed on grassy areas.
9. The Group discussed the travel to the Borough parks, and was pleased that all parks provided free car parking and had disabled car parking spaces marked out. Where there was a split level, ramps and handrails were provided. Queen Elizabeth Park, Stapleford was a very good example of ramps and handrails for entrances to the bowls area and tennis courts. Bus routes were nearby to entrances, especially the larger parks. The smaller parks tended to be within housing areas and were seen to be in short distance from where residential areas.
10. Members were pleased to see that there was a mixture of accessible/inclusive play equipment across the parks<sup>3</sup>. However, it was noted that some parks were only suitable for younger age groups and that there was only one or two pieces that would meet the needs of accessible/inclusive play for all ages. Members liked the accessible play panels that were on the outskirts of the play parks which allowed for quiet play. The panels provided individual play or could be part of a game with more than one person. The larger parks across the Borough provided similar themed play equipment. The report indicated that not all parks across the Borough had accessible play equipment, especially the smaller residential play areas. The smaller parks had less play equipment, but in most cases, were nearby to the larger play areas with the variety of play. Some other features at parks included landscapes which offered trees for playing hide and seek, hills for rolling, shaded areas and a variety of colour contrasts around the equipment. Members would like to see at least one piece of accessible/inclusive play equipment being provided at each park across the Borough. Along with feedback from the recent park survey to see if residents felt any improvements could be made.
11. Members liked the option of the shared play equipment. This included double width slides, saucer style swings and roundabouts. This equipment allowed

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<sup>3</sup> Further information is included in Appendix 2.

for shared play with parents and other children at the same time for inclusivity play. The Group also liked the play panels that had been installed around the perimeters of the play parks. They offered a variety of play and the recent consultation indicated the panels were the most favoured. Accessible panels provided different play opportunities and had been installed at a number of sites across the Borough including:

- Manor Farm recreation ground, Toton
- Chetwynd Rd open space, Chilwell
- Queen Elizabeth Park, Stapleford
- Jubilee Park, Eastwood
- Laurel Crescent Nuthall
- Eastcote Avenue, Bramcote
- Flixton Rd, Kimberley
- Smithurst Rd, Giltbrook
- Bramcote Park
- Beeston Fields

12. Members considered sensory gardens at the parks for all ages and/or disabilities. Play was not just for children but should be considered for all ages and abilities. There are six senses that should be planned for:

- Touch
- Smell
- Sound
- Sight
- Proprioception – awareness of location and movement of our bodies
- Vestibular – awareness of balance and spatial orientation.

13. Members researched many articles provided on websites for sensory experiences<sup>4</sup>. The Sensory Trust recommends creating accessible and engaging nature experiences that makes green spaces accessible and sensory rich to be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities. Inclusive places are more popular with people in general, The Sensory Trust comment that when done well, good access is not obvious, it just makes the place easier to understand and use and be more comfortable to be in. This benefits everyone. Barriers often result in expensive retrofits and limits usability for most people.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.sensorytrust.org.uk/Improving Access – Sensory Trust>  
[How to use braille for accessible information \(sensorytrust.org.uk\)](https://www.sensorytrust.org.uk/How to use braille for accessible information (sensorytrust.org.uk))  
[Sensory Trust – Inclusive Nature Experiences](https://www.sensorytrust.org.uk/Sensory Trust – Inclusive Nature Experiences)  
[Sensory and dementia gardens - NHS Forest](https://www.sensorytrust.org.uk/Sensory and dementia gardens - NHS Forest)  
[Sensory Garden – Friends of Wollaton Park](https://www.sensorytrust.org.uk/Sensory Garden – Friends of Wollaton Park)  
[Sensory Garden — Parc Bryn Bach](https://www.sensorytrust.org.uk/Sensory Garden — Parc Bryn Bach)



14. Providing Braille signs or materials pre visit enables a visually impaired visitor to gather information at their own pace, without relying on a sighted person to read everything for them. Members noticed at Rushcliffe Country Park, braille had been included in some of the signs. Sensory play could be play equipment in a quiet shaded area that allows the user to feel, play with a variety of sounds and smells in a separate space to a play area.
15. Sensory gardens tend to be a green space that has been designed to appeal to as many senses as possible. Children with special educational needs, including autism, benefit from being able to explore multiple senses in an environmental that feels soothing and safe. Sensory planting can also be designed for people with dementia, as colour, touch, and scent can be calming, and inspire the recollection of distant memories and sensations. Using tactile or aromatic plants, allows people with sight loss to experience nature up close by touching and scent. Engagement with community groups could support this project. Members visited the memorial garden at Mansfield Road, Eastwood, and the Walled Garden at Bramcote Park. At Bramcote Park there was a sundial maze that could be used for accessible play. This area appeared to be neglected but there was an opportunity to provide the Community with a wonderful space to enjoy a sensory garden experience and providing a relaxing experience. There were already some planting of flowers and herbs, wind chimes, water features, and it was felt that further planting would help with the sensory experience. Other parks had opportunity for areas to be created such as bee and butterfly areas but it was recognised they would need to be maintained. Community groups and local schools in the area could help to support and maintain these designated areas. Signage could be provided in Braille or a leaflet could be available before the visit. Members considered that the current signage around the walled garden area was dated. Other parks in the Borough could also be developed and advertised to provide sensory style gardens especially where flowers, herbs and tall grasses were already planted.
16. There was a general lack of signage around the parks indicating wilding areas, bee pollinating and butterfly areas for sensory experiences and to identify the nearest toilets. Some of the signage around the parks was no longer relevant, aged and had overgrown planting in areas. Members would like to see improved signage around the parks, including signposting to the nearest toilets, accessible entrances, sensory spaces, and warning signs cleared from overgrown planting where appropriate.
17. There was a lack of toilet facilities, especially at out of Town Centre Park areas. On the day the Members visited Bramcote Park, visitors also raised this as an issue. Water access, vandalism and maintenance was factored into the conversation with options such as compost toilets or Portalooos suggested within the Group. Members attended Rushcliffe Country Park to look at the toilets provided and further information was obtained from the Rushcliffe Park Manager. The Benchmarking section details the outcome of the visit. Members were able to look at the toilet options at Rushcliffe Country park and seek further information [Visiting Rushcliffe Country Park - Rushcliffe Borough Council](#).



18. Members liked that some of the picnic benches at the parks had space to accommodate a wheelchair or pushchair around the table to provide inclusivity and that the pathway to these benches had been extended to allow for easy travel. The group analysed the different styles of picnic benches across the parks and preferred the triangular version that was at Bramcote Park, due to back support being provided and ease of getting in and out of the bench. There was opportunity for everyone to sit around the triangular version and this style provided more spaces for wheelchair and pushchair use.
19. The Group was pleased to see that consultation had taken place with the local Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SENDs) school to ask for a preference as to which of the play equipment, when Bramcote Park was modified. The consultation suggested the sensory panels were most favoured over large play equipment such as swings and slides. Other consultations had taken place and the Members would like to see the results of the Park Survey that was out for consultation when the review was taking place. The Group reviewed the report from Scope, 'The Play Investigation', which provided information on campaigners visiting local playgrounds. They answered some questions to see how accessible and inclusive the playgrounds were for disabled children across the country. Inham Nook Play Park at Chilwell had been included in the report. <https://www.scope.org.uk/campaigns/lets-play-fair/playground-accessibility-map>
20. Members were provided with a guide from Scope, which had produced a guide to support parents of disabled children. The guide assisted Members with the site visits to the Parks. [Campaigning for Inclusive Playgrounds Guide | Disability charity Scope UK](#)
16. Members noted that there was no mandate requiring Councils to offer play areas. The Council's [Play Strategy, 2017-2025](#), emphasises key drivers that advocate for the provision of play spaces. The Strategy identified many types of play and indicated that play was a natural process that should be able to take place for all ages. Within the Strategy, consultation on play needs in Broxtowe was carried out, including a group session with Foxwood Academy, a school specialising in serving the educational needs of children with disabilities. The Group discussed issues relating to children with special needs including facilities for adults and carers within play areas, equipment that could accommodate a companion, alternatives to traditional swings that were more inclusive and the avoidance of physical barriers.
17. Bramcote Park, having recently undergone refurbishment, had a large variety of play equipment that was for a variety of ages and provided inclusive play too. Accessible/Inclusive play equipment included a dish roundabout, low level toddler unit, wheelchair roundabout, low level junior unit, talk tubes, music pipes and a sensory panel. Other parks in the Borough mainly consisted of low-level toddler units, a group swing, sit in springy, and a dish roundabout. Members thought the sensory panels were very impressive. Members liked the group swings, wheelchair roundabouts and double swings as they provided inclusive play for everyone. Accessible paths had been provided for

access to the group swing, which had been installed outside of the perimeter of the play area. Members stated that they would like to see at least one accessible/inclusive play equipment at all play parks in the Borough. It was noted that some of the smaller parks had no accessible play but was in the vicinity of another play area that had accessible/inclusive play equipment nearby.

18. Members noted the date of the last improvements to the parks, and the programme for the replacement of play equipment across the parks in the Borough. The potential accessible/inclusive improvements included converting the bark pits to rubber and replacement of some play equipment across the parks. Members liked the split between rubber and bark in the main play areas as long as the access to any accessible equipment within the area had been considered, additionally the travel areas needed to be flat and wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair user. The costs of replacing the flooring to rubber was expensive and Members considered that the play equipment should take priority, especially where there is no accessible play equipment available. The Group felt this should be a replacement priority within the programme rather than the full replacement of the flooring. The cost to replace the flooring was also based on current prices and the replacement programme extended to the year 2040 in some cases.



*Figure 3 A Councillor playing with a Sensory Panel at Bramcote Park*



*Figure 4 Double Slide*



*Figure 5 Sensory Panel Creating Music*



*Figure 6 Roundabout*



*Figure 7 Sensory Play*



*Figure 8 Sensory Panel*





*Figure 9 Split Level Surface*



*Figure 10 Councillors looking at the Split Level Surface*



*Figure 11 Paths at Hall om Wong*



*Figure 12 Accessible entrance Hall om Wong*



*Figure 13 handrails and car park QE Park*



*Figure 14 Pathway to the play equipment Beeston Fields*



*Figure 15 flowers that could be incorporated into a sensory garden in the Memorial area of Mansfield Park Eastwood*





Figure 16 Sundial Maze



Figure 17 Walled Garden Signage



Figure 18 Old Butterfly Signage



Figure 19 Picnic Bench with Path



Figure 20 Picnic Bench





Figure 21 Triangle Picnic Bench Preferred Option with Members



Figure 22 Sensory Panel



Figure 23 Sensory Panel



Figure 24 Sensory Panel



Figure 25 Sensory Panel

## Benchmarking

1. Members visited Rushcliffe Country park to compare the parks visited in the Borough. They were particularly interested in the toilet facilities, the sensory trail and signage. There was a purpose built café area with integrated toilets that could be accessed using a radar key out-of-hours and a picnic area. There was baby changing and separate toilets. Further to the play area there were additional toilets that had been adapted from composter toilets to Zero Discharge toilets.
2. The toilets near to the play area had been compostable but was found over the years with the high amount of footfall and usage meant they never composted properly. Composters are only really suitable for low use areas. They are now Zero Discharge toilets, and get emptied by a tanker around five times a year. Full-time employees open the toilets in the morning and close them in the evening. The toilets are accessible but are not accessed with a radar key. This option could be provided. There is no electricity or running water, and hand gel and toilet roll are supplied. Visitors commented to the Group that they were pleased the toilets were in situ as it saved a trek back to the café toilets or using bushes nearby. There was no smell, and the inside was clean. Members commented they toilet floors may get muddy in wet weather.
3. The main play park had a variety of flooring with a wide pathway that led you to different zones of play including sand, toddler, swings and slides. There was also a bike track, skate park, concrete table tennis facilities, a labyrinth and sensory trail in the woods. The Sensory trail, due to it being in the woody area was rather neglected and required some repair. It was being well used however. Play equipment was available to hire or visitors could bring their own to use free of charge. Play at Rushcliffe Country Park was not just at the main play park.
4. There were a variety of play areas that could be used by all ages and abilities including trees for hide and seek and rolling hills. The labyrinth at Rushcliffe had been labelled as a being aimed at mindfulness, labyrinths, are found all around the world and provide a journey with one continuous path, it had shelter trees, seats, a raised earth bank, an interpretation board, and access paths. It was designed to be inclusive for motorised wheelchairs, pushchairs, bicycles, and less mobile people, with wide hardcore paths marked by bricks of contrasting colours, all lying flat to the ground. Members considered if the Sundial maze at Bramcote could be ideal for mindfulness and inclusive play in the same way. There was a small sensory garden with herbs and flowers. The signage around the park was clear and Members liked the information boards which identified the variety of trees and flowers in the area. Some of the plants' signage had QR readers on for further information and interactive purposes. There were insect homes and mosaic stepping stones that provided interactive play too. All pathways were wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair, although the sensory play area in the woods may be difficult to explore, especially in wet weather. The car park was small for visitors and the park was out of the main town area. There was a bus stop nearby.





*Figure 26 Café and Accessible Toilets with a Baby Changing Station.*



*Figure 27 Inside the Portaloo Toilet*



*Figure 28 The Portaloo Style toilets*



Figure 29 Play Equipment at Rushcliffe Park



Figure 30 Mosaic Stepping Stones



Figure 31 Table Tennis



Figure 32 Labyrinth for Mindfulness





Figure 33 Sensory Play in the Woods



Figure 34 Small Sensory Garden



Figure 35 Insect Garden



Figure 36 Wooden Signage.





Figure 37 Wooden Signage



Figure 38 Sensory Trail Signage



Figure 39 Radar Key Instructions



Figure 40 Signage to Identify Trees

5. Rugby Borough Council had pushed ahead with plans to make play areas accessible for all. They had recently invited residents and community organisations to a consultation event to help the Council's plans to boost accessibility at play areas in the Borough along with the UK's leading manufacturer of outdoor play equipment.<sup>5</sup>

The event aimed to raise awareness of the work the Council had already undertaken to increase play area accessibility and to discover community organisations' and residents' experiences of visiting play areas in the Borough, following a notice of motion at a meeting of full Council, the Council backed plans to hold the event and committed to creating a set of design principles to inform all future play area installations and maintenance. Members looked at accessibility of parks through the lens of a user with cerebral palsy. Recent refurbishment demonstrated the Council's work to improve accessibility, with ramps leading to the refurbished bandstand, extended picnic benches to cater for wheelchairs and a wheelchair-accessible roundabout. The Council had also followed the accessibility guidelines from the Green Flag Awards, Fields in Trust and Make Space for Girls, a campaign which calls for inclusivity to be placed at the heart of play area and public space design.

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<sup>5</sup> [Council pushes ahead with plans to make play areas accessible to all - Rugby Borough Council](#)

## Scoping Form Information

### Appendix 1

### Scoping Report

<b>Title of review</b>	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion within the Council
<b>Expected outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop recommendations to support improvements</li> <li>• To Improve the overall Equality, Diversity and Inclusion within the Council including service users, Members and employees</li> </ul>
<b>Terms of reference/Key lines of enquiry</b>	<p>Who is the Diversity and Inclusion Officer (Check Equalities Officer and HR Officer look at the Policies and EIA form. Equality Impact Assessments Check relevant and assessments are carried out to meet the needs of the user. Apprenticeship Award. To question if recruitment and accessibility needs are met.</p> <p>Accessibility of all buildings/sites and rooms. Car park access. Accessibility to Council Offices (travel and transport) Accessibility to the Councils Websites/forms. Is the same shared across the Authority?</p> <p>Training awareness for all Members and employee's accessibility of Training for Members</p> <p>Accessibility to services the Council provides and inclusivity of leaflets, how residents/businesses pay</p> <p>To consider if there is a North/South divide within the Borough including access to services and travel.</p> <p>Accessibility for leisure provided across the Borough including parks and play equipment. Benchmark across other Authorities</p> <p>Councillor inclusion</p> <p>Town Centres including signage for all and assets across the Authority Head of Asset Management.</p>
<b>Possible sources of information</b>	<p><a href="https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/equality-framework-local-government-eflg-2021">Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (cfigs.org.uk)</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/equality-framework-local-government-eflg-2021">https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/equality-framework-local-government-eflg-2021</a></p>

	<p>HR statistics and reports from Head of HR re recruitment (Hidden disabilities) Diversity and Inclusion report.  Copy of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion report.  How are the employees of BBC feeling, do they feel barriers within the organisation? Employee Survey questions.  Websites for accessibilities and other Scrutiny conducted on the topic.  Previous reports to Cabinet including Equality, Play Strategy, Recruitment policies.  What works well how can this be replicated across the Authority.</p>		
<b>How review could be publicised</b>	Website, Members Matters, Report to Cabinet, email me briefings.		
<b>Specify site visits</b>	<p>Kimberley Depot, Main Offices, Housing Complex, Accessible toilets.  Check Housing properties for accessibilities including the non-visual disabilities any relets the Group could visit or willing tenants.  Equalities Working Group attend next meeting</p>		
<b>Possible witnesses</b>	<p>Benchmark other Authorities  Head of HR  Equalities Officer  Employees of Broxtowe Borough Council  Residents (Senior Private Sector Housing Officer Accessibility)  Head of Housing  Head of Asset Management  Head of Environment</p>		
<b>Resource requirements</b>	<p>Transport off site  Background papers such as exiting reports</p>		
<b>Projected start date</b>	04.12.2023	<b>Draft report deadline</b>	December 2024 Cabinet tbc
<b>Projected completion date</b>	04.11.2024		

**Briefing note:** Accessible play: Parks for all.

**Prepared by:** Parks and Open Spaces Manager

**Date:** 1 June 2024

### Vision

To create play areas that promote inclusivity, enabling children of all ages and abilities to play together.

### Background

There are 62 Parks and Open Spaces across the Borough, of which 37 have a play area. These play areas vary in size, as does the variety of play equipment pieces available at each site. **Appendix 1a** shows the spread of both Council and Parish owned play areas across the Borough.

There are 323 pieces of equipment installed and maintained in these play areas. All equipment is installed to BS EN 1176 (which is the British and European Standard for playground equipment) and BS EN 1177 (which covers playground surfacing and provides guidance on critical fall height and impact safety). All of the Borough Council and Parish Council owned play equipment is inspected by playground inspectors on a weekly basis.

As can be seen in **Appendix 2a**, the majority of play areas across the Borough, incorporates some form of inclusive play equipment. The Parks and Open spaces team is currently implementing a replacement programme to enhance accessibility to the park areas. They are currently replacing the traditional bark surfaces with recycled rubber crumb material. This transition aims to improve safety, durability and accessibility for park users.

### Legislative drivers

Whilst there is no mandate requiring Councils to offer play areas, evidence from National policies and practices underscores the significance of play. The Council's [Play Strategy, 2017-2025](#), emphasises the following key drivers that advocate for the provision of play spaces.



## Charter for Children's Play – Play England (2004)

*“Children have the right to play All children and young people have the right to play and need to play: free to choose what they do – lively or relaxed, noisy or quiet – with the chance to stretch and challenge themselves, take risks and enjoy freedom. The right to play is enshrined in Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.*

*Every child needs time and space to play All children and young people – disabled and non-disabled – whatever their age, culture, ethnicity or social and economic background, need time and space to play freely and confidently with their peers, free of charge, indoors and outdoors, somewhere they feel safe. Play provision should actively include the widest range of children and seek to engage with those from minority groups”. (Broxtowe Borough Council Play Strategy 2017-2025)*

## Every Child Matters – Green Paper (2003)

Every Child Matters – Green Paper (2003), published in September 2003, the basis and aim of the Government's Green paper was to ensure that every child has the chance to fulfil their potential by reducing levels of educational failure, ill health, substance misuse, teenage pregnancy, abuse and neglect, crime and anti-social behaviour among children and young people.

Five Key outcomes were identified; these were:

- Being Healthy – Engaging in play enhances emotional well-being, alleviates symptoms of depression and anxiety, boosts self-confidence and self-esteem and promotes better mental health.
- Staying Safe - Research indicates that parents that permit their children to play outdoors tend to have a wider social support network, compared to those that don't. This expanded network includes friends who can provide additional supervision and assistance, contributing to a safer environment for both the parents and their children in the community.
- Enjoying and Achieving – Engaging in play provides marginalised children and young people, such as those with disabilities, traveller children and those from minority ethnic groups with opportunities to experience a sense of belonging and inclusion, fostering a feeling of community and acceptance.
- Making a Positive Contribution - Play is a fundamental pathway to enable children to develop their social skills, learning to make friends and build their sense of community and justice.
- Achieving Economic Well-Being - Play provision is often free of charge, promoting opportunities for all, regardless of economic status.

## Accessible play areas

According to a report by the disability equality charity Scope, it was found that less than half of playgrounds in the UK are currently accessible for people that have a disability. This sparked a national campaign aimed at enhancing inclusivity in play areas.

Various strategies exist for enhancing inclusivity in park play equipment. This involves incorporating accessible and inclusive pieces of equipment. The definitions of accessibility and inclusivity used by Scope are derived from a joint position statement by the Children's Play Policy Forum and the UK Play safety Forum regarding the inclusion of disabled children in play provision.

These are:

- **'Accessible'** Play Space is a space which is barrier-free, allows users access to move around the space and offers participation opportunities for a range of differing abilities. **Not every child of every ability will be able to actively use everything within an accessible play space.**
- **'Inclusive'** Play Space provides a barrier-free environment, with supporting infrastructure, which meets the wide and varying play needs of every child. **Disabled children and non-disabled children will enjoy high levels of participation opportunities, equally rich in play value.**

(Source: <https://playsafetyforum.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/including-disabled-children-in-play-provision-2022.pdf> referenced 23 May 2024 )

Of the 37 play areas in the Borough, 33 feature inclusive or accessible play equipment. Table 2, **Appendix 2a** provides a detailed breakdown of each play area, indicating the accessible play equipment available and outlining the potential replacement programme timeframe.

**Appendix 3a** provides examples of inclusive and accessible play equipment already installed or scheduled for installation in Council play areas.

The Council aims to incorporate inclusive play equipment to improve user experience. This can include small and cost effective play panels and talk tubes, as well as larger group swings, allowing multiple people to play on them. Such equipment is designed to be accessible to both those with disabilities and those that don't.

As part of the forthcoming update to the Play Strategy scheduled for 2025, locations with the potential for enhanced accessibility and inclusivity will be pinpointed. These sites could then be integrated into the Pride in Parks programme. The programme will also look to focus on enhancing existing parks infrastructure, such as paths and

benches ensuring that these are also accessible and inclusive. **Financial implications**

The installation of exclusively accessible play equipment incurs higher costs compared to non-inclusive or partially inclusive play equipment. This can be attributed to the complexity of the equipment's construction and the need for additional infrastructure. For example, a wheelchair accessible swing would cost £19,000 to install, compared to £1,500 for a standard swing.

If a comprehensive long-term initiative were to be implemented to improve the level of accessibility and inclusivity of all the Council's parks, the estimated cost to do so would be approximately **£1.7 million pounds**. Over a fifteen-year capital programme, (not including other required parks upgrades) this equates to £113,000 per year. Further detail is provided in **Appendix 2a**.

#### **Future play areas**

Currently, two play areas are set to be transferred to the Council under Section 106 agreements. These are linked to ongoing housing developments. These are:

- The Bellway site, off Hassocks Lane, Beeston.
- A play area within the Field Farm development in Stapleford.

Both sites, though compact, feature a mix of equipment including some accessible pieces.

#### **Parish and Town Councils**

The Council is not responsible for the management or maintenance of eight sites in the Borough, these fall under the responsibility of five Parish and Town Councils. These sites are outlined in table 1. The Parish and Town Councils order and pay for all new equipment and repairs to existing infrastructure. However, the Council does undertake inspections of these play areas on behalf of the Town and Parish Councils and also provides assistance in identifying and sourcing any spare parts.

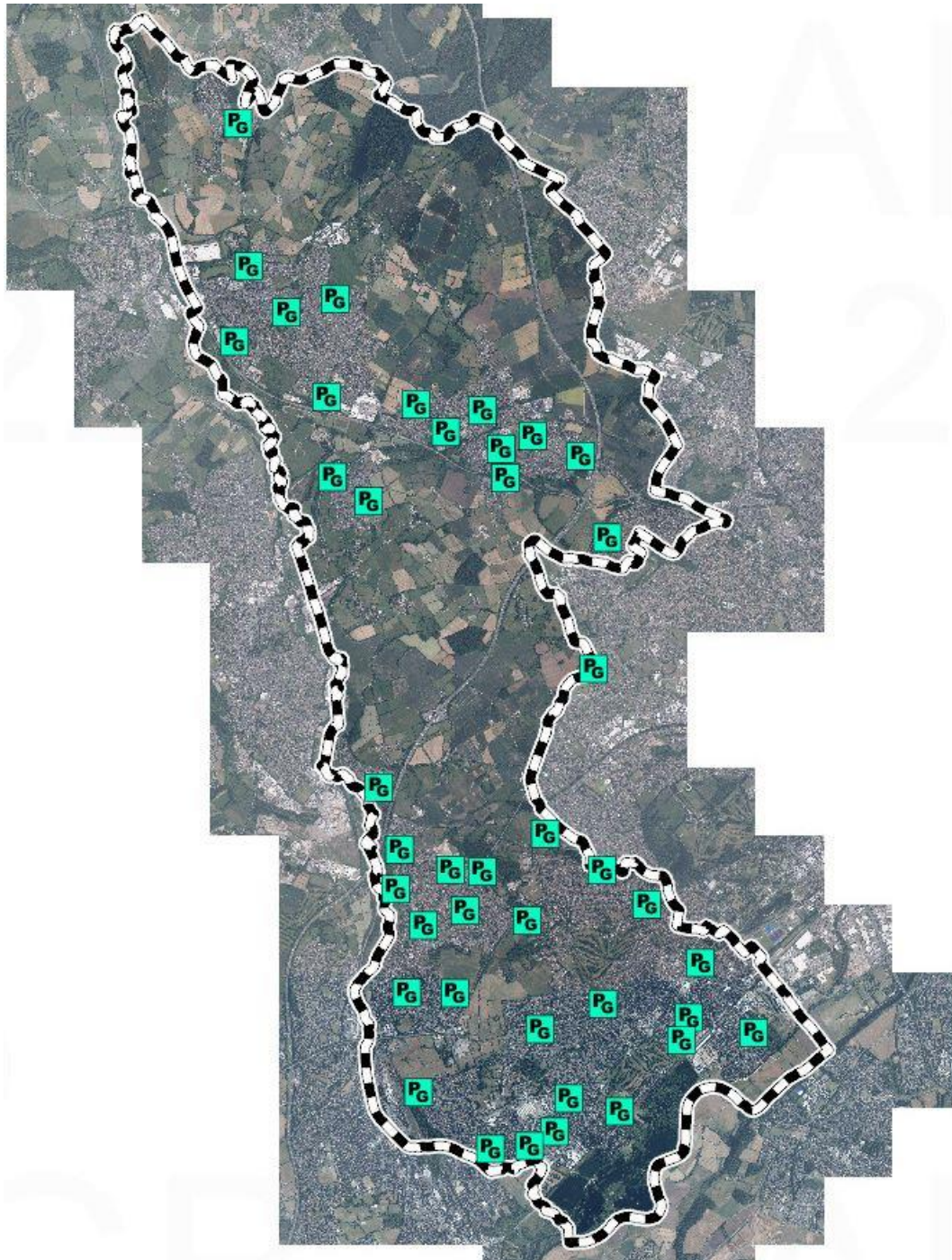
<b>Area</b>	<b>Park</b>
<b>Awsworth</b>	Shilo Recreation Ground The Lane Recreation Ground
<b>Brinsley</b>	Brinsley Recreation Ground
<b>Greasley</b>	Greasley Recreation Ground Lower Beavale

Area	Park
<p><b>Kimberley</b></p>	<p>Knowle Park</p> <p>The Stag Recreation Ground</p>
<p><b>Trowell</b></p>	<p>Festival Hall</p>

Table 1: Parish and Town Council play areas

## Appendix 1a

### Council and Parish owned play areas across the Borough



## Appendix 2a

### Accessible and inclusive play equipment in Parks across the Borough

Area	Park	Accessible/Inclusive play equipment	Accessible infrastructure	Date of last improvement/ Programmed replacement date	Potential Inclusive/accessible improvements and estimated costs
Attenborough	Long Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group swing.</li> <li>Inclusive low level play unit.</li> <li>In ground trampoline.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tarmac path to play area.</li> <li>Part rubber part bark surfacing.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gates.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2023	Convert bark pit to rubber £60k.
				Programmed full replacement - 2036	
Beeston	Beeston Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group swing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gates.</li> <li>Car park with 2 disabled bays.</li> <li>Accessible paths throughout park.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2015	Convert bark pit to rubber £140k.
				Programmed full replacement - 2036	Replace outdated play unit £30k.
Beeston	Broadgate Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In ground trampoline.</li> <li>Water and sand play unit.</li> <li>Dish roundabout.</li> <li>Sit in springy.</li> <li>Low level junior play unit.</li> <li>Group swing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pay and display car park with disabled bays.</li> <li>Accessible paths throughout the park.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gate.</li> <li>80% rubber surface within the play area.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2018	Replace play unit £20k.
				Programmed full replacement - 2038	

Area	Park	Accessible/Inclusive play equipment	Accessible infrastructure	Date of last improvement/ Programmed replacement date	Potential Inclusive/accessible improvements and estimated costs
Beeston	Templar Road	None. A single climbing frame is available on site, which is not accessible.	None	Date of last improvement - 2012 Programmed full replacement - 2035	N/A
Beeston	Leyton Crescent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In ground trampoline.</li> <li>Low level play unit.</li> <li>Group swing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessible paths throughout the park.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gates.</li> <li>70% rubber surfacing within the play area.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2018 Programmed full replacement - 2035	Replacement play unit £20k.
Beeston	Hetley Pearson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low level play unit equipment with inclusive play panels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessible path to the park.</li> <li>Car park with disabled bays.</li> <li>100% rubber surfaced play area.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gates.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2012	S106 contributions will support a full refurbishment of the play area to include inclusive and accessible play equipment. Works to be



Area	Park	Accessible/Inclusive play equipment	Accessible infrastructure	Date of last improvement/ Programmed replacement date	Potential Inclusive/accessible improvements and estimated costs
				Programmed full replacement - 2033	undertaken late 2024.  £10k resurface of rubber surface.  £10k group swing.  £10k accessible low level play unit.  £5k accessible springy dish roundabout and play panel.
Beeston	Dovecote Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group swing.</li> <li>2x low level play units.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessible paths throughout the park.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gates.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible picnic benches.</li> </ul>	<div>Date of last improvement - 2021</div> <div>Programmed full replacement - 2041</div>	Replace two play units £30k.



Area	Park	Accessible/Inclusive play equipment	Accessible infrastructure	Date of last improvement/ Programmed replacement date	Potential Inclusive/accessible improvements and estimated costs
Bilborough	College Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Toddler Low level play unit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessible paths.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gates but bark path surface.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2011	Convert bark pit to rubber £60k.
				Programmed full replacement - 2030	Upgrade play unit £15k. Install group swing £10k.
Bramcote	Bramcote Hills Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dish roundabout.</li> <li>Low level toddler unit.</li> <li>Wheelchair roundabout.</li> <li>Low level junior unit.</li> <li>Talk tubes.</li> <li>Music pipes.</li> <li>Sensory panel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Car park with disabled bays.</li> <li>Accessible paths throughout the park.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gates.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible picnic benches.</li> <li>70% rubber surfacing within the play area.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2024	Convert remaining bark pit to rubber £54k.
				Programmed full replacement - 2044	
Bramcote	Eastcote Avenue	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% rubber surfacing within the play area</li> <li>Accessible paths throughout the park</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2010	Convert bark pit to rubber £65k.
				Programmed full replacement - 2030	Group swing £10k.

Area	Park	Accessible/Inclusive play equipment	Accessible infrastructure	Date of last improvement/ Programmed replacement date	Potential Inclusive/accessible improvements and estimated costs
					Upgraded play unit £10k.
Bramcote	Lowes Estate/Sandgate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group swing.</li> <li>Low level toddler unit.</li> <li>Sit in springy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gate but bark path surface.</li> <li>Accessible paths.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2023	Convert bark pit to rubber £55k.
				Programmed full replacement - 2043	
Bramcote	King George's park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In ground trampoline.</li> <li>Low level toddler unit.</li> <li>Group swing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% rubber surfacing within play area.</li> <li>Car park with disabled bays.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gates.</li> <li>Accessible paths.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2020	Install inclusive roundabout £10k.
				Programmed full replacement - 2040	
Chilwell	Swiney Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dish roundabout.</li> <li>Low level toddler unit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% rubber surfaced play area.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gates.</li> <li>Accessible paths.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2020	Install group swing £10k.
				Programmed full replacement - 2040	

Area	Park	Accessible/Inclusive play equipment	Accessible infrastructure	Date of last improvement/ Programmed replacement date	Potential Inclusive/accessible improvements and estimated costs
Chilwell	Inham Nook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low level play unit.</li> <li>Group swing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% rubber surfacing within the play area.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gates.</li> <li>Accessible paths throughout the park.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2014	Convert bark pit to rubber £45k.
				Programmed full replacement - 2034	Upgraded play unit £10k.
Chilwell	Cator Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sit in springy.</li> <li>Low level toddler unit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80% rubber surfacing within the play area.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gates.</li> <li>Accessible paths throughout park.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2023	Convert remaining bark pit to rubber £21k.
				Programmed full replacement - 2034	Install inclusive roundabout £10k.  Install group swing £10k.
Chilwell	Barncroft	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rubber surface but no play equipment.</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A
Chilwell	Chetwynd Road	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gate but bark surface within play area.</li> <li>Accessible paths.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2025	Convert bark pit to rubber £73k.
				Programmed full replacement - 2035	Install group swing £10k.

Area	Park	Accessible/Inclusive play equipment	Accessible infrastructure	Date of last improvement/ Programmed replacement date	Potential Inclusive/accessible improvements and estimated costs
Chilwell	Sherman Drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 x low level play units.</li> <li>Group swing.</li> <li>Sit in springy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30% rubber surfacing within the play area.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gates.</li> <li>Accessible paths.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2019	Convert bark pit to rubber £100k.
				Programmed full replacement - 2039	Group swing £10k. Inclusive roundabout £10k.
Eastwood	Jubilee Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group swing.</li> <li>Large multi play unit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% rubber surface play area.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gates.</li> <li>Accessible paths.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible picnic table.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2018	Resurface existing rubber £16k.
				Programmed full replacement - 2038	
Eastwood	Mansfield Road Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group swing.</li> <li>Low level play unit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Car park with 2 disabled bays.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2018	Convert remaining bark pit to rubber £50k.

Area	Park	Accessible/Inclusive play equipment	Accessible infrastructure	Date of last improvement/ Programmed replacement date	Potential Inclusive/accessible improvements and estimated costs
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gates.</li> <li>Accessible paths.</li> <li>50% rubber surfacing within the play area.</li> </ul>	Programmed full replacement - 2038	Install inclusive roundabout £10k.
Eastwood	Coronation Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talk tubes.</li> <li>Water play unit.</li> <li>Low level play.</li> <li>Sand play unit.</li> <li>Sit in springy.</li> <li>Group swing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessible paths throughout the park.</li> <li>Accessible picnic table.</li> <li>80% rubber surfacing within the play area.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gates.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2010	Install inclusive roundabout £10k.
				Programmed full replacement - 2030	Resurface rubber £7k.
Giltbrook	Smithurst Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sit in springy.</li> <li>Group swing.</li> <li>Dish roundabout.</li> <li>2x Low level play units.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessible paths.</li> <li>50% rubber surfacing within the play area.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gates.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2017	Convert bark pit to rubber £63k.
				Programmed full replacement - 2037	Upgrade older play unit £15k.
Kimberley	Hall-Om-Wong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group swing.</li> <li>Dish roundabout.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessible paths throughout the park.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2020	Convert bark pit to rubber £66k.

Area	Park	Accessible/Inclusive play equipment	Accessible infrastructure	Date of last improvement/ Programmed replacement date	Potential Inclusive/accessible improvements and estimated costs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2x Low level play units.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>60% rubber surfacing within the play area.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gates.</li> </ul>	Programmed full replacement - 2040	Install inclusive roundabout £10k.
Kimberley	Windmill/ Millfield Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low level play unit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessible paths.</li> <li>100% rubber surfaced play area.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gates.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2018	Install group swing £10k.
				Programmed full replacement - 2038	
Kimberley	Flixton Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group swing.</li> <li>Low level play unit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessible paths.</li> <li>50% rubber surfacing within the play area.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy- Gates.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2016	Convert bark pit to rubber £36k
				Programmed full replacement - 2036	Install group swing £10k. Install inclusive roundabout £10k.
Nuthall	The Spinney (Laurel Crescent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low Level toddler play unit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gates.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2023	Convert bark pit to rubber £20k.

Area	Park	Accessible/Inclusive play equipment	Accessible infrastructure	Date of last improvement/ Programmed replacement date	Potential Inclusive/accessible improvements and estimated costs
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>60% rubber surfacing within the play area.</li> </ul>	Programmed full replacement - 2043	Install group swing £10k.  Install inclusive roundabout £10k.
Nuthall	Redbridge Drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dish roundabout.</li> <li>Group swing.</li> <li>Sit in springy.</li> <li>2x Low level play units.</li> <li>In ground trampoline.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessible path.</li> <li>50% rubber surfacing within the play area.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gates.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2018	Convert bark pit to rubber £40k.
				Programmed full replacement - 2038	
Stapleford	Ilkeston Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low Level play unit.</li> <li>In ground trampoline.</li> <li>Dish roundabout.</li> <li>Sit in springy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessible path.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gates.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2016	Convert bark pit to rubber £120k.  Install group swing £10k.
				Programmed full replacement - 2036	

Area	Park	Accessible/Inclusive play equipment	Accessible infrastructure	Date of last improvement/ Programmed replacement date	Potential Inclusive/accessible improvements and estimated costs
Stapleford	Pasture Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group swing.</li> <li>2x Low Level play units.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Car park with disabled bay.</li> <li>Accessible path.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gates.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible picnic table.</li> <li>100% rubber surfaced play area.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2022	Recent refurbishment. No further enhancements required at this stage.
				Programmed full replacement - 2042	
Stapleford	Hickings Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2x Low level play units.</li> <li>Group swing.</li> <li>In ground trampoline.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Car park with 2 disabled bays.</li> <li>Accessible path.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gates.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible picnic table.</li> <li>100% rubber surfaced play area.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2019	Recent refurbishment. No further enhancements required at this stage.
				Programmed full replacement - 2039	
Stapleford	Pippins/Judson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dish roundabout.</li> <li>In ground trampoline.</li> <li>Group springy.</li> <li>Low level toddler play unit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20% rubber surfacing within the play area.</li> <li>Accessible path.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gates.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2018	Convert bark pit to rubber 60k.
				Programmed full replacement - 2038	Install group swing 10k.



Area	Park	Accessible/Inclusive play equipment	Accessible infrastructure	Date of last improvement/ Programmed replacement date	Potential Inclusive/accessible improvements and estimated costs
Stapleford	Archers Field	None	None	Although there is no play area onsite, there is a MUGA and hard surface that will be inspected and replaced if needed. Possible renewal date – 2030.	No play equipment on site.
Stapleford	Queen Elizabeth Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group swing.</li> <li>Low level toddler unit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Car park with disabled 2 bays.</li> <li>Accessible path.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gates. (Bark surface within play area).</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible picnic table.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2024	Convert bark pit to rubber £100k.
				Programmed full replacement - 2030	
Stapleford	Central Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sit in springy.</li> <li>Low level toddler unit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessible path.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy-Gates.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2018	Resurface rubber surfacing £15k.

Area	Park	Accessible/Inclusive play equipment	Accessible infrastructure	Date of last improvement/ Programmed replacement date	Potential Inclusive/accessible improvements and estimated costs
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% rubber surfaced play area.</li> </ul>	Programmed full replacement - 2028	Install group swing £10k.  Install inclusive roundabout £10k.
Toton	Manor Farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group swing.</li> <li>In ground trampoline.</li> <li>Dish roundabout.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessible paths.</li> <li>50% rubber surfacing within the play area.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy- Gates.</li> <li>Car parks with disabled 3 bays.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2013	Convert bark pit to rubber £50k.
				Programmed full replacement - 2033	
Toton	Chester Green	None	None	Although there is no play area onsite, there is a MUGA and hard surface that will be inspected and replaced if needed. Possible renewal date – 2030.	No play equipment on site.


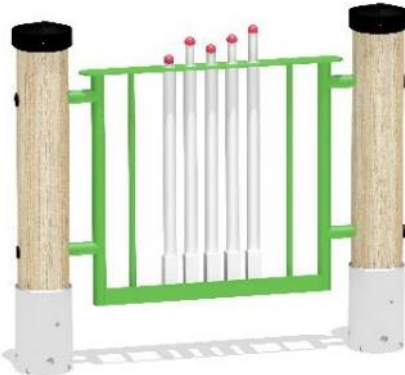




Area	Park	Accessible/Inclusive play equipment	Accessible infrastructure	Date of last improvement/ Programmed replacement date	Potential Inclusive/accessible improvements and estimated costs
Toton	Banks Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sit in springy.</li> <li>2x Low level toddler units.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessible paths.</li> <li>50% rubber surfacing within the play area.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible Easy- Gates.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2022	Convert bark pit to rubber £28k.
				Programmed full replacement - 2042	Install group swing £10k.
Trowell	Salcey Drive/Trowell Park Open Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low level toddler unit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% rubber surfaced play area.</li> <li>Wheelchair accessible gate.</li> </ul>	Date of last improvement - 2019	Resurface rubber £15k.
				Programmed full replacement - 2029	

Table 2. Breakdown of accessible or inclusive play equipment and accessible infrastructure in Council owned play areas.

## Appendix 3a

### Accessible and inclusive play equipment

Examples of accessible and inclusive play equipment currently installed or due to be installed on play areas in the Borough.

<p><u>Inclusive Roundabout</u></p> 	<p><u>Music Pipes.</u></p> 	<p><u>Dish roundabout.</u></p> 
<p><u>Low level play unit with interactive panels.</u></p> 	<p><u>Group Swing.</u></p> 	<p><u>Talking tubes</u></p> 

### **Scope Campaign Lets Play Fair Inclusive Playgrounds Guide**

#### **Introducing the social model of disability**

The social model of disability is a way of viewing the world, developed by disabled people.

The model says that people are disabled by barriers in society, not by their impairment or difference. Barriers can be physical, like playgrounds not having accessible toilets. Or they can be caused by people's attitudes to difference, like assuming disabled children can't play with other children.

The social model helps us recognise barriers that make life harder for disabled people. Removing these barriers creates equality and offers disabled people more independence, choice and control.

- 21. Flat paths with a well maintained, solid surface both into and around the playground
- 22. Inclusive play equipment on solid surfaces like rubbery ground, or concrete
- 23. Fences around the playground
- 24. Accessible toilets, including [changing places toilets](#)

It should not have:

Only grass, sand, loose woodchips or other hard-to-wheel on paths into the playground, and in the playground itself

- Gates that are too narrow for a wheelchair to get through, such as kissing gates designed to keep bikes out.
- Inclusive equipment on loose surfaces, like those already listed

#### **Plan to play**

This principle looks at the engaging the senses.

When thinking about play, there are 6 senses that should be planned for. Whilst not all playgrounds will cover all 6 senses, a great playground will engage them all.

These are:

- Touch
- Smell
- Sound
- Sight

- Proprioception which is an awareness of location and movement of our bodies
- Vestibular, which is the awareness of balance and spatial orientation

### **Plan to rest and recharge**

This principle looks at the providing downtime.

- The opportunity for regular rest stops is a necessary function of playground design. This is vital to keep disabled children playing who might need breaks.
- Tables and benches should be where they won't block access. Picnic tables should allow for a wheelchair user to sit at the table.
- Seating with back rests and arm supports are best.

### **Plan to engage**

This principle looks at the promoting the inclusive playground.

This involves promoting the inclusive play space within the community through accessible, easy to find channels like the local council's website, social media and signage. When local councils provide information regarding the accessibility of equipment and facilities at the playground, this helps families to make an informed decision about the suitability of the park for them.

### **Universal design**

Universal design is the concept of creating environments that are accessible to everyone. The principle is that by eliminating a barrier for one group, more people overall can use it.

For example:

- A playground with a sensory garden is great for engaging autistic children. But it also provides learning opportunities about nature for all children.
- A fence around the playground keeps children with a learning disability, who are less aware of the dangers of a road, in a safe place. But it also keeps all children safe.

The Let's Play Fair campaign takes a universal design approach. The playground becomes a more inclusive place for all children. This is a useful concept to return to when trying to advocate for changes at a playground.

### **Accessible playgrounds: equipment and features**

When advocating for features and equipment you want to see in your playground, consider the 6 senses and universal design principles to make your argument.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of inclusive play equipment and features. You can use these to get specific about what you want to see in your playground, and what it is lacking.

## **Equipment**

- Wheelchair accessible Roundabout
- Seesaw with back support and a footrest or a wheelchair accessible seesaw
- High-back swing
- Large nest swing
- Variety of play panels which offer opportunities to explore the senses of light, touch and sound and games to play with others
- Double width slide – so an adult can accompany their child down the slide
- Play frames which have ramped access
- Wheelchair accessible swing
- In ground trampolines (at least 2 meters by 2 meters) to allow a parent/carer to accompany their child.
- Playhouses which allow wheelchair access
- Contained, step-free sandpits
- Musical equipment

## **Features**

- Shaded areas
- Private spaces
- Benches with backs and armrests.
- Landscape which offers play value such as hills for rolling or trees for playing hide and seek.
- Sensory garden
- Water features
- Soft, rubbery floor surfaces
- Ramps to high-up equipment
- Fencing around the playground
- Wide gates
- Colour contrast around equipment
- Changing places toilets

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## Report of the Leader of the Council

### Cabinet Work Programme

#### 1. Purpose of Report

Cabinet is asked to approve its Work Programme, including potential key decisions that will help to achieve the Council's key priorities and associated objectives.

#### 2. Recommendation

**Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that the Work Programme, including key decisions, be approved.**

#### 3. Detail

The Work Programme for future meetings is set out below. Key decisions and exempt items are marked with \*.

3 December 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event Programme 2025/26</li> <li>• Garden Waste Subscription Fee*</li> <li>• Council Tax Base 2024/25*</li> <li>• Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24*</li> <li>• Irrecoverable Arrears Exempt*</li> <li>• Housing Benefit- War Pension Disregard</li> <li>• People Strategy</li> <li>• Economic Development and Regeneration Plan 2022-2027</li> <li>• Complaints Report Quarter2</li> <li>• Housing Strategy</li> <li>• Pets Policy</li> <li>• Policy for Customers with Additional Supports Needs</li> <li>• Former Beamlight Factory Article 4 Direction</li> <li>• Neonatal Care leave</li> <li>• Food Waste and Simpler Recycling</li> <li>• Options Appraisal for a piece of land*</li> <li>• Garage Survey</li> <li>• Affordable Housing Contract*</li> <li>• HQN Mark Audit</li> </ul>
7 January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grants to Voluntary and Community Organisations</li> <li>• Irrecoverable Arrears *</li> <li>• Litter Strategy</li> <li>• HMO Strategy</li> <li>• Residential Guidance Supplementary Document</li> <li>• Decarbonisation of Council Premises</li> </ul>
4 February 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget Proposals and Associated Strategies</li> <li>• Pay Policy</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prevent Strategy</li><li>• Grievance Policy</li><li>• Disciplinary Policy</li></ul>
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4. Key Decisions

This is not key decision.

5. Financial Implications

There are no additional financial implications.

6. Legal Implications

The terms of reference are set out in the Council's constitution. It is good practice to include a work programme to help the Council manage the portfolios.

7. Human Resources Implications

There are HR implications purely from the point of view of clarifying roles and responsibilities of Council Officers and responsibilities of partner agencies.

8. Union Comments

There were no comments received

9. Climate Change Implications

There were no comments received.

10. Data Protection Compliance Implications

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

11. Equality Impact Assessment

There are no Equality Impact Assessment issues.

12. Background Papers

Nil

### Report of the Monitoring Officer

### Scrutiny Work Programme

#### 1. Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to request that Members aware of matters proposed for and undergoing scrutiny. This is in accordance with all of the Council's priorities.

#### 2. Recommendation

**The Committee is asked to CONSIDER the report and RESOLVE to agree subjects to be considered for review including those submitted as suggestions for Scrutiny.**

#### 3. Detail

Details of the reviews currently suggested on the work programme are within **Appendix 1**. **Appendix 2** contains a briefing note in relation to item six on the work programme, Environment Enforcement Fines.

Members may wish to consider new topics using the criteria below for their current programme:

- Issues identified by Members as a key issue for the public
- Issue has a significant local impact
- Significant public dissatisfaction (e.g. through complaints)
- Issue raised by auditors
- New government guidance/legislation
- New evidence provided by external organisation
- Poor performance (e.g. evidence from performance indicators)
- High level budgetary commitment
- Pattern of budgetary overspending.

The work programme for the next meetings is as follows:

20 January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget Scrutiny</li> <li>• Update from the Scrutiny Working Group</li> <li>• Housing Repairs Update</li> </ul>
21 January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget Scrutiny</li> <li>• Update from the Scrutiny Working Group</li> </ul>
27 February 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

#### 4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance were as follows:

There are no additional financial implications.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Head of Legal were as follows:

The terms of reference are set out in the Council's constitution. It is good practice to include a work programme to help the Council manage the portfolios.

6. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable

7. Union Comments

Not applicable

8. Climate Change Implications

This report does not contain any climate change implications.

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

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

10. Equality Impact Assessment

There are no Equality Impact Assessment issues.

10. Background Papers

Nil

## Appendix 1

## 1. Topics Agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

	Topic	Topic suggested by	Link to corporate priorities/values
1.	Child Poverty	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Support people to live well, A good quality home for everyone
2.	Budget Consultation	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	All Corporate Priorities
3.	Building Control	Councillor B C Carr agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to put on hold. Awaiting the outcome of a report to Cabinet.	A good quality home for everyone
4.	Diversity and Inclusion at the Council	Councillor S Dannheimer agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Invest in our towns and our people, Support people to live well, Protect the environment for the future, and a good quality home for everyone
5.	Council Agendas	Councillor T Marsh	Protect the environment for the future
6.	Environment Enforcement Fines	Cabinet	Protect the environment for the future

**2. Spotlight Reviews**

1.	Housing Repairs Service Review	Six Month Review	January 2025	The Housing aim of a good quality home for everyone
2.	Markets	Six Month Review	November 2024	Invest in our towns and our people
3.	D. H Lawrence Museum	Six Month Review	June 2025	Invest in our towns and our people
4.	Equality Diversity and Inclusion at the Council (Report to Cabinet 3 September 2024)	Six month Review	June 2025	Invest in our towns and our people, Support people to live well, Protect the environment for the future, and a good quality home for everyone

## Appendix 2

**Fly tipping across the Borough of Broxtowe**

Briefing note prepared by the Head of Environment for item six on the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme, Environment Enforcement Fines.

**What is fly tipping?**

*'Fly-tipping is illegal dumping of liquid or solid waste on land or in water. The waste is usually dumped to avoid disposal costs'.* (Source: GOV.UK

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/fly-tipping-council-responsibilities>. Referenced: 30 September 2024).

**Legislation Drivers**

- Environmental Protection Act 1990, section 33.
- Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016, regulations 12 and 38.
- Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016, schedule 21 – water discharge activities.

**Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) v Prosecution**

An FPN can be issued for fly tipping. However, it is not appropriate to issue one if:

- Operators are in the waste management industry.
- They are repeat offenders.
- If the fly-tipping is large scale or the fly-tipping is of hazardous waste.

**Current FPN and prosecution charges for fly-tipping**

Table 1 highlights the current FPN charges for fly tipping.

FPN Charges		Early repayment
Littering	£500	£100
Fly tipping	£1,000	£500

Table1: Current FPN charges for fly tipping in Broxtowe Borough.

Large scale fly-tipping can be punished with a £50,000 fine, and/or a 12-month prison sentence. Offenders convicted of large scale fly-tipping in a Crown Court can face an unlimited fine, and/or a five-year prison sentence.

**Fly tipping on private land**

The responsibility for clearing waste on private land (which includes most shared alleyways, access roads, and garages) lies with the owner or occupier.

Private land owners seeking a fly-tipping clearance service should contact a private waste contractor.

### How many incidents of fly tipping has there been in Borough?

The number of fly tipping incidents across the Borough since April 2022 is highlighted in Figure 1.

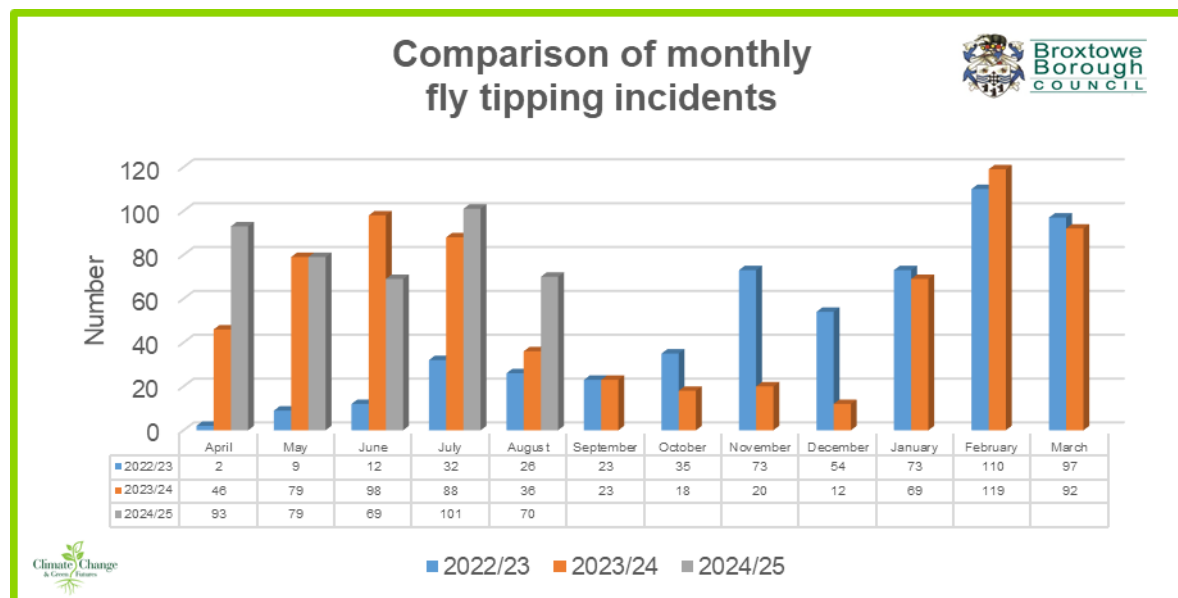


Figure 1: The number of fly tipping incidents across the Borough, from April 2022 until August 2024.

Table 2 highlights the annual number of fly tipping incidents since April 2022.

Year	No of fly tipping incidents
2022/23	546
2023/24	700

Table 2: Annual number of fly tipping incidents

The number of fly tipping incidents has been increasing across the Borough. This is due in part to increased reporting by the Street Cleansing teams.

### Fly tipping tonnage

Fly tipped waste collected in the Borough is bought back into the depot and disposed of in a fly tipping skip. The tonnage for fly tipping waste has been decreasing, highlighting that the fly tipping amounts are low level amounts (No more than a couple of black bags). See figure 2 and 5.



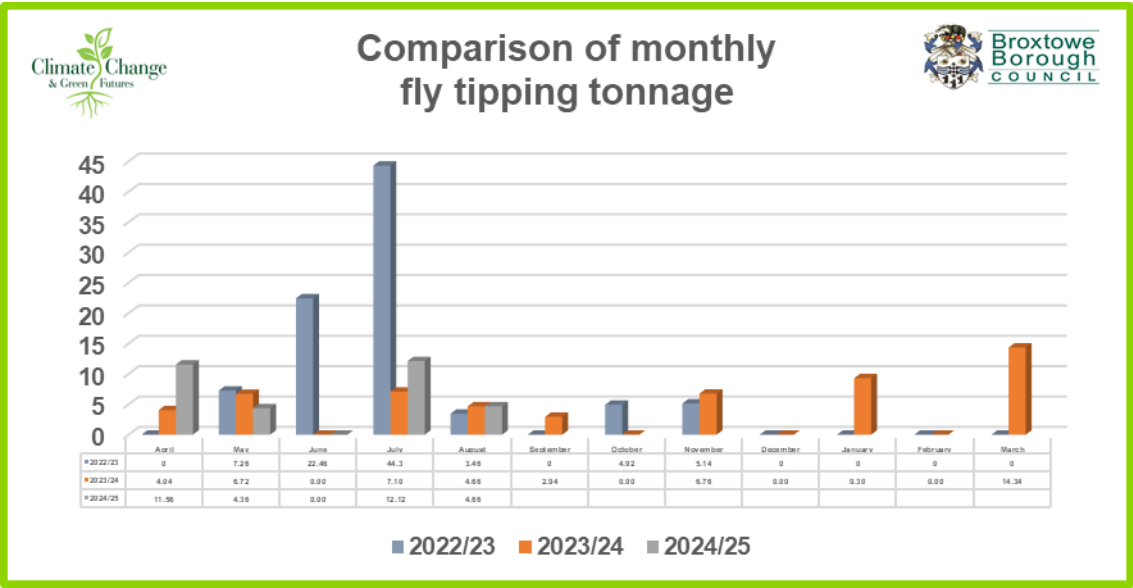


Figure 2: Fly tipping tonnage

Types of fly tipped waste

Figure 3 details the types of waste that have been fly tipping in 2023/24.

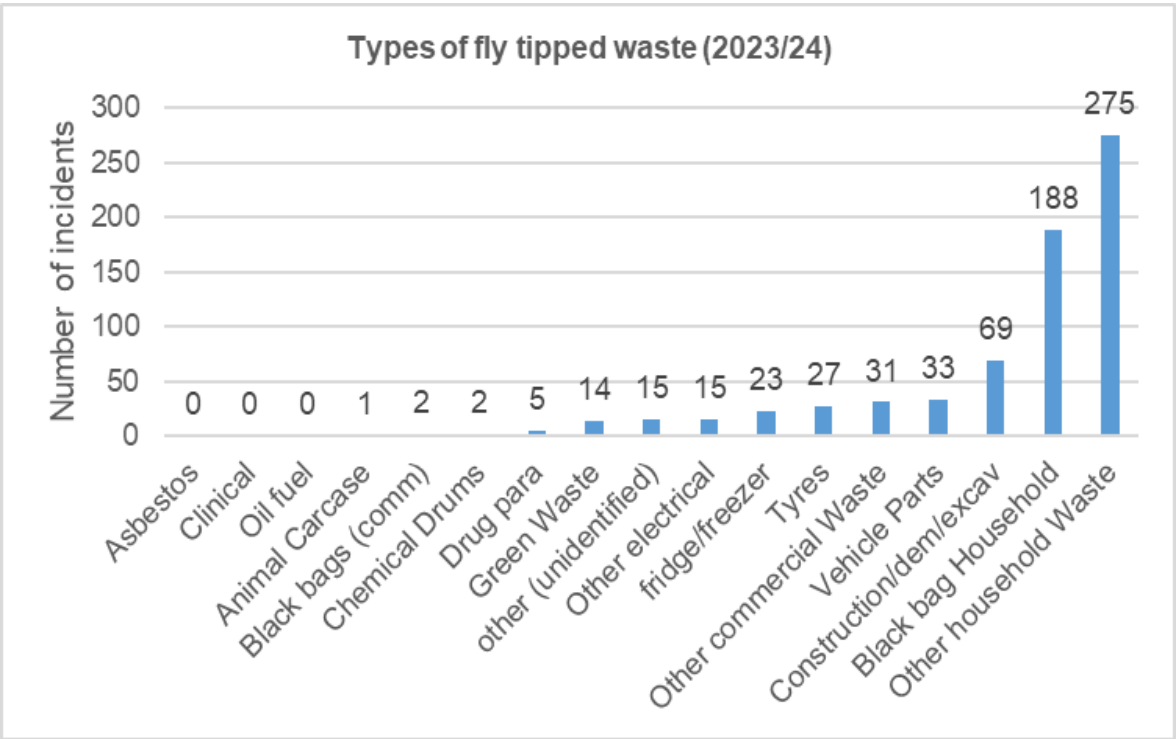


Figure 3: Types of fly tipped waste in 2023/24

Where is fly tipped waste found?

Figure 4 details where fly tipping waste is found in the Borough.

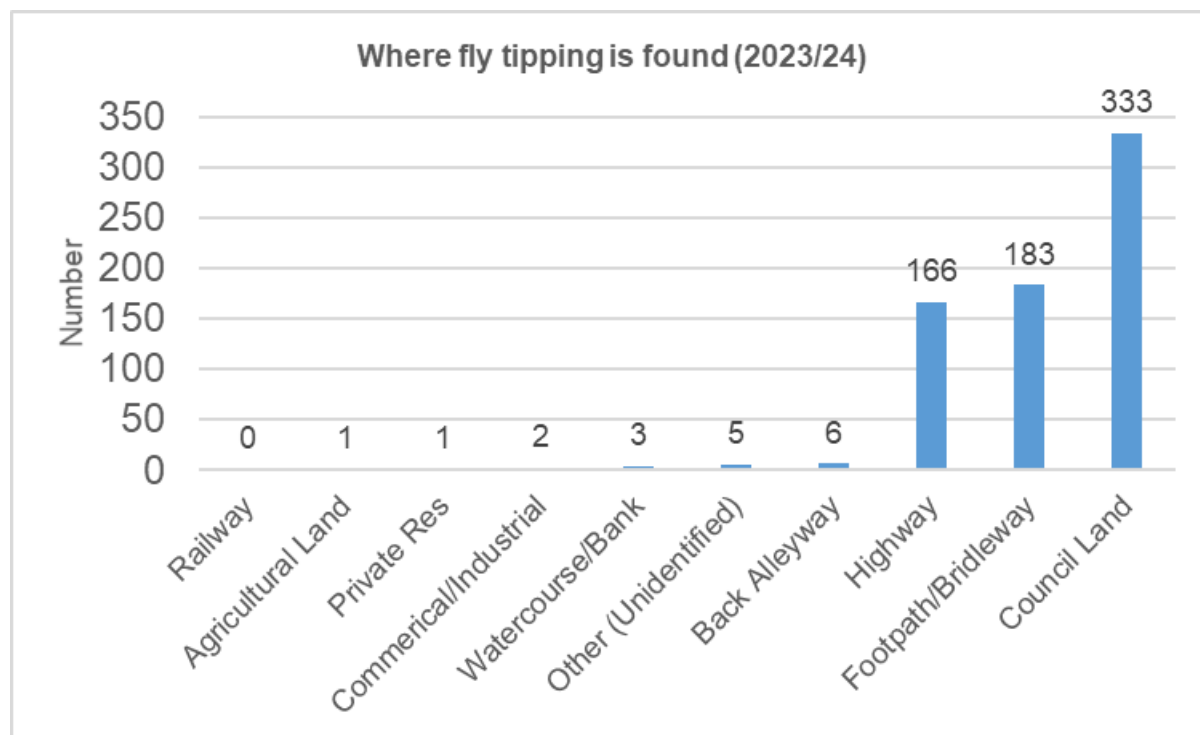


Figure 4: Where is fly tipped waste found in the Borough

Amount of fly tipped waste

Figure 5 details the amount of fly tipping found at each incident. The graph highlights that fly tipping loads consist of either a single item or a car boot full or less.

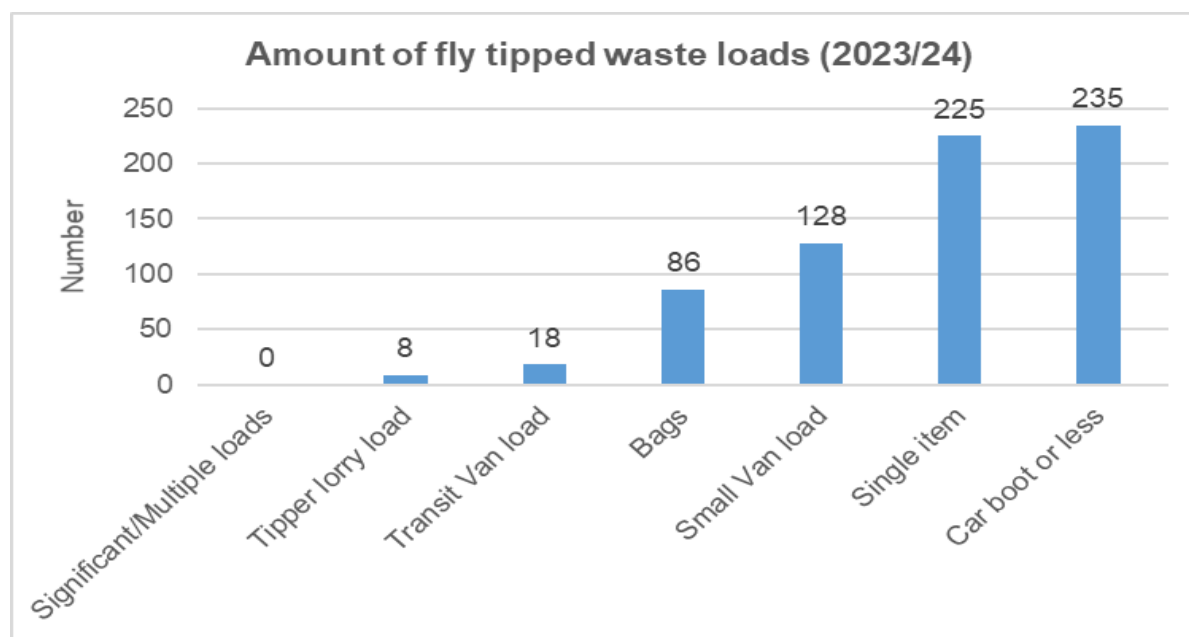


Figure 5: Amount of fly tipping for each incident recorded.

How many of the perpetrator's were caught?

One FPN was issued. None were taken to Court.

How many were fined and how much?

One FPN was issued for £75 (this was before the increases)

How many went to court?

None

What was the cost to Broxtowe?

Fly tipping costs in the main are absorbed in the Street Cleansing budget. However, earlier this year there were three serious incidents of asbestos fly tipping that cost £6,500 to clear.

Has there been an increase over the last few years?

There has been an increase in fly tipping incidents (See figure 1)

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