



Tuesday, 7 October 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

A meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, 15 October 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

Zulfiqar Darr
Interim Chief Executive

To Councillors:	D Bagshaw	D L MacRae
	S A Bagshaw	R D MacRae
	P J Bales	T J Marsh
	L A Ball BEM	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
	J Couch	H E Skinner
	H L Crosby	P A Smith
	T A Cullen	V C Smith
	S Dannheimer	A W G A Stockwell
	H J Faccio	C M Tideswell
	K A Harlow	D K Watts
	S P Jeremiah	S Webb
	S Kerry	E Williamson
	H G Khaled MBE	E Winfield
	A Kingdon	K Woodhead
	H Land	

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

(Pages 5 - 12)

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

3. Minutes

(Pages 13 - 30)

Council is asked to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 16 July and 9 September 2025.

4. Mayor's Announcements

5. Leader's Report

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

6. Public Questions

7. Portfolio Holder Reports

7.1 Report of the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Personnel Policy

(Pages 31 - 38)

7.2 Report of the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Asset Management

(Pages 39 - 42)

7.3 Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing

(Pages 43 - 46)

7.4 Report of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health

(Pages 47 - 52)

7.5 Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change

(Pages 53 - 60)

7.6 Report of the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety

(Pages 61 - 62)

8. Report on Scrutiny Matters

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will give a verbal update to full Council and answer questions on Scrutiny matters.

9. Youth Mayor's Report on Broxtowe Youth Voice Activities

10. Members' Speeches on Ward Issues

11. Questions on Outside Bodies

12. Members' Questions

13. Appointments to Committees and Working Groups

To make appointments to committees and working groups.

14. Urgent Business

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Report of the Monitoring Officer

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Purpose of Report

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

Part 2 – Member Code of Conduct

General Obligations:

10. Interest

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

Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Monitoring Officer to establish and maintain a register of interests of Members of the Council. The register is publically available and protects you by demonstrating openness and willingness to be held accountable.

You are personally responsible for deciding whether or not you should disclose an interest in a meeting which allows the public, Council employees and fellow Councillors know which of your interests gives rise to a conflict of interest. If in doubt you should always seek advice from your Monitoring Officer.

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

Advice from the Monitoring Officer:

On reading the agenda it is advised that you:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPIs)

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

2. OTHER REGISTERABLE INTERESTS (ORIs)

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

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

3. NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS (NRIs)

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

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

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

Declarations and Participation in Meetings

1. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPIs)

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

Action to be taken

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

2. OTHER REGISTERABLE INTERESTS (ORIs)

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

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

3. NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS (NRIs)

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

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

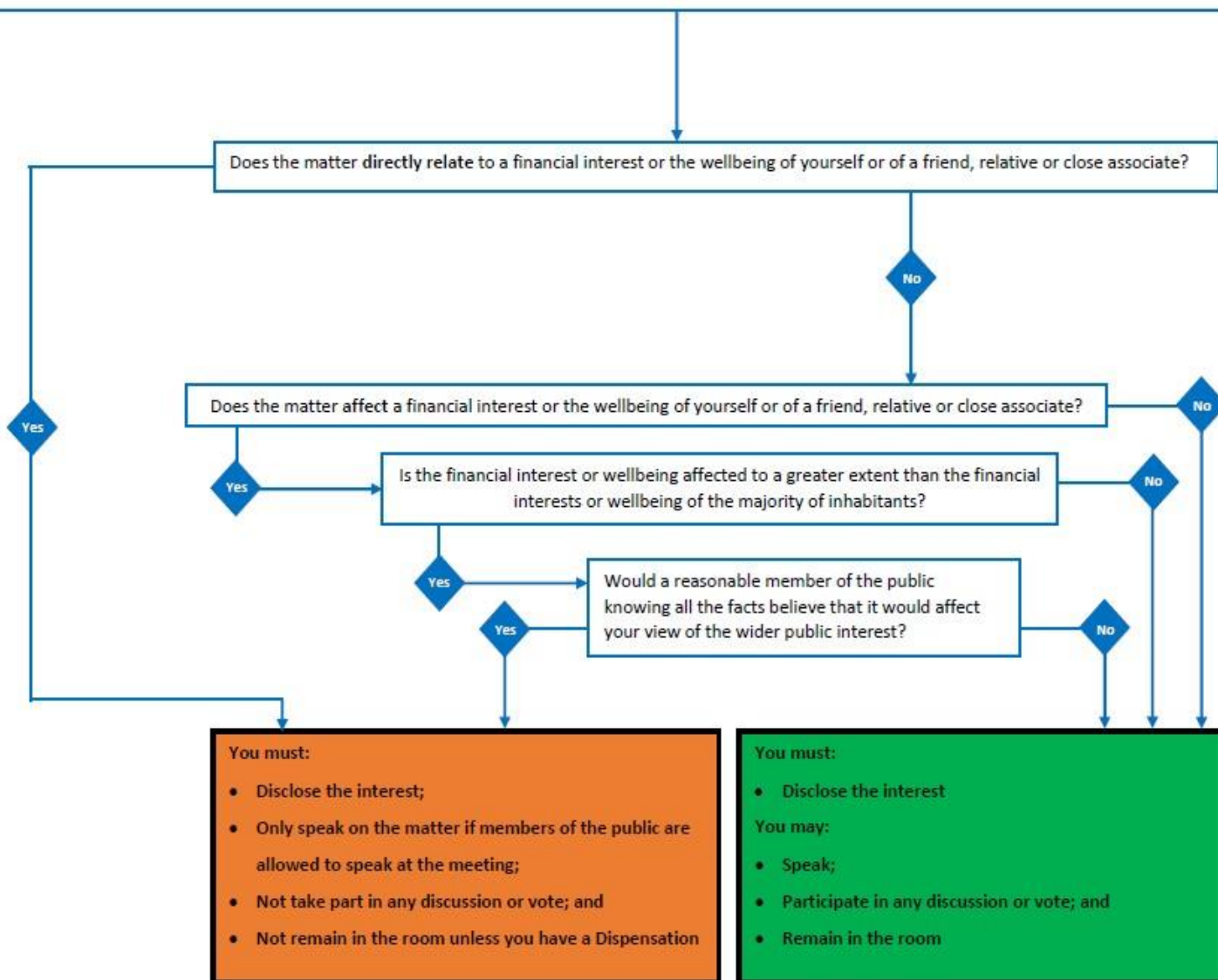
- Disclose the interest;
- Only speak on the matter if members of the public are allowed to speak at the meeting;
- Not take part in any discussion or vote; and
- Not remain in the room unless you have a Dispensation

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, 16 JULY 2025

Present: Councillor R Bullock, Mayor

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

17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Bagshaw, S A Bagshaw, H Crosby, K A Harlow, H Land, W Mee, D D Pringle and M Radulovic MBE.

18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors D L MacRae, R D MacRae, S P Jeremiah, S Paterson and R E Bofinger declared other-registerable interests in item 12.1 due to their involvement with Stapleford Community Group, minute number 33.1 refers.

Councillor E Williamson declared an other-registerable interest in item 12.4, minute number 33.4 refers.

19 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2025 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

20 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor gave a brief résumé of his engagements to date and congratulated Lewis Bull on being the Council's Employee of the Year and the Elections Team for the being selected as Team of the Year.

21 VOTE OF THANKS

A vote of thanks was proposed by Councillor G Marshall and seconded by a number of councillors, including Councillors T Cullen, L A Ball, R D MacRae, S J Carr, P J Bales and D K Watts, for Ruth Hyde OBE, the Council's Chief Executive, who was due to retire in September 2025 after 19 years of service.

22 LEADER'S REPORT

In the absence of the Leader the Deputy Leader informed the Council of some of the issues that were facing Broxtowe and the future of Broxtowe, alongside some of the positive projects that the Council had been working on. These included the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill, the pause of the next phase of the electrification of the Midland Mainline, the progress of the new Steven Gerrard Academy, the creation of the CEDARS project and the replacement Brinsley Headstocks.

23 YOUTH MAYOR'S REPORT ON BROXTOWE YOUTH ISSUES

The Broxtowe Youth Mayor, Toby Goldszmit, updated the Council on his duties since his appointment.

24 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The following question was submitted by Mr Ian Cooper for the Leader of the Council:

“Do you think it is acceptable that the Planning Department openly admit they do not know how to calculate the radius density as described in the Article 4 SPD which effectively makes this section of the SPD unenforceable? Furthermore, do you think it is acceptable that the Planning Department have prepared inaccurate reports for the Planning Committee?”

In the Leader’s absence, the Deputy Leader responded that the Council does not accept that there is an inability to calculate radius density in respect of HMOs or that the HMO SPD is unenforceable. Within the Council’s Statement of Case for the planning appeal, the Council provided two scenarios for calculating the radius approach due to the proximity of existing purpose-built student accommodation to the appeal site. The SPD had been used to support the refusal of numerous other planning applications for HMOs in the Article 4 area and has therefore been successfully applied on a number of occasions.

The reports to planning committee were correct at the time of publication and Mr Cooper was advised that he could submit his own findings directly to the Planning Inspectorate if he disagreed with the report, and that advice was duly acted upon.

25 REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL POLICY

The Portfolio Holder for Resources and Personnel Policy presented his report and responded to questions by stating that there was a trade-off between vacancy management and service delivery. It was further stated that budgets were published regularly at Cabinet meetings.

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

The Deputy Leader presented the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Asset Management report and responded to questions by stating that he was in discussion over the Council’s involvement in investing in ethical issues.

27 REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HOUSING

The Portfolio Holder for Housing presented her report and responded to questions by stating that she was proud of the Council’s housing stock and the amount of work that had gone into its maintenance. That included the staff who acted in a compassionate manner.

28 REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR LEISURE AND HEALTH

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health presented her report and in response to questions stated that the event of Friday 18 had become a quiet success in Beeston and it was planned to expand the event to Kimberley. Following a question by Councillor E Winfield it was stated that in the first year of the event there had been no payments to performing artists, although there had in the second year.

29 REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change presented her report and stated that climate change was worrying and not a hoax. The WISE scheme was a twelve-month project which would be maintained for that time.

30 REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety presented her report and stated that vehicle crimes were a priority across the Borough and informed councillors that they should report crimes whenever possible.

31 ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2024/25

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented the Annual Review of Scrutiny and thanked the Members and Officers for the roles they had undertaken with scrutiny throughout the past year.

32 PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

There were no petitions to be presented.

33 MOTIONS

33.1 THE FOLLOWING MOTION WAS SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR S J CARR:

The motion was proposed by Councillor S J Carr and seconded by Councillor E Williamson.

“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.”

An amendment was proposed by Councillor G Marshall that the Combined Service Group be added to the second paragraph of the motion. Both Councillors S J Carr and E Williamson accepted the amendment.

On being put to the meeting the motion was carried.

(Having declared other-registerable interests in the item Councillors R D MacRae, D L MacRae, J W McGrath, S Paterson and R E Bofinger left the meeting for the item before discussion or voting thereon.)

33.2 THE FOLLOWING MOTION WAS SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR A W G A STOCKWELL:

The motion was proposed by Councillor A W G A Stockwell and seconded by Councillor P J Owen.

“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.”

An addition was suggested that ‘e-scooters’ be added to the motion where ‘e-bikes’ were mentioned. The addition was accepted by the proposer and seconder.

On being put to the meeting, the motion was carried.

33.3 THE FOLLOWING WAS SUBMITTED BY THE BROXTOWE ALLIANCE GROUP:

Prior to the commencement of the item, it was proposed by Councillor S J Carr and seconded by Councillor B C Carr that the order of business for the remaining items of the meeting amended. On being put the meeting the proposal was defeated. Subsequently, Councillors B C Carr and S J Carr left the meeting.

The motion was proposed by Councillor G Marshall and seconded by Councillor G Bunn.

“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.”

An amendment was proposed by Councillor P J Owen and seconded by Councillor A W G A Stockwell that a further bullet point be added as follows:

- “In the event that local government reorganisation proceeds, this Council supports the two Unitary Council solution, namely one Unitary Council for the City and one for the rest of the County based on existing boundaries.”

A recorded vote was agreed and the voting on the amendment was as follows:

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

On being put to the meeting the amendment was defeated.

Discussion on the original item ensued prior to be voted upon.

On being put to the meeting, the original motion was carried.

33.4 THE FOLLOWING MOTION WAS SUBMITTED BY THE BROXTOWE ALLIANCE GROUP:

The motion was proposed by Councillor G Marshall and seconded by Councillor H Skinner:

“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.”

On being put to the meeting, the motion was carried.

(Having declared an other-registerable interest Councillor E Williamson left the meeting for the item before discussion or voting thereon.)

34 MEMBERS' SPEECHES ON WARD ISSUES

There were no Members' speeches on ward issues.

35 QUESTIONS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no questions on outside bodies.

36 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

A Member's Question had been submitted by Councillor B C Carr for the Leader of the Council. The question was as follows:

"Over a period of many months myself and Councillor Steve Carr have been contacted by residents very dissatisfied with Nottinghamshire County Council's occupational therapy service.

Would the Leader agree with me that this service is letting down residents and as a result making it very difficult for this Council to meet its stated objectives within the Aids and Adaptions and Corporate Policies. Namely to support people to live well, safely and independently.

Furthermore, would he agree to write to Nottinghamshire County Council expressing these concerns and asking for a review of the service via their Scrutiny system? Would he agree to an investigation into the feasibility of changing the provider of occupational therapy services to Council tenants?"

In the absence of the Leader, the Deputy Leader responded by stating that the Council encountered a situation where the Occupational Therapist (OT) at the County declined to undertake an assessment of the customer, leaving this Council without a clear reason for the refusal. Despite multiple inquiries with Nottinghamshire County Council to obtain a statement, the reasons for the OT's decision remains unknown. It was evident, however, that the customer was in need of assistance.

Recognising the urgency of the situation, we decided to proceed with the installation of a wet room facility on the ground floor of the property. This decision, while highly irregular and outside the current Adaptations Policy framework, was seen as the right course of action to support the customer's daily life. It was unacceptable to leave the customer without the ability to wash themselves, and with sufficient information and the customer's support, we are confident in our ability to design and install a facility that met their needs.

This case has highlighted the need to work with NCC OT Team, to ensure customers receive an appropriate adaptations service. Broxtowe Borough Council remains

dedicated to the well-being of its residents. This decision reflects the commitment to taking necessary actions, even when they fall outside standard procedures, to ensure that all residents receive the support and care they need. We will also review our current policies and develop alternative mechanisms to address any difficulties experienced, with a view to producing better outcomes for our residents.

37 BROXTOWE ALLIANCE MEMBER

The Council noted that Councillor T J Marsh had advised that he had ceased representing the Labour Group and would now represent the Broxtowe Alliance.

38 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

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
T Marsh		

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. W Mee

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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RESOLVED that:

- 1. The appointments be made in accordance with the schedule laid before the meeting.**
- 2. Councillor T Marsh Replace Councillor W Mee as the Council's representative on the NET Transit Board.**

39 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION UPDATE

Members noted a report on the latest position regarding Local Government Reorganisation.

40 URGENT BUSINESS

The following motion was considered as an item of urgent business. The motion was proposed by Councillor H J Faccio and seconded by Councillor P J Bales:

“This Council notes:

- that as the Head of Paid Service and the council's most highly paid and high profile job, the Chief Executive post is a vital and integral role to the success of this council in providing services to the public.
- that the recruitment for a new Chief Executive of this authority was paused after concerns were raised about this very important role being advertised only to potential candidates already working at Broxtowe Borough Council.
- that these concerns were raised by all opposition parties, including a joint letter from the Labour Party and Liberal Democrats, sent on 6 July to the current Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and HR department, and which was forwarded to the Deputy Leader to answer. This letter asked a number of questions about the procedure and decision making behind the internal-only job advert. No reply to the questions raised in this letter has yet been received.

This Council resolves to:

- Review the Council's Constitution and/or Recruitment Policy to make it official policy to advertise all vacancies at Director level and above externally. This will result in open and fair recruitment, a wider pool of talent being given the chance to apply and will ensure that internal candidates are benchmarked against external candidates so that the best candidate for the job can be secured, and we consequently get the best value for money for the people of Broxtowe through the best appointment being made.
- Commit to seeking advice from the Local Government Association on best practice for senior level recruitment to ensure a robust, challenging and sector-approved interview process.”

On being put to the meeting the motion was defeated.

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COUNCIL

TUESDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2025

Present: Councillor R Bullock , Mayor

Councillors: D Bagshaw
P J Bales
L A Ball BEM
M Brown
G Bunn
B C Carr
C Carr
S J Carr
A Cooper
J Couch
S Dannheimer
H J Faccio
K A Harlow
S P Jeremiah
S Kerry
H G Khaled MBE
A Kingdon
T J Marsh
G Marshall
J W McGrath
W Mee
J M Owen
P J Owen
S Paterson
D D Pringle
M Radulovic MBE
V C Smith
C M Tideswell
D K Watts
S Webb
E Winfield
K Woodhead

A minute's silence was held in respect of the passing of Councillor R E Bofinger and the long-standing Council employee Mr A Hyndman.

41 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S A Bagshaw, H L Crosby, T A Cullen, H Land, D L MacRae, R D MacRae, H E Skinner, P A Smith, A W G A Stockwell and E Williamson

42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

43 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Planning Committee

Broxtowe Alliance

S Jeremiah (Chair)
P A Smith (Vice-Chair)
G Marshall
Vacant
T Marsh
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
J Couch

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
J Couch
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

Conservative

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)
R Bullock
S Dannheimer

Substitutes 1. P Smith
 2. T Marsh
 3. C M Tideswell

S Jeremiah
K A Harlow
S Webb

4. S Paterson

Conservative

M Brown
J M Owen
J Couch

Substitute 1. P J Owen

Labour

A Cooper
E Winfield

Substitutes 1. H J Faccio
2. W Mee

Broxtowe Independent Group

S J Carr (Chair)

Substitute 1. B C Carr

Liberal Democrat Group

A Kingdon

Substitute 1. D K Watts

Advisory Shareholder Sub-Committee

Broxtowe Alliance

S Paterson (Chair)
S Jeremiah (Vice-Chair)
S Webb

Substitutes 1. K A Harlow
2. R Bullock
3. K Woodhead

Conservative

J Couch
M Brown

Substitute 1. P J Owen

Labour

W Mee

Substitute 1. P Bales

Broxtowe Independent Group

B C Carr

Substitute 1. S J Carr

Chief Officer Employment Committee

Broxtowe Alliance

G Marshall (Chair)
V C Smith (Vice-Chair)
K Woodhead

Substitutes 1. M Radulovic MBE
2. H E Skinner
3. S Jeremiah

G Bunn

4. P Smith

Conservative

P J Owen

Substitute 1. J M Owen

Labour

P Bales
H J Faccio

Substitute 1. A Cooper

Broxtowe Independent Group

R D MacRae

Substitute 1. S J Carr

Liberal Democrat Group

D K Watts

Substitute 1. H Land

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
J Couch

Broxtowe Independent Group

E Williamson

Bramcote Bereavement Services Joint Committee

Broxtowe Alliance

M Radulovic MBE

Conservative

H G Khaled MBE

Labour

E Winfield

RESOLVED that the appointments be made in accordance with the schedule laid before the meeting.

44 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that the following item of business be conducted in open session.

45 SENIOR APPOINTMENTS

Members considered the recommendation of the Chief Officer Employment Committee which had met to consider Chief Officer appointments and statutory roles following the retirement of the current Chief Executive.

RESOLVED that:

1. The appointment of Zulfiqar Darr as Interim Chief Executive, including designation as Head of Paid Service, Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer be recommended to full Council for approval with effect from 13 September 2025.
2. The appointment of Martin Paine as Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer be recommended to full Council for approval with effect from 13 September 2025.
3. The appointment of Greg Dwyer as Interim Data Protection Officer be recommended to full Council for approval with effect from 13 September 2025.
4. That Councillors decide whether how to fill the posts of permanent Chief Executive and make arrangements accordingly – if externally advertising allocate a budget of £40,000 to acquire the necessary external expertise to support this process.
5. That any consequential changes to the Constitution are made considering the above changes.

Resources and Personnel Policy Portfolio Councillor G Marshall

Report to Council – 15 October 2025

Finance Services Update

Audit of the Statement of Accounts

Alongside reporting the financial outturn to Cabinet on 1 July 2025, the draft Statement of Accounts for 2024/25 were prepared and published on the Council's website on 26 June, in advance of the statutory deadline.

The accounts are now being scrutinised by Forvis Mazars, the appointed external auditors. The audit has commenced and is targeted to conclude in November. Regular updates will be provided to the Governance, Audit and Standards Committee.

Budget Setting

The budget setting process for 2026/27 was launched in September. The Finance Services team will work with service managers in preparing new business plans, proposing revenue and capital budgets and reviewing the fees and charges lists.

Business plans and financial estimates will be scrutinised by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 19 and 20 January 2026, before consideration at Cabinet on 3 February 2026 and a final recommendation onto Council to approve the budget on 4 March 2026.

Medium Term Financial Strategy and Business Strategy

An updated Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and refreshed Business Strategy for 2026/27 is being prepared for approval by Cabinet.

As previously reported, there was an underspend of £1.4m on the General Fund revenue budget in 2024/25. This was due to a variety of underspends, extra income, budget carry forwards, changes in provisions, government grants and effective financial management across the Council. Overall, after transfers to and from earmarked reserves, there was a net withdrawal of £489k from balances resulting in a closing General Fund Reserve of £5.6m on 31 March 2025.

It is anticipated that the Council will continue to experience significant pressures that will impact on its 2026/27 budget. There is also considerable uncertainty with the outcome of the Government's long awaited 'Fair Funding Review 2.0'. Early modelling based upon the Government proposals included within the consultation shows a potentially significant range in what funding the Council may see depending upon which Business Rates model is applied. It is anticipated that transitional

arrangements will dampen its impact. Final details will not be known until the Local Government Finance Settlement is released in December.

Further details, including the refreshed Business Strategy to identify potential revenue savings and additional growth and income to meet the projected budget gap, will be presented to Cabinet on 4 November 2025. This is inevitably going to be another challenging budget round, particularly with the impact of inflation and the significant pressures on local government finances. Officers will continue to review the situation as part of the budget setting process and update the MTFS accordingly.

Budget Consultation

The Budget Consultation for 2026/27 is now live. The survey includes questions relating to a resident's opinion on Council services, methods of access to these services, the preferred means of interaction with the Council, the impact of the ongoing cost of living crisis, climate change and digital strategy. The web-based questionnaire, which is open until mid-November, will be promoted through social media, 'email-me' bulletins, press releases, website and direct engagement with those on the Council's stakeholder map. All responders will be entered into a prize draw.

The Council received an encouraging level of response last year and is looking for similar levels of public engagement again to feed into the latest budget round.

Local Government Reorganisation

The Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer, through the Nottinghamshire Finance Officers Association (NFOA), continues 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 were reasonable.

Financial Systems Updates

A planned new replacement for the Income Management System has been installed and is working well. This includes an automated bank reconciliation module that is working far more efficiently than the previous 'hybrid' arrangements.

A planned upgrade of the Financial Management System suite is underway. This includes updates to the general ledger, creditors and purchasing and debtor modules. It is hoped that the project will be completed with the new system going live shortly.

Annual Counter Fraud Report

The Chief Audit and Control Officer recently presented the annual Counter Fraud Activity Report to the Governance, Audit and Standards Committee in September. This report includes an updated Fraud and Corruption Risk Register.

Fraud perpetrated against the Council has a direct impact on the cost of providing services to the local community. The positive counter fraud work undertaken across the Council to complement and improve key controls is therefore vital in mitigating against the risk of fraud. The review of key significant fraud risk areas as part of Fraud Risk Register is an important tool in this regard.

Internal Audit was pleased to report that no successful fraudulent activity was noted within the Council during the financial year 2024/25.

Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services

Revenues

The Revenues Team are responsible for administering the Council Tax and Business Rates. As part of the performance Monitoring we collect data on the in year collection rates. At the end of August 2025 these are 46.82% for Council Tax and 47.86% for Business Rates. These percentage figures are in line with projection and comparison to previous years.

The Revenues Team are involved in a project to implement Civica OpenChannel. This module within the Civica system will allow customers to access online forms to notify the Council of their changes in circumstances. The forms will provide an integrated platform making the process smoother and more efficient for those wishing to use this approach. In addition, it will free up Customer Services time to assist those that do not have the facility or desire to use online capability. The forms will be rolled out in tranches. The current project plan has Tranche 1 and Tranche 2 rolled out before the end of January 2026.

The Government has recently closed an initial consultation on “modernising the administration of Council Tax”. The main aspects of these proposals are

- Changing Council Tax from 10 monthly instalments to 12 by default
- Modernising Council Tax disregards
- Renaming Sever mental impairment disregard to encourage take up.
- How to reduce disproportionate enforcement action when recovering Council Tax.

The main area of concern for the Council would be the change from 10 months to 12 months. This would impact on cash flow and the recovery process. With Broxtowe being the collecting authority for several precepts this could leave us more vulnerable to delay in payments having already agreed the precept payments at budgeting stage.

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 7.11 days to process and change in circumstances taking 2.48 up to the end of August 2025.

Customer Services

During 2025/26 the Customer Services Team continues with its improved performance. 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 up to the end of August 2025 is 7.29% against a target of 10%.

Corporate Services

ICT Services

In the last 12 months, the ICT team identified and upgraded outdated systems. All Council computers now run Windows 11 and Office 365. The data centre was replaced, improving performance and security against ransomware, and the main firewall was updated with next-generation technology to enhance cyber-attack protection. These measures have strengthened system and data security.

Additionally, the Council migrated to Microsoft 365 Cloud, offering flexible, efficient access to systems and data using smart devices and tablets. This move has improved asset visibility, resilience, and availability across the network.

Several business systems, including the financial system, are being upgraded to the latest version. The ICT team is also supporting the rollout of two new systems, CIVICA Property Management System and Total Mobile, which are essential for efficient delivery of housing and asset management services.

Parking Services

As of from the end of August 2025, Parking Services have achieved 43% of the projected income for the year.

Current income up to the end of August is as follows.

NET INCOME	Year 2025/26 to date
Pay & Display	£168,729.00
Penalty Charges	£13,927.56
Permits	£8,739.58
TOTAL income	£191,396.14

Human Resources and Learning & Development

National Pay Award Negotiations

The 2025/26 Local Government Pay Award has been agreed at 3.2% and this has been applied including back pay in August 2025 Payroll.

Learning and Development

The latest ILM tranche began in July 2025. Fourteen employees are undertaking certificates in Level 3 (10) and Level 5 (2) in Leadership and Management. We begin the next tranche in October – for Level 3 and this will be up to 12 people.

The Learning and Development Co-ordinator continues to deliver one on one e-learning sessions with non-PC colleagues at Kimberley Depot and the Beeston Council Offices on a regular basis.

We are in the process of arranging some large-scale training for Housing and Customer Service to enhance our front-line customer experience. This will be arranging for late-September/early-October.

Work Experience

The HR Team has had a longer-term work experience placement from DWP and the individual is interesting in furthering their career in Accounting. We have provided training and work experience in HR, Finance and Business Support on invoicing.

Apprenticeships

The Council currently has 18 apprenticeship courses being undertaken, with a further 4 in the pipeline. 54 Apprenticeship courses have been run since the inception of the Apprenticeship Levy. Levy spend currently is £89,711 since September 2024. There is £80,233 underspend.

Other News

The Council's Disability Confident Leader status is in the process of being reviewed and renewed and will be submitted for peer review prior to expiry in October. Our colleagues at Framework Housing Charity will be reviewing our application as an existing Leader.

We attended a Disability Job Fair at Loxley House for the DWP in September, along with a local Job Fair in Beeston Rylands organised by Transform Training, providing jobs advice to the Hong Kong community.

The HR Team has welcomed a new HR Officer, Sarah Priestley who joins us from the Business Support Team. Sarah has only been in the team one month and has hit the ground running and is already taking on casework.

Since the start of the financial year, we have assisted ten employees with Hardship Grants, totalling £2,500.

We are currently dealing with 14 disciplinary investigations and two grievance and eight long term sick cases at present.

The HR Team have been supporting colleagues who recently experience the unexpected death of a colleague within Revenues and Benefits. We have offered wellbeing support via HR and Bereavement Services, along with exploring some specific group grief counselling.

Communications and engagement

The Communications Team continue to support departments from across the Council in promoting and engaging residents about the Council's investment projects and Council services.

This includes preparations for the opening of the new pavilion in Stapleford and videos and a resident leaflet to promote progress on the Kimberley Means Business projects.

Work is also ongoing to support the annual canvass to encourage residents to register to vote and support the annual budget consultation process.

A significant amount of work was completed by the team to support the recent Local Government Reorganisation surveys which were shared with residents across the County, as well as Broxtowe's additional survey which was posted to every property in the Borough.

As well as supporting projects, the team has dealt with 40 media enquiries so far in 2025/26 and continues to develop the Council's email me service, which now has over 31,000 subscribers.

A new Communications and Engagement Officer has recently started and has been reaching out to stakeholders to identify ways for the Council to connect with hard to reach groups, as well as developed a 'You said, we did' campaign to promote how resident feedback has been taken on board.

Broxtowe Voluntary Awards

The Broxtowe Voluntary Awards will take place on 13 March 2026 and nominations are now open to let the Council know about the people in our local communities who go above and beyond to support other residents and make Broxtowe a great place.

There are eight award categories:

- Benefitting Broxtowe Award
- Community Hero Award
- Culture and Heritage Award
- Green Futures Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Sporting Volunteer Award
- Young Volunteer Award
- Youth Work Volunteer Award

Nominations are open until 23 November.

Remembrance Services

The Civic Office and Town and Parish Councils are making preparations for events to mark Remembrance Sunday next month.

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

Report to Council – 15 October 2025

UKSPF Funding

UKSPF funding from EM Combined Counties Authority for Year 4 was received by the Borough early in July. Broxtowe's allocation being £1,056,720, of which £462,975 is capital funding and £593,745 is revenue funding. 32 Projects and activities have been approved for support through the programme this year. 13 community grants have been issued and around 30 businesses have had grant offers made through the Members Advisory Panel and S151 Officer which convened on the 19th September 2025. The pace and breadth of activity will vary between the different schemes and officers are preparing the first monitoring report to be submitted in early October. Firm commitments, actual funds defrayed and contractually committed payments are totalling around 70% - 75%.

Careful monitoring of the programme will take place to ensure the economic and place-based benefits to the Borough are maximised. One area of identified underspend has been re-allocated to a project which supports the strengthening of the community in the most deprived super output areas (estates and neighbourhoods within wards). Projects in Inham Nook and St Mary's in Eastwood are set to receive funds. Other new initiatives recently launched include town centre independent business promotions in Beeston including a bee trail and a business promotion initiative at the University freshers fair to showcase the best of the town centre. A scheme for new entrepreneurs will launch this autumn). Work has started on a scheme to improve part of the Nottingham Canal.

Stapleford Town Deal Funding

The Town Deal is more than halfway to being completed with three of the six original projects being completed. Library Learning Centre, High Street Recovery Fund and now the Community Pavilion. At the Pavillion there is still some minor snagging works being undertaken on the grounds and to the area around the 3G pitch. The pitch has received approvals from the governing bodies and the Steven Gerrard Academy and Stapleford Town FC have started to use the facilities. The additional padel courts are being constructed and should open during October. A centre launch is being planned later this month, and a number of rooms and facilities will be named after local people including the community garden which will be named to honour the late Cllr Bofinger and the main pitch which will be named after Dave Watson. The cricket pitch designs are to go to November Planning Committee; the pavilion designs are looking to go to Planning Committee early next year.

The Pencil Works & Makers Space Enterprise Centre contract has been signed but unfortunately the main build has been delayed due to asbestos discovery. The skate park at Pasture Road Recreation Ground is on course for completion before

Christmas and has received £100,000 of additional FCC funding. Work on improving the Albany School crossing and Walter Parker VC Square are likely to move forwards in this quarter. Non-motorised user routes for walking and cycling have been taken through procurement and are in a position to proceed to the final stages of project development.

Kimberley Means Business

There has been much progress across the summer. The industrial units at Shilo Way (Viaduct Enterprise Park), are now well into the construction phase with the steel structures already up. The Visitor Centre is substantially complete and works on a total rebuild of the section of ramp that had structural issues has been commenced. These works are weather dependent, and whilst they had been ahead of schedule and the recent wet weather has pulled this back slightly. The land sale and relocation of the sewer has created a second development site at Giltbrook, and work is on-going to secure planning and procurement.

In the town itself the grants scheme is nearing completion with the final few claims still to be processed. Match funding targets have been exceeded, and all output measures complete. The Town's lights, screens and animations are in preparation for their second Halloween and Christmas and work progresses on the Hub. There had been delays due to a Victorian cellar structure being discovered and remedied. Works on the Stag Ground and Kimberley Institute Cricket Club are well underway, and work has been undertaken on Kimberley Primary school football pitch. The non-motorised user routes have been scaled back to take into consideration the technical difficulties that this part of the project has encountered and to in part compensate for the construction price inflation that all areas of the project have encountered since the award was made in 2022. This quarter is projected to see the largest net outflow of spending with just over £3.5 million being defrayed. The Government has also responded to feedback in making regeneration schemes less bureaucratic and have more local control. MHCLG are therefore consolidating the Levelling Up Fund, Town Deals and Simplification Pathfinders Pilot Fund together into a single funding with increased flexibility to adapt schemes to local needs allowing "spades in the ground".

Other Economic Development & Regeneration Activity

The High Street Rental Auctions initiative has been deployed in Eastwood where the consultation phase is soon to be completed along with the vacancy register. In Stapleford 12 notices are being issued and engagement has been undertaken with a number of landlords and interested parties. Two properties have now come back into use with one featured in recent press activity. The government has started to outline other policy initiatives which work along similar lines giving even further powers to localities to address high street decline. At the time of writing the government was about to launch a new programme and has discussed "Pride in Place". The Service will be exploring this development very carefully.

In Eastwood a paper has been taken to Cabinet to explore the opportunities for regenerating the Walker Street site, revisiting the Health and Lifestyles proposal which was the centre of the LUF bid. Eastwood CEDARS has started operationally

and is delivering health improvement measures into the community. Work continues around engagement with EMCCA and seeking out further opportunities to collaborate on key strategic approaches and pipeline funding initiatives.

Planning Policy

We are in the final stages of preparing the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan in advance of seeking approval to submit it for examination by the end of the year. We are also looking at evidence in relation to HMOs and will be reporting on options to extend the existing Article 4 area.

With regard to Development control, we have received 3 large major applications for the sites around the Toton Park and ride and are expecting/have received a large-scale application for the Bennerly Employment Site. Two planners have recently left to move to pastures new, and we are currently looking to recruit to both these posts.

**Housing Portfolio
Councillor V C Smith**

Report to Council – 15 October 2025

We are currently being visited by the Regulator of Social Housing as part of a two-day on-site inspection. Over the last few months we have submitted information about our housing service and they have met with tenants and employees to find out more about the service we deliver. Following this inspection we will be given a grading, ranging from C1 to C4. Once our grading is known this will be shared with our tenants and members.

We have been keen to share with the regulator the progress we are making, with the support of our Housing Influence Panel and Housing Improvement Board to improve our Repairs service. We are particularly proud of the improved customer service our Repairs Customer Services Team provides. In August 2025 the team dealt with 1113 calls, with only 8% of calls being abandoned. The average waiting time was less than 2 mins. The team managed to deal with the call at first point of contact on 82% of occasions. In addition to this the team dealt with almost 2000 requests via email and online reporting.

At the end of Quarter 1, rent arrears were 1.7%, which is lower than our target of 2%. The Financial Inclusion Officers have received 54 referrals for tenants that required support from 1 April 2025 to 30 June 2025, in addition to the cases they continue to support from the previous financial year. They also continue to refer cases to the Household Support Fund, phase 7 which opened on 29 April 2025. Between 29 April 2025 and 30 June 2025, they made 16 white goods referrals and 78 households that have been supported with either a food voucher or payment.

There have been two particularly good outcomes recently. Firstly, a couple that were referred by the Income Team due to their rent arrears, required assistance with their benefit claims which were complex. Through various applications their income was increased by £5,740.80 per year. The couple were not aware that they were entitled to this additional financial support and are now not worried that they may lose their home. In a second case, one of our Independent Living Co-ordinators referred an 80-year-old tenant when she found out that the tenant was not claiming any benefits and was paying their full rent and council tax from their state pension. After support from a Financial Inclusion Officer to make claims, she was awarded assistance with both her rent and council tax and a backdated payment from Housing Benefit of £1,395.

This year we have amended our targets within the Housing Business Plan to monitor the total number of nights that bed and breakfast accommodation is used for. We avoid using this type of accommodation wherever possible. However, sometimes it is not possible, especially if someone contacts us out of hours. Based on last years figures, our target for Quarter 1 was 350 nights in total. We achieved this, using bed and breakfast accommodation for only 170 nights, less than half of the target set. Our aim is always to prevent homelessness, rather than needing to offer temporary

accommodation or take a full homelessness application. We know that this is not always possible, but in Quarter 1 70% of homelessness cases were prevented.

At the end of August, we sent out our 2nd housing magazine. This contained a lot of useful information for tenants in an easy-to-read format. We have received many compliments on the latest edition and are now working on our Winter issue.

Private Sector Housing

An Emergency Prohibition Notice was served to stop the occupation of a flat above a commercial restaurant.

A notice to deal with a filthy and/or verminous premiss under the Public Health Act has been served and work is currently being undertaken by the householder to clear the premises.

Good progress is being made with Disabled Facilities Grants processing new referrals and monitoring the works at those in progress.

The Asset Management & Development Team continue to progress key initiatives aimed at improving the quality, sustainability and efficiency of the councils HRA portfolio. Our focus remains on strategic investment, compliance and unlocking development opportunities, to meet the housing needs to our borough.

Key Updates:

- **Stock Condition** – The council aims to have 70% of it's HRA portfolio surveyed by the end of March 2026, with the remaining 30% delivered within the 2026-27 financial year. This will conclude a full stock refresh of the portfolio, which was last done in 2019, and put the authority in a far stronger position in terms of future investment planning, procurement and compliance with current (and revised) Decent Homes and Building Safety Standards. It will also provide a sound platform from which the authority can run a rolling 20%, 5 year stock condition survey programme from, which will ensure a 100% 'Root & Branch' stock survey will not be required in the future.
- **Capital Programme Delivery** – The 2025-26 capital programme is on track, with significant progress made on the procurement of the contractor to deliver our Wave 3 Social Housing Decarbonisation 3 year programme, for which the council was awarded £1.3m in funding, earlier this year. In addition, the revision, and reprocurement of our gas combination boiler specification is forecast around £700 per installation, which will provide some clear savings to benefit the capital programme across the board, and allow us to start considering how we fund a heating programme beyond gas moving forward.
- **Development Pipeline** – Feasibility work is underway on several sites identified around the borough for potential housing development. These include a mix of infill opportunities and larger regeneration schemes, with a continued focus on affordable and sustainable housing delivery. Remedial work to both Relaw Court and Cross Street will commence early October,

which will allow these schemes to be handed over to Housing Management to be let.

- The launch of our new Civica Property Management software is due in December 2025, which will attend to the majority of the issues identified by Internal Audit, both in their 2023 and most recent audit earlier this year, centring around more effective property portfolio management. In addition, the Estates Team is working to reduce £200k arrears accounts for a number of retailers in Beeston Square, as well as completing the letting of the final retail unit in this location, which will result in the Square being back to full let status.
- Social Housing Regulator – The council continues to make positive progress in preparing for the and engaging with the Social Housing Regulator, as part of the new inspection regime that was introduced in April 2024. As part of this process, a targeted improvement plan, based on the mock HQN audit that was completed earlier in the year, has been developed, to underpin our response to the inspection, focusing on tenant engagement, compliance, repairs and community safety. In addition, we have strengthened our data collection processes, to ensure robust evidence is available to support our self assessment.

A mobilisation plan is in place to respond promptly to inspectors requests, and is led by our Change Delivery Manager, who ensures that all stakeholders are briefed and involved throughout the process.

Leisure and Health Portfolio Councillor T A Cullen

Report to Council – 15 October 2025

Communities

Following long vacancies the roles of Communities Officer Children and Young People and Equalities and Vulnerabilities have been replaced and both start work in the second half of September.

Children and Young People

In the first week as Children and Young Peoples Officer they have:

- Reached out and contacted other organisations to set up meetings to push forward activity.
- Collated a spreadsheet of Broxtowe Schools – reached out each one to try and gain a point of contact for all the schools, as well as start the conversation regarding the Youth Conference.
- Attended the Child Poverty meeting.
- Attended Stapleford Job Fair to network with organisations and engage them with the Children and Young Peoples Partnership..
- Signed the Borough Council up as a supporter for Anti-Bullying Week 2025 with The Anti-Bullying Alliance planning a fundraiser for anti-bullying week and promoting Odd Socks Day.
- Reached out to HR to investigate the possibility of setting up a volunteer programme for Young People.
- Engaged with Youth commission around youth attitudes towards the Police and how they feel crime and violence policing should improve moving forward.
- Attended Notts Hope Hack to gather information on youth attitudes and experience towards violence and knife crime in their lives and communities.
- Joined the project to deliver the Youth Conference to take this work forward. The Conference will focus on several areas of youth issues, particularly around Misinformation and negative Influencing on Social-Media, Mental Health and Community Connectedness, Violence Against Women and Girls and Bullying. Project conference will run is February 2026.

Carers Roadshows

Stapleford Carers Roadshow is being held on 14 October, 10am -1pm at Stapleford Care Centre.

Beeston Carers Roadshow is being held on 14 November, 10am – 1pm at Beeston Library.

Dementia

The Broxtowe Dementia Event was held at the British Legion Hall on 26 September. Around sixty people attended the event and discussed partnerships, moving into a care home and planning for the end of life.

Feedback forms stated:

1. The event was interesting 100%
2. The event was relevant to my needs 95%
3. It was a useful networking opportunity 98%
4. I gained new knowledge 99%
5. I had an opportunity to express my views 94%
6. I was able to hear about other people's experience 99%
7. I got answers to my questions 91%

Smoking in Pregnancy

Stop smoking support for pregnant women has started on Wednesday afternoons (by appointment) at Eastwood Citizens Advice offices delivered by Your Health Nottinghamshire.

International Older People's Day

A wellbeing event for those over fifty-five and disabled is being held at the Helpful Bureau on 1 October, 10am – 1pm.

Integrated Neighbourhood Teams

A new programme of work to develop Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INT) in Nottinghamshire is underway with meetings to design a Broxtowe INT beginning in Sept 2025.

INTs will deliver the new National NHS England neighbourhood health guidelines 2025/26 which outline a shift toward neighbourhood-based healthcare delivery focused on three main transitions:

- Hospital to community: Providing care closer to home
- Analogue to digital: Expanding digital infrastructure and solutions
- Treatment to prevention: Promoting early intervention and health literacy

Age-friendly Community

A request has been received from the South Notts Place Based Partnership Board to explore Age-friendly Community status for Eastwood.

The Board is seeking local political support to progress Age-friendly Community registration.

Further details and discussions to follow.

Current Performance

Liberty Leisure Limited (LLL) is currently performing well and at the end of Q1 was forecasting at budget overall. Income is slightly down although it has picked up in Q2, especially in membership income which is now at the highest level ever for Bramcote and Chilwell combined. The drop in income is offset by a reduction in expenditure which is predominantly achieved through careful management of salary budgets. With income increases and careful budget management LLL are hopeful improving on the 25/26 budget outturn of a £57.5k.

Stapleford Community Pavilion

The Stapleford Community Pavilion, that LLL will be operating on behalf of the Council, started with a soft opening in September with a wider offer from October. The facility which consists of two 3G football pitches, a café, early years provision, and multiple hireable spaces, is also the new home of Stapleford Town FC and the Steven Gerrard Academy.

UKactive Nomination

A member of LLL staff, Chloe Corden – Active Lifestyles Manager, has been nominated for the Physical Activity Hero award at the UKactive national fitness awards. This is great recognition of the work she and her team have done to provide physical activity options for people they would not ordinarily access these opportunities.

Events – Trophy Gala

LLL have been involved with a few events recently including attending the Decathlon Play Day to showcase the LLL offering and hosting the annual swimming trophy gala, where members of the swim school compete against club swimmers. This event was very well received, and we have had a number of positive comments from parents about how impressed they are that this is provided by the centre.

Event programme

The Council's summer event programme was attended by nearly 15,000 people at events including four play days, Friday18 in Beeston and the Green Festival, as well as new events such as Beeston Summer Fete and Friday18 in Kimberley.

The D.H. Lawrence Festival also ran over six weeks, featuring 21 events focused on all aspects of culture. Highlights included the D.H. Lawrence Music Festival, and the Heritage Open Days which received their best attendance to date at 170.

Unfortunately, the planned Proms in the Park event at Dovecote Lane Recreation Ground in Beeston had to be cancelled due to wet and windy conditions. Work is underway to reschedule the event and organise another Prom event in the north of the Borough, as well as outdoor theatre events.

Preparations are currently being made for Christmas Light Switch On events which will take place on the following dates. The event in Eastwood has been moved from a Tuesday evening to a weekend following feedback from residents to enable more families to attend.

- Beeston Christmas Lights Switch On - Saturday 15 November
- Eastwood Christmas Lights Switch On - Saturday 22 November
- Stapleford Christmas Lights Switch On - Saturday 29 November

Kimberley Christmas Lights Switch On is organised by Kimberley Town Council but the Borough Council will work with them to promote the event to residents.

A proposed programme for 2026/27 will be brought to Cabinet in December.

D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum

The D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum has been working on a number of digital projects recently to make learning about Lawrence more accessible.

This includes:

- The first digital exhibition showcasing the winners of the Children's Writing Competition through videos which bring the stories to life. These have been provide with both subtitles and audio to suit a range of audio visual needs.
- An Augmented Reality Trail has been launched, thanks to UKSPF funding. The immersive trail allows visitors to Eastwood to walk in Lawrence's footsteps and learn about his life. Through a phone or tablet, visitors can explore five locations to learn about significant events that shaped the town over the last 200 years, and its most famous son, D.H. Lawrence.
- A new walking trail, which provides a more interactive version of the old Blue Line Trail including videos from Lawrence experts, as well as an audio trail, also funded through the Shared Prosperity Fund.

CCity Project

A number of events have taken place over recent months including:

- Local musicians from Broxtowe visited Gutersloh, Germany to take part in a musical concert of the CCity partners.
- The Council hosted a CCity stage as part of the Oxjam Beeston event, which included performances from six musicians, two of whom came over from the CCity partner city of Grudziądz, Poland.
- Artwork from three Broxtowe artists has been displayed at an art exhibition of CCity partners in Gutersloh. The exhibition will travel around the different CCity partner countries, coming to Broxtowe in June to coincide with the CCity conference.
- The D.H. Lawrence Prize: Children's Writing Competition has been hailed as an example of best practice amongst the CCity partners and following its

success, writing competitions will take place in all the other cities in 2026, following a common theme.

- A digital history and custom exhibition which will highlight the social history of Broxtowe and will sit alongside similar exhibitions from each of the other cities.

Preparations are now underway for the 2026 CCity conference, which will be hosted in Broxtowe in June. The conference will bring cultural experts from each of the CCity partner cities together to further develop cultural projects and events for residents to enjoy, as well as provide an opportunity to showcase some of the fantastic cultural and heritage venues we have available in the Borough.

Environment and Climate Change Portfolio Councillor H E Skinner

Report to Council – 15 October 2025

I'm pleased to give an update to Members on the work taking place across Environment. Teams continue to work at pace and with commitment, always focused on our overarching aim of protecting the environment for the future. Whether through strategy development, partnership working, or operational delivery, this remains the guiding principle behind everything Environment do.

Waste and Recycling

Free Bulky Waste Days

This year, the Environment team have already undertaken two events in Stapleford and Bramcote, with a further four planned for the following locations:

Wednesday 5 November 2025 – Nuthall

- Basil Russell Park 8am – 9.30am
- Woodland Drive 10am – 11.30am

Wednesday 19 November 2025 – Chilwell

- Inham Nook Recreation Ground 8am – 9.30am
- Ribblesdale Court 10am – 11.30am

Wednesday 3 December 2025 – Beeston

- Leyton Crescent, Beeston Rylands 8am – 9.30am
- Beeston Fields Recreation Ground, Central Avenue 10am – 11.30am

Wednesday 17 December – Eastwood

- Princes Street 8am – 9.30am
- South Street 10am – 11.30am

To encourage as much participation as possible, can Members encourage their residents to bring their bulky waste items for collection.

Further dates and locations are being planned for 2026. If Members are aware of any fly tipping hotspots in their area that would benefit from a visit from the team please get in touch with the Environment.

Round Review

Waste and Recycling is currently undertaking a full review of refuse collection rounds, with proposed changes due to be implemented in April 2026. The last review of bin rounds was carried out in 2018, and since then, the Borough has seen a significant increase in new developments, which has placed added pressure on existing routes. This review presents an important opportunity to improve service reliability, ease

operational strain, and prepare for the introduction of food waste collections in October 2027.

To ensure members and residents are kept informed a communication plan is being prepared, this will include:

- A leaflet to be delivered in November 2025, which will explain the upcoming changes, detail the upcoming Christmas and New Year collections and provide a QR code to online calendars.
- Social media posts and updated information on the website.
- A bin collection calendar, along with information on round changes and garden waste subscriptions for the new season, will be delivered to all properties in February 2026.

Simpler Recycling

Simpler recycling will be introduced to all households from the 31 March 2026. This will mean that residents will be able to put additional items in the green-lidded recycling bin and includes:

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

The Environment team are working alongside other Nottinghamshire authorities and Veolia to deliver a consistent message to residents. The introduction of simpler recycling will help reduce confusion, improve recycling rates, reduce contamination and support environmental goals.

Missed bins

I'd like to update Members on a positive development in Refuse in that there's been a noticeable reduction in the number of missed bins. Comparing the same five month period to that of last year, missed bins have reduced by 17%. That's a great result, and it reflects the continued hard work and focus of the team. The teams remain committed to driving this number down even further.

Drainage Checks

As we head into storm season—and having already experienced our first named storm, Storm Amy, at the beginning of October—Waste and Recycling will be undertaking drainage checks at known flooding hotspots. These include areas that were affected during previous storms such as Babet and Henk. This proactive approach is designed to help prevent flooding by identifying and reporting any blocked drains. While the Council does not carry out drainage clearance itself, any issues found will be passed to Nottinghamshire County Council for action. I would also encourage Members to report any blocked drains they come across directly to the County Council, to help ensure swift response and reduce the risk of flooding.

Environmental Enforcement

The Council's environmental enforcement pilot, launched in April of this year in partnership with WISE. In four months, over 1,105 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued—primarily for littering, with a small number for fly-tipping. The vast majority relate to cigarette butt littering.

Early indicators suggest a positive impact: fly-tipping incidents are down by 70% compared to the same period last year, and the amount of waste collected has reduced by 20%. While it's still early days, these are encouraging signs that the enforcement approach is helping to improve street cleanliness and reduce environmental harm.

Importantly, the pilot comes at no cost to the Council. There is some income from the fines, and this is being reinvested back into community initiatives like free bulky waste collection days, helping to prevent future fly-tipping. It also helps to support fly tipping clearance.

Resident feedback has been largely supportive, with many welcoming the visible improvements and firmer action. The Council continues to ensure fairness and transparency in the process, with a clear route for challenging fines where appropriate.

An initial review of the pilot has been presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in late September, offering an early look at the progress being made. A full review of the pilot will be brought to Cabinet in January 2026.

Climate Change

Green Festival 2025

I am delighted to report that despite the weather, our Green Festival on Saturday 20 September at Coronation Park, Eastwood was our biggest to date. 46 stallholders were visited by 250 attendees braving the weather to learn from a wide variety of experts during the three-hour event. The second Green Festival School Competition saw creative writing and artwork entries from three schools from the Borough, submitted by 58 children from the following schools:

Lawrence View Primary and Nursery School
The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy
Fairfield Spencer Academy

Each child has received a small gift for entering, with larger prizes for the winner of each category and age group. The overall winner was from Fairfield Spencer Academy who will receive £250 towards their eco school activities.

Next year's Green Festival will take place on Saturday 19 September 2026, at Coronation Park, Eastwood.

Free trees 2025/26

The Council will once again offer 500 free trees to residents across the Borough during 2025/26 and will be linked in with Green Rewards.

There will be a selection of fruit trees on offer, as well as soft fruit plants (these are available for those residents who have limited outside space).

The Free Tree Offer will be returning in January 2026, but with a slightly different approach to previous years. Rather than applying online and having trees delivered, residents will be invited to collect their free tree or plant from one of four designated collection points across the Borough. These will be open on two Saturdays—17th and 24th January—and trees will be available on a first come, first served basis. To take part, residents must be signed up to Green Rewards, and those who aren't yet registered will be able to sign up on the day with help from the Environment team. Further details on the scheme and how to obtain a free tree or plant are scheduled for October 2025.

Green Rewards

There are currently 3,276 residents (as of 26/09/25) signed up to the Green Rewards platform.

The Council has launched a Green Rewards Survey which is available for all residents across the Bough to complete either online or by picking up a paper copy from any of the following locations:

- Beeston Council Offices
- Stapleford Library
- Beeston Library
- Eastwood Library
- Kimberley Library

The closing date for the survey is 31 October 2025, and all respondents have the chance of entering a prize drawer for a £50 Love2Shop voucher.

I am also pleased to inform Members that the latest ward to win the Green Rewards Biodiversity Ward prize is Beeston Rylands. Users of the Green Rewards platform within this ward were asked to vote on their preferred biodiversity project for the area and they chose the installation of bird and bat boxes. Local bird and bat groups are hand making these boxes and installation will be taking place in November 2025.

Climate Change Forum

Following the huge success of the Climate Change Forum in March earlier this year, plans are now underway for next year's forum to keep momentum, conversation and actions going. The next forum will be held on Saturday 11 April 2026 at The Walled Garden in Beeston. Speaker invitations and placeholders will be sent out soon.

Parks and Open Spaces

Developments at Bramcote Hills Park

Walled Garden and Sensory Garden

The Parks Team have been busy making improvements to the parking and entrance area to the Walled Garden at Bramcote Hills Park. This is first part of a longer-term aim to develop the Walled Garden into a more welcoming, accessible area with interest for a wide variety of park visitors.

The improvements include a tarmac surfaced parking area, marked with accessible parking bays and new paths to the Walled Garden and Sensory Garden areas. All the newly surfaced areas are accessible and built with sustainable drainage features, ensuring surface water is retained on site.

The Sensory Garden features planting and landscaping to stimulate all the senses and will be further improved and developed as the team receive feedback from park users.

Following the recent parks consultation at Bramcote Hills Park, the highest priorities identified by users included sensory spaces, and support for wildlife. In response, the Parks Team plans to include pollinator-friendly grassland as the next phase of the project. This will feature native wildflowers in the grass areas approaching the Walled Garden, helping to enhance on-site biodiversity.

Oak Sculpture

A new lease of life has been given to a dead oak tree on Bramcote Hills Park following the completion of carving work that pays homage to the Borough of Broxtowe.

After the loss of a sizeable branch a few years ago, the large Oak tree underwent extensive work to make it safe and to try and save it - unfortunately, it didn't work. However, the Parks Team decided to repurpose the tree, commissioning a carving to engineer the remaining trunk into a piece of art.

The design takes inspiration from the Broxtowe Borough Coat of Arms with a badger, known by the old English name 'Brock', sitting atop.

Honeybees, representing industry, and the rivers Trent and Erewash are incorporated into the design, originally taken from both the Beeston and Stapleford Coat of Arms. Bears, originally from the Basford family arms and former Basford Rural District Council seal also feature in the main body of work on the trunk.

A winding wheel pays tribute to Broxtowe's mining heritage, while Broxtowe's parks and wildlife are referenced with birds, butterflies, and flowers throughout. The helmet of an esquire, signifying that Broxtowe is a local authority and a circlet signifying a Borough Council form the remainder of the design, along with the word 'Broxtowe' and the year of Broxtowe's creation, 1974.

Brinsley Headstocks and Colliers Wood update

Work recently took place at Colliers Wood to improve an area known as the small pond. This has increased water storage capacity on site and opened up an extensive wetland area, which will be planted with native plants to benefit biodiversity. The wetland should be large enough to attract wading birds such as the Snipe and Lapwing onto site.

Bulbs and seeds have arrived at Kimberley Depot for underplanting the Miners' Memorial Orchard at Brinsley, with several thousand bluebells, snowdrops and wild daffodils ready to go in. Volunteers from the Friends of Brinsley Headstocks will be working alongside local schoolchildren and our grounds maintenance teams to complete the task this autumn.

Hay cutting and baling operations have now been completed at both sites, as part of ongoing management to develop and improve the extensive meadows. Each year, the diversity of recorded plant and insect species on site continues to grow, which is a really encouraging sign of the habitat improvements being made. The team hopes that these grasslands will once again resemble the wildflower meadows that were once a familiar part of the traditional British countryside—over 97% of which has sadly been lost in the last century.

Boundary Brook Natural Flood Management Update

Works are progressing well on the Boundary Brook Natural Flood Management measures in Trowell, with contractors now moving from the Pit Lane area into the lower reaches, close to Trowell Road. The Pit Lane section features a series of ponds, shallow scrapes and leaky dams, all designed to store and slow down flood water. The habitat created through this work will be particularly beneficial to amphibians and dragonflies. A diverse flora will be introduced to complete the work and benefit pollinators. At the lower section of the brook a meandering section will be created, removing the straightened channel. This will help to slow flow rates and add further water storage.

Blue Infrastructure Audit

Blue infrastructure audits across all six brooks in the Borough are currently in progress. The audit will also include Nottingham Canal for the first time, with a focus on exploring potential plans to improve the canal for both visitors and wildlife. Following the audit, riparian owners will be contacted to remind them of their responsibilities in relation to the watercourses on their land. These responsibilities include keeping banks clear of obstructions, maintaining vegetation, and ensuring that water can flow freely, important actions that help reduce flood risk and support biodiversity.

The Nottingham Canal

Work is now underway on this exciting project, with over 500 meters of the canal being cleared and de-silted. This continuous stretch of open water will provide excellent habitat for a wide variety of waterfowl, fish, insect life and a notable endangered species, the Water Vole. The first stage of bridleway and path resurfacing has also

started, with more planned to improve accessibility. This will allow equitable access for all visitors and enable them to enjoy this remarkable piece of industrial heritage, which is now a haven for endangered wildlife.

Grounds Maintenance Winter Projects

As the Grounds Maintenance team moves into the autumn and winter season, a number of projects are planned that will significantly improve the quality and delivery of the service for next year.

One of the main priorities will be hedge reduction across the Borough. Using both in-house resources and contractors, hedges in key locations will be reduced to five feet—particularly those that are wide and currently obstruct pathways. This work will be completed ahead of the new growing season.

There will also be a renewed focus on housing estates and amenity spaces. These areas are being mapped, and a calendar of maintenance is being developed to guide detailed work throughout the winter. In-house teams and contractors will be working together to carry out this maintenance across sites.

Shrub and garden bed maintenance will also continue, with around 50% of beds across the Borough being rested this year. This will allow them to recover and be fully fit for planting and growth next season.

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**Community Safety Portfolio
Councillor G Bunn**

Report to Council – 15 October 2025

Communities

After a significant period with two vacant posts the Communities Children and Young Peoples Officer and the Equalities and Vulnerabilities Officer have been recruited and start work in the second half of September. This will allow the Communities Team to resume their events programme for vulnerable people and provide much needed support to young people and those in need.

Funded Activity

The Communities Team successfully submitted a bid of £67,500 (until March 2027) for situational Crime in the two identified hotspot areas for ASB in the Borough Beeston and Eastwood. The funding has enabled Transforming Lives to be delivered to cohorts of young people in both areas who have been identified as either committing or at risk from ASB, Criminality, or Child Criminal Exploitation.

A second bid for £25,000 for hot spot patrols in Beeston and Eastwood was also successful to assist in tackling ASB in both Town Centres.

Licencing

The Licencing Enforcement Officer was asked to present the Safeguarding Training she delivers to taxi drivers and to Licensees at pub watch meetings to the (Nottingham Authorities Licensing Group) NALG Training Day on the 23rd of September 2025.

Although the subject can be a difficult one to discuss the presentation went well and we have received very positive feedback from those who attended the event.

This training was also presented to members who were given the opportunity to undertake the test at the end. They are now working with the new Communities Children and Young Peoples Officer to identify how to engage secondary schools in allowing the presentation to be delivered to pupils to help educate them in how to deal with situations they might find themselves in.

Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse Awareness and understanding training has been commissioned through Equation.

DAHA

Work towards DAHA accreditation (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance) has begun although still at the preliminary benchmarking stage.

White Ribbon

White Ribbon stands and information have been delivered at a variety of local community events to ensure that we are raising awareness of the campaign as much as possible. Planning the action plan for the 16 Days of action in November has also begun.

Work has continued to encourage other agencies to sign up as White Ribbon supporters with the latest presentation being to Broxtowe youth Homelessness.

Sanctuary

The Sanctuary Scheme is now running smoothly since updates were made to the data systems we use to implement the scheme however we are still seeing a significant increase in applications. Between 1st April and 30th September 2025 we received 36 applications (4 rejected) with a total committed spend of £53,400 with 8 still awaiting quotes this compares to with a total of 22 applications (4 rejections) and a spend of £52,000 in the whole of 2024/25.

Violence

124 Broxtowe cases have been heard at MARAC and actioned between 1st January and 30th September 2025.

The Serious Violence Duty Response Plan is currently on target with partners providing regular updates.

Youth Issues

The Youth Conference being delivered February 2026 will focus on several areas of youth issues, particularly around Misinformation and Negative Influencing on Social Media, Mental Health and Community Connectedness, Violence Against Women and Girls and Bullying.

Substance misuse

The new Children and Young Peoples Officer 9week 1) has started to reach out to agencies including Change Grow Live and Hetty's for meetings to take forward work.