



Tuesday, 8 July 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

A meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, 16 July 2025 in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Foster Avenue, Beeston NG9 1AB, commencing at 7.00 pm.

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

Yours faithfully

Chief Executive

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

## A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence

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

2. Declarations of Interest

(Pages 9 - 16)

Members are requested to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interest and/or other interest in any item on the agenda.

3. Minutes

(Pages 17 - 28)

Council is asked to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2025.

4. Mayor's Announcements

To receive announcements from the Mayor.

5. Vote of Thanks

6. Leader's Report

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

7. Youth Mayor's Report on Broxtowe Youth Issues

To receive the Youth Mayor's update on Broxtowe Youth Voice activities.

8. Public Questions

To receive questions from members of the public.

9. Portfolio Holder Reports

9.1 Report of the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Personnel Policy

(Pages 29 - 34)

- |     |   |                 |
|-----|---|-----------------|
| 9.2 | <u>Report of the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Asset Management</u> | (Pages 35 - 38) |
| 9.3 | <u>Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing</u>                                   | (Pages 39 - 40) |
| 9.4 | <u>Report of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health</u>                        | (Pages 41 - 48) |
| 9.5 | <u>Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change</u>            | (Pages 49 - 58) |
| 9.6 | <u>Report of the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety</u>                          | (Pages 59 - 64) |
| 10. | <u>Annual Scrutiny Report 2024/25</u>   | (Pages 65 - 88) |

The Council is asked to NOTE the Annual Scrutiny Report 2024-25.

11. Presentation of Petitions

12. Motions

12.1 The following motion has been submitted by Councillor S J Carr:

“This Council recognises the work of Stapleford Community Group, who purchased the flagpole installed in 2017 at Walter Parker VC Memorial Square – a site owned by Broxtowe Borough Council.

Since then, the Group has organised regular public flag raising ceremonies in partnership with the Council and other local organisations, marking key national and civic occasions such as Armed Forces Day, Remembrance Day, and the patron saints' days of the UK.

These events foster community spirit, have wide public support, and are regularly attended by local Mayors.

This Council resolves to:

1. Formally recognise Stapleford Community Group's ongoing efforts.
2. Confirm continued support for these events.
3. Ensure officers remain available to assist with coordination where possible.”

12.2 The following motion has been submitted by Councillor A W G A Stockwell:

“This Council while acknowledging the possible health benefits of e-bikes are greatly concerned about the way some individuals are using them.

The dangers posed to pedestrians and to vehicles are becoming more prominent. In the last few weeks we have seen several collisions between e-bikes and vehicles, including a police car. I have also heard stories of pedestrians being rode into or having very close misses.

In order to help mitigate the effects of these e-bike users this Council:

1. Instructs the Chief Executive to write to the East Midlands Mayor and to Nottingham’s Police and Crime Commissioner to come together to formulate a plan for more police checks on e-bikes to ensure they meet current legislation restrictions.
2. Instructs the Chief Executive to write to the MPs representing our Borough to formally raise with the government the dangers and risks e-bikes pose.
3. Instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Transport to undertake a review of the current legislation around e-bikes and make the changes necessary to make them safer.

In this letter this Council makes the following suggestions to be reviewed:

- That the current 15.5 mph limit be reduced,
- That e-bikes should be registered &
- That a new e-bike licence should be introduced and a training course undertaken before usage.”

12.3 The following motion has been submitted by the Broxtowe Alliance Group:

“This council notes:

That local government has endured repeated cuts over the last 15 years, amounting to more than a 27% real terms cut in core spending power since 2010. Further research by UNISON suggests that councils across England, Wales and Scotland will face a collective funding shortfall of £3.5bn by the financial year 2024/25 and a cumulative funding gap of £7bn by 2025/26. Between 2018-2023, 7 councils issued

section 114 notices, including Nottingham City Council, with many others coming close to doing so.

At the same time, pressure on council finances has increased, particularly on the cost of children's and adult social care since the pandemic. These costs now consume approximately 75% of Nottinghamshire County Council's total budget, and this percentage is expected to continue to increase without major change.

It is a similar picture under Nottingham City Council, which continues to be unable to produce a balanced budget and resolve its debts. While Broxtowe Borough Council is itself in a relatively stable financial position, its residents are still impacted by the pressures on Nottinghamshire County Council and the reductions on services like libraries, youth centres, and infrastructure maintenance.

The catastrophic state of local government funding in the UK cannot be resolved by making further redundancies, efficiencies, or raising council tax. The government's focus on local government reform is a red herring that cannot provide the savings needed to continue to deliver the vital services provided by local government, and, if pushed through, will only put many of these services at greater risk while also further increasing the distance between communities and their governance.

Instead of supporting the government's attempts to push through a damaging reform of local government, this council resolves to:

- Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for an immediate suspension of local government reorganisation until the funding situation is resolved and for an urgent review of current budget allocations and a fairer funding solution for local authorities.
- Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to support the above letter.
- Write to Nottinghamshire County Council calling on them to also support a fairer funding review to protect local council services in Broxtowe and wider Notts area.
- Commit to campaigning to raise awareness of the threats to local services due to underfunding and LGR
- And empower the CEO and leader of Broxtowe Borough Council to act on subsequent opportunities to press this essential issue on the council's behalf to protect vital services for the well-being of residents of Broxtowe."

12.4 The following motion has been submitted by the Broxtowe Alliance Group:

“This Council notes:

The Labour Government’s reading of the Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment Bill.

We condemn the Bill as an attempt to punish disabled people with cuts designed to achieve minor savings, while doing nothing to help them find and retain employment. This is especially egregious when the initially proposed £5 billion in savings is compared to the outstanding £47 billion “tax gap” from unclaimed tax owed by companies and the very wealthy.

The Bill included a number of amendments as concessions to Labour “rebels” made on the day of the second reading, but serious questions remain:

- Some of the concessions would not apply to new claimants, creating an unjust and illogical two-tier benefit system. There is uncertainty as to whether this would also apply to those having their existing awards reviewed, creating a situation where someone is deemed disabled enough to deserve support one day, but not the next.
- The Universal Credit health top-up will be halved for new claimants, depriving disabled people seeking work of much-needed support.
- Revisions to the already gruelling Personal Independence Payment process would be decided following a review led by the Minister of State for Social Security and Disability, Stephen Timms. This “Timms Review” is intended to be co-produced with disabled people. However, disability rights groups have raised doubts about this, and it may in fact reverse the concessions made during the Bill’s second reading.

Almost all disabled people want to work. They are not kept out of work by benefits, but, as numerous government reports have shown, by prejudice in the workplace and in the hiring process. We wish to support the people of Broxtowe, of whom approximately 8,100 are disabled, in living dignified lives and having access to the safety net they are entitled to when they need it.

This Council resolves to:

- Condemn the Bill as rushed-through, having ignored the “Pathways to Work” consultation with disabled

people, and for harming disabled people rather than helping them into work. The Bill should never have been brought to the House of Commons without first consulting disabled people on what would help them find and stay in work.

- Carry out a Council-led local awareness campaign to alert disabled people in the region to the changes they may face to their benefits and related support.
- Request that the Leader of the Council write to the Minister of State for Social Security and Disability, formally requesting that the input of disabled people lead the work of the Timms Review and that the recommendations of disabled people be binding.”

13. Members' Speeches on Ward Issues

To receive Members' speeches on ward issues.

14. Questions on Outside Bodies

To receive questions on outside bodies.

15. Members' Questions

To receive Members' questions.

16. Broxtowe Alliance Member

Council is asked to NOTE that Councillor T Marsh has advised that he has ceased representing the Labour Group and intends to sit as a representative of the Broxtowe Alliance. There will be an affect on the composition of committees of the Council for the purposes of proportionality which will be considered during a further item on the agenda.

17. Appointments to Committees and Working Groups

**Following Councillor T Marsh's change of representation proportionality has been affected. Members are asked to RESOLVE that the amendments to the appointments be approved in accordance with the schedule laid before the meeting.**

18. Local Government Reorganisation Update (Pages 89 - 116)

To provide an update for Council on the progress of Local Government Reorganisation in Nottinghamshire.

19. Urgent Business



## 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.
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#### **Dispensation and Sensitive Interests**

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

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

#### **BIAS and PREDETERMINATION**

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

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

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

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

## **BIAS**

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

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

## **PREDETERMINATION**

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

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

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## Registerable Interests

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

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

### Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

### Other Registerable Interests

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

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

You must:

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

You must:

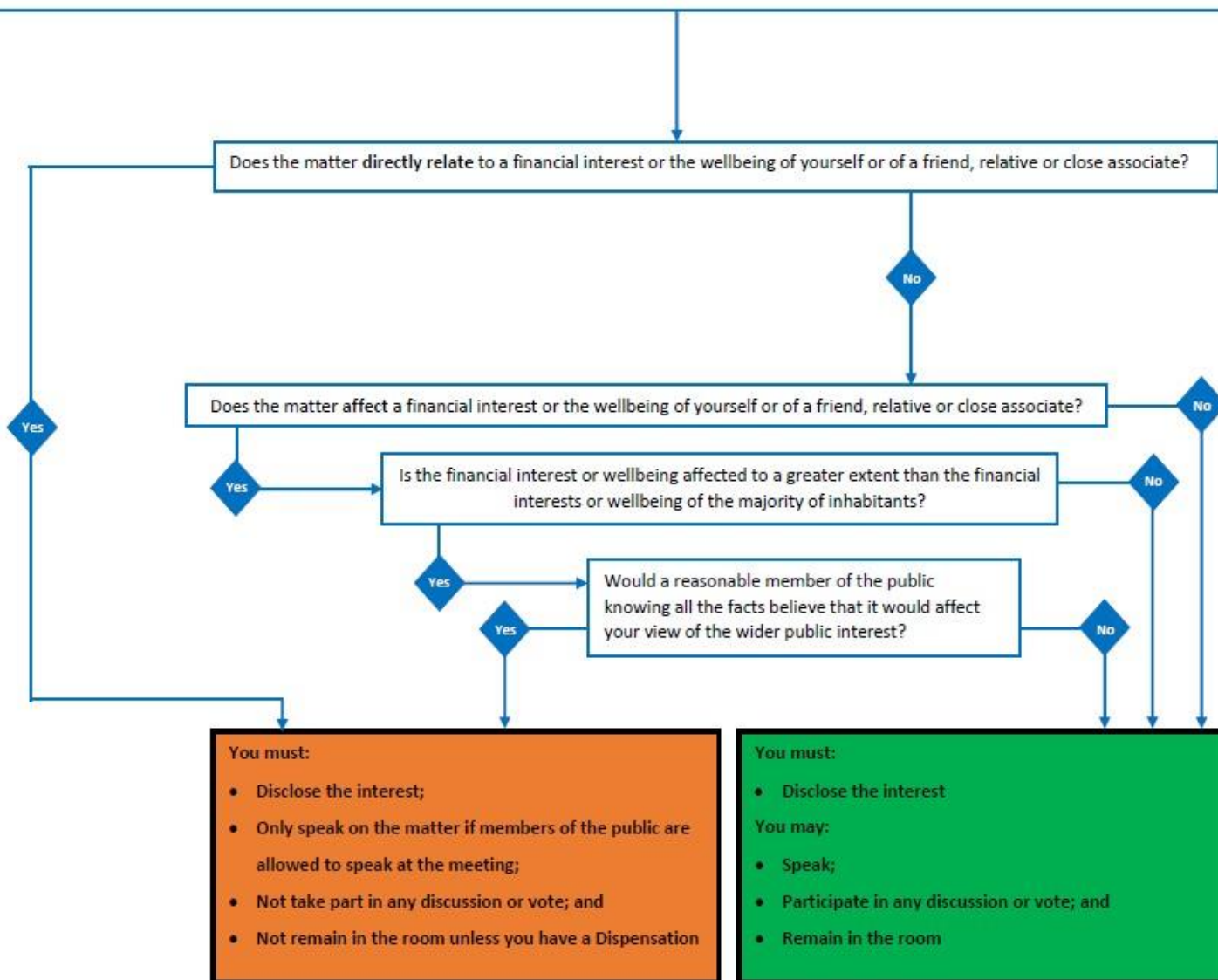
- Disclose the interest;
- Only speak on the matter if members of the public are allowed to speak at the meeting;
- Not take part in any discussion or vote; and
- Not remain in the room unless you have a Dispensation

You must:

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

## Non-Registerable Interests

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





## COUNCIL

**WEDNESDAY, 14 MAY 2025**

Present: Councillor S Paterson, Mayor

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

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S A Bagshaw, H Crosby, K A Harlow, H G Khaled, J W McGrath, A W G A Stockwell, D K Watts, S Webb and E Williamson.

## 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors R E Bofinger, C Carr and S Dannheimer declared other-registerable interests in item 14, as they were Board Members of Liberty Leisure Ltd, minute number 15 refers.

## 3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 5 and 19 March 2025 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## 4 RECOGNITION OF THE YOUTH MAYOR

A vote of thanks was proposed for the outgoing Youth Mayor, Libby Bales by Councillor R P Bullock and seconded by Councillor P J Owen. On being put to the meeting the vote of thanks was approved.

## 5 APPOINTMENT OF YOUTH MAYOR

The Mayor presented the new Broxtowe Youth Mayor, Toby Goldszmit with his chain of office. The new Youth Mayor addressed the Council and stated that he was looking forward to showcasing the region on behalf of the young people of Broxtowe. Members congratulated Toby on his appointment.

## 6 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor was saddened to inform the meeting of the death of former Councillor, Peggy Wainwright. Members held a minute's silence in her memory.

The Mayor gave a resume of her year in office and expressed thanks to her friends and family, consorts, the Youth Mayor, the Chaplain, Council employees and fellow Council members for their valued assistance and support during the year.

## 7 VOTE OF THANKS

A Vote of Thanks to the Mayor was proposed by Councillor G Marshall, seconded by Councillor P J Owen and carried unanimously.

## 8 ELECTION OF MAYOR

It was proposed by Councillor M Radulovic MBE and seconded by Councillor S J Carr that Councillor R P Bullock be elected as Mayor of the Borough for the ensuing year.

**RESOLVED that Councillor R P Bullock be elected Mayor of the Borough 2025/26.**

Councillor R P Bullock signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked the Council for having elected him Mayor of the Borough. Councillor R P Bullock stated he would be supporting Broxtowe Women's Project and the Brain Tumour Charity throughout his term in office.

9 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

It was proposed by Councillor S Dannheimer and seconded by Councillor R D MacRae that Councillor B C Carr be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the ensuing year.

**RESOLVED that Councillor B C Carr be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough 2025/26.**

Councillor B C Carr having signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office thanked the Council for having appointed her Deputy Mayor of the Borough.

10 RECOGNITION OF POLITICAL LEADERS

It was noted that Councillor P J Owen was Leader of the Conservative Group with Councillor D D Pringle as the Deputy Leader. Councillor P Bales was Leader of the Labour Group with Councillor H J Faccio as Deputy Leader. Councillor R D MacRae was Leader of the Broxtowe Independent Group with Councillor E Williamson as the Deputy Leader, and Councillor D K Watts was the Leader of the Liberal Democratic Group with Councillor H Land as the Deputy Leader.

11 APPOINTMENTS TO CABINET AND COMMITTEES OF THE CABINET

**The Council NOTED the appointments to Cabinet and Committees of the Cabinet and RESOLVED that the Constitution be amended to reflect that the membership of the Shared Prosperity Fund Advisory Panel (UKSPF) be appointed at the Leader's discretion.**

**Cabinet**

M Radulovic MBE (Chair) - Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Asset Management

G Marshall (Vice Chair) - Portfolio Holder for Resources and Personnel Policy

H E Skinner - Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change

V C Smith - Portfolio Holder for Housing

T A Cullen - Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health

G Bunn - Portfolio Holder for Community Safety

C Carr - Deputy Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Asset Management

J W McGrath

R D MacRae

E Williamson

## **Policy Overview Working Group Membership**

### **Broxtowe Alliance**

P Smith (Chair)  
G Bunn (Vice-Chair)  
H Skinner  
R Bullock  
J W McGrath

### **Conservatives**

D D Pringle  
G S Hills  
M Brown

### **Labour**

D Bagshaw  
S A Bagshaw

### **Broxtowe Independent Group**

B C Carr  
R D MacRae

### **Liberal Democrat Group**

D K Watts

## **Events, Arts, Culture and Heritage Working Group Membership**

### **Broxtowe Alliance**

T Cullen (Chair)  
C Carr  
P Smith  
V Smith  
J McGrath  
S Paterson

### **Conservative**

L A Ball BEM  
H G Khaled MBE  
S Kerry

### **Labour**

S A Bagshaw  
W Mee

Broxtowe Independent Group

B C Carr (Vice-Chair)  
L Williamson

**Shared Prosperity Fund Members Advisory Panel (UKSPF Panel) Membership**

Broxtowe Alliance

M Radulovic MBE (Chair)  
G Marshall (Vice-Chair)  
G Bunn

Conservative

P J Owen

Labour

H J Faccio

Broxtowe Independent Group

R D MacRae

12 **ARRANGEMENT FOR THE DISCHARGE OF FUNCTIONS**

**RESOLVED** that the appointments to committees in accordance with the schedule laid before the meeting be approved.

**The Council NOTED** that either the Leader of the Council or another Councillor being their nominated representative, and either the Leader of the Opposition or another Councillor being their nominated representative, have the right to attend any of the Council's Committees, which are not scrutiny committees, as ex-officio members and to speak but not vote at it provided that such nominated representatives may not be in attendance at the same meeting as their respective leaders, unless they have been appointed as a member of that committee or are acting as a substitute for a named member.

**Planning Committee**

Broxtowe Alliance

S Jeremiah (Chair)  
P A Smith (Vice-Chair)  
G Marshall  
R E Bofinger  
H E Skinner  
G Bunn

Substitutes    1. K Woodhead  
                     2. S Webb  
                     3. C Carr  
                     4. V C Smith  
                     5. S Paterson

### Conservative

L A Ball BEM  
D D Pringle  
G S Hills

Substitutes    1. H G Khaled MBE  
                     2. J M Owen  
                     3. P J Owen

### Labour

D Bagshaw  
P Bales

Substitutes    1 A Cooper  
                     2. W Mee

### Broxtowe Independent Group

S J Carr

Substitute    1. E Williamson

### Liberal Democrat Group

D K Watts

Substitute    1. H Land

## **Licensing & Appeals Committee**

### Broxtowe Alliance

S Webb (Chair)  
R Bullock (Vice-Chair)  
C M Tideswell  
K Woodhead  
S Jeremiah

### Labour

A Cooper  
E Winfield

### Conservative

D D Pringle  
G S Hills  
S Kerry

### Broxtowe Independent Group

B C Carr  
E Williamson

### Liberal Democrat Group

H Land

## **Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

### **Broxtowe Alliance**

S Dannheimer (Chair)  
S Webb (Vice-Chair)  
K A Harlow  
C M Tideswell  
K Woodhead

### **Labour**

E Winfield  
H J Faccio

### **Conservatives**

J M Owen (Vice-Chair)  
A W G A Stockwell  
H L Crosby

### **Broxtowe Independent Group**

S J Carr  
D L MacRae

### **Liberal Democrat Group**

H Land

## **Governance, Audit & Standards Committee**

### **Broxtowe Alliance**

K Woodhead (Vice-Chair)	Substitutes	1. P Smith
R Bullock		2. R Bofinger
S Dannheimer		3. C M Tideswell
S Jeremiah		4. S Paterson
K A Harlow		5. S Webb

### **Conservative**

M Brown	Substitute	1. P J Owen
J M Owen		
G S Hills		

### **Labour**

A Cooper	Substitutes	1. H J Faccio
E Winfield		2. P Bales
W Mee		3. T Marsh

### Broxtowe Independent Group

S J Carr (Chair)	Substitute	1. B C Carr
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### Liberal Democrat Group

A Kingdon	Substitute	1. D K Watts
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## **Advisory Shareholder Sub-Committee**

### Broxtowe Alliance

S Paterson (Chair)	Substitutes	1. K A Harlow
S Jeremiah (Vice-Chair)		2. R Bullock
S Webb		3. K Woodhead

### Conservative

G S Hills	Substitute	1. P J Owen
M Brown		

### Labour

W Mee	Substitute	1. T Marsh
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### Broxtowe Independent Group

B C Carr	Substitute	1. S J Carr
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## **Chief Officer Employment Committee**

### Broxtowe Alliance

G Marshall (Chair)	Substitutes	1. M Radulovic MBE
V C Smith (Vice-Chair)		2. H E Skinner
K Woodhead		3. S Jeremiah
G Bunn		4. P Smith

### Conservative

P J Owen	Substitute	1. J M Owen
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### Labour

P Bales  
H J Faccio

### Broxtowe Independent Group

R D MacRae	Substitute	1. S J Carr
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Liberal Democrat Group

D K Watts

**Independent Members**

Two Independent Persons to be appointed to the Committee solely in relation to disciplinary matters for statutory chief Officers within the relevant Terms of Reference for the Chief Officer Employment Committee.

**Local Joint Consultative Committee**

Broxtowe Alliance

H E Skinner  
G Marshall  
P Smith

Labour

A Cooper

Conservative

D D Pringle  
G S Hills

Broxtowe Independent Group

E Williamson

**Bramcote Bereavement Services Joint Committee**

Broxtowe Alliance

M Radulovic MBE

Conservative

H G Khaled MBE

Labour

E Winfield

13 REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

**RESOLVED that the appointment of representatives on outside bodies be as follows:**

<u>NO.</u>	<u>BODY/ORGANISATION</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE</u>
1	Age Concern, Eastwood	Cllr R Bullock
2	Attenborough Nature Reserve Forum	Cllr P A Smith Cllr T A Cullen Cllr H E Skinner
3	Beeston Consolidated Charity	Cllr S Webb Cllr H E Skinner
4	Beeston Rylands Community Centre	Cllr S Webb Cllr S Dannheimer
5	Broxtowe Citizens Advice Bureau	Cllr P A Smith
6	Canalside Heritage Centre	Cllr R Bullock (Substitute Cllr S Paterson)
7	Chilwell Community Centre	Cllr S Jeremiah Cllr H E Skinner Cllr C M Tideswell Cllr G Marshall
8	Core City Board/Joint Leadership Board	
9	East Midlands Councils	Cllr M Radulovic MBE or nominated representative
10	Museum Service	Cllr K Woodhead
11	Eastwood Volunteer Bureau Management Committee	Cllr K Woodhead
12	Francis Dixon and Catherine Gregory Charity	Cllr H Land Cllr D Watts
13	Greater Nottingham Groundwork Trust	Cllr H E Skinner
14	Greenwood Partnership Board	Cllr H E Skinner
15	Joint Planning Advisory Board	Cllr M Radulovic MBE
16	Local Government Association	Cllr M Radulovic MBE or nominated representative

<u>NO.</u>	<u>BODY/ORGANISATION</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE</u>
17	Local Government Information Unit	Cllr M Radulovic MBE
18	Nottingham Express Transit Development Board	Cllr W Mee
19	Nottingham Playhouse Trust	Cllr K A Harlow
20	Nottinghamshire Local Government Leaders Group	Cllr M Radulovic MBE or nominated representative
21	United Charities of Abel Collins	Cllr B C Carr
22	Health Scrutiny - Lead Member	Cllr C M Tideswell Or nominated representative
23	Chilwell Family Hub (formerly Sure Start)	Cllr S Jeremiah Cllr C M Tideswell
24	Health and Wellbeing Board	Cllr C M Tideswell
25	Notts Police and Crime Commissioner's Panel	Cllr G Bunn (Substitute Cllr T Cullen)
26	Armed Forces Champion	Cllr M Radulovic MBE
27	Liberty Leisure Board Member	Cllr R Bofinger Cllr C Carr Cllr S Dannheimer
28	Joint Waste and Recycling Committee	Cllr H E Skinner
29	East Midlands Airport Consultative Committee	Cllr R D MacRae or nominated representative
30	LGA General Assembly	Cllr M Radulovic MBE or nominated representative
31	District Councils Network	Cllr M Radulovic MBE or nominated representative
32	Refugee Steering Group	Cllr G Bunn Cllr B C Carr Cllr H G Khaled MBE

<u>NO.</u>	<u>BODY/ORGANISATION</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE</u>
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33	Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London Joint Committee	Cllr G Bunn
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34	Bramcote Consolidated Charities (Bramcote Councillors appointed every four years, last appointed 2023)	Cllr H Land Cllr A Kingdon Cllr D K Watts
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14     SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Members considered the Scheme of Delegation and resolved that in line with the Constitution that at the annual meeting of the Council, it should agree the Scheme of Delegation or such part of it as the Constitution determines it is for the Council to agree.

**RESOLVED that the Scheme of Delegation be approved.**

15     APPOINTMENT TO THE LIBERTY LEISURE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Members considered an addition to the Liberty Leisure Ltd Board of Directors.

**RESOLVED that Martin Paine, Assistant Director of Finance Services, Broxtowe Borough Council, be appointed to the Liberty Leisure Ltd Board.**

(Having declared other-registerable interests in the item, Councillors R E Bofinger, C Carr and S Dannheimer left the meeting before discussion or voting thereon.)

16     URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business to be considered.

**Resources and Personnel Policy Portfolio  
Councillor G Marshall**

**Report to Council – 16 July 2025**

**Finance Services Update**

Statement of Accounts 2024/25

The draft Statement of Accounts for 2024/25 has been published on the Council's website. The accounts closedown process is an extensive and complex project, and it is a real achievement by the Finance Services team to meet the 30 June statutory deadline. In the previous year, Broxtowe was one of only 41% of local authorities to publish their draft accounts by the required deadline.

The accounts will then be subjected to scrutiny by Forvis Mazars, with the audit due to start in September. The audit should then be completed and the final accounts signed off by 30 November. In the meantime, regular updates will be provided to the Governance, Audit and Standards Committee.

Accounts Outturn

The accounts outturn report was presented to Cabinet on 1 July with the report providing the figures and highlights for financial performance in 2024/25.

There was a net underspend of £1.4m on the General Fund revenue budget. Overall, after financing and transfers to and from earmarked reserves, there was a net withdrawal of £489k from General Fund balances which closed at £5.6m at 31 March 2025. The variations were due to a combination of net budget underspends, additional income, budget carry forwards, changes in provisions and grants and effective financial management across the Council.

This included a net underspend in employee related costs of £949k against the budget which also had a challenging vacancy target of £600k. Outturn included the full-year impact of the pay award, the senior managers pay review, and the costs of agency and interim staff used to cover vacancies within the establishment.

It was pleasing to note the sustained levels of income being generated from its fees and charges and commercial property rentals. This is essential to support the Council in balancing its budgets and achieving financial sustainability.

In terms of financing the budget, the main area of risk, volatility and complexity is linked to Business Rates. Whilst there continues to be growth across the Nottinghamshire Business Rates Pool area, the value of net rates received by the Council can be significantly impacted by rating appeals and void periods, particularly for larger units. With Business Rates being accounted for through the Collection Fund, any impact on General Fund balances will not materialise until the following year. This timing issue for the General Fund is monitored by the Section 151 Officer.

The Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) showed a £534k net underspend for 2024/25. This resulted in a decreased draw of £667k on HRA working balances which amounted to £2.2m as at 31 March 2025.

There was an underspend of £609k on employee related costs, mainly due to vacancies across the Housing Service particularly within the Strategy and Performance and Housing Repairs teams. Key services were maintained by the continued use of sub-contractors, the cost of which has offset the saving.

The cost of Housing Disrepair Claims continues to be a budget pressure for the HRA, with a £170k budget overspend recorded and a further provision of £300k being included for the potential cost of outstanding claims.

It was pleasing to note that Housing Rents income was £527k more than budgeted, which is vital to the sustainability of the HRA. Income from investments was £155k higher than estimated due to positive cash flows and interest rates across the year.

In terms of the approved Capital Programme, the Council spent £31.4m against a total budget of £64.8m. This included the significant investment in the Council's housing stock, housing delivery programme acquisitions and new builds, regeneration projects with the Stapleford Towns Fund, Kimberley Means Business and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Pride in Parks, Chilwell Quarry, vehicle fleet and the ICT development programme. The capital programme is financed by a mixture of capital receipts, capital grants, Section 106 contributions and prudential borrowing.

The main slippage in the programme largely related to the housing delivery schemes, where progress can be affected by many external factors, and the regeneration projects which continue to progress at a pace. Many of the unutilised capital budgets were approved for carry forward into 2025/26. The progress and risks associated with all schemes continues to be carefully managed by the respective budget holders and is monitored GMT. More details were presented to Cabinet on 1 July.

#### Medium Term Financial Strategy and Business Strategy

The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and Business Strategy will be refreshed over the summer to reflect outturn and the latest budget information. The outcomes will be presented to Cabinet in early November for approval in advance of 2026/27 budget setting.

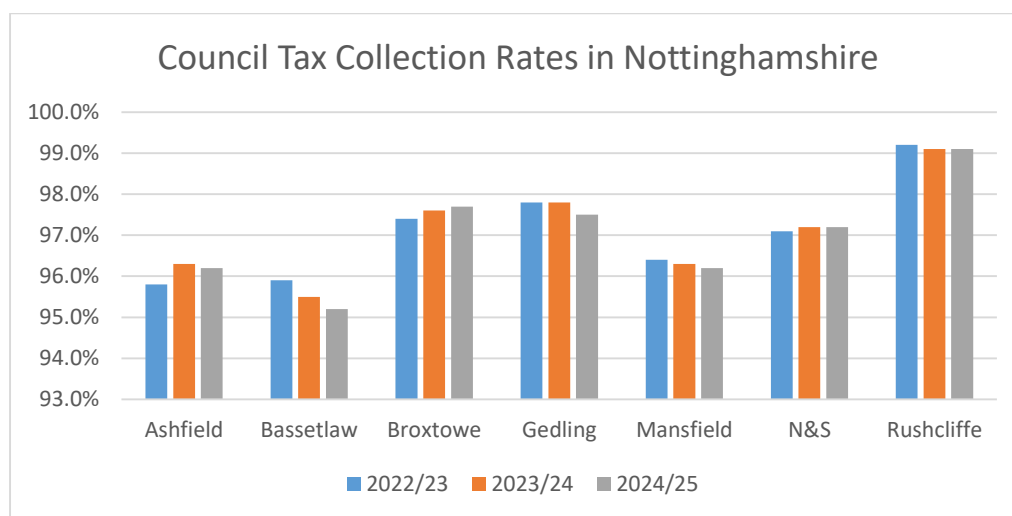
#### Local Government Reorganisation

The Deputy Chief Executive and Assistant Director of Finance, through the Nottinghamshire Finance Officers Association (NFOA), are continuing to provide financial data relating to the Government's requirement for Local Government Reorganisation in Nottinghamshire. NFOA is working to validate the baseline financial data that will support the options being considered and prior to submitting a final business case for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. Section 151 Officers are content that the financial assumptions made in the interim plan are reasonable.

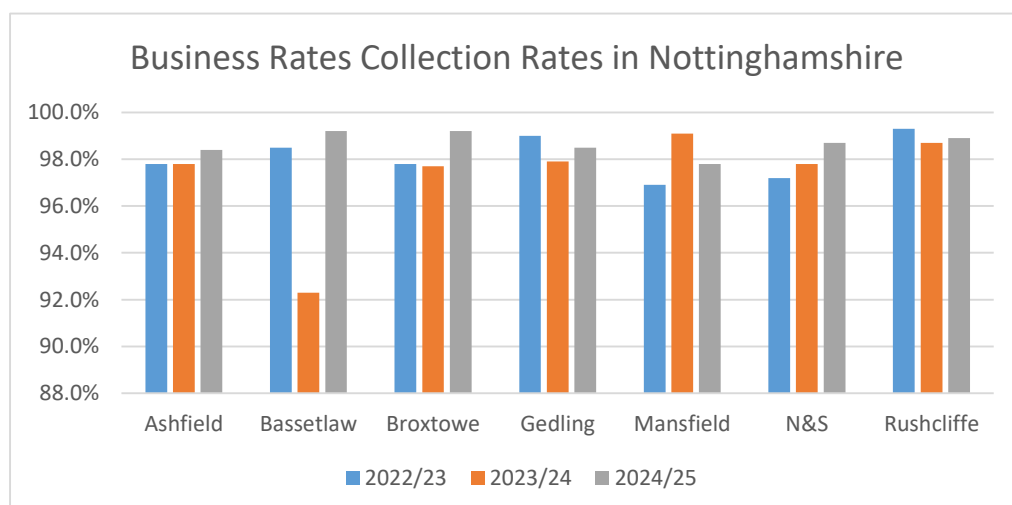
## Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services

### Revenues

The main KPI in respect of Revenues is the in year collection rate for Council Tax and Business Rates, which were 97.7% and 99.2% respectively. This collection rate on Council Tax makes us the second highest performing Council in Nottinghamshire behind Rushcliffe. This interesting point to note is that in respect of Council Tax collection rate, Broxtowe is the only Council in Nottinghamshire that has seen an improved position for each of the last three years. It must also be noted that collection of charges continues after the year and it is estimated that that after three to six year the Council collects 99.6% of the appropriate net collectable debit. The chart below shows the authorities in Nottinghamshire.



Business Rates is much more volatile in respect of collection however, Broxtowe have seen an improved position in 2024/25 compared to the previous year. The chart below shows how this compares to other authorities in Nottinghamshire.



Revenues will also be developing and implementing new online forms to promote self service for those that want to utilise this functionality. This will be rolled out in phases throughout the financial year.

In addition, the Sundry Debtors collection rate is 90.18% against a target of 90%.

### Benefits

The Benefit service is monitored externally by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) through key performance indicators (KPIs) relating to new claims, change in circumstance processing times and the annual subsidy audit.

Performance in benefits remains one of the best in the country with new claims taking on average 7.47 days to process and change in circumstances taking 3.33 days in 2024/25.

The Benefits Team received another unqualified Housing Benefit Subsidy report in 2024/25, making it the ninth year in a row. This unqualified claim provides DWP with full assurance that the service is making payments of Housing Benefit in accordance with the regulations.

Active promotion of Discretionary Housing Payments continues and in 2024/25 the team paid out more than the DWP contributions. The additional amounts were covered by funding from the Household Support Fund. This will be the same in 2025/26.

### Customer Services

During 2024/25 the Customer Services Team were able to see a significant improvement in the service being provided. The Team is responsible for the following service areas in 2024/25:

- Switchboard
- Rents
- Benefits
- Council Tax
- Business Rates
- Grounds Maintenance
- Street Cleansing
- Refuse
- Garden Waste

The percentage abandonment was 8.41% against a target of 10%. This shows a significant improvement from the previous year of 15.88%. This is reflected in the positive comments being received by members of the public.

This performance has continued into the new year and is even more impressive based on the fact that the team implemented a new telephony system on 2 May 2025 and have now started taking calls for Housing Allocations, with no increase in resources.



### Communications and Engagement

The Communications Team have been supporting various Council projects over recent months including:

- Progress on the Housing Building Delivery plan
- Climate Change Strategy delivery
- Summer events programme
- Stapleford Towns Fund
- Kimberley Means Business project
- CEDARs launch

The team are also working with the Finance Services Team on this year's budget consultation.

Options are currently being developed for a programme of face to face and direct engagement with harder to reach groups for 2025/26.

### **Email Me Service**

At the end of May 2025, The Council's Email Me Service had 30,754 subscribers who were signed up to receive updates on a range of topics including Latest News, Jobs, Business Updates, Parks and Open Spaces and Environment updates. It is also used to share the Council's weekly Employee Briefing and monthly Member Briefing, Members Matters. Residents can sign up at [www.broxtowe.gov.uk/emailme](http://www.broxtowe.gov.uk/emailme)

### Civic Office

Afternoon Tea Parties will take place in each of the four towns to thank members of the community who support the local area. The Civic Office has been in touch with Members and Town and Parish Council for nominees.

A date for the next Broxtowe Voluntary Awards has been set for 13 March. Nominations will open on 1 September on the Council's website in each of the 8 award categories:

- Benefitting Broxtowe Award (Overall winner)
- Community Hero Award
- Culture and Heritage Award
- The Green Futures Award
- Sporting Volunteer Award
- Youth Work Volunteer Award
- The Young Volunteer Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award

This year, to make the event more accessible to the volunteers nominated, tickets will be free. Local businesses are being approached for sponsor the event or an award category.

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**Economic Development and Asset Management Portfolio  
Councillor M Radulovic MBE**

**Report to Council – 16 July 2025**

**Planning Policy**

A public consultation on the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan Publication Draft (Regulation 19), produced by Broxtowe Borough, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe Borough Councils, closed on 25 April 2025. This replaced the previous Publication Draft which included Gedling Borough Council. The Councils are currently in the process of reviewing the representations received to this consultation and are working towards seeking approval to submit the Strategic Plan for examination in Autumn.

The Borough Council continues to support Town and Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Forums, and their consultants, in preparing their Neighbourhood Plans. There has recently been a particular focus on the Stapleford and Eastwood Neighbourhood Plans, which consultants are progressing, working with the respective Town Councils. The Borough Council has been providing support including the provision of data and assistance with mapping.

A Reduction of Carbon in New Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared in partnership with Nottingham City Council. The Council is also starting work on the first part of a Design Code, with further updates provided later this year.

**Economic Development**

**Kimberley Means Business**

Kimberley Means Business has recently seen a contract signed for the demolition of Kimberley Parish Rooms and its replacement with a new Hub, with work due to have started at the end of June. Similarly, the pavilion at the Stag ground has been demolished and a replacement with new changing facilities is in build. The new Visitors' Centre at Bennerley Viaduct is proceeding on schedule and, alongside the redesigned ramp, is due for completion in the autumn. Kimberley illuminations are now regularly scheduled, and the final round of business grants has seen the total awarded to SMEs in the town increase to £670,000. The cricket club has a new car park and a hybrid pitch for the current season and negotiations are advanced for new industrial units on the outskirts of the town. Finally, funding for pitch improvements in Swingate, at the Primary School, has been granted, with improvement works due to take place during the school's summer holidays.

**Stapleford Town Deal**

The Pencil Works, enterprise centre, makers space and co-working offices is moving towards the build phase which is anticipated in July. The High Street Rental Auctions Programme is about to issue its first few notices and the officer who has supervised its introduction is now working up a similar proposal for Eastwood. Derby Road Car Park is working well. A cycle scheme connecting Pastures Lane and the Town Centre is in development, mainly as an off road route called Stapleford Meadows. The route will also go alongside the Wheels Park in Pastures Road Recreation Ground, the new home for skateboarders and scooters in the town, building works on this will commence during late summer. The cycle training track is also being adapted for use by blind and partially sighted community members to learn safety techniques away from busy main roads. As regards the new Pavillion and pitches at Hickings Lane, GEDA's construction programme is ahead of schedule and completion should occur during early September. A similar timeline has been instigated for the MUGA and full size artificial grass pitches. The new cricket pitch work will start as soon as the integration with NCC's enhanced flood alleviation scheme designs is complete. The Towns Deal Board and Cabinet has agreed to use some of the funding to create three padel courts. Once complete the Stephen Gerrard Academy will commence operations.

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

The 2024/2025 £1.6 million programme was successfully defrayed and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has signed-off Broxtowe's final report on this matter. One of the final projects to launch is the exciting VR/AR trail celebrating key landmarks in and around the town that are synonymous with DH Lawrence. The launch of this is being timed to coincide with the DH Lawrence Festival.

This year's allocation of £1.056 million has been determined and spending on the programme has commenced. The capital allocation is £462,975 and the net revenue £593,745. Although the themes don't perfectly correlate this to last year's the spread of funding is broadly as follows - an approximate breakdown in percentage terms between People and Skills, Business Support and People and Place. The UKSPF Panel has met and allocated all the funding between projects and has now determined those community grant applications that have been successful. The next major task is to launch the £160,000 business growth grants programme. Another project which has also been funded for a second year is the Eastwood CEDARS project, the premises are now complete and ready to start delivering services.

**Another area of work**

The Council is preparing a Strategic Outline Business Case to look at the feasibility of redeveloping land on Walker Street in Eastwood, along with the site of the current library. The proposal is to develop a health centre, GP surgery and new learning facility on the site, based on the 2022 Levelling Up Fund bid. Consultants have been engaged and are actively speaking to stakeholders, including the County Council, local healthcare providers and Inspire Libraries and a report is being prepared for Cabinet.

**Asset Management**

The Asset Management and Development Team are endeavouring to continuing the positive momentum that has been generated in terms of addressing risk around both fire safety and asbestos management, two key areas under the Safety and Compliance part of the Social Housing Regulator framework. All communal area inspections have now been completed, both in terms of Fire Risk Assessments and Asbestos Management, and remedial work programmes have now commenced, with newly procured contactor partners. The team acknowledge that the 'run rate' in respect of inspections within dwellings, both to support a 'Stay Put' stance in terms of fire safety, and asbestos safety, needs to be increased, and more labour resource is being applied to both, in order to achieve an improved position.

The SHDF ( Social Housing Decarbonisation fund) Wave two part funded project in Eastwood will complete in August 2025, bringing significant energy efficiency benefits to Housing customers and private residents, on Scalby Close and Princes Street.

The second part of the councils refreshed approach to the management of its housing stock has commenced, with a further 2000 stock condition surveys instructed following a procurement process with Michael Dysons. This is in addition to the 2,500 that were completed in 2024, and also includes a full survey of all of the Council's commercial assets. The data relating to this stock to be transferred to a newly procured Civica Property Management system, which will help officers better manage the stock, both on a reactive and planned basis.

The council presently has achieved 100% in terms of tenanted industrial units in Beeston, and 89% in Stapleford, with only one account currently in arrears. Beeston Square presently has 3 unoccupied units, - however two of those are expected to be let within the next two to three weeks, pending the award of leases.

A £90k funding bid has been submitted, through the fifth round of Museum Estate and Development Funding (MEND), which, if successful, will enable the Council to make significant investment in energy efficiency measures at the DH Lawrence Museum. Further applications through the Museum Renewal Fund and Heritage Lottery are presently being prepared.

The new burners at the Bramcote Crematorium site have now been installed, on time and on budget, and are now operational. A funding bid through EMCCA, valued at £80k, has been submitted, to support the installation of solar panels on the site, with the view that it will both help to further decarbonise buildings, and create significant benefits in terms of running costs of the site.

The relaunch of the Broxtowe Lottery is currently being planned, celebrating it's seventh birthday, with finalised communications due to be presented for approval early July. There will also be a finalised draft of a guide to the public toilets in the Borough. Both of these pieces of work will be completed by our Commercial Manager.

Our two apprentice colleagues in Development have successfully completed their first year with flying colours. We are very proud of them both and they have set a very high bar for future apprentices coming into the business, as well as demonstrating the effectiveness of delivering a well thought through, proactive approach to the development of young people within the authority.

**Housing Portfolio  
Councillor V C Smith**

**Report to Council – 16 July 2025**

The recent handover of 19 new build properties at Inham Nook, Chilwell and Farm Cottage, Bramcote and the acquisition of a further 18 properties at Retlaw Court, Beeston has had a positive impact on our housing register. There are currently 1220 applicants on our waiting list, with 318 being in our priority bands, 1 and 2.

In addition to this we have also been working with a registered provider on their section 106 site on Cemetery Road in Stapleford, consisting of 24 properties, both flats and family homes. We secured that 17 of these were advertised and allocated to people on our housing register, which is above the original agreement made of 50%.

We are also working with another provider on their section 106 site at the former Boots site in Beeston. Over the next four years, 157 properties will be offered to our applicants. Again, a mixture of flats and family homes, including 36 four-bedroom properties, which are desperately needed to house larger families. All of these properties are being advertised and allocated via our housing register and the first phase of properties have recently been advertised.

Reducing our average relet times is another way that we can ensure that people in housing need are housed as quickly as possible. Last year this was higher than we would have liked this figure to be, and we did not meet our target. A number of new officers have been appointed, which has increased the capacity in the team. Although they are still completing their training, this has already had a positive impact with average relet times for both general needs and independent living reducing and becoming closer to target.

At Cabinet in June, new software for the management of our Housing Assets and Repairs service was approved. This will improve the way that we collect and hold compliance data, and how we schedule repairs and improve the efficiency of the workforce. The project to implement this has commenced and full implementation will be in early 2026. This builds upon the recent improvement to the call handling system for the Housing Repairs Contact Centre. The new report functionality has already allowed us to identify trends and make a small amendment to the working patterns of the team to ensure that we have employees available to take calls at the busiest times.

At Cabinet earlier this month, we presented the results of our Tenant Satisfaction Measures. Although there are still areas where we need to improve our performance, it was good to see that our satisfaction scores had increased in all areas. Particularly, our Overall Satisfaction figure which increased from 66% to 71%, and satisfaction with the time taken to complete repairs, which increased from 63% to 72%.

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**Leisure and Health Portfolio  
Councillor T A Cullen**

**Report to Council – 16 July 2025**

**Children and Young People**

The Children and Young People (C&YP) post has been vacant since Jan 2025. The successful applicant withdrew at the end of May to take up a secondment in Economic Development. We are re-interviewing on 26 June 2025. UKSPF funding has been applied for to enable the original successful applicant to deliver the Youth Conference whilst we re-recruit to the post. This is a lengthy process for the Communities Team as Police Vetting takes approximately eight weeks before a start date can be set.

**Youth Conference**

The Youth Conference is the result of work carried out by the CY&P Group of Broxtowe Partnership in partnership with a Researcher at Oxford University.

The Researcher conducted research in the autumn of 2024 focussing on young people's mental health needs linked to Social Media, Healthy Relationships and Community Safety issues.

It is hoped the Youth Conference will be co-produced alongside young people through focus groups.

The event will take place in the autumn of 2025 or early 2026 dependent on the deadline for the UKSPSF submission of a report commissioned from the Researcher.

The proposal creates a community event bringing together young people, parents and carers, teachers and community organisations to identify key issues and co-produce solutions alongside young people.

Active discussions are underway with multiple partners and organisations to ensure meaningful recruitment of young people and valuable contributions.

**Dementia**

The next Broxtowe Dementia Event is being planned for 26 September 2025 with a focus on end of life, care homes and partnership working.

From the last event, support at mealtimes in hospitals was raised as a concern. To support families and friends when their loved one attends hospital a simple information flyer has been created in partnership with Nottingham University Hospitals and the Broxtowe Action Network for Dementia (BAND).

A new 'Working to become Dementia Friendly' toolkit is being developed.

### Carers Roadshows

This year, the carers roadshows will have a dementia focus. The first roadshow is at Eastwood Library on 12 June 2025, 10am -2pm and a Dementia Friend Information Session will be held to recruit new Dementia Friends. Further roadshows for Beeston and Stapleford are being planned for the autumn.

### North Broxtowe Bursary Scheme

Name of Project	Overview	Start Date	Feedback
Boccia Club	For those with a Learning Disability	November 2024	<p>Delivered by Pulp Friction. Need identified following Learning Disability Roadshows in 2023.</p> <p>Meets first Friday of the month at Rumbletums Cafe in Kimberley. Approximately 19 people with a learning disability attend, including those from Broxtowe Day Service – in Chilwell, arrive by minibus. Attendees describe how much they value this club and how it has enabled them to make new friendships.</p>
Nordic Walking	For those with a Learning Disability	February 2025	<p>Delivered by Pulp Friction. Need identified following Learning Disability Roadshows in 2023. Meets first Saturday of month at Kimberly School. 16 people registered. It has become a family event rather than just the individuals as parents and carers also enjoy taking part.</p>
Menopause Group	Open to all Menopausal women including those experiencing Perimenopause	November 2024	<p>Meet third Saturday of the month, at various venues. Number of attendees fluctuate but can be up to 25 women. WhatsApp Group</p>

			<p>created and Menopause Directory created (to support signposting to additional services / help for the group). Have had exercise classes - walking, yoga and planning open water swimming in Aug / Sept. Have held talks on mental health, weight management / healthy eating. Supported litter pick events. Group signposted to Leisure wellbeing workshops.</p>
Macular Degeneration (sight loss group)	<p>For those with visual impairment - number of registered "blind/visually impaired/ macular degeneration" people living in Eastwood and Broxtowe</p> <p>Eastwood 1615 Broxtowe 4890</p>	January 2025	<p>Meet last Tuesday of month at Eastwood Town Council. Approximately 20 -30 people attend. Supported by the Macular Society. Feedback is very positive and "Glad to have found others with the same condition". This demonstrates how much isolation has been experienced and how this group now helps to reduce this.</p> <p>The Macular Society are restructuring – awaiting to see if the Regional Manager will keep his job. There are three volunteers at the group who could step in if needed. Conversations to be held, including the Eastwood Community Coordinator (formerly Local Area Coordinator) who supports the group.</p>
Intergenerational Exercise Group	Older people and younger people exercising together	January 2025	<p>In partnership with Eastwood House Residential Care Home and Eastwood Family Hub, weekly (Tuesday 10 - 11am) exercise class for care home residents and families with children under 5 years. Pom poms, bells, beanbags, parachute and more with child</p>

			<p>friendly music – head, shoulders, knees and toes, the hokey cokey etc. “Residents absolutely love seeing the children” and it has helped with residents experiencing low mood and the exercises have helped with their mobility.</p> <p>Quote from a parent - “The Intergenerational dance class is a fun and joyful session to attend. My son loves dancing along to the different songs and handing out the bells to the residents of the care home. It’s a pleasure to watch him interact with the residents, which I think makes a difference to their day also. I would highly recommend the class to any parent.”</p> <p>Looking to increase numbers of children and explore other care homes.</p>
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There is a further project planned at Eastwood Young People’s Centre but due to a staff vacancy we are awaiting a start date.

### **Mental Health**

In response to a recent suicide, we have been working with public health and the Samaritans to raise awareness of information and support for those struggling with their mental health. Chilwell Retail Park, the Village Hotel, Attenborough Nature Reserve and Beeston Pubwatch are displaying information cards in point-of-sale areas.

Over the next few months a Samaritans stall at the Nature Reserve and in the Square in Beeston is also being planned.

A new Self Harm and Suicide Prevention Strategy and Charter has been released by Public Health and a report to GMT is being prepared.

### **Smoking**

A new smoking clinic, supporting women in pregnancy, is starting 18 June in Eastwood.

**Partner News**

Citizens Advice Broxtowe (CAB) are exploring a project to support SEND families at Chelsey's Café in Chilwell.

CAB and Hope Nottingham through the Broxtowe Food Support Network are exploring a pilot project to support foodbanks with advice sessions. UKSPF funding to support this is to be confirmed.

**Liberty Leisure Limited**

Following a difficult end to 2023/24 with the loss of Kimberley Gym and Swim, 2024/25 was expected to be a challenging year financially, however the team have worked hard to achieve a great outcome this year. Overall, there is a surplus of £800 having only taken two thirds of the initially proposed management fee, saving the Council £123k. This was achieved by working hard to increase income in all areas by increasing membership sales and retention, increasing attendances and small price increases whilst also reducing expenditures where possible. There were also unplanned savings in insurance, business rates and utilities compared to the previous year.

With the loss of Kimberley Gym and Swim Exercise Referral delivery in the north of the Borough now operates in partnership with Greasley Sports and Community Centre and partnership has progressed well.

The Wise Moves (falls prevention) classes set up by Liberty Leisure, after initial funding from Broxtowe Borough Council, are now established in the community and will continue to be self-sustaining when the funding runs out in Q1 25/26.

The Broxtowe Learning Disability Collaborative, a joint partnership between Liberty Leisure Limited and Nottingham West PCN, successfully won the award in the category of 'Health Inequalities' at the Nottinghamshire Integrated Care board annual awards event held on 6 November. The Broxtowe Learning Disability Collaborative, which supports people with mental and physical disabilities gain access to a range of Health and Wellbeing services including GP services, physical activities, eye care services, flu and health check clinics etc.

Liberty Leisure have been involved with the development of the Stapleford Community Pavilion and will be the operator of the centre when it opens later this year. This facility will be a great asset for the community and with the partners we are looking to work with will achieve the desired long-term sustainability.

**Cultural Services****Hemlock Happening**

The Council's flagship event had another successful year. Unfortunately, the army took the decision to cancel the planned Red Devil parachute jump due to the wind

speeds on the day but that did not detract from over 6,700 attending the event. The Green Festival archway crocheted by the Stapleford Yarn Bombers was a great addition and served as a perfect spot for photos. Positive comments were received from both visitors and performers and suppliers on the day. The Communications, Cultural and Civic Services Team were also praised for the event management practices by partners including Highways, Nottinghamshire Police, EMAS as part of the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) and their Event Safety Management Plan will be used as an example of best practice across the County.

### Friday 18

This year's live music event kicked off on 20 June and will run until 8 August with an extended finale. New artists, along with crowd favourites are included in this year's line- up to perform an hour of live music in Beeston Square from 18.00 hours, inspired by a similar event in our twin town of Gutersloh. A pilot event has also begun in Kimberley offering an hour of live music at 18.00 hours in various pubs and venues in the town.

### Summer events

A host of summer events are taking place over the coming weeks including:

- Nuthall Play Day - 30 July
- D. H. Lawrence Festival - 1 August - 14 September
- Chilwell Play Day - 5 August
- Eastwood Play Day - 7 August
- Stapleford Play Day - 11 August
- Beeston Summer Fete - 16 August
- Green Festival - 20 September

### D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum Performance

In 2024/25, the museum attracted 4,544 visitors and income was increased by 13.7% to £14,949 thanks to a review of admission charges as part of the 2024/25 budget. Expenditure has also decreased to £83,598.63 compared to £118,487.00 in 2022/23 when the museum transferred back into the Council.

This brings the subsidy per visitor down to £15.10, compared to £31.07 in 2022/23 when the museum transferred back into the Council. This is also lower than pre-pandemic levels.

Since 2023/24, engagements have also been recorded as the museum has explored ways to engage audiences about D.H. Lawrence and local heritage in new ways, beyond the museum building itself. Activities have included the D.H. Lawrence music festival, the D.H. Lawrence Children's Writing Competition, a five facts about D.H. Lawrence campaign and travelling exhibitions in other cultural venues in the Borough.

The number of engagements for 2024/25 was 11,493. This is a 48% increase on 2023/24 at 7,724 engagements. This gives a subsidy per engagement of £5.97.

For 2024/25, there was also an increase in volunteer hours undertaken from 348 to 392.

#### D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum Activities

This year's D.H. Lawrence Children's Prize Writing Competition attracted 601 entries, which is the highest to date. Entries were received locally, as well as from across the world, including USA, Thailand, India, Seoul, Madrid, Ireland and United Arab Emirates.

The Museum has recently provided the setting for a recording of a BBC Radio 4 documentary about Lawrence.

The monthly Wellbeing Walk Programme continues to be well attended, with recent attendance from an NHS Social Prescriber and their patients as a wellbeing activity as part of their care programme.

Following last year's success, the Museum will be delivering Pop Up Museum's as part of the D.H. Lawrence Festival at various events in Council's summer event programme.

#### External Funding

Over £204,000 funding has been secured to support cultural activities since 2023/24. This includes:

- £25,000 from UKSPF to support CCity projects on literature, music, food and lifestyle, visual arts, history and custom and wellbeing.
- £10,000 from UKSPF to create a new D.H. Lawrence walking trail in Eastwood, inspired by the Blue Line Trail
- A further £98,500 UKSPF funding was secured for a project to create an augmented reality and audio trail about D.H. Lawrence and Eastwood heritage. This project has been managed by the Economic Development Team.
- £13,000 ground rent income from Council events.
- £27,000 sponsorship to support the events programme.
- £30,000 from the Arts Council to support the Broxtowe Creates Festival in June 2024.
- £1,000 from local partners to support museum events and projects.

In 2025/26, a further £47,500 UKSPF funding has been secured to support cultural activity including Proms In The Park events, Outdoor Theatre Events, enhancements to the Green Festival and a cover for Beeston bandstand which will make the space more accessible for events.

Work is ongoing in conjunction with the Asset Management and Development Team to identify external funding for works to support the ongoing maintenance and improvement of the Museum building. This includes an application which was submitted in June to the Arts Council's Museum Estate and Development (MEND) Fund. Work is now underway to assess the museum's eligibility for the Government's new Creative Foundations and Heritage Lottery Funding.

**C-City Project**

A cookbook co-produced with the four other C-City locations, has won an international cookbook award. 'Cooking and Culture!' won first place in the 'Best Plurinational Book in the World' category at the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards in Lisbon last month. The book aims to bring people from different cultures together through the universal language of food.

Copies of the book are available to purchase from the D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum, will be on sale at various summer events in the Borough or on request via the Communications Team.

A new exhibition entitled 'Broxtowe: A Journey Through History and Custom Exhibition' has opened at the D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum detailing our Borough's recent past from 1945 to present day.

Exploring the distinct changes Broxtowe has undergone in the last 80 years, the exhibition will showcase the changes that have helped shape the area's identity, culture, and community. The other C-City locations have also put together an exhibition for their own areas and the full collection will be available to view online soon.

Music exchanges have also taken place with local musicians across the five countries.



**Environment and Climate Change Portfolio  
Councillor H E Skinner**

**Report to Council – 16 July 2025**

**Introduction**

Over the past few months, the Environment Team have been working hard to support our corporate aim of '*Protect the Environment for the future*'. It has been a busy period, especially as the garden waste season has begun and grass and hedge cutting are well underway across the Borough.

Alongside these day-to-day activities, the team has also been actively planning events, developing strategies and engaging with our residents – all of which is helping to ensure that we create a sustainable future for our Borough.

**Waste and Recycling**

Last year, Broxtowe residents threw away just over 40,000 tonnes of waste. The Borough's recycling rate for 2024/25 was 35.5% (a 0.5% decrease from the previous year and is a trend that is reflected nationally).

Whilst our contamination rate for the green-lidded bins has risen slightly compared to the previous year (0.6% to 16.6%), this does not reflect the full story. In the first half of the year, our average contamination rate had climbed to 18.5%; however, since launching our new waste and recycling promotion programme around our collection teams, we have seen the contamination rate drop in the later half of the year to 14.7% - a fantastic achievement! The teams ongoing efforts are really paying off and it is hoped next year I will be able to report a full year's decrease in contamination.

In April of this year, the Environment Team introduced Simpler Recycling (the ability to include plastic pots, tubs and trays, tetra paks and foil to the green lidded recycling bin) and a weekly food waste collection service for our trade waste customers. 56 businesses have requested a separate food waste collection, including our own premises at the Council Offices, Kimberley Depot, and Bramcote Crematorium. To date the team have collected over five tonnes of food waste, which is going to an Aerobic Digestion Facility at Severn Trent in Derby. Currently, only businesses with ten or more employees are required to have a separate food waste collection. From the 31 March 2027, all businesses will be required to use the service.

To make Members aware, simpler recycling will be introduced to all households from March 2026. This will mean that our residents will be able to put additional items in the green-lidded bin and this includes:

- Plastic pots, tubs and trays
- Foil and foil trays
- Tetra pak cartons.

### Missed bins

There has been a positive movement in the number of bins that have been missed in 2024/25. Last year, the total number of missed bins was 14,506, which has decreased to 14,331 representing a reduction of 1.4%. Additionally, the number of bins and bags collected increased to nearly six million, representing an overall missed bin percentage of 0.24%, which is very positive. The team are working hard to reduce this number even further.

### New team members

In May this year the Council's new Waste and Recycling Manager started in post. They will be working with the team to deliver new services to households including Simpler Recycling and Food Waste collections as well as working to improve the cleanliness of the Borough. They will be joined by the new Waste and Recycling Engagement Officer at the end of June. They will be working with the teams and engaging with the public to encourage recycling and reduce contamination.

### Free Bulky Waste Days

In 2024/25, the Environment Team held eight free bulky waste days in Kimberley, Eastwood (2), Stapleford, Chilwell, Brinsley, Beeston and Trowell collecting over 30 tonnes of waste.

The team will be organising more bulky waste days this year, these will be held from September onwards. Areas are selected by need (those that experience high levels of fly tipping) and for 2025/26 include:

- Beeston Rylands
- Stapleford
- Eastwood
- Chilwell
- Bramcote
- Nuthall.

Refuse teams will be on hand to collect the following:

- Furniture.
- Mattresses.
- Electricals including TVs, kitchen appliances.
- Broken toys and play equipment.

Further details including location and times will be circulated to Members nearer the time. If Members would like further information regarding the waste days, please contact the Environment Team.

### Street Cleansing

In May, the Street Cleansing Team have been working with a traffic management team to carry out additional cleansing operations on Shilo Way, as well as in Awsworth and

Cossall. Measures include the cleansing of central refuges. Traffic management is required, due to the speed of the roads.

The team will continue to undertake central refuge cleansing over the next month or so. Additionally, the cleansing teams will also be visiting our four town centres to perform deep cleans, including jet washing street furniture, weeding, chewing gum removal, litter picking and sweeping. These efforts will help to contribute to noticeable improvements across the Borough and positive results have already been observed.

## **Parks and Green Spaces**

### Parks Standard

To make Members aware, the parks standard survey will be running over the summer holidays until 31 August 2025. This year eleven parks will be surveyed, and these are:

The Lane, Awsworth  
Broadgate Park, Beeston  
Bramcote Hills Park  
Eastcote Avenue, Bramcote  
Brinsley Recreation Ground  
Chetwynd Recreation Ground, Toton  
Colliers Wood, Greasley  
Jubilee Park, Eastwood  
Smithurst Road, Giltbrook  
Archers Field, Stapleford  
Judson Avenue, Stapleford.

A report will be shared with Cabinet in October once the results have been analysed, with the output also helping to inform the new Play Strategy.

### Grass Cutting

The Grounds Maintenance Teams are working hard to create safe, attractive and functional green spaces across the Borough. Currently, the team are working at the peak of the season. Grass cutting commenced at the end of March, covering parks, green spaces and highway verges.

The team also work across eleven cemeteries and churchyards providing an excellent service in these sensitive locations. Additionally, they maintain numerous sports pitches covering provision for bowling, tennis, cricket and football. The team also provide garden maintenance for over 500 Council properties.

### Hedge Cutting

Due to the bird nesting season, hedge cutting commences in June each year. The Grounds Maintenance Team are responsible for cutting the hedges for 450 Council properties and a further 195 outlying sites. There are two hedge cuts a year, and these

take place in June and September. Together, these hedges cover 95,000m<sup>2</sup>. (For context this is equivalent to an area that covers 23.45 acres or 14 football pitches).

On behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council, the Environment Team also undertakes annual hedge cutting along 15 rights of way, as well as shrub maintenance at 35 highway locations across the Borough.

As we move into the height of the summer season, we will have all noticed accelerated growth on our hedges and grass. This maybe impacting some footpaths. The team is currently working across the Borough to address this, and I thank Members for your patience but if Members or residents have any immediate concerns, please contact the Environment team.

### Capital Projects

The Parks Team are anticipating a full programme of Park Improvements this year, with a strong focus on accessibility and inclusivity. Works include:

- Access and path improvements at Bramcote Hills Park, King George V Park and Eastcote Avenue open space in Bramcote.
- Play area improvements at Coronation Park and Jubilee Park in Eastwood
- Ongoing restoration of Brinsley Headstocks and further improvements to the wider open space.

### The Nottingham Canal

A successful bid to the UKSPF has seen a £50,000 allocation to the Nottingham Canal Local Nature Reserve.

The canal is a redundant navigation system, which originally ran between Langley Mill and Nottingham. Sections have been lost through open cast mining, road construction and housing development, but substantial lengths remain between Eastwood in the North and Bramcote in the South. The former towpath now forms part of the Erewash Valley walking/cycling trail, and the canal is an important recreational and biodiversity asset, as well as an important historical industrial asset.

The linear nature of the canal makes it an important blue/green corridor. A population of the nationally endangered Water Vole is present, and the connectivity of the canal allows this small mammal to migrate between sites, making the wider population more resilient.

The canal project will improve accessibility to the canal path, allowing a wider range of users with different abilities to enjoy access to nature and the local countryside. In addition, funds will be used to renovate and repair historical features, undertake works to prevent leakage on the embankments, improve habitats for a wide range of flora and fauna (including the Water Vole) and provide site interpretation panels. Additional funding will also be sought to extend the scope of this project.

The Boundary Brook, Pit Lane Recreation Ground.

The Boundary Brook, which forms the boundary between Stapleford and Trowell (Stapleford North Ward and Awsworth, Cossall and Trowell Ward) is a natural watercourse which has been modified in the past to improve land drainage. This has resulted in large volumes of water moving quickly down the brook in times of heavy rain. The brook is culverted under the A6007 Stapleford/Trowell Road and emerges into a deepened and straightened channel passing through the Trowell Park estate. During periods of exceptional rainfall (episodes of which we are seeing more frequently), this channel may not cope with the volume of water, resulting in it overtopping and flooding gardens and properties.

Nottinghamshire County Council have submitted a successful bid to the Environment Agency Natural Flood Management programme, which will include work to the Boundary Brook catchment. Natural Flood Management uses natural processes to reduce the risk of flooding. These processes protect, restore and mimic the natural functions of catchments and floodplains to slow and store water, reducing the peak flow and increasing the time available to prepare for flood.

The project will be designed and managed by East Midlands Environmental Consultants, who have worked closely with the parks team to agree interventions along the Boundary Brook at the Pit Lane Recreation Ground, including:

- Leaky dams, constructed from natural materials such as logs and large stones.
- Ponds and shallow scrapes alongside or connected to the watercourse.

Prior to undertaking this work, extensive areas of Himalayan Balsam will be cleared. This plant is an invasive non-native species (INNS), the presence of which can have a seriously detrimental impact on native plants and biodiversity. The plant is an annual (it grows, seeds and dies in one season) and can grow very vigorously on the damp, fertile ground along watercourses, reaching heights of up to two metres through spring and summer, before seeding and dying in autumn.

The dense foliage of Himalayan Balsam shades out other plants, leaving the banks completely denuded through winter. Heavy rains can then wash out large volumes of bare earth and deposit it downstream, silting up channels and adding to flood risk.

Pulling the young balsam plants in June and July prevents seed setting and allows native flora to survive. The seeds are relatively short lived and after clearing balsam for two or three years, the seed bank in the ground is depleted, meaning control and eradication can be achieved quickly.

In addition to reducing flood risk, the interventions will improve existing habitats and create new habitats, improving biodiversity. All the work will be externally funded, but the parks team are planning some complementary work, including tree planting and pathway improvements.

### Bedding Review

A review of the 85 annual bedding sites across the Borough is currently underway. The annual beds are currently changed twice a year, with spring and summer bedding plants used to create displays. This is quite resource intensive, with plant production requiring significant inputs of energy. The review will identify sites where more sustainable displays of herbaceous perennials can be established. The visual impact will be retained or improved by using a selection of plants with year-round appeal. These can then be maintained for several years before requiring replacement. Plants that have wider biodiversity benefits, including nectar production will also be used.

### Nature Discovery Day

A nature discovery day will take place at Toton Fields Local Nature reserve on Sunday 13 July 2025. This will be an educational event, with local people encouraged to attend and help identify and record the diversity of flora and fauna that can be found at the site, with experts on wildflowers, insects, birds, bats, amphibians and mammals, all on hand to help with identification. Pond dipping and bug netting will likely prove popular with the younger attendees. Please let the Environment Team know if you would like to attend the event.

### Climate Change

#### Green Festivals

I would like to inform Members that the Green Zone at this year's Hemlock Happening was once again a resounding success. There were ten participating stalls, showcasing all things environmental under a unique feature archway dressed in crocheted flowers made by Stapleford Yarn Bomb group. This was intertwined with real English Ivy provided by the Grounds Maintenance Team. This archway has been purchased by the Environment Team and can be used at other Council events.

I would also like to remind Members of the upcoming Green Festival event, scheduled to take place on the 20 September 2025, at Coronation Park in Eastwood. An impressive 26 stalls have already signed up and there are four schools taking part in the Green Festival arts competition.

These initiatives highlight our ongoing commitment to promote, engage and educate on sustainable practices.

#### Green Rewards

There are currently 3,246 residents from the Borough signed up to the Green Rewards platform. Since the launch of platform, Nottinghamshire residents have collectively avoided emitting over 1,400 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. (That would be enough gas to fill 1,400 hot air balloons).

As part of the Fast Followers project, an exciting pilot project (which expands on the Nottinghamshire Green Rewards platform) is taking place to include an interactive Green Home Guide and resident personalisation.

I am also pleased to inform Members that the bird boxes that were installed in Watnall Spinney back in November due to the Ward winning the biodiversity prize. These bird boxes were inspected by the Environment Team in April and out of the 10 boxes installed, seven of them had nests in, (some even had eggs)! The boxes will be monitored throughout the year and highlight that even in such a short space of time, nature has benefited from this installation.

#### Citizen Visioning

I would like to update Members on the Citizen Visioning project. This project was a result of an invitation from the Fast Followers project, who approached all D2N2 partners to gauge interest in establishing a Climate Change panel. Internal discussions with other Nottinghamshire Districts indicated that the Council had not undertaken a project of this type before, and this presented a valuable opportunity to communicate key aspects of the Climate Change and Green Futures programme. This work would be particularly important in helping shape our approach to adaptation and mitigation, a section in our strategy that could be strengthened.

This service has been provided entirely **free of charge** by Innovate UK. The only resource requirement from the Council has been officer time. The total value of the project is around £80,000 and the Council is fortunate enough to be one of only 25 local authorities selected to take part in this initiative.

In May of this year, 6,500 households across the Borough received an invitation to become part of the Broxtowe Borough Council Citizen's Climate Panel.

There was a significant response, with 156 residents registering their interest in being part of the panel, 22 residents were selected to form the panel.

During four in person sessions, panel members have been discussing the question:

#### ***What should Broxtowe Borough Council prioritise to tackle flooding in a fair way?***

Participants have heard from a wide range of stakeholders including those from the Environment Agency, Nottinghamshire County Council, Ashden Climate Solutions and the University of Nottingham.

In their final session on 28 June 2025 the panel will make a series of priority recommendations for the Council. These will outline what actions should be taken to address inequality and flooding. This will also help to shape the Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy 2023-27, which will be reviewed and refreshed later in 2025/26.

#### Carbon Disclosure Project benchmark result

I am pleased to announce that the Council has been awarded a 'B' in the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP). CDP is a global non-profit organisation that runs the world's

only independent environmental disclosure system for companies, capital markets, cities, states and regions to manage their environmental impacts.

The scores range from A to D with B demonstrating that the Council has managed to gather data on the main risks and impacts of climate change and is taking action to adapt to and reduce these effects. It also demonstrates that the Council has worked collaboratively with key stakeholders to understand their risks and impacts and that there are plans in place to mitigate or adapt to these.

#### Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI)

I would like to update Members on the progress of the LEVI project. This countywide initiative is fully funded by the Department for Transport (DfT) and aims to provide access to on-street electric vehicle (EV) chargepoints to residents without home charging facilities. Led by Nottinghamshire County Council, the procurement process is underway to appoint suitable Chargepoint Operators (CPOs).

To date, a total of 226 potential sites for charge points have been identified across the Borough. This represents 28% of the broader potential list of 810 sites identified across the Nottinghamshire. Once the procurement process is completed, each of the sites will undergo thorough evaluation and assessment to determine their suitability and feasibility for installation.

Once completed, the Environment Team will be notified, and updates will be provided accordingly.

#### Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP)

Consultants Mott MacDonald and Integrated Environmental (IES) continue to make progress on the stakeholder engagement and LAEP modelling across the region. Workshops are available for Members to attend to hear updates on progress and gain an understanding of the proposed energy interventions for Broxtowe. If you would like further information on workshop dates, please contact the Environment Team.

The primary goal of the LAEP is to identify the most cost-effective ways to decarbonise Gedling, Broxtowe, and Rushcliffe Councils, aligning local plans and priorities with broader regional ambitions, as well as national policies and strategies. The LAEP will also consider other aspects including energy supply and demand, transport, buildings, local industry, and the environment.

#### The Council's Carbon Footprint 2024/25

I am delighted to inform Members that carbon emission calculations for 2024/25 have been completed for the Council's own operations and there has been a 31% reduction compared to 2023/24 and a 57% reduction compared to the 2018/19 baseline.

This significant reduction has been due to the Council's fleet transition from diesel to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) in April 2024. Emissions from the Council's



vehicle fleet have reduced by 95% and now account for 2% of the Council's overall footprint, compared to 35% in 2023/24.

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**Community Safety Portfolio  
Councillor G Bunn**

**Report to Council – 16 July 2025**

**Licencing**

Since 1 January 2025 there have been six pub watch meetings in Beeston, Eastwood and Stapleford at each of which the Licencing Officer presented a two-hour Safeguarding training session.

There have been three Taxi Knowledge and Safeguarding sessions delivered to new drivers.

On 10 June 2025 the Licencing Officer will deliver safeguarding training to Members, and they will have the opportunity to take the Taxi Drivers' Knowledge and Safeguarding Test themselves.

All gambling establishment checks for the year have been completed.

The majority of stores selling vapes within the Borough have been visited and reminded of the recent law change in relation to the ban on the selling of disposable vapes.

Three taxi drivers have been issued with verbal or written warnings following investigations into complaints received from members of the public.

Licensed premises and venues have been provided with Domestic Abuse and Suicide information for display.

**Safeguarding**

15 referrals have been received in the first five months of the year (relating to 20 individuals) compared with 38 (40 individuals) in 2024 which is a significant decrease and in line with levels seen in previous years.

**Prevent**

Training is being delivered to key posts across the county including five from Broxtowe at training events between July and October (Communities and Community Safety, Health and Safety, Compliance and Emergency Planning)

**Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Crime Prevention**

The Communities and Community Safety Team continues to work closely with Nottinghamshire Police and key partners across the Borough to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, promote public safety, strengthen community resilience, community outreach and campaigns such as lighter nights which raises awareness of the additional risk of acquisitive crime during warmer months.

We have continued to monitor ASB hotspots across Broxtowe through regular partnership tasking meetings and data-led planning with local policing teams. Notably, joint efforts in Kimberley and Giltbrook have resulted in a marked decrease in ASB reports, with Police citing a “vast improvement” in the town centre by March.

Joint visits with the Police to schools where identified risk of weapon carrying have taken place and in Beeston increased high-visibility patrols, dispersal notices, and engagement with licensed premises have helped reassure residents and deter disorder.

As we move into the summer period, the Communities and Crime team is preparing for:

- Community safety activity around school holidays, including youth outreach.
- Targeted work with licensed premises in hotspot areas.
- Ongoing delivery of the Violence Against Women and Girls Action Plan and new White Ribbon events.
- Wider rollout of public safety communications—including myth-busting around ASB and support available.

The Communities Team recently attended a public walk and talk event through Beeston Town Centre, during which attendees discussed local concerns, such as crime, ABS, road safety and youth issues. This was organised by the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner (PCC) and was attended by the local Police Team, local Councillors, Officers from the PCC and the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

### **Community Safety Infrastructure**

Investment in public safety infrastructure continues to enhance community confidence:

- Two new Help-Point CCTV units have been installed at either end of Beeston High Road, enabling 24/7 emergency contact with the Council's CCTV control room.
- These complement 11 high-definition Safer Streets cameras across Beeston's transport hubs, car parks, and shopping areas.

### **Serious Violence and Violence Against Women and Girls**

The Serious Violence Response plan 2024/25 was completed and a new plan developed and approved by both the Violence Reduction Partnership and South Notts Community Safety Partnership.

Our partnership's work to prevent violence against women and girls has remained a strong focus:

- The Council has continued to deliver education sessions in schools around respectful relationships and gender-based violence, in collaboration with Broxtowe Women's Project and Equation and on knife crime in partnership with the Police.
- As part of our White Ribbon accreditation, community engagement events—such as the “Kindness Rocks” painting activity—have helped raise awareness in a creative, inclusive way with the Borough's primary school children.
- Sessions have also addressed online safety and understanding of sexual offences, particularly for students in Years 5 and 6, who are increasingly active online.

### **Domestic Abuse**

The White Ribbon 'Right to Respect' June campaign and the National Justice Museums 'asking for it' exhibit were promoted across partnership organisations and local businesses and local businesses were encouraged to get involved to find out how they can support people's rights to not be harassed in the workplace.

A Police vs Fire and Rescue White Ribbon football match will be held at the end of June.

Community Safety Officers are working within the County-wide Domestic Abuse Partnership Board to create a new county-wide action plan and discover which areas need targeting for funding and projects in the future.

A Coercive Control training session has been delivered to Council Employees.

White Ribbon stands with information have been held at a variety of local community events to ensure that awareness is raised as much as possible.

73 Broxtowe cases have been heard at MARAC (Multi agency Risk Assessment Conferences) and actioned since 1 January 2025.

A 'Rape and Serious Sexual Assault' guide has been added to the Council's website.

### **Sanctuary**

The Sanctuary Scheme continues to undergo improvements to service delivery to make the sanctuary case journey smoother and deliver better services for survivors.

Work between the Communities, Private Sector Housing and Repairs Teams has improved efficiency to ensure availability is maintained despite the increases in the number of cases over the past year.

There have so far been 19 applications for sanctuary made in 2025 so far, with two applications rejected.

**Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)**

DHR HYPERION was approved by the Home Office and the South Nottinghamshire Community Safety Partnership were complimented on the quality of the report. This DHR report will not be published due to its content and the Home Office were in agreement with this decision.

DHR HORNBY has been completed, however the victim's family have now engaged with domestic Homicide support service AAFDA, providing the panel with the opportunity to include their comments within the report so this will be presented to the South Notts Community safety Partnership for approval before being sent to the Home Office on the 28 July 2025.

We are awaiting the outcome of the Police investigation into a suspicious death which may result in DHR HOUDINI.

**Environmental Protection****Legal and Litigation**

A lady from Kimberly has been found guilty at Nottinghamshire Justice Centre of breaching a Criminal Behaviour Order. The Order had been issued by the Court in 2021 banning her from keeping or feeding animals at her property due to the impact her behaviour was having on neighbours and the poor condition of the animals.

Having failed to appear at Court for an earlier sentencing hearing, the lady was arrested and appeared before the court, when she was sentenced to a custodial sentence suspended for 12 months.

**Air Quality Success**

An annual report which assesses the quality of the air in Broxtowe against health standards has shown that all of the standards were met in 2024, and that improvements in air quality across the Borough have over the past three years.

The Annual Status Report is a summary of results and activity over the last calendar year which every Council in the UK is required to submit to DEFRA for review and approval.

The key findings from the recently completed report for the calendar year 2024 are:

- 1) Measurements of nitrogen dioxide from traffic pollution at all 41 monitoring locations across the Borough were below the legal Objective.
- 2) The margins by which the monitoring locations were below the legal Objective were the best we have ever measured. Measurements were ranged from 46% below the Objective to 79%.
- 3) The report summarises the 114 workstreams carried out by BBC or partner organisations which are, or have, helped deliver air quality improvements, covering 38 which are now complete and a further 76 which are still in progress.
- 4) The biggest impact actions during 2025 will be;

- a) SHDF funded energy improvements to Council properties, which will lead to reduced energy demand and therefore reduced emissions from gas boilers
- b) The implementation of the Councils Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy, which will directly reduce air pollution emissions from road traffic, and
- c) The implementation of the Broxtowe Smoke Control Order, which will reduce air pollution emissions from solid fuel combustion appliances in domestic property.

## **Licensing**

Members of Licensing and Appeals committee were provided with Taxi Safeguarding training on 10 June 2025.

A Licensing hearing was held where the premise licence was refused for Unit 4, The Square.

Forms project – looking to replace the gov.uk forms with IDOX form solutions. We are now at the testing stage of projects and ESB forms solutions for those forms not provided by IDOX, working closely with Newark and Sherwood DC and Meritec to ensure we are getting the forms and solutions we require.

## **Private Sector Housing**

Earlier action on a property in the Chilwell area saw collaboration between the Environmental Protection and Private Sector Housing Teams. A rodent infestation emanating from a dilapidated property was impacting on the adjoining property, the teams took action to safeguard both the neighbours and the owner occupier of the dilapidated property which resulted in the serving of an Emergency Prohibition Order (EPO) under the Housing Act 2004 due to the dangerous condition of the property and a full clearance under the Public Health Act legislation to clear the property internally to eradicate the rat infestation. The property owner was supported by the teams and secured alternative accommodation and made the decision to sell the property.

The property was sold at auction and the new owners have undertaken a full renovation project incorporating the work required under the Emergency Prohibition Order (EPO). Following a re-inspection of the property by the Private Sector Housing Team the EPO has been revoked and the new owners have moved in bringing this once dangerous property back into safe occupation. This action saw improvements to the property, eradicated the rodent issue that was impacting on the neighbouring property and provided a safe home for the new owners.

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### Report of the Monitoring Officer

<b>Annual Scrutiny Report 2024/25</b>
---------------------------------------

1. Purpose of Report

The Committee is asked to review the Annual Scrutiny Report 2024/25 and to recommend the Report to be forwarded to Council.

2. Recommendation

**The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND that Council NOTES the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Scrutiny Report for 2024/25.**

3. Detail

The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report reflects on the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during 2024/25 and looks forward to Overview and Scrutiny activity in 2025/26 (**Appendix** attached). The report is a summary of Overview and Scrutiny over the last year and the positive impacts secured on the Council's policy, and service delivery. Information has been provided when approval was required from the Chair of the Committee to add items to the forward plan that had missed the published deadline and were key decisions or exempt in line with the Council's Constitution.

4. Financial Implications.

The comments from the Assistant Director of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5. Legal Implications

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

Whilst there are no direct legal implications arising from this report under Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000, Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the power to make reports or recommendations to Cabinet on matters which affect the Council's area or the inhabitant of its area.

6. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

7. Union Comments

Not applicable.

8. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

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

10. Equality Impact Assessment

Not required.

11. Background Papers

Nil.

REFERENCE



Broxtowe  
Borough  
COUNCIL

# Annual Report Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2024/25



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## Foreword

“Over the past year, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has carried out robust scrutiny of the Council’s priorities, as identified in the Corporate Plan, and monitored the Council’s budget, and scrutinised the 2024/25 budget proposals.

Scrutiny has recommended to Cabinet issues that have been raised from Members. The next step will be engaging more with the wider community to ensure we focus on issues that matter to residents and have a real impact on Council policies and services. This report summarises the main issues which have been reviewed and challenged throughout the year and highlights some of the key achievements.

Some significant achievements for Overview and Scrutiny this year include:

- Equalities, Diversity and Accessibility across the Council.
- D.H. Lawrence Museum one of the recommendations to put a departure voice on the local buses was agreed.
- Markets.
- Housing Repairs.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is cross-party and aims to be non-political, it is a critical friend to provide clarity and influence positive conversations. The Committee aims to amplify the voice of residents and invite witnesses to contribute to the meetings and share both expertise and lived experiences.

I am happy to submit this report to Council.”



Councillor S Dannheimer  
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## Overview and Scrutiny at Broxtowe

Overview and Scrutiny is a key part of the local democratic governance arrangements for local authorities in England and Wales. Effective scrutiny helps secure the efficient delivery of public services and drives improvements within the authority itself. Authorities who welcome challenge and recognise the value scrutiny can bring.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee continues to be an active and integral part of the Council's governance arrangements. During 2024/25 the Committee Members have acted as a critical friend as they have scrutinised the selected topics. It provides a vehicle for elected Members to influence the development of Council policies and enhances transparency and accountability to residents. The Committee also suggest service improvements through recommendations.

Scrutiny engagement has included appointing working groups, received presentations and taken reports with question-and-answer sessions. This has enabled scrutiny to take an in-depth look at specific areas within the Council and has provided a variety of opportunity for Members to discuss and add value to key service areas.


During 2024/25, the Committee has received no call-ins. Legislation permits Overview and Scrutiny Committees to investigate, make reports and recommendations regarding Cabinet decisions that have been agreed, but are pending subject to call-in. The decision is suspended until a committee decides on the reason and outcome. The Committee can ask Cabinet to reconsider its decision based on further evidence gathered.

The Committee has maintained oversight of the Council's budget performance throughout the year, scrutinising key areas of overspend, underspend and emerging financial risks alongside key performances within business plans at the budget Overview and Scrutiny meetings. The Constitution requires the Executive to refer its initial budget proposals to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration each year.


Councillors S Dannheimer, E Williamson, and T Marsh, as Chair and Vice-Chairs respectively, would like to thank all the Officers and Members who have been involved in supporting and assisting in the Overview and Scrutiny Process over the past year.

## Membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2024/25


Councillor S Dannheimer (Chair)  
Councillor T J Marsh (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor E Williamson (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor H L Crosby  
Councillor K A Harlow  
Councillor H Land  
Councillor R D MacRae  
Councillor J M Owen  
Councillor A W G A Stockwell  
Councillor C M Tideswell  
Councillor S Webb  
Councillor E Winfield



"Overview and Scrutiny plays an important function in the work of the Council, providing valuable insight, experience and a second look to the work of the Executive."



*"Having been a Member of Scrutiny for two years, I appreciate the valuable role that Scrutiny is able to play in enhancing the Council's performance. The adage that Scrutiny should be a critical friend of the Council is only too true."*



*"Having site visits to areas of scrutiny provides hands-on evidence to support recommendations to Cabinet."*

## How Does Scrutiny make a difference?



The principal power of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to influence the policies and decisions made by the Council and other organisations involved in delivering public services. The Committee gathers evidence on issues affecting local people and makes recommendations based on its findings.



## Call-in Information

The call-in Procedure at the Council provides a way for non-Executive Members of the Council to refer Executive decisions to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee before implementation. Once a decision has been called in, the matter must be included on the agenda of an Overview and Scrutiny Committing meeting for review. Further information relating to the call-in process can be found within the Council's Constitution. [Constitution on Wednesday, 9 October 2024: Broxtowe Borough Council](#)

2022/23 - No call-ins were made during 2022/23.

2023/24 - Two call-ins were made during 2023/24 and were resolved within legislative timescales

2024/25 - No call-ins.

## Requests for reports to be added and approved to the Forward Plan

A "forward plan regulation 28-day notice" refers to a requirement in Local Government regulations that mandates Councils to publish a list of upcoming "key decisions" they plan to make, providing at least 28 days' notice to the public before the decision is finalised, allowing for transparency and public engagement.

Key points about the 28-day notice in a forward plan:

- **Purpose:**

To give residents and interested parties enough time to review proposed decisions, raise concerns, and potentially influence the Council's final decision.

- **What is included in a forward plan:**

Details about the key decision, such as the subject matter, proposed action, responsible Officer, date of the decision-making meeting, and relevant background information. Any report where the decision will be made in a private session.

- **Where to access a forward plan:**

The Council publish the forward plans on the website, making it accessible to the public. [Browse plans - Cabinet, 2025: Broxtowe Borough Council](#)

- **Legal basis:**

This requirement is typically based on Local Government legislation that outlines procedures for decision-making and public engagement.

If an urgent decision needs to be made, and cannot wait until the next Cabinet meeting, the report requires the permission of the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the Constitution, to include the report in the next Cabinet meeting. A Statutory Notice must be published stating the reason why the decision needs to be taken as urgent and was not identified in the published Forward Plan giving 28 days' notice of a decision being made.

The Chair of the Committee has approved a total of seven requests for either a Key Decision or an Exempt decision to be made in the period May 2024 to April 2025. The

reports were not identified in the published forward plan giving 28 days' notice before a decision had to be made, and the decisions were considered urgent.

<b>Request to add to the Forward Plan</b>	<b>Decision Date Cabinet</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Reason for Urgency</b>	<b>Date approved by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Notice Published</b>
1	23 July 2024	Opportunity to Purchase One Block of Flats	Contractual and item was exempt.	9 July 2024
2	23 July 2024	Urgency Powers Exempt report	Item was exempt	5 July 2024
3	3 September 2024	New Skate Park Location	Item was exempt	7 August 2024
4	4 February 2025	Establishment of a Broxtowe Local Enterprise Agency	The principle of setting up a Broxtowe Local Enterprise Agency was confirmed A report was required to come back to Cabinet as soon as possible so that any UKSPF funding supporting the initiative can be defrayed before March 2025	15 January 2025
5	11 March 2025	Approval of Interim Housing Delivery Post	Approval as an item required to be in exempt	17 February 2025
6	11 March 2025	Opportunity to buy a site to develop for affordable housing	Contractual and exempt items.	18 February 2025
7	11 March 2025	Development of an application to the National Wealth Fund for the D.H. Lawrence Health and Wellbeing Centre in Eastwood	Funding opportunity with savings of more than £250,000	17 February 2025

## **Special Urgency Notice**

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has approved two Special Urgency Notices in the period May 2024-April 2025.

### **Cabinet Special Urgency Notices - 11 March 2025**

Special Urgency Notice - Regulation 19 Consultation on the Draft Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan.

Approval was sought to undertake a further Regulation 19 Consultation on the draft Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan. A previous consultation closed on 16 December 2024. This further consultation was required due to the publication of the new National Planning Policy Framework and the decision of Gedling Borough Council to withdraw from the Strategic Plan. The Plan had been revised to update housing targets and to remove Gedling from the Strategic Plan. Consultation began on 12 March 2025 to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework transitional arrangements. Failure to undertake the consultation on this date would result in having to start plan production again and significantly increase the housing targets, resulting in considerable delay and expense to the three authorities (Broxtowe, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe). A call-in period would therefore prevent the consultation being undertaken within the required timeframe.

The report was 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.

Special Urgency Notice - Waiver of Contract Procedure Rules.

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approved a Special Urgency Notice for a decision to be made at the 11 March 2025 Cabinet meeting for the report titled Waiver of Contract Procedure Rules. Construction works were required for Bramcote Crematorium prior to installation of two new Cremators. The construction work schedule was dictated by the cremator delivery which had been affected by delays. It was anticipated that work was required to start on or around 1 March 2025 with a completion date of approximately July 2025.

Due to time constraints, a Financial Procedure Rules (Contracts) waiver was being sought under Chapter 4 Part 2 Financial Regulations (Contract) and was in accordance with the Corporate Plan objectives for Environment and Climate Change. The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that the call-in procedure shall not apply to this decision. With the reason being that any delay in implementation caused by the procedure would seriously prejudice the Council's opportunity to comply with the regulations as detailed in the report.

The report was a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 as it may 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 and may cost more than £250,000. In accordance with the regulations, it was impracticable to give 28 days' notice of the taking of the following decision, which was a Key Decision to be taken by the Executive at its meeting on 11 March 2025 permission was obtained from the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the report as an urgent item and the statutory notice was published.

## **Member Development**

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee received external training on the effectiveness of Scrutiny. The evening was engaging with lots of questions from Members. The Committee have received regular updates from the Head of Democratic Service and the Democratic Services Manager.

## **East Midlands Councils Regional Scrutiny Network**

The East Midlands Councils Regional Scrutiny Network is a forum for learning, sharing, promoting, supporting and developing the scrutiny functions across the region. The Council plays a proactive role in supporting and contributing to the work of the network which meets on a quarterly basis. The Chair and Democratic Services Manager attend the scrutiny network both virtually and face-to-face. Opportunities provided including meeting the Deputy Chief Executive from the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny who provided a presentation on Budget Scrutiny at the last Network meeting.

Key exploration and development areas for 2024/25 included:

- Planning a scrutiny programme
- Relationship building with organisations outside of own Authority.
- Budget Scrutiny along with building a financial planning programme for all year-round scrutiny.

## **Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS)**

Founded in 2003 to help councils implement transformative governance following the Local Government Act 2000, CfGS has since grown into a national charity committed to improving governance across all levels of government in England, Wales and beyond.

In an environment where social, economic, and political landscapes are shifting rapidly, the need for strong, transparent, and accountable governance has never been greater. At CfGS, they are passionate about fostering a culture of openness and integrity for decision-making in public services.

They believe that the best decisions are made when they are challenged constructively, grounded in evidence, and inclusive of voices that matter, elected representatives, those directly impacted, and key stakeholders alike. The purpose is to

be the driving force behind this kind of governance, championing the behaviours and values that lead to more just, equitable, and effective outcomes. It's about inspiring change and shaping a future where every decision is made with accountability and the greater good in mind. CfGS collaborate with like-minded national bodies, think tanks, and consultancies, all united by a shared vision: to ensure that better scrutiny leads to better governance, and ultimately, a better society for all.

The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee attended a presentation from the Deputy Chief Executive of Centre for Governance and Scrutiny on Budget Scrutiny and effective questioning for scrutiny to be involved in early budget meetings.

Further Opportunities provided to Members include:

- Providing bespoke support to review and improve governance and scrutiny functions.
- Training courses including leadership in scrutiny and oversight.
- National Conferences.
- Regular updates and information to Members and Officers.

## **Key Achievements in 2024/25**

### **D.H. Lawrence Museum**

The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee established a review of the D.H. Lawrence Museum to review the marketing of the venue and potential improvements following the visitor figures reported to the budget scrutiny meeting. It was decided that the review would be carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Working Group. The review was requested by Councillor P J Owen and was in accordance with the Council's priorities. The purpose of the review was to achieve outcomes as outlined within the scoping report:

- To understand the role of Heritage for Broxtowe Borough Council.
- To review the marketing of the venue and potential improvements.

The Working Group was Chaired by Councillor K Woodhead, with Councillor A W G A Stockwell Owen as the Vice Chair. Councillor W Mee was also part of the Working Group.

Considerations included lack of advertising especially with free entry to residents of the Borough, the blue line trail connecting the heritage sties of D.H. Lawrence had become worn on the pavements and was no longer being used. Members wanted to see this re-established along with consideration to enhance a digital experience. Volunteers were considered to support the museum. However, it was explained that volunteering could be labour intensive with limited employees to support them. Eastwood Town Council was keen to engage further with the Museum to support events and initiatives and to support having a regular item on the agenda for updates. External funding was suggested as an option to fund some of the initiatives that was recommended as part of the review.

The following recommendations were put to Cabinet and approved accordingly.

## Recommendations

1. To produce new leaflets to advertise the D.H. Lawrence Museum in Nottinghamshire Places of Interest and Tourist Centres.
2. To request that Eastwood Town Council to put an item on their agenda for updates from the Museum and events.
3. To identify external funding opportunities to support appropriate projects within the D.H. Lawrence Museum.
4. To consider the feasibility of Sunday opening hours and the associated costs.
5. To review the current entrance prices to the D.H. Lawrence Museum.
6. To identify funding to support re-establishment of the Blue Line Trail and consider options for enhancing the offer digitally.
7. To liaise with partners such as Nottinghamshire County Council and Eastwood Town Council to improve signage around Eastwood to promote the D.H. Lawrence Museum.
8. To suggest to Trent Barton that the Museum be added as a departure point at the bus stop for Alexander Street, Eastwood within their communications to passengers.
9. To review the D.H. Lawrence action plan and financial data in 6 to 12 months' time to allow for a full twelve months of data and for recommendations from the Arts Council to be made available as part of the Museum re-accreditation process.

Members of the Committee will receive an update on progress report from the recommendations for the D.H Lawrence Museum review at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 25 September 2025.



## **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

The 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. 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. The review was completed in stages and submitted to Cabinet. The Working Group members were as follows:

S Dannheimer  
C M Tideswell  
S Webb  
E Williamson  
E Winfield.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Working Group's presented their findings of the review into Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at the Council to Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This was in accordance with the Council's corporate values of continuous improvement and delivering value for money. The outcomes were as follows:

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

The following recommendations were presented to Cabinet to consider that:

- 1. The Human Resources Manager shares the Neurodiversity Policy with all Members and employees.**
- 2. To increase awareness of Neurodiversity and support available to employees and Members.**
- 3. To consider the provision of additional resources for the Communities team to ensure at least one event per quarter and a minimum of four in a year, be organised.**
- 4. To consider changing the counter space at the D.H. Lawrence Museum to be more accessible to customers and incorporate an area for a wheelchair user to access the digital tour.**
- 5. To consider the provision of ear defenders, to offer visitors who may have sensory processing differences and additional audio headsets to enhance the D.H. Lawrence experience to all.**
- 6. To increase signage within the museum to increase awareness of health and safety issues and accessibility and to provide signposting to the nearest accessible toilet.**

- 7. To increase advertising of the D.H. Lawrence digital experience to promote live tours to Groups.**
- 8. The Working Group notes that the current Council Offices require substantial work to resolve the current issues of disrepair and accessibility issues and at the earliest opportunity plans should be considered for the future of the Kimberley Depot Offices.**
- 9. To ensure all fire risk assessments are up to date in residential accommodation.**
- 10. To ensure independent living schemes have automated doors to support living independently.**

Members of Cabinet on 3 September 2024 considered the report that was submitted by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and stated that the recommendations were worthy of wider consideration. It was suggested that the Deputy Leader chair a working group to consider the recommendations. Furthermore, the remit would include contextual issues of items such as the future of Kimberley Depot, the adequacy of disabled facilities across the estate, including toilet provision, while ensuring that there was consultation with the unions.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1. The Deputy Leader chairs a working group to consider the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in addition to subjects including the adequacy of toilet facilities in Council buildings, the future of Kimberley Depot and a selection of personnel issues.**
- 2. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee be requested to consider the topic of the Democratic Arrangements at the East Midlands Combined Counties Authority at a future meeting before reporting its findings to Cabinet.**

Reasons

1. The appointment of a working group will provide the flexibility necessary to undertake further review into the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
2. To enable a review into the Democratic Arrangements at the East Midlands Combined Counties Authority.

**Equality, Diversity and Accessibility in the Borough's Parks**

The review was 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 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.

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.

The purpose of the review was to achieve the outcomes outlined in the scoping report. 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.



*Figure 1 Accessible and Inclusive Swing*



*Figure 2 Accessible and Inclusive Roundabout*

Cabinet considered the report that was submitted by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and thanked the Committee for the work it had undertaken during the review and in addition to the Officers who had assisted in compiling the report and resolved the following:

**RESOLVED that the following be approved:**

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 support as the standard park bench.
  10. The results from the Parks Survey are made available to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### Reason

This will assist the Council in meeting the aims of its Corporate Priorities.

Work has already commenced at Hetley Pearson Recreation Park from the recommendations presented to the Cabinet meeting with improvements to the flooring of the park, an accessible bench had been installed and travel to the play equipment had been considered from the pathway. The works had also meant that less use of glyphosate would be required due to the overlap of flooring against the park fencing. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee welcomes the Play Strategy later in the year that will include updates from the recommendations.



*Resurfaced pathway for the travel to the swing*



*New play park surface and added weed prevention to reduce usage of glyphosate accessible.*

## **Budget Scrutiny**

### **Early budget Setting Review-November 2024**

Members considered the early budget setting review 2025/26 and welcomed the early opportunity to scrutinise and input in the Council's annual budget setting process. The Assistant Director - Finance Services reported that there were several significant issues concerning local government finance, that would have a major impact upon 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. Members recommended that the lifeline payments be frozen in respect of the winter fuel payments being cut, consider removing the early payment option on Environment Enforcement, if garden waste collections were value for money if returning to collect missed bins, and to check if Environmental Health licence charges were fixed by policy or legislation.

In January 2025 there were two budget scrutiny meetings, 20 and 21 January 2025. Members considered proposals for business plans, detailed revenue budget estimates for 2024/25; capital programme for 2024/25 to 2026/27; and proposed fees and charges for 2024/25 in respect of the Council's priority areas. The Committee recommended to Cabinet to approve the Business Plans, the detailed revenue budget estimates for 2024/25, the Capital programme for 2024/25 to 2026/27 and fees and charges for 2024/25 for all business areas and they noted the Liberty Leisure business plans. Budget scrutiny allows the Committee to ask questions to anticipate potential challenges and build meaningful oversight.

## **Spotlight Reviews**

### **Housing Repairs**

Members were updated on the improvements to the Housing Repairs Service from the Head of Housing. The Committee received a comprehensive report on how the service has been improved since the review. The report in 2022 provided key finding including: the number of employees in Housing Repairs not being sufficient to meet the needs of the service, the involvement of two teams in the repairs booking process was one of the main reasons for increased tenant dissatisfaction and inefficiency, there was a need for a more senior role with responsibility for compliance matters and that the structure would benefit from a number of specialist roles instead of a generic role under the Senior Maintenance Officer. Since 2022 there had been two restructures, the first restructure to support the Housing repairs calls and the second was to build on the compliance and repair inspectors along with operatives to cover the skills gaps required. Further roles had been created including Voids Surveyor, Disrepair Inspector and Assistant, and Change Delivery Manager.

Members queried how long void properties were vacant for and the reason for the target being missed was due to new software being implemented. It was hopeful, going forward, the target would be met with both general needs and Independent Living. It was confirmed to Members that the historic backlog of housing repairs had been cleared and some of the repair issues was due to data in the system being incorrect.

This information has now been data cleansed and that 71% of tenants were pleased with the repairs carried out including positive feedback received to the operatives.

A verbal update and presentation were presented to the Committee on 27 February 2025. This concluded the review for Housing Repairs. Members were pleased with the actions and encouraged by the results and positive work that had been carried out.

## **Markets**

The Committee noted the update provided on the Spotlight Review on Markets and welcomed a further update and presentation at its November meeting. 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. The Committee requested a further update in six months.

## Work Programme

The Scrutiny Committee consider suggestions for scrutiny as part of the Work Programme that are also submitted to Cabinet at each meeting. The criteria to consider new topics by the Committee are listed below:

- 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 are as follows:

26 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gamcare Licensing Report</li><li>• Annual Report for Scrutiny</li></ul>
25 September 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spotlight Review Equality, Inclusivity and Diversity at the Council</li><li>• Spotlight Review D.H. Lawrence Museum</li><li>• Spotlight Review Markets</li></ul>

# 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 it 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
7.	GamCare Licensing	Licensing Committee Chair Councillor R Bullock	Invest in our towns and our people, Support people to live well.

## 2. Spotlight Reviews

3.	D. H. Lawrence Museum	Six Month Review	September 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	September 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

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## **Report of the Chief Executive**

### **Local Government Reorganisation Update**

#### **1. Purpose of Report**

To provide an update for Council on the progress of Local Government Reorganisation in Nottinghamshire.

#### **2. Recommendation**

**The Council is asked to NOTE the report**

#### **3. Detail**

##### **Government Feedback on the Interim Plan**

On 1 July 2025 Cabinet received a report setting out feedback from the Government on the submission of the Interim Plan agreed by Councils in Nottinghamshire. The Government's letter is shown at **Appendix 1**.

In addition to the Interim Plan this Council submitted a letter containing concerns and issues endorsed unanimously by full Council and a resolution of this Council's meeting. The letter is enclosed at **Appendix 2**. The letter in **Appendix 1** also contained the Government's feedback on the Council's letter.

The Government's feedback stated:

- That the option comprising leaving the City on its existing boundaries and having one unitary Council for the remaining authorities should fully justify its rationale, as it falls below the population threshold set out in the Government's criteria.
- The importance of all authorities in an area using the same data on the basis of which to develop and appraise options. In this respect joint working is crucial.
- The importance of the Government's criteria as the main method of weighing alternative models and the importance of evidence based decision making.
- The Government leaves open the door to additional or alternative models being explored and whilst it has a preference for agreement within an area, individual authorities can put forward one proposal that may be different from one which a majority of other local authorities agree.
- A consultation with all relevant stakeholders is expected before submission of the final proposal in November.
- It appears the Government will not pause the review process. It also appears the government does not consider the status of Nottingham City

Council's finances or improvement journey to be an insurmountable barrier to reorganisation within the set timetable.

### **Other Local Authorities' Proposals**

It is now known that Rushcliffe Borough Council is developing an option for a three-authority model of unitary government in Nottinghamshire. This is unlikely to be a satisfactory match for the criteria set by the Government, as it leaves the City on its existing boundaries.

It is also known that Nottingham City Council is developing a model which is thought to propose to take in the whole of the conurbation area in an expanded City Unitary. This cuts across four district boundaries. This will be very challenging to achieve within the very tight deadline set by the government as the boundary changes and the disaggregation of financial arrangement the option proposes are very complex and will take time to unravel and analyse.

No consensus is yet emerging on an agreed option. The County Council's position is not yet known at the time of writing this report.

It is believed Newark and Sherwood District Council will be holding a Council meeting this month to identify their preferred model – either 1(b) or 1(e).

### **Work in Progress**

Currently further work is being conducted to validate the financial information on the basis of which the current three options were constructed. Section 151 Officers have considered this and are content that the Interim Plan financial assumptions are reasonable.

Further work has also been commissioned from subject specialist officers on themes of:

- Housing
- Economic development and regeneration
- Community safety
- Community engagement
- Homelessness
- Critical services including adult social care, children's services and special educational needs.

This work has then been integrated with the work the consultants, PWC, did to assess and weigh the three options contained in the Interim Plan.

Preliminary results of this analysis show that the difference between option 1(b) (City/Broxtowe/Gedling) and 1(e) (City/Broxtowe/Rushcliffe) is marginal, but option 1(b) may be judged to be slightly preferable to 1(e) because of factors including:

- 1(e) requires a mix of delivery models to service rural and urban communities which is more complex and costly than 1(b).
- 1(b) provides the best opportunity for two viable future authorities.
- 1(e) produces some high levels of inequality because of the very different demographic and socioeconomic features which are combined.
- There are better chances for successful public sector reform under 1(b).

The work which is referred to above has not yet been considered and discussed by local authority Leaders, so the work cannot yet be shared to be included in this report.

### **Broxtowe's Cabinet resolution**

The Cabinet on 1 July 2025 noted the position on Local Government Reorganisation and resolved to create a sub-group of all nominated representatives of group leaders to discuss and develop any proposals relating to public engagement should that become necessary in between ordinary scheduled Cabinet meetings.

### **Implications**

It is highly unlikely that any model which does not include an expansion of the City's boundaries will be successful.

It is also unlikely (but not impossible) that a model that does not command the support of more than one authority will be successful.

If Broxtowe (against its already stated wishes) is to be included within an expanded City unitary there will be some significant implications for Broxtowe's area, most particularly in relation to:

- Managing homelessness demand
- Creating a single Housing Revenue Account
- Accommodating future housing and employment growth for both City and conurbation areas in the period beyond the existing draft Core Strategy
- Council tax and rent harmonisation (taking into account factors like Council tax support).

Other complexities will also arise, particularly in relation to proposed reforms of the fair funding formula where the stated intention of government is to reallocate funding from richer to poorer areas and impose a notional basic council tax level as a feature of future settlement calculations; as well as a reform of the Business rates system which may impact on the amount of future business rates retention. It is unknown if business rates pools have a future, but we do know that the housebuilding delivery funding stream will be abolished along with other existing separate grant streams. Whilst there will be transitional arrangements from

existing funding to new funding arrangements, it will be complex to discern the application of these to new organisational structures. Meanwhile demand for adult social care continues to grow and the existing adult social care funding arrangements which are creaking at the seams and taking up to 75% of upper tier budgets will not be reformed until after the end of the existing Parliament.

#### 4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Assistant Director Finance Services were as follows:

The financial analysis linked to Local Government Reorganisation is continuing with the Section 151 Officers through the established Nottinghamshire Finance Officers Association (NFOA).

Currently work is being conducted to validate the financial information on the basis of which the current three options were constructed. NFOA have considered this and are content that the financial assumptions made by the consultants in the Interim Plan are reasonable.

That said, further work should be required to determine which of the options is likely to be the most financially sustainable, as one of the key criteria. The NFOA analysis completed to date has only provided reasonable assurance of the consultants' assumptions relating to potential savings and the proposed transition costs of LGR. More significant and detailed cost analysis will need to be completed for the full business case proposal.

Further financial implications are considered in the report and appendices.

#### 5. Legal Implications

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

At this stage there are no direct legal implications in relation to this report due to the developing nature of the reorganisation. The neighbouring authorities' proposals are not currently clear and further work needs to be conducted to validate the financial information on which the options are based. The governance and legal implications will not become clear until later on in the devolution process.

#### 6. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

#### 7. Union Comments

Not applicable.

8. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

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

10. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

11. Background Papers

Nil.

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Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

3 June 2025

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION**

### **INTERIM PLAN FEEDBACK: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAM**

To the Chief Executives of:

Ashfield District Council

Bassetlaw District Council

Broxtowe Borough Council

Gedling Borough Council

Mansfield District Council

Newark and Sherwood District Council

Nottinghamshire County Council

Rushcliffe Borough Council

Nottingham City Council

#### **Overview**

Thank you for submitting your interim plan. The amount of work from all councils is clear to see across the range of options being considered. For the final proposals, each council can submit a single proposal for which there must be a clear single option and geography and, as set out in the guidance, we expect this to be for the area as a whole; that is, the whole of the area to which the 5 February invitation was issued, not partial coverage.

Our aim for the feedback on interim plans is to support areas to develop final proposals. This stage is not a decision-making point, and our feedback does not seek to approve or reject any option being considered.

The feedback provided relates to the following:

- The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Interim Plan for Local Government Reorganisation
- The letter submitted by Nottingham City Council and proposed option
- The Rushcliffe Borough Council letter and proposed options
- The letter submitted by Broxtowe Borough Council
- The letter submitted by Bassetlaw District Council, Gedling Borough Council and Mansfield District Council

We have provided feedback on behalf of central government. It takes the form of:

1. A summary of the main feedback points,
2. Our response to the specific barriers and challenges raised in your plans,
3. An annex with more detailed feedback against each of the interim plan asks.

We reference the guidance criteria included in the invitation letter throughout, a copy can be found at [LETTER: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAM – GOV.UK](#). Our central message is to build on your initial work and ensure that the final proposal(s) address the criteria and are supported by data and evidence. We recommend that final proposal(s) should use the same assumptions and data sets or be clear where and why there is a difference.

We welcome the work that has been undertaken to develop local government reorganisation plans for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham. This feedback does not seek to approve or discount any option or proposal, but provide some feedback designed to assist in the development of final proposals. We will assess final proposals against the guidance criteria provided in the invitation letter and have tailored this feedback to identify where additional information may be helpful in enabling that assessment. Please note that this feedback is not exhaustive and should not preclude the inclusion of additional materials or evidence in the final proposal(s). In addition, your named area lead in MHCLG, Katrina Crookdake, will be able to provide support and help address any further questions or queries.

### **Summary of the Feedback:**

We have summarised the key elements of the feedback below, with further detail provided in the Annex.

1. In some of the options you are considering populations that would be below or above 500,000. As set out in the Statutory Invitation guidance and in the English Devolution White Paper, we outlined a population size of 500,000 or more. This is a guiding principle, not a hard target – we understand that there should be flexibility, especially given our ambition to build out devolution and take account of housing growth, alongside local government reorganisation. **All proposals, whether they are at the guided level, above it, or below it, should set out the rationale for the proposed approach clearly.**
2. The criteria ask that consideration should be given to the impacts for crucial services such as social care, children's services, SEND and homelessness, and for wider public services including public safety (see criterion 3). **For any options where you are considering disaggregation, further detail will be helpful on how the different options might impact on these services and how risks can be mitigated.**



3. We welcome steps taken to come together to prepare proposals as per criterion 4:
  - a. **Effective collaboration between all councils across the invitation area will be crucial; we would encourage you to continue to build strong relationships and agree ways of working, including around effective data sharing. This will support the development of a robust shared evidence base to underpin final proposals.**
  - b. **It would be helpful if final proposal(s) use the same assumptions and data sets.**
  - c. **It would be helpful if final proposal(s) set out how the data and evidence supports all the outcomes you have included, and how well they meet the assessment criteria in the invitation letter.**
  - d. **You may wish to develop the options appraisal to help demonstrate why your proposed approach in the round best meets the assessment criteria in the invitation letter compared to any alternatives.**
4. We welcome the consideration of the implications and potential benefits of unitarisation for the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA). Further information would be helpful on the implications of the proposed local government reorganisation options for the governance arrangements in EMCCA. It would also be helpful to outline how each option would interact with EMCCA and best benefit the local community.

### **Response to specific barriers and challenges raised**

Please see below our response to the specific barriers and challenges that were raised in your interim plans.

#### **1. Public feedback and consultation requirements**

You asked about the approach to consultation and the weighting given to public feedback in the assessment of the final proposal(s).

Once a proposal has been submitted it will be for the Government to decide on taking a proposal forward and to consult as required by statute. The Secretary of State may not implement a proposal unless she has consulted with other councils affected by it and any other appropriate person. We are happy to engage further on these consultation requirements and the likely process for areas undergoing reorganisation in due course.

Decisions on the most appropriate option for each area will be judgements in the round, having regard to the guidance and the available evidence. As set out in the answer to question three, the criteria are not weighted.

It is for you to decide how best to engage locally in a meaningful and constructive way with residents, voluntary sector, local community groups, Neighbourhood Boards, parish councils, public sector providers, such as health, police and fire, and local

businesses to inform your proposals. We note the interim plans helpfully set out a range of engagement with stakeholders.

## **2. Additional costs for developing proposals and capacity funding**

You have requested confirmation on the capacity funding that will be provided from government to meet the costs of developing proposals.

£7.6 million will be made available in the form of local government reorganisation proposal development contributions, to be split across the 21 areas. Further information will be provided on this funding shortly.

## **3. Consideration of local criteria and clarity of feedback**

You asked whether government will consider locally applied criteria or use a weighting for the criteria against which final proposals are assessed. The criteria are not weighted. Our aim for this feedback is to support areas to develop final proposals that address the criteria and are supported by data and evidence. Decisions on the most appropriate option for each area will be judgements in the round, having regard to the guidance and the available evidence.

You also noted the importance of timely feedback and decision making to support local government reorganisation work to move at pace. Katrina Crookdake has been appointed as your MHCLG point person and will be ready to engage with the whole area, to support this work to continue at pace.

## **4. Support for local partners to introduce new or alternative options**

You note that your interim plan contains indicative proposals and that additional options may be put forward. For the November submission, each council can submit a single proposal for which there must be a clear single option and geography. These options are not limited to those you have outlined in your interim plan. We will not provide written feedback on additional options. As set out above, Katrina Crookdake, as your MHCLG point person, will be happy to support you as you work towards the submission of your final proposal(s).

## **5. Engagement with officials during proposal development**

We note the request to have direct engagement and ongoing dialogue with officials to support the development of proposals. Government is committed to supporting all invited councils equally while they develop proposal(s). As set out above, Katrina Crookdake will be your named area lead and is ready to engage with the whole area on issues you wish to discuss further ahead of the deadline for final plans on 28 November 2025.

## **6. Boundary changes**

You have requested information on the implications of a boundary review for reorganisation in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham. As the invitation letter sets out boundary changes are possible, but “existing district areas should be considered the

building blocks for proposals, but where there is a strong justification more complex boundary changes will be considered.”

The final proposal must specify the area for any new unitary council(s). If a boundary change is part of your final proposal, then you should be clear on the boundary proposed, which could be identified by a parish or ward boundary, or if creating new boundaries by attaching a map.

Proposals should be developed having regard to the statutory guidance which sets out the criteria against which proposals will be assessed (including that listed above).

If a decision is taken to implement a proposal, boundary change can be achieved alongside structural change. Alternatively, you could make a proposal for unitary local government using existing district building blocks and consider requesting a Principal Area Boundary Review (PABR) later. Such reviews have been used for minor amendments to a boundary where both councils have requested a review – such as the recent Sheffield/Barnsley boundary adjustment for a new housing estate. PABRs are the responsibility of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England who will consider such requests case-by-case.

## **7. Treatment of debt**

We note your request for dialogue with Government with respect to the levels of indebtedness among councils and on the treatment of debt. We expect proposals to set out how they will meet criterion 2 under the statutory invitation, and, as per criterion 2f, proposal(s) should reflect the extent to which debt can be managed locally, including as part of efficiencies possible through reorganisation. We will consider the financial analysis and evidence provided in final proposals.

## **8. Impact of the Spending Review on proposals**

You asked about the impact of the Spending Review on proposals for local government reorganisation.

Government recently consulted on funding reforms and confirmed that some transitional protections will be in place to support areas to their new allocations. Further details on funding reform proposals and transition measures will be consulted on after the Spending Review in June.

We will not be able to provide further clarification on future allocations in the meantime but are open to discussing assumptions further if we can assist in financial planning.

## **9. Implications for Charter Towns and impact on ceremonial roles**

You asked about the implications for Charter Towns within the proposed new unitary arrangements and the impact on ceremonial roles. This is important to the Government, as we know it is to local communities.

Where local government re-organisation might affect ceremonial privileges, we will work with local leaders to ensure that areas retain their ceremonial rights and privileges.

There is no intention that the priorities set out in the English Devolution White Paper will impact on the ceremonial counties or the important roles that Lord Lieutenants and High Sheriffs play as the Monarch's representatives in those counties, and ceremonial counties will be retained. The Government recognises and values the work they do in relation to civic, business, social and community life in the ceremonial counties, and will ensure that the ceremonial rights and privileges of an area will be maintained after any reorganisation of local government.

## **10. Guidance on Town and Parish Councils**

You asked whether further guidance could be issued on town and parish councils.

The English Devolution White Paper was clear that we know people value the role of governance at the community scale.

All levels of local government have a part to play in bringing improved structures to their area through reorganisation. We will therefore want to see stronger community arrangements when reorganisation happens in the way councils engage at a neighbourhood or area level.

We recognise the value that parish councils offer to their local communities and continue to support the work they do; but this is not a replacement for local authorities hardwiring local community engagement into their own structures, preferably through neighbourhood Area Committees. Parish councils are independent institutions and are not a substitute for meaningful community engagement and neighbourhood working by a local authority. Areas considering new parish councils should think carefully about the distinct role they will play and how they might be funded, to avoid putting further pressure on local authority finances and/or new burdens on the taxpayer.

In final proposal(s), we would welcome further information on neighbourhood-based governance, the impact on parish councils, and the role of neighbourhood Area Committees.

## **11. Engagement on wider policy reform**

You noted the importance of joined up communication with other government departments as well as MHCLG in respect of wider policy reform. As set out above, Katrina Crookdake will be your point person in MHCLG and will be able to support your engagement with other government departments.

## **12. Risk assessment of local government reorganisation on sustainability of care services**

You note that some of your services are on improvement journeys and ask what support will be available during the reorganisation process to support the resilience of these services. In the final proposal(s) we would welcome further detail on your

concerns, including details of the particular risks in these instances and potential mitigations you may consider to manage this issue. Particular consideration of these issues would be welcome where you are considering disaggregation and amalgamation of services which are on improvement journeys. As set out above, Katrina Crookdake, as your point person will be happy to further discuss any particular concerns and connect you where helpful with relevant sector support

### **13. Regulatory impact**

You asked that any upcoming regulatory inspections take account of the local government reorganisation process.

We recognise the additional demands on councils during reorganisation. Inspectorates are independent of central government and set their own timelines and frameworks. Inspectorates and regulators (such as Ofsted and the CQC) are a vital part of accountability, and support improvement for the benefit of local people. However, we will seek to work with them to ensure that they are well-informed of local government reorganisation and devolution processes and they can, at their discretion, factor them into their independent plans, for example, by tailoring or scheduling inspections and assessments to support local government reorganisation

### **14. Public consultation or referendum on final proposals**

We note the request in the letter from Rushcliffe Borough Council for a public consultation exercise or referendum on the final proposals. As stated above, it is for you to decide how best to engage locally in a meaningful and constructive way with stakeholders, including residents.

Once a proposal has been submitted it will be for the Government to decide on taking a proposal forward and to consult as required by statute. The Secretary of State may not implement a proposal unless she has consulted with other councils affected by it and any other appropriate person. We are happy to engage further on these consultation requirements and the likely process for areas undergoing reorganisation in due course.

### **15. Request to pause reorganisation process**

We note the concerns outlined in the letter from Broxtowe Borough Council on any unitary authority that includes the areas of Broxtowe and Nottingham City. We also note your request to pause the reorganisation process in the invitation area until Nottingham City Council is financially stable. We welcome the positive progress that has been made in Nottingham City Council's improvement to date, as outlined in the Commissioners' second report published on 8 May. Ministers are clear that the full range of reforms at the Council must now be embedded, alongside working collaboratively to develop proposals for local government reorganisation.

**ANNEX: Detailed feedback on criteria for interim plan**

<b>Ask – Interim Plan Criteria</b>	<b>Feedback</b>
<p>Identify the likely options for the size and boundaries of new councils that will offer the best structures for delivery of high-quality and sustainable public services across the area, along with indicative efficiency saving opportunities.</p> <p>Relevant criteria:</p> <p>1 c) Proposals should be supported by robust evidence and analysis and include an explanation of the outcomes it is expected to achieve, including evidence of estimated costs/benefits and local engagement</p> <p>&amp;</p> <p>2 a-f) - Unitary local government must be the right size to achieve efficiencies, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks</p> <p>&amp;</p> <p>3 a-c) Unitary structures must prioritise the delivery of high quality and sustainable public services to citizens</p>	<p>We welcome the initial thinking on the options for local government reorganisation in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham and the engagement that has been started with stakeholders. We note the local context and challenges outlined in the proposals and the potential benefits that have been identified for the options put forward.</p> <p>We also welcome the input that has been sought from Commissioners appointed to Nottingham City Council and would encourage you to continue to engage with them as proposals are developed further.</p> <p>We welcome the analysis that has been developed to date in the joint proposal. Your plans set out your intention to develop this further, and this additional detail and evidence, on the outcomes that are expected to be achieved of any preferred model would be welcomed.</p> <p>You may wish to consider developing the options appraisal against the criteria set out in the letter to provide a rationale for the preferred model against alternatives.</p> <p>Where there are proposed boundary changes, the proposal should provide strong public services and financial sustainability related justification for the change.</p> <p>Proposals should be for a sensible geography which will help to increase housing supply and meet local needs, including future housing growth plans. All proposals should set out the rationale for the proposed approach.</p> <p>Given the financial pressures you identify it would be helpful to understand how efficiency savings have been considered alongside a sense of place and local identity.</p> <p>We recognise that the options outlined in the interim plans are subject to further development. In final proposal(s) it would be helpful to include a high-level financial assessment which covers transition costs</p>

	<p>and overall forecast operating costs of the new unitary councils.</p> <p>We will assess final proposal(s) against the criteria in the invitation letter. Referencing criteria 1 and 2, you may wish to consider the following bullets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• high level breakdowns for where any efficiency savings will be made, with clarity of assumptions on how estimates have been reached and the data sources used, including differences in assumptions between proposal(s)</li> <li>• information on the counterfactual against which efficiency savings are estimated, with values provided for current levels of spending</li> <li>• a clear statement of what assumptions have been made and if the impacts of inflation are taken into account</li> <li>• a summary covering sources of uncertainty or risks with modelling, as well as predicted magnitude and impact of any unquantifiable costs or benefits</li> <li>• where possible quantified impacts on service provision, as well as wider impacts</li> </ul> <p>We recognise that for the joint plan submitted, initial modelling, including financial modelling has been conducted and note the financial pressures outlined in the joint interim plan. The bullets below indicate where information would be helpful across all options. As per criteria 1 and 2, it would be helpful to see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• data and evidence to set out how your final proposal(s) would enable financially viable councils across the whole area, including identifying which option best delivers value for money for council taxpayers</li> <li>• further detail on potential finances of new unitaries, for example, funding, operational budgets, potential budget surpluses/shortfalls, total borrowing (General Fund), and debt servicing costs (interest and MRP); and what options may be available for rationalisation of potentially surplus operational<sup>41</sup> assets</li> <li>• clarity on the underlying assumptions underpinning any modelling e.g. assumptions of future funding, demographic growth and pressures, interest costs, Council Tax, savings earmarked in existing councils' MTFS</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• financial sustainability both through the period to the creation of new unitary councils as well as afterwards</li> <li>• As criterion 2e states and recognising that Nottingham City Council has received exceptional financial support, proposals must additionally demonstrate how reorganisation may contribute to putting local government in the area on a more sustainable footing, and any assumptions around what arrangements may be necessary to make new structures viable</li> </ul> <p>The joint plan has indicated a high level of debt amongst some authorities. As per criterion 2f, proposals should set out how debt can be managed locally, including as part of efficiencies possible through reorganisation. This could include appraisal of total borrowing and debt servicing costs within new structures (and assessment of affordability against funding/operational costs), and the potential for rationalisation of surplus operational assets.</p> <p>For options that have implications for Nottingham City, we would welcome your analysis of any impacts for the operation of the tram PFI contract &amp; street lighting PFI.</p> <p>For proposals that would involve disaggregation of services, we would welcome further details on how services can be maintained where there is fragmentation such as social care, children's services, SEND, homelessness, and for wider public services including public safety. With reference to criteria 3c you may therefore wish to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how each option would deliver high-quality and sustainable public services or efficiency saving opportunities</li> <li>• what would the different options mean for local services provision, for example:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• do different options have a different impact on SEND services and distribution of funding and sufficiency planning to ensure children can access appropriate support, and how will services be maintained?</li> <li>• what is the impact on adults and children's care services? Is there a differential impact on the number of care users and infrastructure to support them among the different options? How will quality of service</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<p>be maintained or where necessary improved in each option?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• what partnership options have you considered for joint working across the new unitaries for the delivery of social care services?</li> <li>• do different options have variable impacts as you transition to the new unitaries, and how will risks to safeguarding be managed?</li> <li>• do different options have variable impacts on schools, support and funding allocation, and sufficiency of places, and how will impacts on schools be managed?</li> <li>• what are the implications for public health, including consideration of socio-demographic challenges and health inequalities within any new boundaries and their implications for current and future health service needs? What are the implications for how residents access services and service delivery for populations most at risk?</li> </ul> <p>We note the initial thinking on opportunities for public service reform set out in the interim plan and the steps taken to explore these with strategic partners as part of your engagement on local government reorganisation. We would encourage you to provide further details on how your proposal(s) would maximise these opportunities, so that we can explore how best to support your efforts.</p>
<p>Include indicative costs and arrangements in relation to any options including planning for future service transformation opportunities.</p> <p>Relevant criteria: 2d) Proposals should set out how an area will seek to manage transition costs, including planning for future service transformation opportunities from existing budgets, including from the flexible use of capital</p>	<p>We welcome initial thinking on opportunities for service transformation and back-office efficiencies and note the history of local authorities working together in the area. We also welcome the commitment to multi-agency working and a focus on prevention and early intervention across the joint plan submitted.</p> <p>As per criterion 2, the final proposal(s) should set out how an area will seek to manage transition costs, including planning for future service transformation opportunities from existing budgets, including from the flexible use of capital receipts that can support authorities in taking forward transformation and invest-to-save projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• within this it would be helpful to provide more detailed analysis on expected transition and/or disaggregation costs and potential efficiencies of</li> </ul>

<p>receipts that can support authorities in taking forward transformation and invest-to-save projects.</p>	<p>proposals. This could include clarity on methodology, assumptions, data used, what year these may apply and why these are appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• detail on the potential service transformation opportunities and invest-to-save projects from unitarisation across a range of services -e.g. consolidation of waste collection and disposal services, and whether different options provide different opportunities for back-office efficiency savings</li> <li>• where it has not been possible to monetise or quantify impacts, you may wish to provide an estimated magnitude and likelihood of impact.</li> <li>• summarise any sources of risks, uncertainty and key dependencies related to the modelling and analysis</li> <li>• detail on the estimated financial sustainability of proposed reorganisation and how debt could be managed locally</li> </ul> <p>We note the financial pressures that councils are facing. It would be helpful if detail on the councils' financial positions and further modelling is set out in the final proposal(s).</p>
<p>Include early views as to the councillor numbers that will ensure both effective democratic representation for all parts of the area, and also effective governance and decision-making arrangements which will balance the unique needs of your cities, towns, rural and coastal areas, in line with the Local Government Boundary Commission for England guidance.</p> <p>Relevant criteria: 6) New unitary structures should enable stronger community engagement and deliver genuine opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment.</p>	<p>We note the initial thinking on councillor numbers and that detailed analysis will be undertaken during the next phase of the work, and ahead of the deadline for final submissions in November. We will share these initial assumptions with the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). There are no set limits on the number of councillors although the LGBCE guidance indicates that a compelling case would be needed for a council size of more than 100 members.</p> <p>New unitary structures should enable stronger community engagement and deliver genuine opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment.</p> <p>We note the planned work on local engagement models that will take place after the interim plan submission. Additional details on how the community will be engaged specifically how the governance, participation and local voice will be addressed to strengthen local engagement, and democratic decision-making would be helpful.</p> <p>In final proposal(s) we would welcome detail on your plans for neighbourhood-based governance, the</p>

	impact on parish councils, and the role of formal neighbourhood partnerships and Area Committees.
<p>Include early views on how new structures will support devolution ambitions.</p> <p>Relevant Criteria: 5) New unitary structures must support devolution arrangements.</p>	<p>We note the benefits and opportunities that local government reorganisation provides in relation to the EMCCA, as outlined in your interim plan. For example, the plan highlights planning, health and integrated care as areas in which local government reorganisation would have a benefit to the delivery of EMCCA's priorities.</p> <p>Further information would be helpful on the implications of the proposed local government reorganisation options for the governance arrangements in EMCCA. It would also be helpful to outline how each option would interact with EMCCA and best benefit the local community. We would also recommend consulting with the Mayor of EMCCA and note that you indicate that formal engagement with the mayor will take place in the next phase.</p>
<p>Include a summary of local engagement that has been undertaken and any views expressed, along with your further plans for wide local engagement to help shape your developing proposals.</p> <p>Relevant criteria: 6a&amp;b) new unitary structures should enable stronger community engagement and deliver genuine opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment</p>	<p>We welcome the commitment to undertaking engagement activities over the spring and summer to ensure that proposals to be submitted to Government in November meet local need and are informed by local views, including your intent to hold a public consultation on this topic.</p> <p>It is for you to decide how best to engage locally in a meaningful and constructive way with residents, the voluntary sector, Neighbourhood Boards, local community groups and councils, public sector providers such as health, police and fire, and local businesses to inform your proposal.</p> <p>For proposals that involve disaggregation of services, you may wish to engage in particular with those residents who may be affected. It would be helpful to see detail that demonstrates how local ideas and views have been incorporated into the final proposal(s).</p>
Set out indicative costs of preparing proposals and standing up an implementation team as well as any arrangements proposed to coordinate potential capacity funding across the area.	<p>We note your initial thinking on your approach to preparing proposals. We recognise that work is ongoing to consider the costs of this work and of standing up an implementation team.</p> <p>£7.6 million will be made available in the form of local government reorganisation proposal development contributions, to be split across the 21 areas. Further information will be provided on this funding shortly.</p>

<p>Relevant criteria: Linked to 2d) Proposals should set out how an area will seek to manage transition costs, including planning for future service transformation opportunities from existing budgets, including from the flexible use of capital receipts that can support authorities in taking forward transformation and invest-to-save projects.</p>	<p>We would welcome further detail in your final proposal(s) over the level of cost and the extent to which the costs are for delivery of the unitary structures or for transformation activity that delivers additional benefits.</p>
<p>Set out any voluntary arrangements that have been agreed to keep all councils involved in discussions as this work moves forward and to help balance the decisions needed now to maintain service delivery and ensure value for money for council taxpayers, with those key decisions that will affect the future success of any new councils in the area.</p> <p>Relevant criteria: 4 a-c) Proposals should show how councils in the area have sought to work together in coming to a view that meets local needs and is informed by local views.</p>	<p>We welcome the steps taken to facilitate joint working across the area (see criterion 4). Continuing effective collaboration between all councils, will be crucial; areas will need to build strong relationships and agree ways of working, including around effective data sharing.</p> <p>This will enable you to develop a robust shared evidence base to underpin your final proposal(s) (see criteria 1c). We recommend that your final proposal(s) should use the same assumptions and data sets or be clear where and why there is a difference.</p> <p>We would expect the final proposal(s) to have regard to the implications for the whole invitation area and mayoral strategic authority area.</p>

Ask for: Mrs R E Hyde  
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Our Ref: REH/MR/AL  
Your Ref:  
Date: 22 March 2025



**Broxtowe  
Borough  
COUNCIL**

**Jim McMahon OBE MP**

**Appendix 2**

**Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution**

**2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF**

Dear Mr McMahon,

As the Leader and Chief Executive of Broxtowe Borough Council we are writing a letter of representation to you following an Extraordinary Council meeting on 19 March at which the resolution on the second page of this letter was passed.

The interim plan, which Broxtowe Borough Council has collaborated with partners to produce, has been submitted on behalf of Broxtowe Borough Council by Nottinghamshire County Council. Resolution 1 of our Council's decision specifically refers to this.

Broxtowe Council comprises 44 Councillors. We have 18 Broxtowe Alliance Councillors (Milan leads this group); 10 Conservatives; 8 Labour; 5 Councillors in the Broxtowe Independent Group and 3 Liberal Democrats.

The Statement of risks and concerns at the end of this letter was endorsed unanimously by all Councillors of all parties present at the meeting. We are sending it to you in accordance with resolution 3.

Please note our concerns on behalf of Broxtowe's residents regarding a new Unitary Authority with a footprint comprising the current City Council area and including Broxtowe and possibly another contiguous local authority area. We are asking you to pause the reorganisation process in our area until the City Council is financially stable.

Please also note our strongly held views about the importance of community engagement, and a community needs and service delivery focus. We are not opposed to the principle of local government reorganisation, but we care passionately about ensuring that our residents are protected from further economic hardship and get the highest quality of services they both need and deserve.

Yours sincerely,

Milan Radulovic MBE  
Leader of Broxtowe Borough Council

Ruth Hyde OBE  
Chief Executive  
of Broxtowe Borough Council



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## **Resolution of Broxtowe borough Council on Local Government Reorganisation 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

On Wednesday 19 March at Broxtowe Borough Council's Extraordinary Meeting on Local Government Reorganisation the Council resolved that:

1. This Council notes the content and the intention to submit the interim plan for local government reorganisation in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire by 21 March 2025.
2. This Council cannot support a merger with a new Council which encompasses the current City Council boundary which is in a dire financial position and disadvantages Broxtowe residents and ignores their concerns and wishes, making it impossible to have the frank and open discussions essential to forming a successful long-term plan based on service delivery.
3. That Council considers the statement of risks and concerns set out in appendix 4 and agrees to note this to accompany submission of an interim plan on behalf of Broxtowe.
4. Any future reorganisation should be based on community needs and service delivery rather than plugging shortfalls in local government financing. Any process should empower local communities to share their voice and should not be confined to a narrow suite of options.
5. This Council calls upon the government to suspend the Local Government Review proposals in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire pending the financial stabilisation of Nottingham City Council which will allow for a full democratic consultation with the residents of Broxtowe to take place.
6. This Council rejects providing delegated authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer to set aside an earmarked reserve of £150,000 or more from an anticipated General Fund underspend in 2024/25 for the purposes of funding the cost of Local Government Reorganisation in the event of central government capacity funding being delayed and/or not sufficient.



## Risks and Concerns

There are many risks and concerns that will result from the options set out in the interim plan. The four set out below are just a selection of them.

### **1. Sub optimal outcomes as a result of the Government's timetable for reform**

The timetable for local government reform imposed by the Government (interim plan by 21 March, final plan by 28 November) does not present the best opportunity for a solution for local government reorganisation that will stand the test of time. The timetable and non-statutory advice given by government officials

- Precludes taking any approach which strays outside County boundaries;
- Precludes any other approach than using existing district, unitary and county building blocks and
- Precludes proposals which are based on boundary alterations as there is insufficient capacity within the Local Government Boundary Commission to conduct them within the timetable.

All of the shortlisted – so called “core” options for consideration are therefore sub optimal and do not enable the creation of a new city based unitary authority which contains all of its conurbation area with a reasonable degree of hinterland to accommodate growth.

All the so-called “core options” are sub optimal in three key areas of

- Planning (cohesive planning for housing growth across the whole housing market area, and creating a coherent geographical planning area for economic growth),
- Housing (land and housing availability to effectively manage the stresses and strains of accommodating the significant number of homeless people in the City and neighbouring areas) and
- Transportation (planning for and ensuring integrated bus and tram transport networks and active travel, interconnected green and blue infrastructure across the whole conurbation area.)

This means that if any of the core options are selected, whilst some efficiencies may be gained from the integration of currently fragmented services across two tiers, the reorganisation will still not result in a satisfactory new local government management system across these three key domains, and effective planning will rely on piecing together geographies through meetings and partnership arrangements as at present, and the “two tier problem” the reorganisation is designed to solve will simply become a different “two tier problem” due to the existence of the EMCCA ,with strategic decision making taking place at a representative level which is more removed from the people it serves.

Not only are all the core options sub optimal but the third core option arguably should not be an option at all, as it does not meet the government's criteria of meeting the 500,000 minimum population limit.

Furthermore, the timetable for implementation of new structures is such that there is insufficient time for a sensibly managed programme of convergence of services. This will lead to

- Economic shocks to residents (council tax levels, rent levels and council tax support arrangements to name but three)
- System misalignment (separate ICT systems vital to the efficient running of co-ordinated services). Experience in other areas of reorganisation demonstrate it takes between 6 and 10 years to achieve alignment across reorganised areas. This means that there will be a delay in achieving optimal efficiency and cost saving, and an intervening period during which there is still scope for inefficiency, inconsistency and having to service legacy systems.
- Policy lag – it will take time for the creation of new policy and strategy for any new authorities. During that time discontinuity could put at risk vital programmes such as housebuilding work.

## **2. Financial risks and uncertainties**

The government's programme for local government reorganisation is premised on the suggestion that it will result in more financially viable and resilient local government. Unfortunately, the current situation with demand led services relating to adult social care and children's services and the tight fiscal situation for local government funding generally, means that

- Disaggregating adult social care and children's services (the two most financially demanding service areas of all local government budget heads) will produce diseconomies in all core options apart from option 2, which will work against increased financial resilience and cost effectiveness. These diseconomies have to be viewed alongside some undoubted financial efficiencies which will result from the bringing together of district and unitary services within a single structure.
- The costs of transition assumptions are not sophisticated enough to take account of actual costs and are very crude estimates and therefore not completely reliable.
- It is difficult to assess the accuracy of the suggested net savings after 5 years resulting from restructure as they are not broken down in a way which enables them to be interrogated.
- There is no certainty or plan with regard to the servicing of historic debt, which at £1.6bn is a considerable cost to the Nottinghamshire local government sector. The Government have so far made it plain it does not intend to support the cost of servicing historic debt. Nottingham City has benefitted from £40m of additional grant as part of the most recent settlement, but still had to request an additional £20m of support from Government backed by asset sales to balance next year's budget. There would be significant concerns about how historic debt will be managed and shared out across the local authority areas. This may put at risk in future, assets which the Council has prudently invested in (and which generate a significant income stream) which a future Council may decide to sell to finance debt.
- The Government intends to undertake a fair funding review. However it intends to carry out this review as part of a completely separate stream of work from local government reorganisation. This means that the careful



financial assumptions on which our reorganisation plans are based may be rendered nugatory by the more fundamental problem of disconnection within central government itself which it could be argued is a greater problem than the issue of local government service delivery.

### **3. The risk of not improving local government services**

If options 1b or 1e are preferred the deprivation table on page 4 of the interim plan shows the very stark differences between outcomes currently experienced for City residents compared with residents living in Broxtowe and Gedling and Rushcliffe. The risk associated with options 1b and 1 e may be a “lowering of boats” for people living in those non City areas. It is inevitable that any new authority will be principally focused on addressing the needs of those in the most deprived areas. It is a significant concern that areas such as Eastwood, and lower super output areas such as Chilwell and parts of Beeston will be overlooked yet again in favour of areas of more concentrated deprivation within the main City area. This would be a tragedy for the people of Eastwood and these other areas.

Even in the early days of the creation of the new EMCCA, funding allocations have been prioritised to the “usual” higher areas of deprivation – Ashfield, Mansfield and City areas. The newly announced “Neighbourhood plan” investment programme once again allocates ( subject to process) funding to Ashfield, Mansfield, City, Gedling, Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood, but Broxtowe, and Rushcliffe are not included and not even invited to bid for it.

The significance of this lack of funding will be seen in particular in relation to the three service areas mentioned below.

- **Housing/Homelessness:** options 1b and 1e will put a very considerable strain on the existing housing resources of Gedling and Broxtowe and Rushcliffe and Broxtowe respectively due to the considerable pressures of homelessness experienced by residents with a City connection. This will inevitably impact on current housing waiting lists in our area, and in Gedling and Rushcliffe. If option 2 is pursued it will spread this problem across a wider geography which would be welcome. However, option 2 is simply an option which is not feasible as it does not meet the government’s criteria.
- **Housing/condition and rents:** Options 1 b and 1 e will require the setting up of a single HRA across the new local authority area. The City Council has historically used its Housing revenue account to prop up its failing financial medium term strategy (failing due to risky and reckless commercially ill-founded decisions such as the funding of the bankrupt “Robin Hood” energy company), and the payback of these resources has adversely impacted its general fund. This means the City’s housing stock now requires an enormous amount of investment to reach regulatory standards of compliance. There are significant risks that investment in stock condition within areas such as Broxtowe, will be disadvantaged because of the “catch up” programme currently required in the city.
- **Community support, arts culture and heritage, community safety.** The severe cutbacks the City Council has had to engage in because of its

historical financial failures and constraints of local government funding settlements has hollowed out all manner of discretionary service areas. The city has necessarily had to focus on its statutory services. This is in contrast to the approach which Broxtowe has taken to funding these service areas, which we regard as protective factors for communities, enhancing quality of life, supporting communities, and supporting citizens through voluntary organisations such as the Citizens Advice bureau. Any new City based local authority which subsumes either Broxtowe and Gedling or Broxtowe and Rushcliffe will inherit this situation. It will also inherit the challenge of funding adult social care and children's services, both of which still currently require improvement. When it comes to choices about funding statutory and non-statutory services, statutory services necessarily always win. The government has decided it will delay introducing fundamental reform to funding these vital statutory services. Even when it decides to do it, it will take years to implement. During the intervening time it is non statutory services that will be squeezed out. To some extent these non-statutory services are protected because of the two tier system. They will not be under local government reform. This problem is not going to be solved by Unitarisation.

**4. Concerns about the location of future growth.**

Broxtowe knows all too well the constraints that the City Council's current boundaries has placed on planning for housing growth within the City area for the years up to 2041. Broxtowe knows this because Broxtowe has worked for years in partnership with planning colleagues in the city. The Strategic Housing Land Availability studies that have been conducted across the City area and in all areas within the Greater Nottingham housing market area demonstrate that literally every square inch of developable land within the city has already been allocated for growth within the next planning period. Over densification results in poor quality housing, inadequate amounts of green space and inadequate space standards. Less liveable communities. Poorer quality housing for families and less attractive areas to live in. Option 2 simply cannot solve this problem for the City. It is impossible. Partly the problem is the government's planning system, which, despite its continual processes of reform still cannot imagine a system which is based on anything other than communities servicing their own growth needs, regardless of the geographical constraints, quality of the landscape, or availability of transport networks, allied to non-evidence based arbitrary increases and reductions of housing targets imposed on local areas at a moment's notice linked to short term political expediency. Looking to the future, with an extended City boundary, future growth will be pushed into remaining green areas of Broxtowe and either Gedling or Rushcliffe. This will inevitably result in Broxtowe's community losing all its green space and its transport networks becoming steadily more congested. On this criterion alone option 1e is preferable as Rushcliffe has a larger land area across which to accommodate growth. It will be "lop-sided" growth because the whole conurbation area is not the coherent planning focus. The future loss of green space is a considerable sacrifice and one which will meet huge public resistance from local people. This council has worked hard to negotiate growth with local people (for example the Toton strategic area of growth). If any of these options are chosen as preferable it

will be incumbent on Broxtowe to spell out in detail the consequences of these choices in ways that are relatable to both local people and the government.

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