



Wednesday, 24 December 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

A meeting of the Cabinet will be held on Tuesday, 6 January 2026 in the Council Offices, Foster Avenue, Beeston, NG9 1AB, commencing at 6.00 pm.

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

Yours faithfully

Zulfiqar Darr
Interim Chief Executive

To Councillors: M Radulovic MBE (Chair)
G Marshall (Vice-Chair)
G Bunn
C Carr
T A Cullen

R D MacRae
J W McGrath
H E Skinner
V C Smith
E Williamson

A G E N D A

1. Apologies

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

2. Declarations of Interest

(Pages 5 - 12)

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

3. Minutes

(Pages 13 - 16)

Cabinet is asked to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 16 December 2025.

4. Scrutiny Reviews (Pages 17 - 20)
- The purpose of this report is to make members aware of matters proposed for and undergoing scrutiny.
5. Resources and Personnel Policy
- 5.1 Budget Consultation 2026/27 (Pages 21 - 32)
- To report the results of the recent 2026/27 budget consultation exercise. This is in accordance with all of the Council's Corporate Priorities.
- 5.2 Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators 2025/26 – Mid-Year Report (Pages 33 - 52)
- To provide Members with the mid-year update on Treasury Management activity and the Prudential Indicators for 2025/26.
6. Economic Development and Asset Management
- 6.1 Infrastructure Funding Statement 2024-2025 (Pages 53 - 74)
- Cabinet is asked to note the Infrastructure Funding Statement 2024-2025.
7. Environment and Climate Change
- 7.1 Parks Standard (Pages 75 - 98)
- To update Members on the results of the 2025 Parks Standard consultation. This is in accordance with the Council's Corporate Priority for Environment – 'Protect the environment for the future'.
- 7.2 Allocation of Section 106 Funds (Pages 99 - 102)
- To seek approval for Section 106 open space contributions to be used to fund improvements to the parks and open spaces and for the capital schemes to be include in the capital programme for the relevant year/s.

7.3 New Post - Senior Environmental Development Officer (Pages 103 - 108)

To seek approval for the deletion of T20, Sign Fabricator, Painter and Decorator post and the creation of a new Senior Environmental Development Officer position within the Parks and Open Spaces team.

8. Cabinet Work Programme (Pages 109 - 110)

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

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Report of the Monitoring Officer

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Purpose of Report

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

Part 2 – Member Code of Conduct

General Obligations:

10. Interest

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

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

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

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

Advice from the Monitoring Officer:

On reading the agenda it is advised that you:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPIs)

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

2. OTHER REGISTERABLE INTERESTS (ORIs)

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

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

3. NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS (NRIs)

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

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

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

Declarations and Participation in Meetings

1. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPIs)

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

Action to be taken

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

2. OTHER REGISTERABLE INTERESTS (ORIs)

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

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

3. NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS (NRIs)

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

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

Dispensation and Sensitive Interests

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

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

BIAS and PREDETERMINATION

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

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

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

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

BIAS

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

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

PREDETERMINATION

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

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

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Registerable Interests

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

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

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

Other Registerable Interests

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

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

You must:

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

You must:

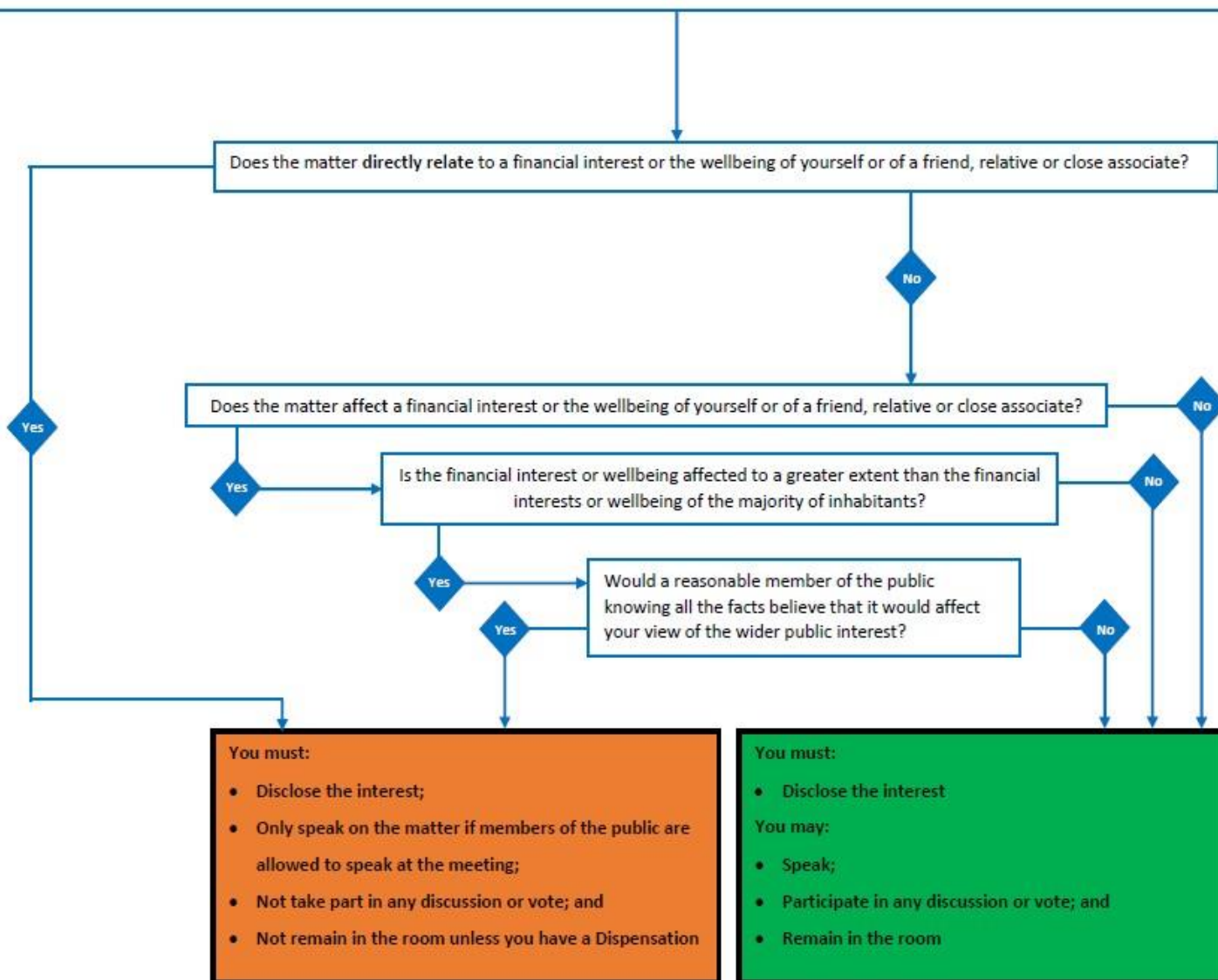
- Disclose the interest;
- Only speak on the matter if members of the public are allowed to speak at the meeting;
- Not take part in any discussion or vote; and
- Not remain in the room unless you have a Dispensation

You must:

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

Non-Registerable Interests

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



CABINET

TUESDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2025

Present: Councillor M Radulovic MBE, Chair

Councillors: G Marshall (Vice-Chair)
G Bunn
C Carr
T A Cullen
J W McGrath
H E Skinner
V C Smith
E Williamson

82 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received by Councillor R D MacRae.

83 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor M Radulovic MBE declared that he was pre-determined in item 5, minute number 86, refers.

Councillor J W McGrath declared a non-registerable interest in item 5 as he owns a number of cemetery plots, minute number 86 refers.

84 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2025 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

85 SCRUTINY REVIEWS

Cabinet noted the matters proposed for and undergoing scrutiny.

86 SCRUTINY REVIEW OF CEMETERY MEMORIALS

Members considered the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee following its review of Cemetery Memorials. It was stated that an equalities impact assessment would be necessary to consider the item further.

RESOLVED that the item be deferred to a future meeting, and the formation of an equalities impact assessment be delegated to the Interim Chief Executive in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council prior to the report's resubmission to Cabinet.

(Having declared that he was predetermined Councillor M Radulovic MBE left the meeting before discussion or voting thereon. Councillor G Marshall took the Chair for the item. Having declared that a non-registerable interest Councillor J W McGrath left the meeting before discussion or voting thereon.)

87 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

87.1 SUBMISSION OF THE GREATER NOTTINGHAM STRATEGIC PLAN FOR EXAMINATION

Members considered a report which sought approval from Cabinet and Full Council that the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for Public Examination.

The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan is a statutory development plan document and part of the Council's Policy Framework and comprises strategic planning policies and strategic site allocations. The Plan was prepared with Nottingham City and Rushcliffe Borough Councils; separate approvals were simultaneously being sought for the partner authorities

The submission of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan required approval from Full Council. A call-in period prevented this approval being sought. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in accordance with the Constitution, had given permission for the item to be excluded from call-in based on the reasons stated. A notice was published on 26 November 2025.

RECOMMENDED to Council:

- 1. The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan and accompanying Submission documents be submitted to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination.**
- 2. To confirm that the Council considers that the revised Publication version of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan (March 2025) has substantially the same effect on its area as the November 2024 Publication version (which included Gedling Borough Council as a partnering authority).**
- 3. To grant delegated authority to the Assistant Director of Planning and Economic Development, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make any necessary minor editing amendments to the Submission draft Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan if required.**
- 4. To request the Planning Examination Inspector(s) to consider the proposed modifications, including supporting the creation of a DH Lawrence County Park north of Eastwood, and recommend any modifications which are necessary to make the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan sound, under section 20(7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).**
- 5. The updated Local Development Scheme (with effect from December 2025) be adopted.**

Reason

The Strategic Plan is in accordance with all of the Council's corporate priorities, particularly providing a good quality home for everyone.

87.2 HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION AND ARTICLE 4

Members noted a report which stated that this Council's approach to Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) is largely based on the Article 4 Direction, which came into force in March 2022, and the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which was adopted in July 2022. The Council was now undertaking a review of HMOs across the Borough to identify further concentrations of HMOs and to identify emerging trends since the introduction of the existing Article 4. This review would inform recommendations in respect of expanding the Article 4 area and whether changes are required to the adopted SPD.

87.3 RECRUITMENT OF QUANTITY SURVEYOR

Cabinet considered the appointment of a new permanent Quantity Surveyor into the establishment for Asset Management and Development. The Council has previously externalised the Quantity Surveyor function, which is key in ensuring that these various projects are delivered in line with contractual commitments, both in terms of quality and budget.

RESOLVED that the Quantity Surveyor post is added to the permanent establishment of the Asset Management and Development team to reduce the current reliance on external consultants and support the delivery of the HRA Capital Programme and Asset Management Strategy.

Reason

The approach responds to the challenges of local authorities have recruited for a specialist role of this nature, in a competitive employment market.

88 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

Members stated their frustration at not being in a position to consider the report on Cemetery Memorials and gave apologies on behalf of the Council to those who had been involved in the review. It was requested that the report be reconsidered at the Cabinet meeting scheduled for February 2026.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Work Programme, as amended, be approved.

Reason

This is in accordance with all of the Council's corporate priorities.

89 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that, under Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

90 APPROVAL OF RESOURCES TO DEVELOP A PLAN FOR THE WALKER STREET
REGENERATION PROJECT, EASTWOOD TO RIBA STAGE 4

RESOLVED that:

1. The further development of the Walker Street 'Healthy Living Hub' Regeneration Project to RIBA Stage 4 be approved, with the estimated cost being added to the Capital Programme 2025/26 and funded from a mixture of UKPSF grants, funding from external partners and the Council's own resources with an allocation from General Fund Capital Receipts.
2. A Waiver of Contract Procedure Rules is approved as the Council's Financial Procedure Rules (Contracts) would normally require a competitive tendering process for Medium Value contracts.
3. If required, delegated authority be given to the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition, to identify a procurement compliant solution for the award of these contracts.

Reason

This will ensure that suitably qualified experts are in place to significantly advance the project during this financial year

91 PURCHASE OF A PROPERTY IN EASTWOOD AND SUBSEQUENT CONVERSION
INTO FIVE NEW HOMES FOR THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

RESOLVED that the purchase as detailed in the report be approved and, once acquired, to proceed with the remodelling project to produce one bungalow and four flats within the existing building. The proposed scheme will be subject to receiving the required level of capital grant funding and the necessary Planning consent.

Reason

This is in accordance with the Council's Corporate Priority of Housing – 'a good quality home for all.'

Report of the Monitoring Officer

| |
|-------------------------|
| Scrutiny Reviews |
|-------------------------|

1. Purpose of Report

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

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to NOTE the report.

3. Detail

Cabinet will receive updates at each future meeting as to the progress of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme as contained in the attached **Appendix** and is asked to consider the future programme and decision-making with knowledge of the forthcoming scrutiny agenda. The Work Programme also enables Cabinet to suggest topics for future scrutiny.

4. Key Decision

This report is not a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Interim Deputy Chief Executive were as follows:

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

7. Legal Implications

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

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

8. Human Resources Implications

The comments from the Human Resources Manager were as follows:

Not applicable.

9. Union Comments

The Union comments were as follows:

Not applicable

10. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

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

12. Equality Impact Assessment

Not required.

13. Background Papers

Nil.

Appendix

1. Topics Agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

| | Topic | Topic suggested by | Link to corporate priorities/values |
|----|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Budget Consultation | Overview and Scrutiny Committee | All Corporate Priorities |
| 2, | Anti-Social Behaviour Policy – Housing | Governance, Audit and Standards Committee | All Corporate Priorities |

2. Update Reviews

| | Topic | Topic suggested by | Link to corporate priorities/values | Proposed Date to Overview and Scrutiny Committee |
|----|---|---------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. | D.H. Lawrence Museum | Overview and Scrutiny Committee | Invest in our towns and our people. | September 2026 |
| 2. | Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at the Council. | Councillor S Dannheimer | Invest in our towns and our people, Support people to live well, Protect the environment for the future, and a good quality home for everyone. | September 2026 |

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Report of the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Personnel Policy

Budget Consultation 2026/27

1. Purpose of Report

To report the results of the recent 2026/27 budget consultation exercise. This is in accordance with all of the Council's Corporate Priorities.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to NOTE the outcome of the Budget Consultation and to consider the findings as part of the budget setting process for 2026/27.

3. Detail

As with previous budget consultation exercises, a web-based survey publicised through social media has been used to consult on the 2026/27 budget. This included no reference to any specific policy options but sought views on all Council services and indications of satisfaction, or otherwise, with these as well as the way in which they are provided and with the local area generally.

Local people were asked for their preferred approach to balancing the Council's budget and to provide an indication as to which services they thought should have their funding increased, decreased or remain the same.

Residents were asked how frequently they access Council services and how satisfied they were with the way in which this can be done. They were also asked how they prefer to conduct business with the Council and if they would they would consider accessing services in another way. There was a question regarding the Council's approach to climate change. Finally, they were asked if they thought that the Council listened to them.

Respondents were also asked to provide demographic data, including which area of the Borough they live in so that any correlation between location and satisfaction levels could be analysed.

A total of 1,035 responses were received on the extended survey. Although the response was slightly lower than the 1,290 received in 2024; 1,393 in 2023; and 1,210 received in 2022, it is still significantly higher than those received in 2021 (606), 2020 (277) and 2019 (407). The results are summarised in the **Appendix** along with a summary of the demographic data for the respondents.

The key highlights to note include:

- Positive improvements in satisfaction levels relating to the way the Council delivers its services (5% increase); the Borough as a place to live (up 3%) and residents feeling that the Council listens to them (4% increase).
- High satisfaction rates for household waste collections (91% household waste and 82% recycling very satisfied or satisfied)
- Capital investment projects such as the work at Bennerley Viaduct, the new Community Pavillion at Hickings Lane, Stapleford and housing capital programme (including retrofit), plus work on climate change and free community events were identified as things the Council has done which have made a positive different to residents.
- Areas for further improvement include garden waste collection, community safety and street cleanliness.

4. Key Decision

This report is not a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer were as follows:

The budget consultation with local residents provides useful feedback to inform the budget setting process that will culminate in the overall budget report being recommended to Council for approval on 4 March 2026.

7. Legal Implications

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

Section 65 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 places a duty upon local authorities to consult representatives of non-domestic ratepayers before setting the budget. Whilst there is no specific statutory requirement to consult with residents, local authorities were placed under a general duty to 'inform, consult and involve' representatives of local people when exercising their functions by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. This was repealed and replaced by more prescriptive forms of involvement by the Localism Act 2011.

8. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

9. Union Comments

Not applicable.

10. Climate Change Implications

The budget consultation exercise included asking how satisfied residents are with the Council's approach to tackling climate change. The outcome is considered in the appendix.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

There are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

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

13. Background Papers

Nil.

Appendix**Budget Consultation 2026/27****Summary of Respondents**

The analysis of ethnicity indicates a bias towards White British respondents (88%). A further 5% of respondents indicated they considered themselves to be White Irish or White Other (similar to previous years). Around 7% (75 responses) were received from people who identified as being Asian or Chinese or Black or Mixed race and any other ethnic group categories (decreased from 98 responses, 8% last year but higher than earlier years). The sample of respondents was not considered to be wholly representative of the local communities in Broxtowe.

In terms of gender, 46% of the respondents were male, with 50% female and others being another way or prefer not to say. Around 84% of respondents identified as being over 45 years old with 24% being between 45 and 59 years, 15% between 60 and 64 years, 29% being between 65 and 74 years and 16% over 75. The number of responders being under 45 compared to a similar proportion in the previous year. There was just one response from an under-18.

Around 26% of responders identified themselves as being disabled or with long term health problems limiting daily activity, slightly higher than the previous year.

In terms of geographical location, Beeston residents responded the most (24%), with residents in Stapleford accounting for 14% of respondents and Chilwell accounting for 12% of respondents. Other areas included Bramcote (9%), Eastwood (7%), Kimberley (6%), Nuthall (6%), Newthorpe (5%) and Toton (5%). The splits across each area were broadly similar to previous years. There was at least one respondent from every area, except for Cossall.

A total of 1,004 responders confirmed that they were Council Taxpayers, which at 97% was slightly higher than the previous years.

A full breakdown of gender, age ranges, ethnicity, disability and location is included later in the appendix. As a proportion of the total population of Broxtowe, the number of respondents means that the results cannot be taken as statistically significant. It is advisable to only consider the results as indications of local views rather than attempt to draw strategic conclusions from the detailed responses.

Satisfaction with Services

The questionnaire asked residents “how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way in which the Council provides services; and your local area as a place to live”.

In overall terms, local people are satisfied with the borough of Broxtowe and the Council’s management of it. The results show that 72% of people (724 respondents) were either ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with the area in which they live which is slightly higher than the 69% positive response in the previous year.

Over 60% are either 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the way that the Council delivers services (706 respondents), which again is higher than 55% in the previous year. A further 28% had a neutral stance. However, 2% of people are 'very dissatisfied' with the way that the Council delivers services which is slightly improved on last year's consultation.

The progress with satisfaction rates between years, as part of the Budget Consultation process, can be seen in the following tables:

- Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way in which the Council provides its services?

| | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2025/26 |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Responses | 604 | 1,204 | 1,377 | 1,284 | 1,022 |
| Satisfied or very satisfied | 64.7% | 65.2% | 58.2% | 55.0% | 60.5% |
| Neutral | 25.0% | 25.2% | 26.5% | 29.0% | 27.7% |
| Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied | 10.3% | 9.6% | 15.3% | 16.0% | 11.8% |

- Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your local area as a place to live?

| | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2025/26 |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Responses | 602 | 1,189 | 1,379 | 1,268 | 1,011 |
| Satisfied or very satisfied | 76.3% | 76.0% | 71.1% | 68.7% | 71.6% |
| Neutral | 13.3% | 14.1% | 15.8% | 15.0% | 16.2% |
| Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied | 10.4% | 9.9% | 13.1% | 16.3% | 12.2% |

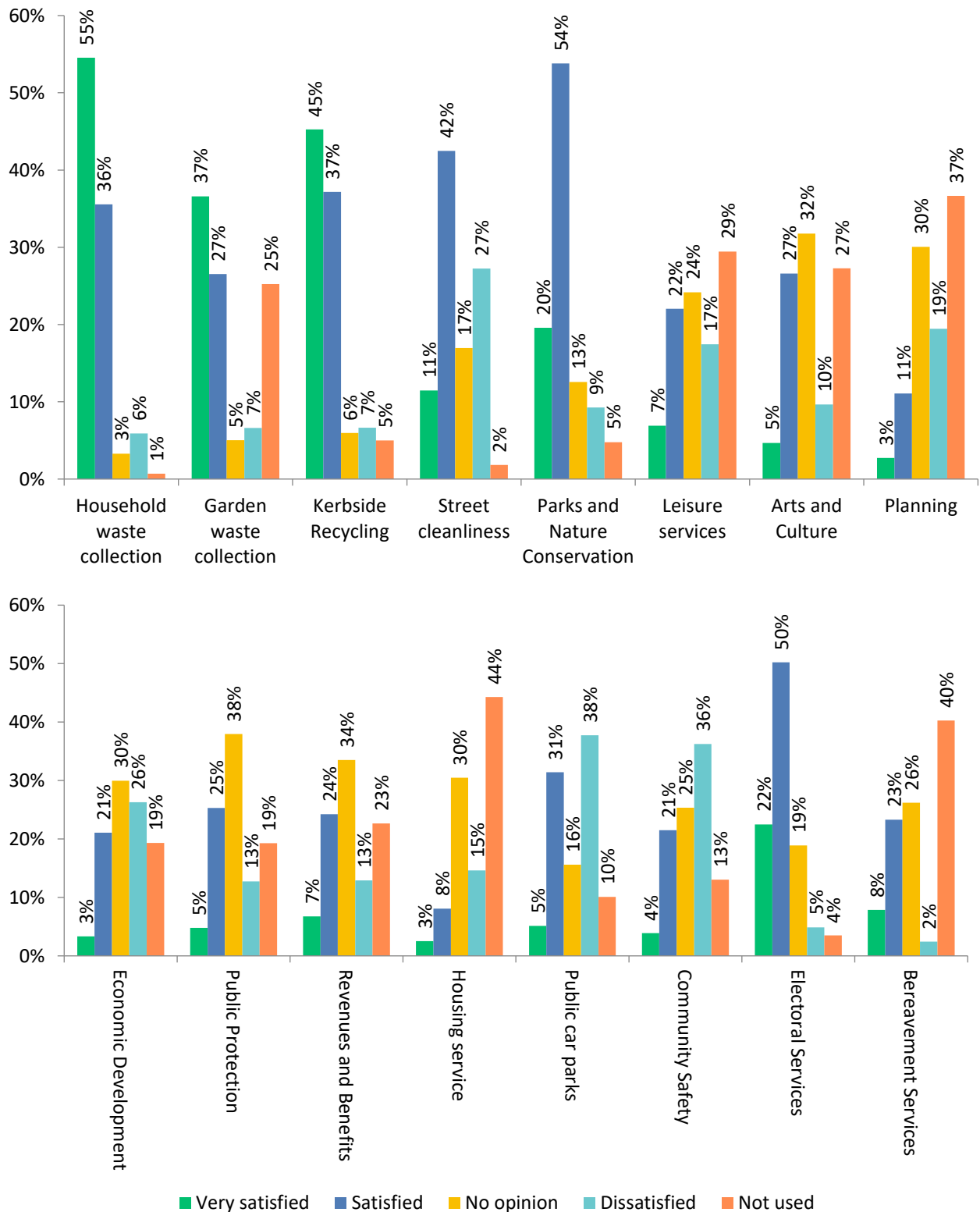
Figure 1 below analyses the level of satisfaction with individual Council services over the last twelve months. The services with the highest satisfied responses were Household Waste Collection (*black lidded bin*) with 90% (down from 91%); Kerbside Recycling (*green lidded bin, glass bag or red lidded glass bin, textiles*) with 82% (up from 78%); Parks and Nature Conservation with 73% (up from 69%); Electoral Services with 73% (down from 76%); and Garden Waste Collection (*brown lidded bin*) with 63% (up from 54%) of responders being satisfied or very satisfied.

The services with the highest levels of dissatisfied responses were Public Car Parks at 38% (improved from 42%); Community Safety (*anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse, alcohol awareness*) with 36% (worsened from 35%); Street Cleanliness (*litter collection, graffiti removal, fly tipping, neighbourhood wardens*) with 27% (improved from 30%); Economic Development (*support to businesses, regeneration, Town Centre Management, business growth*) at 26% (improved from 33%); Planning (*planning applications and planning policy*) with 19% of responders (improved from 22%); and Leisure Services (*leisure centres, sports development*) with 17% of responders (improved from 21%).

These rankings are similar to those seen in previous years.

Figure 1:

What is your opinion of the following Council services over the last 12 months?



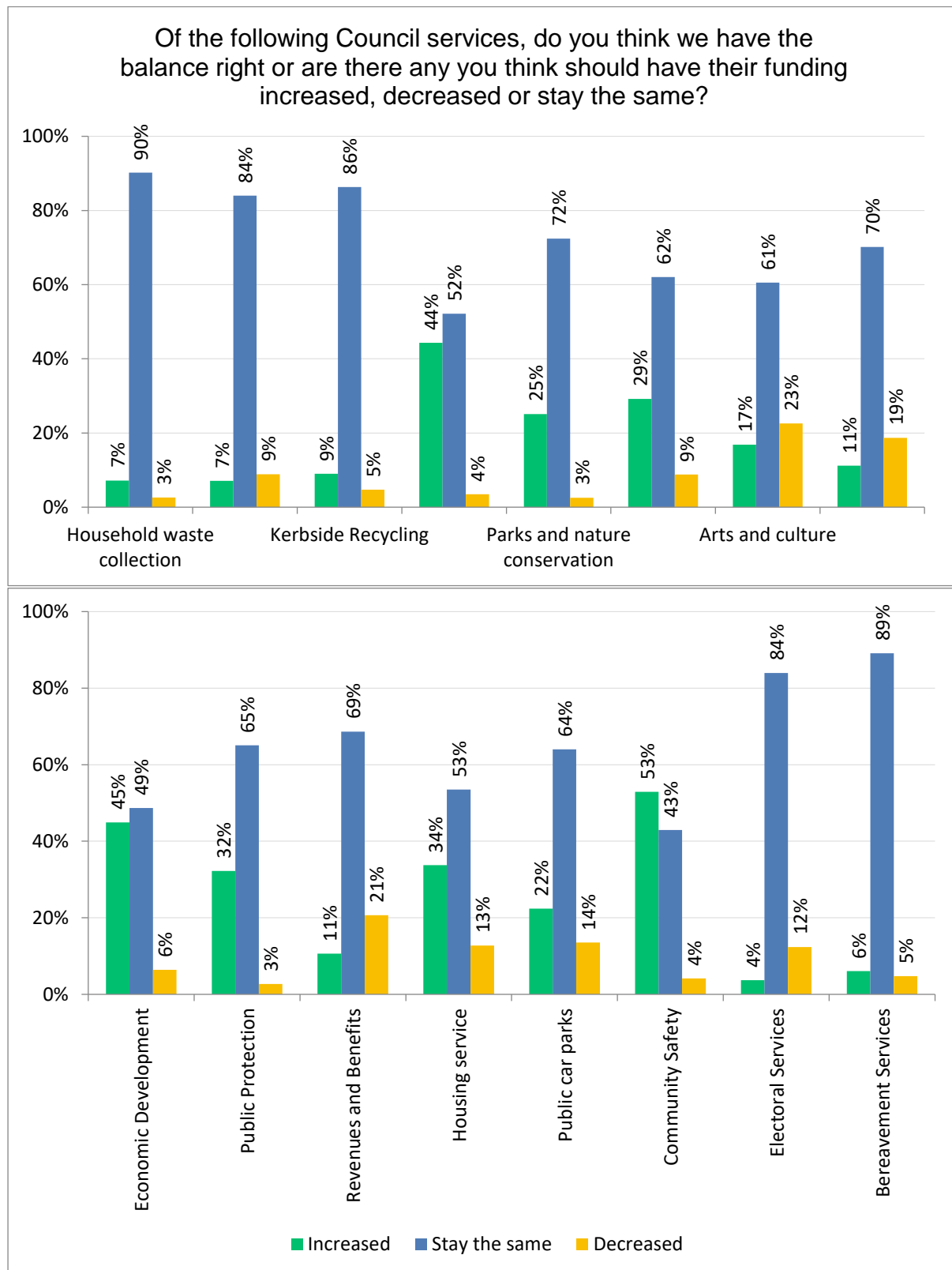
Spending on Services

When asked about spending on services and whether the Council has the balance right or are there any services where funding should be increased, decreased or stay the same, Community Safety scored the highest again at 53% (previously 53%) in terms of respondents thinking their funding should be increased. This was followed by Economic Development at 45% (down from 46%); Street Cleanliness at 44% (previously 42%); Housing Service (*housing options advice, homelessness, provision of affordable housing, tenancies*) at 34% (previously 34%); Public Protection (licensing, food hygiene inspections, nuisance complaints) at 32% (previously 32%); Leisure Centres and Sports Development 29% (down from 32%); and Parks and Nature Conservation 25% (down from 27%).

Arts and Culture at 23% (was 25%); Revenues and Benefits (*housing benefit and council tax support payments*) at 21% (was 18%); Planning (*planning applications and planning policy*) at 19% (was 19%); Public Car Parks at 14% (was 20%); Housing Service 13% (was 13%); and Electoral Services (elections, voting) at 12% (was 15%) scored the highest in terms of respondents thinking their funding should be decreased. These are similarly ranked to previous responses although the scores were generally lower.

Household Waste Collection at 90% (previously 90%), Bereavement Services (crematorium, cemeteries) at 89% (was 88%); Kerbside Recycling at 86% (was 83%); Garden Waste Collection at 84% (was 81%); and Electoral Services (elections, voting) at 84% (was 83%) scored highest in terms of respondents thinking their funding should stay the same. This could be interpreted as indicating a relationship with satisfaction levels as these services secured high satisfaction ratings. This pattern is reflected in most services with respondents consistently voting more for the funding of services to stay the same.

Figure 2 provides detailed analysis on whether spending on services should be increased, decreased or stay the same across a range of Council activities.

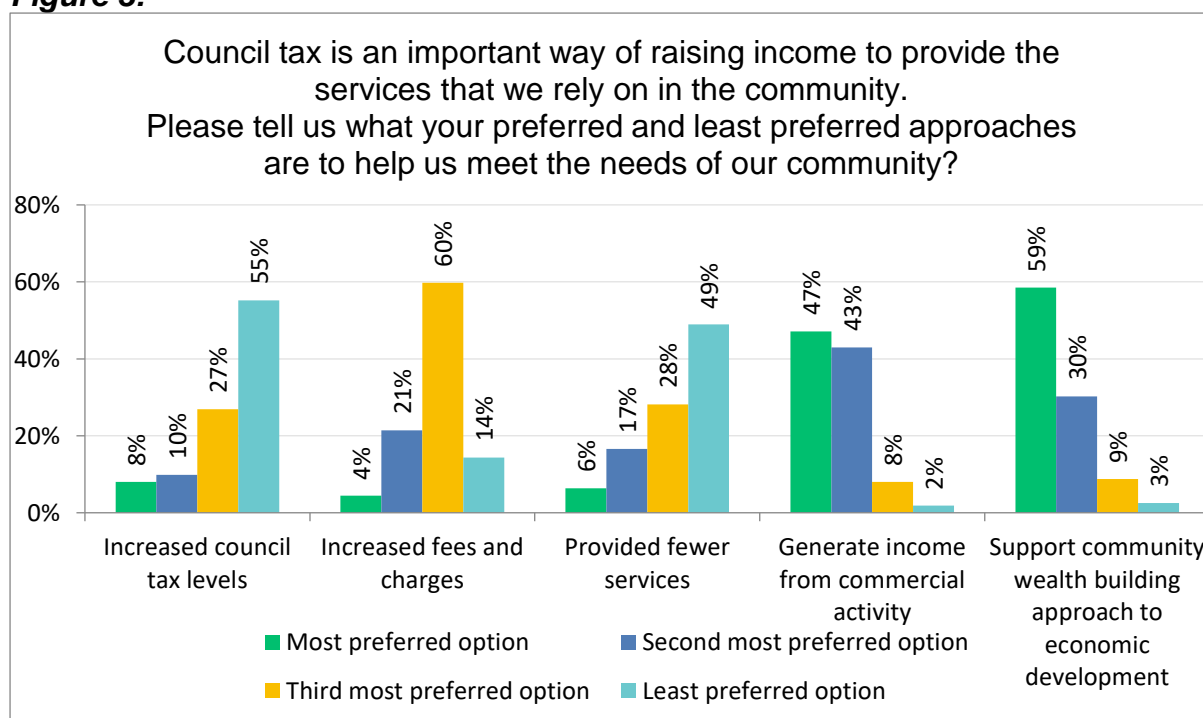
Figure 2:

Balancing the Budget

The questionnaire asked that “Council tax is an important way of raising income to provide the services that we rely on in the community. Please tell us what your preferred and least preferred approaches are to help us meet the needs of our community”. Respondents were asked to state their preferred and least preferred approaches are to help us meet the needs of our community?

By far the most preferred option for balancing the budget was a new option to “support community wealth building approach to economic development, which redirects wealth back into the local economy and places control and benefits into the hands of local people” at 59% (previously 51%). The next most preferred option was to “generate income from commercial activity” at 47% (previously 47%), followed by “increased council tax levels at 8% (previously 10%)”, “provider fewer services” at 6% (previously 5%) and “increased fees and charges” at 4% (previously 11%). The least preferred option for balancing the budget was increasing council tax levels with 55% (previously 56%) followed by to provide fewer services with 49% of respondents (previously 49%). The responses are provided in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3:



Communicating with the Council

Respondents were asked whether they feel the Council listens to them. Almost 25% of responders agreed or strongly agreed with the statement (was previously 24%) whilst 45% were neutral. Around 30% of responders disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement (was 34%). This is a slightly improved position from the previous consultation.

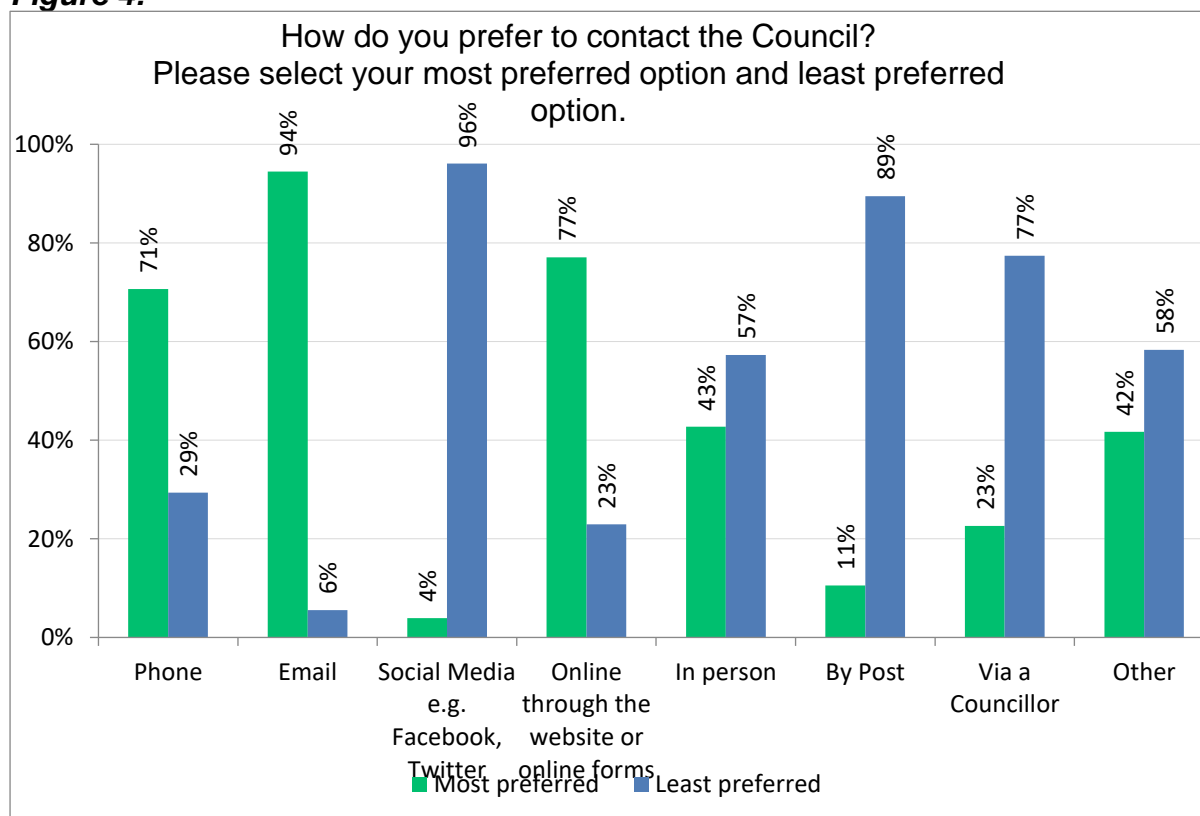
To obtain further information on how to shape services in future, local people were asked about how satisfied they are with the ways they can access Council services and how they prefer to contact the Council to do business. Almost 54% of respondents were either very satisfied or satisfied with the way they can access Council services (previously 51%). Around 14% of respondents were either very dissatisfied or dissatisfied with the way in which they can access Council services (was 16%). However, 32% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (i.e. neutral) which is similar to previous years.

The large majority of responders at 80% only contacted the Council 'a few times a year' (up from 78%), with 10% of responders stating that they contact the Council on a weekly or daily basis (down from 20%).

In terms of what methods of communication local people prefer to use, there was again clearly a preference in the budget consultation for email contact (392 'positive' responses being 94%) and online which reinforced the results from recent years. It must be remembered however that all respondents were already able to access services online by virtue of them completing this survey.

Communicating via social media e.g. Facebook and Twitter was again the least preferred method of conducting business with the Council (293 responses) followed by 'post' (136) and by 'phone' (130). Further details are set out in Figure 4 below.

Figure 4:



Climate Change

The questionnaire referred to the Council being committed to tackling the climate crisis and being recognised nationally for its trailblazing approach, with the goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2027 through the Climate Change and Green Futures Programme. The questionnaire asked “how satisfied are you with the Council's approach to tackling climate change?”.

Overall, 39% of responders were either very satisfied or satisfied with the Council's approach (up from 33% previously), with a further 47% providing a neutral response (was 55%). The remaining 14% were either very dissatisfied or dissatisfied with the approach (previously 12%).

Demographic Data

| Gender | Reponses | 2025 % | 2024 % |
|------------------------|----------|--------|--------|
| Male | 465 | 46.2 | 48.9 |
| Female | 501 | 49.8 | 47.6 |
| Another Way | 6 | 0.6 | 0.7 |
| Prefer not to say | 35 | 3.5 | 2.8 |
| <i>Not stated – 28</i> | 1,007 | | |

| Age | Reponses | 2025 % | 2024 % |
|------------------------|----------|--------|--------|
| Under 18 | 1 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| 18 – 24 | 8 | 0.8 | 0.9 |
| 25 – 29 | 25 | 2.5 | 1.3 |
| 30 – 44 | 131 | 13.0 | 13.9 |
| 45 – 59 | 240 | 23.9 | 23.1 |
| 60 – 64 | 152 | 15.1 | 13.6 |
| 65 – 74 | 291 | 29.0 | 30.9 |
| Over 75 | 157 | 15.6 | 16.1 |
| <i>Not stated – 30</i> | 1,005 | | |

| Ethnicity | Reponses | 2025 % | 2024 % |
|---|----------|--------|--------|
| White – British | 874 | 87.6 | 87.0 |
| White – Irish | 9 | 0.9 | 1.4 |
| White – Other | 40 | 4.0 | 3.8 |
| Asian or Asian British – Indian | 12 | 1.2 | 1.1 |
| Asian or Asian British – Pakistani | 8 | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi | - | - | 0.2 |
| Asian or Asian British – Other background | 5 | 0.5 | 0.8 |
| British or Black British – Caribbean | 4 | 0.4 | 0.6 |

| Ethnicity | Reponses | 2025 % | 2024 % |
|---|----------|--------|--------|
| British or Black British – African | 8 | 0.8 | 0.7 |
| British or Black British – Other background | 3 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| Mixed - White and Black Caribbean | 7 | 0.7 | 0.3 |
| Mixed - White and Black African | 1 | 0.1 | - |
| Mixed - White and Asian | 2 | 0.2 | 0.5 |
| Mixed - Other background | 2 | 0.2 | 0.6 |
| Chinese | 8 | 0.8 | 0.6 |
| Any other ethnic group | 15 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| <i>Not stated – 37</i> | 998 | | |

| Do you consider yourself as disabled or have any long-term health problems that limit daily activity? | Reponses | 2025 % | 2024 % |
|---|----------|--------|--------|
| Yes | 265 | 26.4 | 24.5 |
| No | 738 | 73.6 | 75.5 |
| <i>Not stated – 32</i> | 1,003 | | |

| Which of the following areas do you live in? | Reponses | 2025 % | 2024 % |
|--|----------|--------|--------|
| Attenborough | 23 | 2.3 | 2.9 |
| Awsworth | 14 | 1.4 | 1.1 |
| Beeston | 246 | 24.4 | 24.7 |
| Bramcote | 86 | 8.5 | 10.4 |
| Brinsley | 19 | 1.9 | 1.7 |
| Chilwell | 118 | 11.7 | 12.3 |
| Cossall | - | - | 0.2 |
| Eastwood | 70 | 6.9 | 7.4 |
| Greasley | 33 | 3.3 | 3.0 |
| Kimberley | 57 | 5.7 | 5.1 |
| Newthorpe | 46 | 4.6 | 2.8 |
| Nuthall | 64 | 6.4 | 5.3 |
| Stapleford | 137 | 13.6 | 12.9 |
| Strelley | 2 | 0.2 | 1.0 |
| Toton | 45 | 4.5 | 5.0 |
| Trowell | 26 | 2.6 | 2.5 |
| Watnall | 22 | 2.2 | 1.9 |
| <i>Not stated – 27</i> | 1,008 | | |

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Personnel Policy

Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators 2025/26 – Mid-Year Report

1. Purpose of Report

To provide Members with the mid-year update on Treasury Management activity and the Prudential Indicators for 2025/26.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to NOTE the Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators 2025/26 Mid-year Report.

3. Detail

Regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 require the Council to fulfil the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities when undertaking its treasury management activities.

As well as the Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators annual report that is presented to Cabinet in July each year, there is a regulatory requirement for Members to at least receive a mid-year review. This is intended to enhance the level of Member scrutiny in these areas.

The CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management requires the Deputy Chief Executive to operate the Treasury Management function in accordance with the Treasury Management Strategy approved by Cabinet on 4 February 2025. Details of all borrowing and investment transactions undertaken in 2025/26 up to 30 September 2025, together with the balances at this date and limits on activity, are provided in **Appendix 1**. There are no issues of non-compliance with these practices that need to be reported.

Under the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, the Council is required to prepare several prudential indicators against which treasury management performance should be measured. The objectives of the Prudential Code are to ensure that the Council's capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable. Fundamental to this is the calculation of a number of prudential indicators, which provide the basis for the management and monitoring of capital expenditure, borrowing and investments. The Council has complied with its 2025/26 prudential indicators up to 30 September 2025 and details are provided in **Appendix 2**.

4. Key Decision

This report not a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer were as follows:

This report meets the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

All treasury management activities undertaken during the year complied fully with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the approved Treasury Management Strategy. Further comments are incorporated in the narrative in the executive summary and appendices.

7. Legal Implications

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

Treasury Management activities have to conform to the Local Government Act 2003, the Local Authorities (Capital; Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003/3146), which specifies that the Council is required to have regard to the CIPFA Prudential Code and the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice and also the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/414), which clarifies the requirements of the Minimum Revenue Provision guidance. This report demonstrates compliance with the legislative framework.

8. Human Resources Implications

There were no comments from the Human Resources Manager.

9. Union Comments

Not applicable.

10. Climate Change Implications

Not applicable.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

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

12. Equality Impact Assessment

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

13. Background Papers

Nil.

Appendix 1

Treasury Management Activity 2025/26 (Q2)

1. Introduction

The Council has adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice* (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Council to approve, as a minimum, treasury management semi-annual and annual outturn reports.

This report includes the new requirement in the 2021 Code, mandatory from April 2023, of quarterly reporting of the Treasury Management activity and prudential indicators.

The Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2025/26 was approved at the Cabinet meeting on 4 February 2025. The Council continues to borrow and invest substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk remains central to the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

2. External ContextEconomic Background:

The first quarter was dominated by the fallout from the US trade tariffs and the impact on equity and bond markets. The second quarter, still rife with uncertainty, saw equity markets making gains and a divergence in US and UK government bond yields, which had been moving relatively closely together.

From June, concerns around the Government's fiscal position and speculation around the Autumn Budget, saw yields on medium and longer-term gilts pushed higher, including the 30-year rate which hit its highest level for almost 30 years.

UK headline annual consumer price inflation (CPI) increased over the period, rising from 2.6% in March to 3.8% in August; still above the Bank of England's 2% target. Core inflation also rose from 3.4% to 3.6% over the same period, albeit the August reading was down from 3.8% the previous month.

The UK economy expanded by 0.7% in the first quarter of the calendar year and by 0.3% in the second quarter. The final Q2 2025 GDP report revised annual growth upwards to 1.4% year on year. However, monthly figures showed zero growth in July, in line with expectations, indicating a sluggish start to Q3.

The labour market data continued to soften throughout the period with the unemployment rate rising and earnings growth easing. In addition, the economic inactivity rate and number of vacancies fell as the employment rate rose.

The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) cut the Bank Rate from 4.5% to 4.25% in May and to 4.0% in August after an unprecedented second round of voting. The MPC views still differ on whether the upside risks from inflation expectations and wage setting outweigh downside risks from weaker demand and growth.

Arlingclose, the Council's treasury adviser, maintained its central view that Bank Rate would be cut further as the Bank of England focused on weak GDP growth more than higher inflation. The risks to the forecast are balanced in the near-term but weighted to the downside further out as weak consumer sentiment and business confidence and investment continue to constrain growth. There was also considerable uncertainty around the Autumn Budget and the impact this will have on the outlook.

The August Monetary Policy Report highlighted that after peaking in Q3 2025, inflation is projected to fall back to target by mid-2027, helped by increasing spare capacity in the economy and the ongoing effects from past tighter policy rates. GDP is expected to remain weak in the near-term while over the medium-term outlook will be influenced by domestic and global developments.

Against a backdrop of uncertain US trade policy and pressure from President Trump, the US Federal Reserve held interest rates steady for most of the period, before cutting the Fed Funds Rate to 4.0% in September. Fed policymakers also published their new economic projections. These pointed to a 0.5% lower Fed Funds Rate by the end of 2025 and 0.25% lower in 2026, alongside GDP growth of 1.6% in 2025, inflation of 3% and an unemployment rate of 4.5%. The European Central Bank cut rates in June, reducing its main refinancing rate from 2.25% to 2.0%, before keeping it on hold through to the end of the period. New ECB projections predicted inflation averaging 2.1% in 2025, before falling below target in 2026, alongside improving GDP growth, for which the risks are deemed more balanced and the disinflationary process over.

Financial markets:

After sharp declines early in the period, sentiment in financial markets improved but risky assets have generally remained volatile. Early in the period bond yields fell, but ongoing uncertainty, particularly in the UK, has seen medium and longer yields rise with bond investors requiring an increasingly higher return against the perceived elevated risk of UK plc. Since the sell-off in April, equity markets have gained back the previous declines, with investors continuing to remain bullish in the face of ongoing uncertainty.

Over the period, the 10-year UK benchmark gilt yield started at 4.65% and ended at 4.70%. However, these six months saw significant volatility with the 10-year yield hitting a low of 4.45% and a high of 4.82%. It was a broadly similar picture for the 20-year gilt which started at 5.18% and ended at 5.39% with a low and high of 5.10% and 5.55% respectively. The Sterling Overnight Rate (SONIA) averaged 4.19% over the six months to 30 September 2025.

Credit review:

Arlingclose has maintained its advised recommended maximum unsecured duration limit on most banks on its counterparty list at six months. Duration advice for the remaining five institutions, was kept to a maximum of 100 days.

Early in the period, Fitch upgraded NatWest Group and related entities to AA- from A+ and placed Clydesdale Bank's long-term A- rating on Rating Watch Positive. While Moody's downgraded the long-term rating on the United States sovereign to Aa1 in May. In the second quarter, Fitch upgraded Clydesdale Bank and HSBC, downgraded Lancashire County Council and Close Brothers while Moody's upgraded Transport for London, Allied Irish Banks, Bank of Ireland and Toronto-Dominion Bank.

After spiking in early April following the US trade tariff announcements, UK Credit Default Swap (CDS) prices have since generally trended downwards and ended the period at levels broadly in line with those in the first quarter of the calendar year and throughout most of 2024 as price volatility remained generally more muted compared to previous periods. European and other world banks' CDS prices have followed a similar pattern to the UK, while Canadian bank prices remain modestly elevated compared to earlier in 2025 and in 2024.

Financial market volatility is expected to remain a feature, at least in the near term and CDS levels will be monitored for signs of ongoing credit stress. As ever, the institutions and durations on the Council's counterparty list recommended by Arlingclose remain under constant review.

3. Borrowing

a) Debt Activity in Year

Loan debt outstanding as at 30 September 2025 is shown below:

| Loan Type | Amount Outstanding 01/04/25 £'000 | Amount Outstanding 30/09/2025 £'000 |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Short Term Loans: | | |
| Bramcote Crematorium | 379 | - |
| Money Market Loans | - | - |
| Public Works Loan Board | 11,965 | 9,099 |
| Long Term Loans: | | |
| Money Market Loans | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Public Works Loan Board | 94,957 | 95,624 |
| Total | 110,301 | 107,723 |

This level of borrowing should be considered in the context of the assets held by the Council. The latest valuation used for the Balance Sheet on 31 March 2025 showed that the Council held fixed assets with a total value of £326m (including its share of the Bramcote Crematorium assets). This included General Fund assets at £58.6m and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) assets at £267.6m. **The market valuation of Council dwellings is estimated at £631m.** This compares favourably with the current debt portfolio.

b) Loans

Short-term money market loans are from other local authorities and public sector bodies. The Council did not have any money market loans at 1 April 2025 and has not taken on any new money market loans in the year to date.

One PWLB loan of £7.4m will mature on 28 March 2026. As this is due to mature within the next 12 months it is considered 'short term' in nature. There will be a need to replace this loan.

Opening short term loans also included PWLB annuities at £17k. A sum of £8k was repaid on 13 September 2025 and the remaining £9k is due for repayment on 13 March 2026. Opening short terms loans also included PWLB 'Equal Instalments of Principal' (EIP) loans of £3.0m. An additional £333k has been added to this figure for a new EIP loan of £1.0m taken out in August 2025. A sum of £1.69m was repaid in the first two quarters of 2025/26 with a remaining £1.69m to be repaid in the last two quarters.

Opening short term loans included £379k invested with the Council by Bramcote Crematorium. A withdrawal was made to allow for a distribution of £400k to its two constituent authorities (Broxtowe and Erewash) on 30 September 2025.

The major element of the long-term loans from the PWLB relates to the loans totalling £66.4m taken out on 28 March 2012 to make payment to the government as part of Housing Finance reforms. This enabled the Council to exit the HRA subsidy system and move to self-financing arrangements that allowed local authorities to support their housing stock from their own HRA income. These loans were for maturity periods of between 10 and 20 years and were set at special one-off preferential rates made available by the PWLB for this exercise of 13 basis points above the equivalent gilt yield at the date on which the loans were taken out. One of these loans at £6.5m was repaid in 2022/23, another for £6.1m matured in 2023/24, another one for £7.5m was repaid in 2024/25 and one for £7.4m is due mature in March 2026.

Debt is kept under review to match the level of borrowing with the financing requirement for assets, based on analysis of the Council's balance sheet, with the aim of maintaining borrowing at the most efficient level in line with the prudential framework for capital finance.

The planned financing of the 2025/26 Capital Programme (including in-year amendments approved by Cabinet) indicates that borrowing of £19.3m in would be required to help fund the programme. This borrowing has not yet been fully undertaken as the availability of large investment balances has meant that there has been no specific need to undertake this borrowing thus far.

The Council will continue to adopt a cautious and considered approach to any borrowing that it may undertake. The Council's treasury advisors, Arlingclose, actively consult with investors, investment banks and capital markets to establish the attraction of different sources of borrowing and their related trade-off between risk and reward. The Council will liaise with its advisors before making any borrowing decisions and then report these to Members.

c) Debt Rescheduling

In conjunction with the treasury management advisors, the Council continues to seek opportunities for the rescheduling of debt that could reduce its overall borrowing costs. No debt rescheduling has taken place to date in 2025/26.

Whilst the possibility of achieving savings by repaying a loan may initially appear attractive, if a replacement loan is needed to facilitate this then the replacement loan will have to be replaced at some stage. There is a risk that, as interest rates have risen dramatically recently, new loans could be more expensive and the initial decision to pursue the repayment of the original loan could turn out to be costly in the long term.

There may be opportunities in the future to achieve discounts by repaying loans using funds that are currently invested but the Council's primary concern will be to ensure that it has sufficient liquidity available to meet its liabilities and this represents a significant barrier to debt repayment activity.

Currently most of the Council's PWLB loans would attract a premium, i.e. a penalty, on premature repayment of between 5% and 99%. Those with a higher probability of attracting a discount in the future were interest rates to rise further (i.e. where the current premium is between 0% and 10%) are some loans that were taken out in March 2012 at preferential rates as part of the move to exit the HRA subsidy system as referred to above.

The Council and its treasury management advisors will continue to monitor the situation and evaluate potential opportunities where appropriate. Debt rescheduling activity will only be undertaken when annual revenue savings can be achieved and both a stable debt maturity profile and suitable interest rate structure can be maintained.

d) Cost of Borrowing and Debt Profile

Long-term Debt

The Council's long-term debt had an average of 7.20 years to maturity at 30 September 2025 (31 March 2025 was 7.62 years). The average interest payable at that date was 3.62% (31 March 2025 was 3.50%).

Short-term Borrowing

Short-term borrowing comprises the continuing loan from the Bramcote Crematorium Joint Committee and the loans outlined further above.

PWLB Rate Changes and Future Borrowing

Most of the Council's long-term debt is borrowed from the PWLB. The most recent PWLB Technical Note (published 15 June 2023) shows the current Standard Rate for PWLB loans is 100 basis points above current gilt prices. Those local authorities who submit a Certainty Rate Return, which is primarily a high-level analysis of the local authority's capital programme, capital financing and borrowing plans for the next three years, are eligible to borrow at the Certainty Rate. The Certainty Rate is 20 basis points below the Standard Rate. In addition, the PWLB has also introduced a HRA Rate at 60 basis points below the standard rate for the financing of HRA scheme.

Given that PWLB lending terms are currently competitive, PWLB will be considered, alongside other lenders, by the Council when looking to take out future long-term borrowing.

4. Investments

a) Investment Policy

The Council's investment policy is governed by guidance from the government, which was implemented in the Investment Strategy approved by Cabinet on 4 February 2025. This gives priority to security and liquidity, and the Council's aim is to achieve a yield commensurate with these principles.

The Council only places long-term investments with banks and building societies which are UK domiciled and have, a minimum, the Long-Term A- (or equivalent) rating from the Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poors credit rating agencies.

The Council is also able to invest in Money Market Funds (MMF) that are AAA rated and with the UK government, as well as with other local authorities. The maximum permitted duration of investments is two years.

The investment activity during 2025/26 to date conformed to the approved strategy. The Council had no security or liquidity difficulties.

b) Interest Received

The total interest receivable for the period ended 30 September 2025 amounted to £340k at an average rate of 4.17% (compared to £599k at 4.73% to 31 December 2024). This was broadly in line with the reductions in the Bank Rate.

SONIA (Sterling Overnight Index Average) is an interest rate published by the Bank of England, which can be seen as the average interest rate at which a selection of financial institutions lends to one another in sterling (GBP) with a maturity of 1-day (overnight). SONIA is a benchmark rate and had an average 1-day rate over the period of 4.19%.

The LIBOR interest rate was the average interbank interest rate at which many banks on the London Money Markets are prepared to lend one another in unsecured funds denominated GBP. This rate permanently ceased from October 2024, and the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) is used instead. This is a benchmark interest rate for dollar-denominated derivatives and loans, but this is mostly used by USA whilst the UK prefers to use SONIA.

The Council has a total of four long-term investment totalling £8.0m and these along with the interest income received over the period are as follows:

- CCLA Local Authority Property Fund (LAPF) – £2.0m (£21k)
- CCLA Cautious Multi Asset Fund (CMAF) – £2.0m (£4k)
- Royal London Enhanced Cash Plus Fund – £2.0m (£38k)
- Ninety-One Diversified Income Fund – £2.0m (£38k)

The £2.0m invested in the CCLA Local Authorities' Property Fund (LAPF) had a dividend yield of 1.03% during the period whilst the £2.0m invested in CCLA Cautious Multi Asset Fund had a dividend yield of 1.18%. The Royal London Cash Plus and Ninety-One Diversified Income Funds have dividend yields of 1.92% and 1.89% respectively. The average total income return for the period is 1.5%. Further details of these long-term investments are set out in 3(v).

c) Investments Placed

A summary of all investments (either short or long term) made and repaid from 1 April to 30 September 2025 is set out in the following table:

| | Balance at 01/04/25 £'000 | Invests Made £'000 | Invests Repaid £'000 | Balance at 30/09/25 £'000 | Net Change £'000 |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>Short-Term</u> | | | | | |
| Aberdeen MMF | 3,270 | 34,900 | (33,170) | 5,000 | 1,730 |
| LGIM MMF | 5,000 | 13,620 | (13,620) | 5,000 | - |
| Federated MMF | - | 32,490 | (30,620) | 1,870 | 1,870 |
| Public Sector Deposit Fund | 2,000 | 3,000 | (3,000) | 2,000 | - |
| DMADF | - | 1,350 | (1,350) | - | - |
| <u>Long-Term</u> | | | | | |
| Royal London Cash Plus | 2,000 | - | - | 2,000 | - |
| Diversified Income Fund | 2,000 | - | - | 2,000 | - |
| LA Property Fund | 2,000 | - | - | 2,000 | - |
| Ninety-One DIF | 2,000 | - | - | 2,000 | - |
| Total | 18,270 | 85,360 | (81,760) | 21,870 | 3,600 |

Money Market Funds (MMF) are set up as individual accounts where funds can be placed short-term, often overnight, and monies withdrawn as and when required. This has a major impact upon the number of investments made with these institutions during the period above.

Investments continue to be made in MMF due to their ability to provide a secure and highly liquid place in which to invest and the reduced number of other potential counterparties available as outlined in 2(g) below.

d) Credit Risk

Security of capital remains the main investment objective. The Council aims to achieve a score of '7' or lower to reflect its overriding priority of maintaining the security of any sums invested. This equates to the minimum credit rating threshold of A- for investment counterparties as set out in the 2025/26 Investment Strategy.

Counterparty credit quality has been maintained at an appropriate level during 2025/26 as shown by the credit score analysis in the following table:

| Date | Value Weighted Average – Credit Risk Score | Value Weighted Average – Credit Rating | Time Weighted Average – Credit Risk Score | Time Weighted Average – Credit Rating |
|------------|---|--|--|---|
| 30/09/2025 | 4.71 | A+ | 4.71 | A+ |

No investments were made with institutions where the credit rating exceeded a score of 7 (i.e. lower than A-). All deposits were made with institutions achieving an average score of 5.0 or better. As such, counterparty credit quality has been maintained at an appropriate level during the period.

The table below shows how credit risk scores relate to long-term credit ratings:

| Rating | AAA | AA+ | AA | AA- | A+ | A | A- | BBB+ | BBB | BBB- |
|--------|-----|-----|----|-----|----|---|----|------|-----|------|
| Score | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

e) Risk Benchmarking

The Investment Strategy 2025/26 to 2027/28 contained several security, liquidity and risk benchmarks to allow officers to monitor the current and trend positions and incorporate these within investment decisions. The benchmarks have been met in full for the period to 30 September 2025 such that:

- the Council's maximum average credit risk score has been less than 7
- a bank overdraft limit of £1.0m has been maintained
- the liquid short-term deposits of at least £500k have been available within one week
- the average weighted life of investments has been below a maximum of six months
- the average rate achieved by the Council was 4.73% which exceeded the SONIA average 1-day rate of 4.19%.

f) Counterparty Update

The Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer maintains a counterparty list based upon criteria set out in the Investment Strategy. Any proposed revisions to the criteria will be submitted to Cabinet for formal approval as set out further below.

The rating criteria use the lowest common denominator method of selecting counterparties and applying limits. This means that the application of the Council's minimum criteria will apply to the lowest available rating for any institution. For example, if an institution is rated by two agencies and one meets the Council's criteria and the other does not, the institution will fall outside the lending criteria.

Creditworthiness information is provided by the treasury management advisors, Arlingclose, on all counterparties that comply with the criteria set out in the Investments Strategy. Any counterparty failing to meet the criteria is removed from the counterparty list.

g) Changes to the Investments Strategy

Due to the level of uncertainty in financial markets, it is important that there is sufficient flexibility to enable changes to be made to the Investments Strategy at short notice should they be considered necessary by the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer.

Any such changes to the Investments Strategy will be made by the Chief Executive exercising urgency powers following consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Personnel Policy. A report setting out the detail behind these changes would then be presented to Cabinet at the next available opportunity.

h) Regulatory Update – Statutory Override

In July 2018, the government consulted on statutory overrides relating to the introduction of the IFRS 9 Financial Instruments accounting standard from 2018/19. It has since decided to introduce a temporary statutory override for fair value movements in pooled funds. The government accepted arguments made in the consultation responses that the un-amended adoption of IFRS 9 could result in unwarranted volatility for the General Fund and impact unnecessarily upon Council Tax and/or service expenditure. The subsequent statutory override, while requiring IFRS 9 to be adopted in full, requires fair value movements in pooled investment funds to be taken to a separate unusable reserve instead rather than directly to the General Fund.

The override applies to all collective investment schemes and not just to pooled property funds. In order to promote transparency, the guidance requires a separate unusable reserve to be used to hold the fair value movements rather than the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account.

In April 2023, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) published the full outcome of the consultation on the extension of the statutory override on accounting for gains and losses on pooled investment funds. The override has been extended until 1 April 2029 for pooled fund investments made before 1 April 2024. Whether the override will be extended beyond the new date is not known but current MHCLG communication suggests not. The Council will discuss with Arlingclose the implications for the investment strategy and what action may need to be taken.

i) Prudential and Treasury Management Code Changes

The Prudential Code requires the production of a high-level Capital Strategy report to full Council covering the basics of the capital programme and treasury management. The prudential indicators for capital expenditure and the authorised borrowing limit are included in this report

The definition of investments in the Treasury Management Code now covers all of the Council's financial assets as well as other non-financial assets that are held primarily for a financial return. This is replicated in the Government's Investment Guidance in which the definition of investments is further broadened to include all such assets held partially for financial return. The Council has no such assets at present.

5. Treasury Management Indicators

The Council measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using the following indicators:

i) Security

The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit rating of its investment portfolio. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc.) and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

| Credit Risk Indicator | Target 2025/26 |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Portfolio Average Credit Rating | A- |

The Council has complied with this indicator by achieving an average credit rating of A for its investment portfolio between 1 April and 30 September 2025.

ii) Liquidity

The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to liquidity risk by monitoring the amount of cash available to meet unexpected payments within a rolling three-month period, without additional borrowing.

| Liquidity Risk Indicator | Target 2025/26 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Total cash available within 3 months | £10.0m |

The Council has complied with this indicator by maintaining an average of £20m in cash available to meet unexpected payments within a rolling three-month period from 1 April and 30 September 2025.

iii) Interest Rate Exposures

This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to interest rate risk. Bank Rate dropped by 50 basis points from 4.5% on 1 April to 4.0% by 30 September 2025. The upper limits on the one-year revenue impact of a 1% rise or fall in interest rates for 2025/26 are:

| Interest rate risk indicator | Target Limit 2025/26 |
|--|----------------------|
| Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>rise</u> in interest rates | £1.0m |
| Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>fall</u> in interest rates | £1.0m |

The impact of a change in interest rates is calculated on the assumption that maturing loans and investments will be replaced at new market rates. The target limits have been complied with for Q2.

iv) Maturity Structure of Borrowing

This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk. It is intended to limit large concentrations of fixed rate debt needing to be replaced at times of uncertainty over interest rates.

| Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing | Lower Limit % | Upper Limit % | Fixed Rate Borrowing 30-Sep-25 | Level % | Compliance with Set Limits |
|--|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------|---------|----------------------------|
| Under 12 months | 0 | 50 | 9,099 | 8 | Yes |
| 12 months to 2 years | 0 | 50 | 11,300 | 11 | Yes |
| 2 years to 5 years | 0 | 50 | 35,068 | 33 | Yes |
| 5 years to 10 years | 0 | 75 | 44,138 | 41 | Yes |
| 10 years to 20 years | 0 | 100 | - | 0 | Yes |
| 20 years to 30 years | 0 | 100 | 5,000 | 5 | Yes |
| 30 years to 40 years | 0 | 100 | - | 0 | Yes |
| 40 years to 50 years | 0 | 100 | 3,000 | 3 | Yes |

As suggested in the Code, fixed rate investments of less than 12 months and fixed rate borrowing with less than 12 months to maturity are regarded as variable rather than fixed rate investments and borrowings as their replacement could be subject to movements in interest rates. This principle has been applied in calculating the fixed and variable interest rate exposures on debt and investments. However, the borrowing with less than 12 months to maturity at 30 September 2025 is shown as fixed rate borrowing in the maturity structure.

Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment.

v) Principal Sums Invested for Periods Longer than a Year

The purpose of this indicator is to control the Council's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The limits on the long-term principal sum invested to final maturities beyond the period end will be:

| Risk Indicator | Target Limit 2025/26 |
|---|-------------------------|
| Upper limit on principal invested beyond year end | £8.0m |

The Council has complied with the limit during the period, with a total of £8.0m in long term investments as at 30 September 2025 consisting of:

- £2.0m invested in the CCLA Local Authorities' Property Fund (LAPF). Although the Council can theoretically redeem part or all of its holding in the fund by giving six months' notice as set out in 2(c), this is intended to be a long-term investment.
- £2.0m invested in the CCLA Cautious Multi Asset Fund. Whilst this is intended to be a long-term investment, two days' notice is required should this investment need to be repaid to the Council.
- £2.0m invested in the Royal London Enhanced Cash Plus Fund. Whilst this is intended to be a long-term investment, should the Council require this to be repaid then it can be done with one day's notice.
- £2.0m invested in the Ninety-One Diversified Income Fund. The minimum recommended period for such an investment is three to five years. However, should this need to be repaid to the Council then it can be done with three days' notice.

Appendix 2

Prudential Indicators

1. Introduction

The Local Government Act 2003 requires local authorities to comply with the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities when carrying out their capital budgeting and treasury management activities. Fundamental to this is the calculation of several prudential indicators, which provide the basis for the management and monitoring of capital expenditure, borrowing and investments. The indicators are based on the Council's planned and actual capital spending.

2. Capital Expenditure and Financing 2025/26

The Council undertakes capital expenditure on assets which have a long-term value. These activities may either be:

- financed immediately through the application of capital or revenue resources (capital receipts, capital grants, revenue contributions etc.), which has no resulting impact upon the Council's borrowing need; or
- if insufficient financing is available or a decision is taken not to apply resources, the capital expenditure will give rise to a borrowing need.

Actual capital expenditure forms one of the required prudential indicators. The following table shows the 2025/26 Capital Programme as at 30 September 2025 compared with the original estimate for the year across each area:

| | 2025/26 Original Estimate £'000 | 2025/26 Estimate at 30/09/2025 £'000 |
|---|--|---|
| Housing (HRA/GF) (incl. housing delivery) | 18,713 | 29,695 |
| Business Growth (including economic regeneration schemes) | 11,317 | 28,658 |
| Leisure and Health | 2,679 | 626 |
| Environment and Climate Change | 1,871 | 4,022 |
| Community Safety | - | - |
| Finance and Resources | 386 | 1,049 |
| Total | 34,966 | 64,050 |

The change to the original estimate is largely due to bringing forward unspent capital budgets totalling £31m from 2024/25, in addition to several increases and reductions to various schemes and new schemes approved by Cabinet in year.

Excluded from the 2025/26 Capital Programme are schemes totalling £2.482m that are on a 'reserve list' to be brought forward for formal approval to proceed once a source of funding is identified.

The table below shows the planned capital expenditure up to 30 September 2025 and how this will be financed:

| | Original Estimate 2025/26 £'000 | Revised Estimate at 30/09/2025 £'000 |
|---|--|---|
| General Fund | 17,053 | 35,822 |
| HRA | 17,913 | 28,228 |
| Total Capital Expenditure | 34,966 | 64,050 |
| Financed by: | | |
| Capital Receipts | 2,400 | 2,767 |
| Capital Grants | 15,501 | 37,289 |
| Revenue (including Major Repairs Reserve) | 5,015 | 5,015 |
| Unfinanced Capital Expenditure | 9,568 | 18,979 |
| Reserve List items | 2,482 | 2,482 |

It is anticipated that the schemes on the 'reserve list' would be financed from capital receipts received at a future date if available. Unfinanced capital expenditure will be met from additional borrowing as set out above.

3. Overall Borrowing Need

The Council's underlying need to borrow is called the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This figure is a gauge of the Council's debt position and represents net capital expenditure that has not yet been paid for by revenue or other resources.

Part of the treasury management activity seeks to address this borrowing need, either through borrowing from external bodies or utilising temporary cash resources within the Council.

As set out in Appendix 1, the Council has not fully taken out the anticipated borrowing of £18.979m in respect of the planned capital expenditure for 2025/26 shown as unfinanced above. It is likely that some of this borrowing will be delayed until 2026/27 if there is significant slippage in the capital programme into the following year. Any additional borrowing to be undertaken will seek to align the Council's overall borrowing level with the CFR.

There are two PWLB loans of £1.5m (repaid April 2025) and £7.4m value that are due to mature in 2025/26. These will be replaced, at least in part depending upon cash flows, with other borrowing before 31 March 2026.

The Council's CFR will next be calculated as at 31 March 2026 when the financing of actual capital expenditure incurred in 2025/26 will be undertaken. This will be reported to Cabinet in July 2026.

4. Prudential Indicators and Compliance Issues

Some of the prudential indicators provide either an overview or specific limits on treasury management activity. These are as follows:

i) Gross Borrowing Compared to the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

In order to ensure that borrowing levels are prudent over the medium term, the Council's external borrowing must only be for a capital purpose. Gross borrowing should not therefore, except in the short term, exceed the CFR. This indicator will be calculated at the end of 2025/26 and the outcome reported to Cabinet in July 2026. It is presently anticipated that the Council will comply with this indicator.

ii) Authorised Limit

This is the statutory limit determined under section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003 and represents the limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited. It reflects the level of borrowing which could be afforded in the short term to maximise treasury management opportunities and cover temporary cash flow shortfalls but is unlikely to be sustainable over the longer term. The table below demonstrates up to September 2025, the Council has maintained gross borrowing within its authorised limit.

iii) Operational Boundary

This indicator is based on the probable external debt during the year. The operational boundary is not a limit and actual borrowing can vary around the levels shown for short times. The operational boundary should act as an indicator to ensure the authorised limit is not breached and is a key management tool for in year monitoring of treasury management activities by the Interim Deputy Chief Executive.

| | Values £000 |
|--|----------------|
| Authorised Limit for Borrowing | 142,150 |
| Operational Boundary for External Debt | 113,720 |
| *Maximum Gross Borrowing (April to September 2025) | 107,723 |

The maximum external debt in the period from April to September 2025 represents the gross borrowing figures as set out in 1(a) and includes the loans received from Bramcote Crematorium during this period.

iv) Proportion of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

This indicator compares net financing costs (borrowing costs less investment income) to net revenue income from revenue support grant, business rates, housing revenue account subsidy, council tax and rent income. The purpose of the indicator is to show how the proportion of net income used to pay for financing costs is changing over time. The indicator will be calculated for 2025/26 at the end of the financial year and reported to Cabinet in July 2026.

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Asset Management

| |
|---|
| Infrastructure Funding Statement 2024-2025 |
|---|

1. Purpose of Report

Cabinet is asked to note the Infrastructure Funding Statement 2024-2025.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to NOTE the report.

3. Detail

This report provides information on the monetary (and non-monetary) contributions sought and received from developers for the provision of infrastructure to support development in Broxtowe, and the subsequent use of those contributions by Broxtowe Borough Council. The report covers the financial year from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

The Council currently does not have an adopted Community Infrastructure Levy. Initial feasibility work was undertaken when the Government announced that a National Levy scheme was to be introduced but these measures have not been taken forward by the Government. The Council has now submitted the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan for examination and this includes a new policy basis for section 106 requirements including affordable housing contributions. A CIL scheme would need to be based on this updated policy framework but would require the adoption of the Strategic Plan first. If the process started now, it would be based on an out of date Local Plan framework and would impact viability work undertaken to support the Strategic Plan.

The Council has not currently had significant challenges to scheme viability as part of planning applications or appeals. However, there has been an increase in challenges to scheme viability elsewhere in the country due to significant increases in build costs and a stagnation in sales prices, particularly in London. The Council will continue to monitor this situation.

4. Key Decision

This report is not a key decision.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer were as follows:

The annual Infrastructure Funding Statement provides information on the contributions sought and received from developers and the subsequent use of these contributions by the Council. Section 106 contributions are monitored by the Planning department, in conjunction with the Finance Services team. The financial details relating to Section 106 contributions covering the financial year 2024/25 are included in the **Appendix** to this report.

7. Legal Implications

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

S106 Obligations are entered under the Town and Country Act 1990 (as amended) and are paid and/or supplied by developers to enable the Council to mitigate the impact of development. The Council is required to produce an annual Infrastructure Funding Statement in accordance with Schedule 2 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended). This must include information on the amount of Section 106 contributions the Council has secured, the amount of s106 contributions spent or allocated, a summary of infrastructure s106 contributions were spent on, and the amount of unspent s106 contributions it holds.

8. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

9. Union Comments

Not applicable.

10. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

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

12. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

13. Background Papers

Nil.

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BROXTOWE BOROUGH COUNCIL

INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING STATEMENT

2024-2025

Contents

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides information on the monetary (and non-monetary) contributions sought and received from developers for the provision of infrastructure to support development in Broxtowe, and the subsequent use of those contributions by Broxtowe Borough Council. The report covers the financial year 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025.
- 1.2 Broxtowe does not have a Community Infrastructure Levy and therefore seeks developer contributions through Section 106 agreements (also known as “planning obligations”). As part of the planning process Section 278 agreements are also entered into with developers and Nottinghamshire County Council to secure highway improvements. However, these are not included within this Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS).

Planning Obligations

- 1.3 Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 enables a local planning authority to enter into a negotiated agreement – a planning obligation – to mitigate the impact of a specific development, to make it acceptable in planning terms. The planning obligation might, for example, require the provision or contribution to a new or improved road, school, health facility or local green infrastructure. Local Planning Authorities can also seek planning obligations to secure a proportion of affordable housing from residential developments. In some instances, Section 106 planning obligations may require payments to be made to parish councils.

2.0 Section 106 (planning obligations) report

2.1 The Council's policy in respect of developer contributions are set out in Policy 19 of the Broxtowe Aligned Core Strategy (2014) and Policy 32 of the Broxtowe Part 2 Local Plan (2019).

2.2 Policy 19 of the Broxtowe Aligned Core Strategy (2014) states:

1. All development will be expected to:

- a) meet the reasonable cost of new infrastructure required as a consequence of the proposal;**
- b) where appropriate, contribute to the delivery of necessary infrastructure to enable the cumulative impacts of developments to be managed, including identified transport infrastructure requirements; and**
- c) provide for the future maintenance of facilities provided as a result of the development.**

2. The Council intend to introduce Community Infrastructure Levies to secure infrastructure that has been identified as necessary to support new development and to achieve Core Strategies objectives.

3. Prior to the implementation of a Community Infrastructure Levy, planning obligations will be sought to secure all new infrastructure necessary to support new development.

2.3 Policy 32 of the Broxtowe Part 2 Local Plan (2019) states:

1. Financial contributions may be sought from developments of 10 or more dwellings or 1,000 square metres or more gross floor space for provision, improvement or maintenance, where relevant, of;

- a) Affordable housing;**
- b) Health;**
- c) Community facilities;**
- d) Green Infrastructure Assets;**
- e) Biodiversity;**
- f) Education;**
- g) Highways, including sustainable transport measures;**
- h) Cycling, footpaths and public transport;**
- i) The historic environment, heritage assets and/or their setting; and**
- j) Flood mitigation measures, including SuDS.**

2. On-site provision of new playing pitches may be required for developments of 50 dwellings or more.

- 2.4 In some instances certain developments may be unviable and in such cases it may be possible for S106 contributions to be negotiated. In such instances a Viability Assessment will be required to demonstrate why the scheme is unviable, and it will be usual practice for the Council to have this assessment independently reviewed at the cost of the applicant.
- 2.5 Nottinghamshire County Council are the Highways Authority and Education Authority for Broxtowe Borough Council. The County Council is therefore responsible for identifying required contributions in respect of primary and secondary education, and highways improvements, including improvements to the bus network. It is usual practice for S106 contributions requested by the County Council to be paid directly to the County Council by the developer.

3.0 S106 Headline Figures

3.1 Table showing monetary contributions:

Monetary Contributions

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Total money to be provided¹ through planning obligations agreed in 2024/25. | £2,874,103.39 (see table 3.1.2) |
| Total money received through planning obligations (whenever agreed) in 2024/25. | £683,262.37 (see table 3.2) |
| Total money, received through planning obligations (whenever agreed), spent² in 2024/25. | £630,985.56 (see table 3.3.1) |
| Total money, received through planning obligations (whenever agreed), retained³ at the end of 2024/25 (excluding “commuted sums” for longer term maintenance). | £159,582.96 (see section 3.4) |
| Total money, received through planning obligations (whenever agreed), retained at the end of 2024/25 as “commuted sums” for longer term maintenance. | £652,305.78 |

3.1.1 Total money received at the end of 2024/25 as “commuted sums” for longer term maintenance relates to 4 sites as detailed within table 3.2.

3.1.2 Table showing break down of monies agreed 2024/25:

| Contribution | Site | Amount |
|--------------|---|-------------|
| ITPS | Land east of Coventry Lane, Bramcote - 22/00967/FUL | £524,999.40 |
| | 136 Church Street, Eastwood - 23/00518/OUT | £141,300.00 |

¹ If sums to be provided are yet to be confirmed, please provide an estimate (as set out in regulations)

² “spent” includes sums transferred to an external organisation to spend but does not include sums held internally, whether allocated or otherwise to a specific infrastructure project or type. Total money spent includes sums spent on monitoring the delivery of s106 obligations (please provide an estimate if total sum not known, in line with regulations)

³ ‘Retained’ refers to S106 sums remaining unspent including sums both ‘allocated’ and ‘unallocated’.

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------------|
| Affordable Housing | | N/A |
| Open Space | Land off Bramcote Drive, Beeston - 23/00407/OUT | £17,928.20 |
| | Beeston Car Center, Broadgate - 23/00903/FUL | £24,344.74 |
| | 136 Church Street, Eastwood - 23/00518/OUT | £94,272.50 |
| Education | Land off Bramcote Drive, Beeston - 23/00407/OUT | £60,540.00 |
| | 136 Church Street, Eastwood - 23/00518/OUT | £750,754.00 |
| Health | 24/00619/VOC - Station Road (Central) Car Park Station Road Beeston | £75,645.75 |
| | Land east of Coventry Lane, Bramcote - 22/00967/FUL | £254,683.60 |
| | 136 Church Street, Eastwood - 23/00518/OUT | £68,875.00 |
| Other – BNG | Land east of Coventry Lane, Bramcote - 22/00967/FUL | £817,287.70 |
| Other – Library | Land east of Coventry Lane, Bramcote - 22/00967/FUL | £16,562.80 |
| | 136 Church Street, Eastwood - 23/00518/OUT | £4,412.00 |
| Other – travel plan monitoring | Land east of Coventry Lane, Bramcote - 22/00967/FUL | £14,997.70 |

| | | |
|--|---|-----------|
| | 136 Church Street, Eastwood - 23/00518/OUT | £7,500.00 |
|--|---|-----------|

3.1.3 Table showing Non-Monetary Contributions:

| | | Sites |
|---|--------------------|---|
| Total number of affordable housing units to be provided through planning obligations agreed in 2024/25 | 153 (total) | |
| | 141 | Land east of Coventry Lane, Bramcote - 22/00967/FUL |
| | 12 | 136 Church Street, Eastwood - 23/00518/OUT |
| Total number of affordable housing units which were provided through planning obligations (whenever agreed) in 2024/25 | 48 (total) | |
| | 15 | Inham Nook Hotel, Land To North Of Chilwell Community Centre, Garages To North Of Hotel And Part Of Gardens To The Rear Of 15, 17A, 17B, 17C And 17D Great Hoggett Drive Inham Road Chilwel - 22/00355/REG3 |
| | 7 | Hulks Farm, Coventry Lane, Bramcote - 22/00602/FUL |
| | 16 | Field Farm, Ilkeston Road, Stapleford - 21/00810/ROC |

| | | Sites |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| | 10 | Land to the rear of Brinsley Recreational Ground, Church Lane, Brinsley - 20/00641/FUL |
| Total number of school places for pupils to be provided through planning obligations agreed in 2024/25 | 22: secondary school places | 136 Church Street, Eastwood - 23/00518/OUT and Land off Bramcote Drive, Beeston - 23/00407/OUT |
| | 4: post-16 place | 136 Church Street, Eastwood - 23/00518/OUT |
| | 1: specialist school place | 136 Church Street, Eastwood - 23/00518/OUT |

3.2 Total monies received in 2024/25 came from 8 sites:

| Contribution | Site | Amount |
|---------------------------|---|-------------|
| ITPS | | 0 |
| Affordable Housing | Land Between Ellis Grove and Wilmot Lane, Ellis Grove, Beeston – 21/00575/FUL | £66,395.81 |
| | St Johns College, Peache Way, Bramcote – 16/00467/FUL | £341,066.28 |
| Open Space | Frearson Farm Court, Chewton Street, Eastwood - 19/00699/FUL | £18,592.66 |
| | Land at Sandiccliffe Accident Repair Centre, Nottingham Road, Stapleford - 20/00341/FUL | £40,956.52 |
| | Land to the rear of Brinsley Recreational Ground, Church Lane, Brinsley - 20/00641/FUL | £56,789.90 |
| | Land Between Ellis Grove and Wilmot Lane Ellis Grove Beeston - 21/00575/FUL | £43,445.89 |
| Health | Land to the rear of Brinsley Recreational Ground, Church Lane, Brinsley - 20/00641/FUL | £36,899.88 |
| | Land Between Ellis Grove and Wilmot Lane Ellis Grove Beeston - 21/00575/FUL | £15,672.58 |
| | Central College Nottingham, High Road, Chilwell - 20/00891/FUL | £38,492.00 |

| Contribution | Site | Amount |
|--------------|--|------------|
| | Broadgate House, Broadgate, Beeston - 21/00758/FUL | £19,932.65 |
| | Magpie Inn, Toton Lane, Stapleford - 20/00478/FUL | £5,018.20 |

3.3 Section 106 infrastructure expenditure⁴ in 2024/25

3.3.1 Planning obligations spent on specific infrastructure projects in 2024/25:

| Infrastructure Project/Type | Planning Obligation receipts spent |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Field Farm, Stapleford – Phase 2 Housing Site - 26 affordable housing units acquired by the Council | £400,000.00 |
| 52A – 52E Church Street, Stapleford – Block of 5 flats - affordable flats acquired by the Council | £9,375 |
| Wellwood House 211 Derby Road Bramcote – Block of 7 flats £53,250.97 - affordable flats acquired by the Council. | £53,250.97 |
| Coronation Park improvements | £20,085.20 |
| Beeston Parks improvements | £29,228.39 |
| Hetley Pearson Recreation Ground improvements | £37,471.00 |

⁴ Reporting authorities should report sums transferred to external organisations in this Section (as such sums are regarded as “spent” in the regulations) and can add details of the infrastructure provided in regard to such transfers of money, where the sums have subsequently been spent.

| Infrastructure Project/Type | Planning Obligation receipts spent |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Collier Wood, Newthorpe improvements | £15,295.00 |
| Hall Park, Eastwood improvements | £29,390.00 |
| Beeston Youth Community Centre, West End, Beeston – community garden | £36,890.00 |

- 3.3.2 The Council is required to report on the total amount of money, received through planning obligations (whenever agreed and money received), spent in 2024/25 on repaying money borrowed, including any interest. The Council reports that it does not use any money from planning obligations received to repay borrowing costs.
- 3.3.3 The Council is required to report on the total amount of money, received through planning obligations (whenever agreed and money received), spent in 2024/25 on monitoring in relation to the delivery of planning obligations. The Council reports that it does not use any money from planning obligations received to cover monitoring costs.
- 3.3.4 The Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment)(England)(No.2) Regulations 2019 allows Local Authorities to charge a monitoring fee through Section 106 planning obligations, to cover the cost of the monitoring and reporting on delivery of that Section 106 obligation as described above. Monitoring fees can be used to monitor and report on any type of planning obligation, for the lifetime of that obligation. However, monitoring fees should not be sought retrospectively for historic agreements.
- 3.3.5 The Council's monitoring fees currently use a fixed 5% of financial contributions capped at £5,000. Monitoring fees can be reviewed, however in all cases, monitoring fees must be proportionate and reasonable and reflect the actual cost of monitoring. This will be reviewed in due course.

3.4 Section 106 receipts retained (allocated⁵ and unallocated)

- 3.4.1 The total amount of money, received through planning obligations prior to 2024/25, *which had not been allocated* (to an infrastructure project or item) by the end of 2024/25:

£79,582.96

- 3.4.2 The total amount of money, received under any planning obligation in any year, *which had been allocated* (to an infrastructure project or type) for spending by the end of 2024/25 but which had not been spent:

£80,000

- 3.4.3 Infrastructure projects or items to which receipts from planning obligations, whenever collected including 2024/25, have been allocated (but not spent) and the amount allocated to each item:

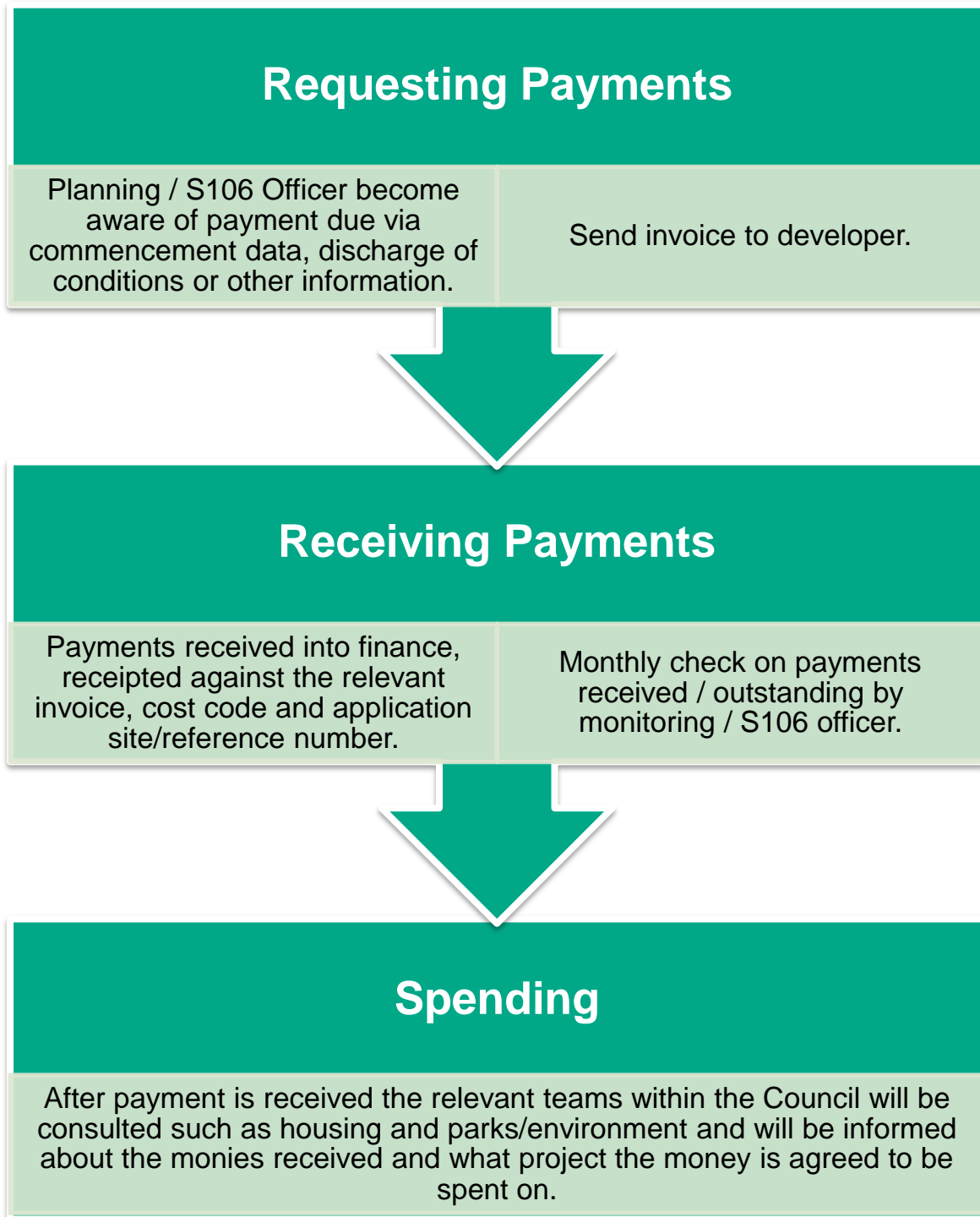
Allocated receipts from Planning Obligations

| Infrastructure Project/Type | Planning Obligation receipts allocated |
|--|--|
| Coventry Lane (Bramcote) Access Improvements | £80,000 |

⁵ 'Allocated' means Section 106 sums retained by the reporting authority which have, or knowingly will be, passed to an internal team to fund a specific infrastructure project or infrastructure type. 'Allocated' also includes sums which will knowingly be passed to an external organisation but which are yet to be passed.

3.5 Section 106 Monitoring Process

FLOW CHART



ANNEX A: The Regulatory Requirements for Infrastructure Funding Statements

The Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) (England) (No.2) Regulations 2019

Regulation 121A states:

(1) Subject to paragraph (2), no later than 31st December in each calendar year a contribution receiving authority must publish a document (“the annual infrastructure funding statement”) which comprises the following—

(a) a statement of the infrastructure projects or types of infrastructure which the charging authority intends will be, or may be, wholly or partly funded by CIL (other than CIL to which regulation 59E or 59F applies) (“the infrastructure list”);

(b) a report about CIL, in relation to the previous financial year (“the reported year”), which includes the matters specified in paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 (“CIL report”);

(c) a report about planning obligations, in relation to the reported year, which includes the matters specified in paragraph 3 of Schedule 2 and may include the matters specified in paragraph 4 of that Schedule (“Section 106 report”).

(2) The first annual infrastructure funding statement must be published by 31 December 2020.

(3) A contribution receiving authority must publish each annual infrastructure funding statement on its website.

ANNEX B: List of Schedule 2 requirements for the Infrastructure Funding Statement

Section 106 planning obligations

| Reporting requirement (Schedule 2, Paragraph 3 and (optional) 4) | Ref. in template |
|---|------------------|
| 3 (a). the total amount of money to be provided under any planning obligations which were entered into during the reported year; | 3.1 |
| 3 (b). the total amount of money under any planning obligations which was received during the reported year; | 3.1 |
| 3 (c). the total amount of money under any planning obligations which was received before the reported year which has not been allocated by the authority; | 3.4.1 |
| 3 (d). summary details of any non-monetary contributions to be provided under planning obligations which were entered into during the reported year, including details of— (i) in relation to affordable housing, the total number of units which will be provided; (ii) in relation to educational facilities, the number of school places for pupils which will be provided, and the category of school at which they will be provided; | 3.1.3 3.1.3 |
| 3 (e). the total amount of money (received under any planning obligations) which was allocated but not spent during the reported year for funding infrastructure; | 3.4.2 |
| 3 (f). the total amount of money (received under any planning obligations) which was spent by the authority (including transferring it to another person to spend); | 3.1 |
| 3 (g). in relation to monies (received under planning obligations) which were allocated by the authority but not spent during the reported year, summary details of the items of infrastructure on which the money has been allocated, and the amount of allocated to each item; | 3.4.3 |

| Reporting requirement (Schedule 2, Paragraph 3 and (optional) 4) | Ref. in template |
|---|--|
| <p>3 (h). in relation to monies (received under planning obligations) which were spent by the authority during the reported year (including transferring it to another person to spend), summary details of—</p> <p>(i) the items of infrastructure on which monies (received under planning obligations) were spent, and the amount spent on each item;</p> <p>(ii) the amount of monies (received under planning obligations) spent on repaying money borrowed, including any interest, with details of the items of infrastructure which that money was used to provide (wholly or in part);</p> <p>(iii) the amount of monies (received under planning obligations) spent in respect of monitoring (including reporting under regulation 121A) in relation to the delivery of planning obligations.</p> | <p>3.3.1</p> <p>3.3.2</p> <p>3.3.5</p> |
| <p>3 (i). the total monies (received under any planning obligations) during any year which were retained at the end of the reported year, and where any of the retained monies have been allocated for the purposes of longer term maintenance (“commuted sums”), also identify separately the total amount of commuted sums held.</p> | <p>3.1</p> |

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Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change

Parks Standard

1. Purpose of Report

To update Members on the results of the 2025 Parks Standard consultation. This is in accordance with the Council's Corporate Priority for Environment – 'Protect the environment for the future'.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to NOTE progress to date and the results of the 2025 parks consultation.

3. Detail

There are currently 63 Parks and Open Spaces (covering 240 hectares) and 14 Local Nature Reserves across the Borough. 37 of these spaces has a play area, which in total contains 430 pieces of play equipment. Out of the 37 spaces, 33 have inclusive and accessible play equipment.

In 2017, the Council's Play Strategy (2017-2025) identified a programme of high priority improvements required for the Borough's play facilities. Since April 2018, the Council has approved £2 million pounds' worth of investment in parks and open spaces. Some of this funding (£250,000) was shared with the Town and Parish Councils to facilitate the maintenance of their own park facilities.

It is important for parks and open spaces to meet the required standard outlined in the Council's Corporate Plan. This uniform standard is viewed as a fair and positive approach to enhance the quality and visitor experience of these spaces. Annually, the Environment team undertake a consultation process on 20% of its parks and open spaces. The results from this year's survey are provided in **Appendix 1**.

The current Pride in Parks programme (2025/26) will have delivered improvements or refurbishments in 3 play areas; Coronation Park, Eastwood, Eastcote Avenue, Bramcote, Smithhurst Road, Giltbrook) and includes:

- Addition of play equipment.
- Play area resurfacing to improve accessibility.
- Replacement of old equipment.
- Additional inclusive play equipment.

These works were achieved through a combination of Council (£70,000) and external (£90,000) funding. The Pride in Parks delivery programme, along with associated costs are detailed in **Appendix 2**.

By the end of the 2023/24 financial year, all play improvements identified through the Pride in Parks programme were completed.

The Council is now in the process of refreshing its Play Strategy into a broader Play and Parks Strategy. A consultant has been identified to undertake this work, and procurement details are currently being considered.

Once the strategy review and rewrite have been completed and progressed through the appropriate procedures. Environment will return to Cabinet to seek approval to undertake a public consultation on the refreshed strategy and then ultimately, its adoption.

It is anticipated that this piece of work will be finalised and brought back to Cabinet for adoption in autumn 2026. The refreshed strategy will also inform a wider Pride in Parks programme, aligning asset management inspections to prioritise necessary works such as paths, fences, gates, and seating, which were not included in the current Play Strategy and therefore received less focused investment.

4. Key Decision

This report is not a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer were as follows:

The approved Capital Programme for 2025/26 includes a budget of £173,250, including capital salaries, for the Pride in Parks scheme. Further details on progress and financial implications are provided in **Appendix 2**.

7. Legal Implications

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

Whilst there are no direct legal implications arising from this report, Local authorities have a number of different statutory powers in relation to parks and

green spaces, including the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, which gives wide powers to provide recreational facilities. The 1976 Act also permits the Council to make recreational facilities available for use by such persons as the authority thinks fit either without charge or on payment of such charges as the authority thinks fit.

8. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

9. Union Comments

Not applicable.

10. Climate Change Implications

The Council's Pride in Parks programme focuses on enhancing the infrastructure of parks and open spaces. By doing so, it creates an opportunity to promote, nature-based solutions that mitigate the impacts of climate change. Improved access and enhanced facilities at these sites can help to inspire and educate residents about climate change adaptation and resilience.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

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

12. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

13. Background Papers

Nil.

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Appendix 1

Parks and Open Spaces Consultation ResultsBroxtowe Parks Standard

As part of its commitment to protect the 'Environment for the Future', the Corporate Plan emphasises the importance of ensuring that **all** parks and open spaces meet the Broxtowe Parks Standard. Having a uniform standard across all the sites is seen as a fair and positive way of improving the quality and visitor experience of the parks and open spaces.

The questions asked in the survey were as follows:

1. What is your overall impression of the park/open space?
2. How effective is the signage?
3. How would you rate the standard of cleanliness?
4. How clean is the site in terms of dog fouling?
5. How easy is it for you to get around? (for example, are there enough paths and in the right places)
6. How would you rate the standard of grass cutting?
7. How would you rate the play facilities provided? (Not applicable for Hemlockstone, as this site is a nature reserve)
8. How do the current facilities meet the needs of your activity on the park/open space?
9. How are issues with vandalism and anti-social behaviour dealt with?
10. Thinking about the approach to nature and wildlife, how would you rate this aspect of the park/open space management? (For example, tree planting, wildflowers)
11. How likely are you to visit the park again or recommend it to friends and family? (1 being very unlikely, 5 being very likely)

In 2024, the parks and open spaces consultation received 450 responses, which resulted in two spaces failing the parks standard. These were:

- Archers Field Recreation Ground, Stapleford
- Central Avenue Recreation Ground, Stapleford

Any failures from the previous year get carried over to the following year's consultation process; except for Central Avenue which will be included in the Park Standards Survey 2026 following some improvements onsite being carried out 25/26.

Throughout the summer of 2025, a consultation was undertaken to evaluate 20% of the parks and open spaces across the Borough (including Archers Field, Stapleford that failed the previous year).

The consultation process involved an online questionnaire, which received 263 responses. This is a 42% decrease on the previous year. (Figure 1)

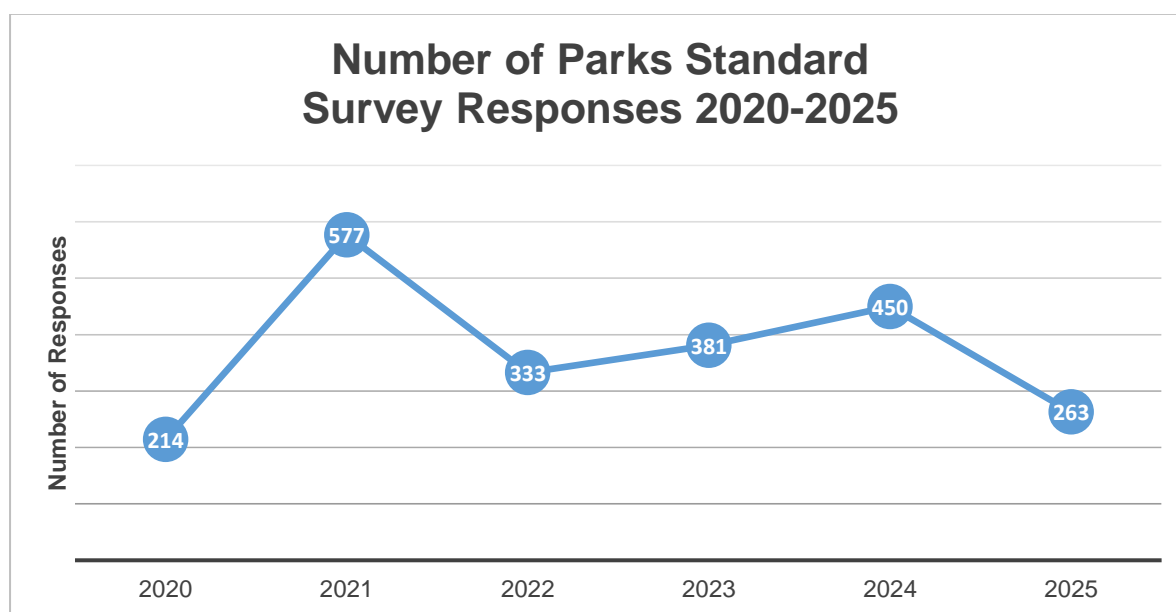


Figure 1: Park Standard survey responses.

Table 1 details the number of Council owned Park Standard fails for fair and above.

| Year | Number of Council Park Standard fails |
|------|---------------------------------------|
| 2020 | 1 |
| 2021 | 1 |
| 2022 | 2 |
| 2023 | 2 |
| 2024 | 2 |
| 2025 | 3 |

Table 1: Number of Council Park Standard fails by year for fair and above.

The survey was promoted on the Council's website, through social media and with posters displaying a QR code at all the participating parks and open spaces.

All sites are also inspected by officers from the Parks team to assess any concerns raised through the consultation process. This was to ensure that the scores achieved truly reflected the condition of each site.

It is not known why there has been such a significant decrease in the number of respondents to the Parks Standard survey this year. The methodologies used mirrored those of previous years, including online promotion via the Council's website, social media, and QR code posters at participating sites.

Officers are currently reviewing alternative approaches for the 2026 survey to help bolster response numbers. This will include exploring additional methods such as

distributing physical copies in community locations and refining the survey format to make it more accessible and engaging for residents.

Analysis of the 2025 Parks Standard Consultation

Twelve parks and open spaces sites were selected to be assessed from the 29 July to 1 September 2025.

The results from the survey are shown in table 2.

| Area | Site Name | Number of responses | Fair and above (85% pass rate) | Good and above (45% pass rate) |
|------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Awsworth | The Lane* | 4 | 76% | 46% |
| Beeston | Broadgate Park | 18 | 85% | 59% |
| Bramcote | Bramcote Hills | 63 | 96% | 75% |
| Bramcote | Eastcote Avenue | 23 | 80% | 45% |
| Brinsley | Brinsley Recreation Ground* | 8 | 74% | 49% |
| Chilwell | Chetwynd Recreation Ground | 16 | 93% | 65% |
| Greasley | Colliers Wood | 19 | 89% | 63% |
| Eastwood | Jubilee Park | 11 | 66% | 30% |
| Giltbrook | Smithurst Open Space | 50 | 92% | 66% |
| Kimberley | Flixton Road | 22 | 90% | 55% |
| Stapleford | Archers Field | 21 | 72% | 47% |
| Stapleford | Judson Avenue | 7 | 85% | 46% |

Table 2: Results from the 2025 Parks Standards Survey.

NB: Any cells highlighted in red denotes a failure.

* Denotes that it is owned by a Parish Council.

Parks and Open spaces failing to achieve less than 85% (Fair and above)

A total of three Broxtowe Borough Council owned parks and open spaces achieved less than 85% (Fair and above) along with two Parish Council owned parks and open spaces. These were:

Parish

- The Lane -Awsworth
- Brinsley Recreation Ground – Brinsley

Broxtowe Borough Council

- Archers Field – Stapleford
- Eastcote Avenue – Bramcote

- Jubilee Park – Eastwood

Parks and Open spaces failing to achieve less than 45% (Good and above)

Jubilee Park - Eastwood

Analysis for sites failing to achieve the Parks Standard

The results of the 2025 Parks Standard consultation were disappointing overall, with only 263 responses received, a significant decrease from 450 in 2024. This represents one of the lowest levels of engagement for this annual consultation. To improve participation, the Council will review its approach to promotion and accessibility. This will include introducing physical copies of surveys in community locations such as libraries and schools and revising the survey questions to make them more concise and relevant. These changes were not implemented previously because the consultation process has historically followed a consistent format, but the low response rate this year has now highlighted the need for a refreshed approach.

The consultation identified three Broxtowe Borough Council parks and two Parish Council sites that failed to achieve the minimum standard (85% “Fair and above”).

It is important to note that Central Avenue, Stapleford, which failed last year, was inadvertently missed from this year’s consultation. This will be included in the 2026 Parks Standard survey.

Planned Improvements

Many of these failing sites have recently undergone or are scheduled for improvement works under the Pride in Parks programme, including new play equipment, path resurfacing, and biodiversity enhancements. The forthcoming Play and Parks Strategy refresh will take a broader approach, addressing not only play provision but also wider infrastructure such as paths, gates, seating, and accessibility. This strategy will go through public consultation, the Policy and Overview Working Group, and Cabinet, with adoption anticipated in autumn 2026.

Archers Field, Stapleford

The results for Archers Field are shown in Figure 2.

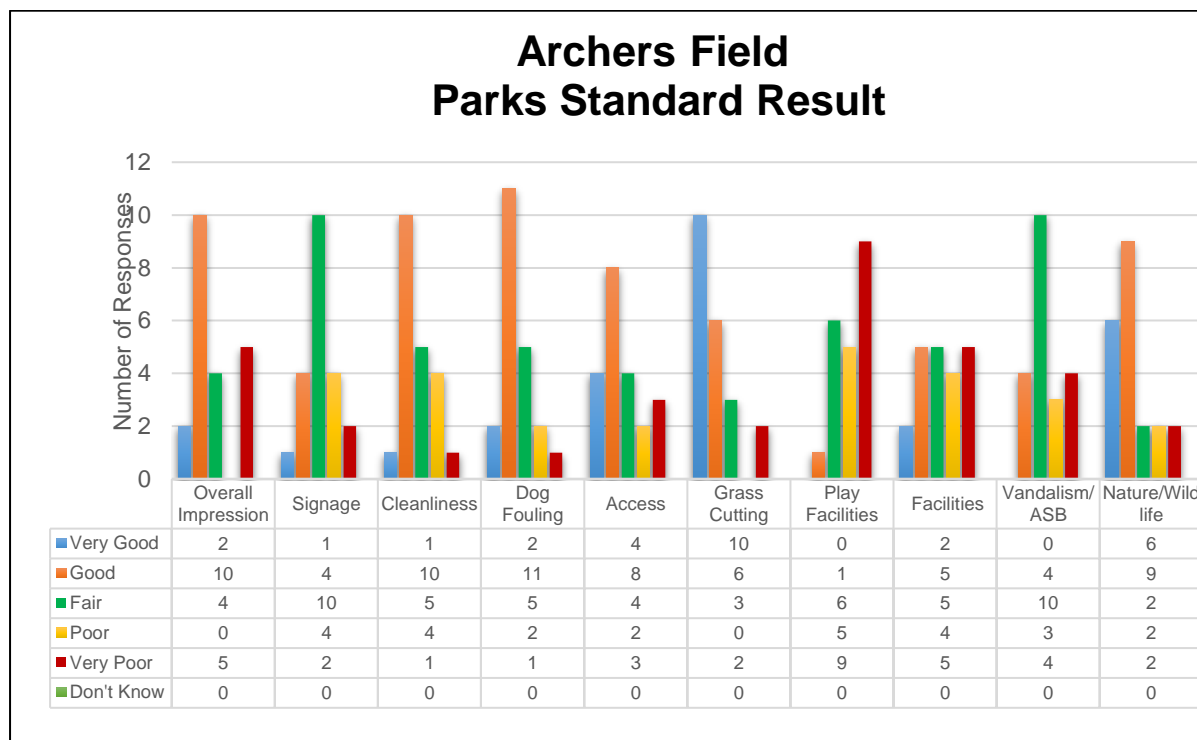


Figure 2: Archers Field, Stapleford Park Standard responses.

Archers Field received 21 responses across 10 survey themes, representing 8% of the overall response rate. While the site did not meet the Parks Standard overall, there are encouraging signs and opportunities for improvement.

Access and Grass Cutting scored strongly. This reflects recent investment in new tarmac paths, which has already improved accessibility for users.

Nature and Wildlife also scored well showing that the approach to biodiversity, such as tree planting is valued by the community.

Although play facilities and site facilities scored poorly, these results reinforce the need for targeted improvements. The forthcoming Play and Parks Strategy refresh will identify priorities for upgrading play equipment and seating, ensuring that future investment align with community needs.

Issues around anti-social behaviour and litter were highlighted, but these provide a clear focus for management interventions such as improved bin provision and increased environmental enforcement patrols.

Overall, while challenges remain, the positive feedback on accessibility, maintenance, and biodiversity demonstrates that recent works are making a difference. With the new strategy and prioritisation process, Archers Field is well placed to benefit from further enhancements that will improve play value, inclusivity, and overall visitor experience.

Jubilee Park, Eastwood

The results for Jubilee Park, Eastwood are shown in Figure 3.

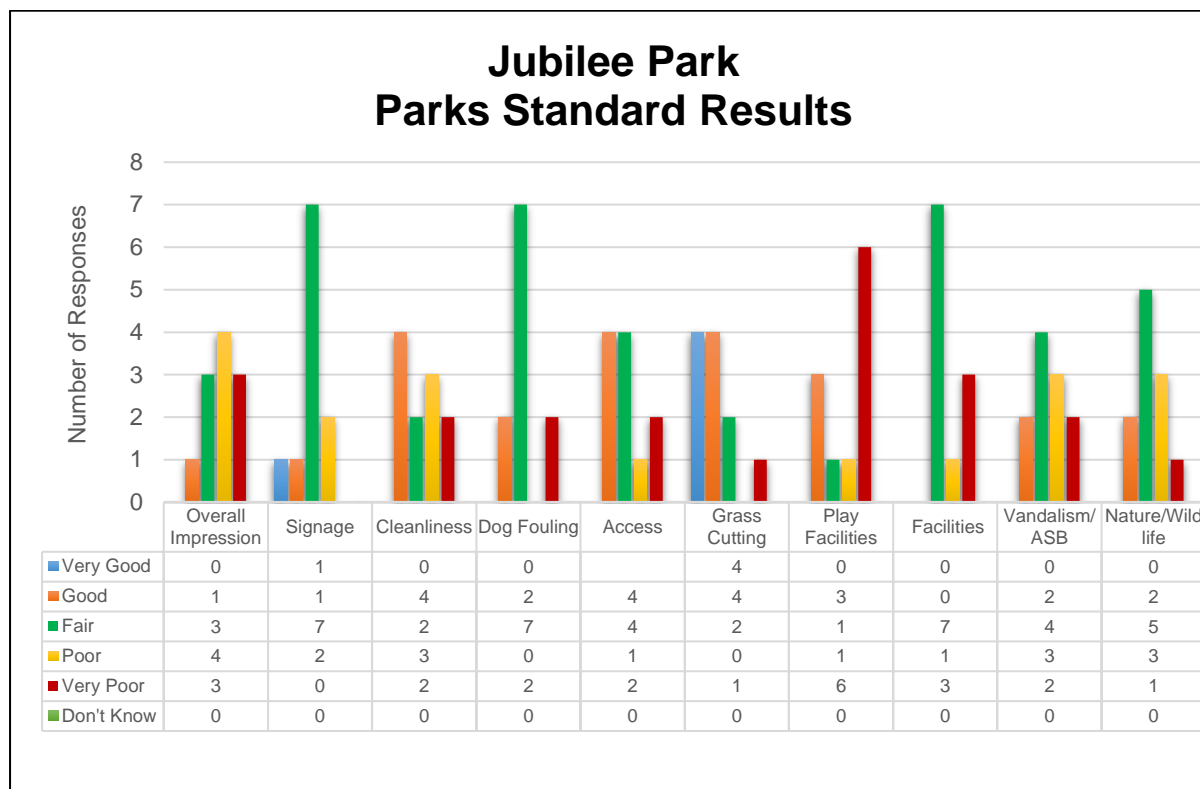


Figure 3: Jubilee Park, Park Standard responses

Jubilee Park attracted 11 responses across 10 survey themes, representing 4% of the overall consultation sample. While the site fell short of the Parks Standard, there are encouraging aspects and clear opportunities for improvement.

Maintenance indicators such as grass cutting and general access received a number of “Good” ratings, showing that the basics are being managed effectively. Feedback on cleanliness and dog fouling was mixed but included positive scores, suggesting that routine upkeep is broadly acceptable.

The lower scores for play facilities and site amenities highlight a need for investment, particularly in diversifying equipment for older children and improving seating. These priorities will be addressed through the Play and Parks Strategy refresh, which will set out a clear framework for upgrading play value and supporting infrastructure.

Nature and wildlife provision was rated modestly, but this is an area where improvements are already planned. The upcoming hedgerow planting will enhance biodiversity and create a more attractive environment for visitors. Combined with suggestions for gym equipment and wildlife-friendly areas, this feedback provides a strong steer for future enhancements.

While anti-social behaviour and litter remain concerns, these issues are being considered as part of wider management actions, including better bin provision and potential patrols.

In summary, Jubilee Park has a solid foundation in terms of maintenance and access, and with targeted improvements through the refreshed strategy, it can evolve into a more inclusive and engaging space for the community.

Eastcote Avenue – Bramcote

The results for Eastcote Avenue, Bramcote are shown in Figure 4.

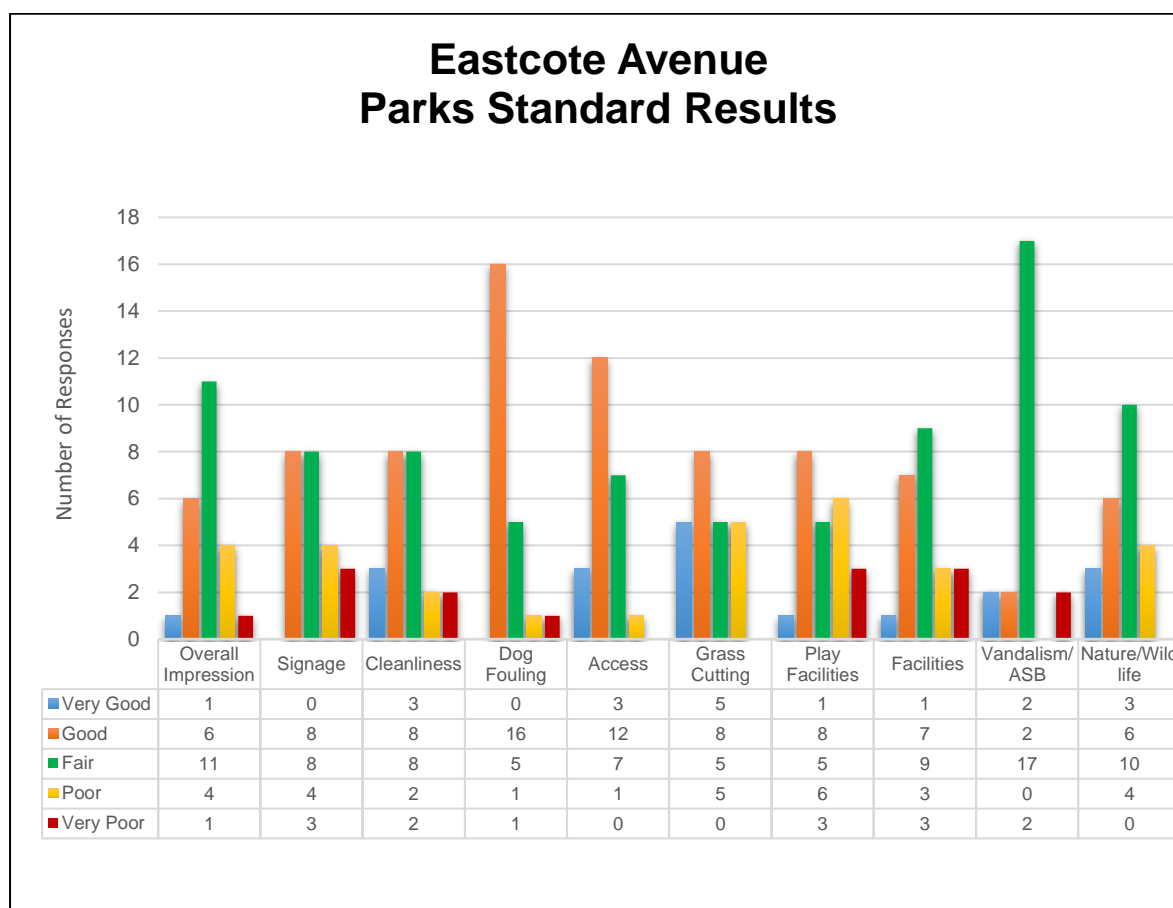


Figure 4: Eastcote Avenue, Park Standard responses

Eastcote Avenue received 23 responses across 10 survey themes, representing 9% of the overall consultation sample. While the site did not meet the Parks Standard overall, the feedback provides a clear direction for improvement and highlights some encouraging aspects.

Signage and dog fouling scored particularly well, suggesting that basic site management and visibility are strong points. Similarly, grass cutting and access attracted positive responses, indicating that routine maintenance is generally effective.

The lower scores for play facilities and site amenities reflect the need for investment in equipment and seating. This aligns with user comments about outdated play

provision and the desire for more toddler-friendly features. These priorities will be addressed through the Play and Parks Strategy refresh, which will set out a Borough-wide approach to upgrading play value and supporting infrastructure. A refresh of the play area is scheduled to be undertaken by the end of March 2026 and the comments made through the survey will be taken onboard.

Nature and wildlife provision received mixed feedback, but this is an area where enhancements are already underway. Recent path resurfacing has improved accessibility, and new play equipment is being sourced to better meet community needs. Suggestions for picnic benches and biodiversity improvements will also inform future plans.

While concerns around anti-social behaviour were noted, these provide a clear focus for management interventions and community engagement.

In summary, Eastcote Avenue benefits from strong scores in signage and maintenance, and with targeted improvements through the refreshed strategy, it has the potential to become a more inclusive and welcoming space for all users.

Commentary on Parish Council Parks results

Two Parish Council-owned sites were included in the 2025 Parks Standard survey. Although the Council is not responsible for these sites, they were included to ensure a consistent approach to assessing park quality across the Borough. This provides a complete picture of the visitor experience and helps identify opportunities for collaboration and shared learning. Where appropriate, Section 106 funding will also be used to support Parish Councils in upgrading park equipment and improving facilities.

The feedback and comments gathered about these sites will be passed on to the respective Parish Councils for their information, supporting their own improvement plans.

The Lane, Awsworth, received 4 responses, representing approximately 1.5% of the overall 263 responses. Feedback highlighted that play facilities did not cater for all age ranges, particularly under 5s, and seating could be improved. Awsworth Parish Council has already installed a toddler unit, which has received positive comments from users. Respondents also suggested biodiversity enhancements such as planting areas and bug hotels to improve the site's appeal. Encouragingly, all respondents said they would recommend the park to others, showing strong community value despite areas for improvement.

Brinsley Recreation Ground, received 8 responses, representing approximately 3% of the overall responses. Feedback suggests the park feels dated and would benefit from a refresh. Users highlighted the need for inclusive play equipment and noted that some items are outdated. There was strong support for introducing wildflower

areas alongside amenity grass to enhance biodiversity and visual appeal. These insights will help inform future discussions with the Parish Council.

Consultation comments for the other park sites

Broadgate Park, Beeston

Feedback for Broadgate Park indicates that anti-social behaviour is a concern, with respondents highlighting issues such as drug use and alcohol consumption. Several comments linked these concerns to nearby student accommodation, noting fears of increased drug-related activity.

Signage was mentioned repeatedly, with users suggesting that it requires refreshing to improve visibility and presentation. Despite these issues, general maintenance of the park was praised, with respondents stating that the site is well looked after.

To address safety concerns, park users suggested increased patrols by wardens, PCSOs, and Police, which they believe would help them feel safer and tackle problems such as dog fouling and anti-social behaviour.

Bramcote Hills Park

Feedback for Bramcote Hills Park was largely positive, with respondents praising the high standard of maintenance and the variety of facilities available. The most frequent suggestion was the need for toilets onsite; with many users stating this would encourage longer visits.

Other comments included requests to upgrade the trim trail and diversify play equipment, work that is already underway. Signage was noted as looking worn, but this is being addressed through the rollout of new park signs and refreshed interpretation boards across the Borough.

A small number of respondents highlighted the need for more regular bin emptying and suggested warden patrols to tackle dog fouling. Overall, most users said they would recommend Bramcote Hills Park to others, reflecting its strong reputation and ongoing investment.

Chetwynd Recreation Ground, Chilwell

Feedback for Chetwynd Recreation Ground was generally positive, with respondents noting that the park is well maintained and benefits from a strong local community that actively supports its upkeep through litter picks. Only minor issues were raised, such as the need for tree works at entrances.

The main concern highlighted was litter, with suggestions to increase the frequency of bin emptying. Several respondents requested additional seating, particularly near the play area, and an accessible picnic bench is already being sourced to address this. One respondent also expressed interest in outdoor fitness equipment, which could be considered in future plans.

Overall, most users said they would highly recommend this park to others, reflecting its good condition and strong community involvement.

Colliers Wood, Greasley

Colliers Wood performed strongly in the survey, scoring highly across all elements and receiving positive feedback from respondents who described the site as a valuable community asset. Users particularly appreciated the high standard of maintenance, which contributes to the park's overall appeal.

Suggestions for improvement focused on car park facilities, with calls for clearer marking of disabled bays. This is already being addressed, as line-marking works have been scheduled for the next two months. Respondents also commented on the large pond, recommending better information for dog walkers to help protect wildlife and maintain the quality of this feature.

Wildflower areas were highlighted as a popular aspect of the park, with users suggesting that additional planting would further enhance biodiversity and the visitor experience.

Overall, Colliers Wood is regarded as a well-maintained and attractive site, and the planned improvements will build on its strong reputation.

Smithurst Road Open Space, Giltbrook

Smithurst Road scored very well in the survey, with respondents praising the high standard of maintenance and noting that the park feels well cared for. This strong performance reflects ongoing investment and attention to site upkeep.

Several comments suggested that the play area could benefit from equipment for older children, and quotes are currently being obtained for suitable additions. Lighting was also raised as an area for improvement, as the absence of lighting makes some users feel unsafe during darker winter months. This will be considered as part of future planning.

Respondents welcomed the recent tree planting and proposed further biodiversity enhancements, such as wildflower areas, to encourage wildlife and improve the visual appeal of the site. Encouragingly, 76% of respondents said they would highly recommend this park to others, demonstrating its popularity and strong community value.

It should be noted that while the park scored strongly, there is still significant work required to improve accessibility within the play area. The site received a small refresh five years ago, but accessibility improvements were only partially completed due to limited funding at the time. A report presented to Cabinet on 6 January 2026 details that Section 106 funding has been allocated for Smithurst Open Space. This investment will focus on delivering fully accessible surfacing and equipment. This funding is linked to local development and must be spent within the area, making Smithurst Open Space an appropriate site for these improvements.

In addition to play area improvements, the Section 106 allocation will support wider enhancements across the five distinct open space areas within Smithurst Open Space. This includes addressing drainage issues, installing accessible gates at key entry points, and ensuring the site meets modern standards for inclusivity and usability.

Flixton Road, Kimberley

Flixton Road received mixed feedback, with many respondents rating the overall impression as 'Fair', and some describing the park as tired and in need of attention. Suggestions for improvement included better lighting to improve safety and upgraded paths, as current surfaces can become muddy during wet weather.

The play area was highlighted as an area for enhancement, with requests for additional equipment, particularly baby swings and a roundabout. Respondents also suggested relaxing the mowing regime to support biodiversity and praised the existing conservation area. Further comments proposed introducing wildflower planting to brighten the space and enhance its ecological value.

These insights will inform future priorities under the Play and Parks Strategy refresh, ensuring that improvements focus on play provision, accessibility, and biodiversity.

Judson Avenue, Stapleford

Judson Avenue scored mostly 'Fair' in the survey, with feedback focusing on site maintenance, particularly overhanging trees and overgrown bushes. Respondents expressed that the park has not seen significant investment for many years and would benefit from improvements to enhance usability and appearance.

Suggestions included introducing a path through the site, upgrading gates, and increasing the frequency of maintenance. These comments provide a clear direction for future enhancements, which will be considered as part of the Play and Parks Strategy refresh to ensure investment aligns with community needs.

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Appendix 2

Investment in the Pride in Parks programme

Table 2 below, shows the level of investment in the Pride in Parks programme from 2018 to 2024. The investment levels also include external funding.

| Financial Year | Investment |
|----------------|------------|
| 2018/19 | £361,000 |
| 2019/20 | £320,000 |
| 2021/22 | £222,000 |
| 2022/23 | £145,000 |
| 2023/24 | £360,000 |
| 2024/25 | £151,000 |
| 2025/26 | £304,000 |

Table 2: Pride in Parks investment

Improvements delivered by the Pride in Parks programme

Tables 3,4,5,6,7 and 8 below, shows the number of improvements delivered by the Pride in Parks programme from 2018 up until 2025. The investment levels also include external funding (FCC, United Living and Section 106 contributions).

2018/19

| Site | Improvement | Cost |
|---|--|-------|
| Beeston - Broadgate Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbishment of the play area. • Bark replaced with an accessible rubber surface. • Sand and water play. • Dish roundabout. • Easy transfer group swing. • In-floor trampoline and toddler items. | £90k |
| Beeston - Leyton Crescent Recreation Ground | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A refurbishment of the play area. • Bark replaced with an accessible rubber surface. • Giant steel frame with nets and various play activities installed. • Inclusivity and accessibility considered with the inclusion of low-level play activities. | £110k |
| Eastwood - Jubilee Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance and cleansing of equipment and surfacing. | £1k |
| Eastwood - Mansfield Road Recreation Ground | <p>This scheme was funded from Section 106 allocations from the Rippon Homes Development at Peacock Drive, Eastwood.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% replacement of the bark surface with an accessible rubber one. • Refurbished play units and installation of a new toddler unit. | £40k |
| Kimberley - Millfield Road Open Space | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play area extended. • Rubber accessible surface installed. • Toddler unit with low level activities installed. | £40k |

| Site | Improvement | Cost |
|---|---|------|
| Nuthall - Redbridge Drive Open Space | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play area extended Toddler unit, trampoline and group swing installed. 50% of the bark surface replaced with rubber. | £48k |
| Stapleford - Central Avenue Recreation Ground | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance and cleansing of equipment and surfacing. | £1k |
| Stapleford - Judson Avenue Open Space | <p>External funding was obtained to refurbish this area, working alongside a local community group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25% of the bark surface replaced with rubber. Accessible dish roundabout and low level trampoline installed. | £30k |
| Trowell - Salcey Drive Open Space | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance and cleansing of equipment and surfacing. | £1k |

Table 3: 2018/19 - Pride in Parks improvements

2019/20

| Site | Improvement | Cost |
|--|---|-------|
| Bramcote - King Georges Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rubber surfacing. Low level activities and trampoline in a fenced play area. Timber units for older children. | £130k |
| Chilwell - Sherman Drive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play area extended and refurbished. New equipment for younger children. Installation of rubber safety surfacing to make the area more accessible. | £30k |
| Stapleford - Hickings Lane Recreation Ground | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New play area, featuring a large steel dome, climbing nets and rope ladders. Installation of a trampoline and a rubber surface. | £160k |

Table 4: 2019/20 - Pride in Parks improvements

2021/22

| Site | Improvement | Cost |
|--|--|-------|
| Beeston - Dovecote Lane Recreation Ground, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full refurbishment of the play area. • New climbing units installed. • Bark replaced with an accessible rubber surface. • Play units with low level activities installed. • Accessible basket swing. • Picnic tables. • Zip line. | £140k |
| Chilwell - Swiney Way Open Space | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of outdated equipment. • Rubber surface installed. | £40k |
| Play Area Improvements | <p>Works carried out at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beeston Fields Recreation Ground. • Sandy Lane Open Space, Bramcote. • Inham Nook Recreation Ground, Chilwell. • Queen Elizabeth Park, Stapleford. <p>Works included refurbishing individual play items and installing rubber surfacing.</p> | £42k |

Table 5: 2021/22 - Pride in Parks improvements

2022/23

| Site | Improvement | Cost |
|-------------------------|--|------|
| Eastwood - Jubilee Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of existing play area. • Installation of an accessible rubber surface. • Accessible basket swing and picnic table installed. | £22k |
| The Spinney, Nuthall | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bark replaced with an accessible rubber surface. | £33k |

| Site | Improvement | Cost |
|---|---|------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New play items installed for younger children. | |
| Stapleford - Pasture Road recreation Ground | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full refurbishment of the play area. Bark replaced with an accessible rubber surface. Accessible basket swing and picnic table installed. Installation of a fitness area | £90k |

Table 6: 2022/23 - Pride in Parks improvements

2023/24

| Site | Improvement | Cost |
|--|---|-------|
| Beeston - Cator Lane Recreation Ground | <p>Design works on this play area are currently being finalised and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low level inclusive activities and additional toddler equipment. Installation of accessible rubber surfacing. | £35k |
| Bramcote - Bramcote Hills Park | <p>An extensive public consultation has been undertaken over the summer of 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old play units replaced and refurbished. Improved provision for toddlers. Zip line. | £230k |
| Bramcote - Sandgate Open Space | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New seesaw and roundabout. Rubber flooring. Improvements to access points. Accessible basket swing will be installed. | £40k |
| Stapleford - Queens Elizabeth II Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An accessible basket swing. Installation of accessible rubber surfacing. | £25k |
| Toton - Banks Road Open Space | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low level inclusive activities and additional toddler equipment. | £30k |

| Site | Improvement | Cost |
|------|--|------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of accessible rubber surfacing. | |

Table 7: 2023/24 - Pride in Parks improvements

2024/25

| Site | Improvement | Cost |
|--|---|------|
| Bramcote - Eastcote Avenue Open Space | <p>Path around perimeter of site connecting into Chesham Drive and Pimlico Avenue. Works currently with contractor awaiting start date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patch and overlay areas worst affected and reinstate affected edgings. | £25k |
| Bramcote - King George V Park | <p>Works currently with contractor awaiting start date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patch and overlay tarmacadam surface in worst affected areas and reinstate affected edgings. | £40k |
| Eastwood - Hall Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steps repaired. All paths scraped and cleared of any detritus to allow resurfacing. The repairs have improved a 1.2km route that runs around and through the site. | £20K |
| Moorgreen - Colliers Wood Nature reserve | <p>Design work being finalised with contractor onsite. This scheme was part funded from Section 106 allocations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinstatement of consolidated stone and any edging material where needed. Resurfacing of the main path with tarmacadam. Replacement of dipping platform. Improvements to performance area. | £66K |

Table 8: 2024/25 - Pride in Parks improvements

2025/2026

| Site | Improvement | Cost |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------|
| Eastwood- Coronation Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update and refurbishment of existing play area, boundary fencing and picnic area. | £50k |
| Bramcote – Eastcote Avenue Open Space | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update and refurbish of the play area, including converting the bark pit into a rubber surface, boundary fencing, picnic area and signage. | £70k |
| Giltbrook- Smithurst road | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update and refurbishment of the existing play area including converting bark pit into rubber safety surfacing. Improvements to picnic area and kickabout area outside the designated play area. | £100k |
| Eastwood – Jubilee Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New, safer and accessible surfacing to play area. Improved security gates and fencing. | 38k |
| Beeston – Dovecote Lane | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resurfacing of paths through the park. New boundary fencing. | 36k |
| Chilwell – Cator Lane | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surfacing of paths through the park. | 10k |

Table 8: 2025/26 - Pride in Parks improvements

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Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change

Allocation of Section 106 Funds

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for Section 106 Open Space contributions to be used to fund improvements to the Parks and Open Spaces and for the capital schemes to be included in the capital programme for the relevant year/s.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that the parks and open spaces improvement scheme for Smithurst Road Open Space and Local Nature Reserve in Giltbrook be approved and added to the Capital Programme for 2025/26 with the cost of £141,700 being funded by an allocation from Section 106 contributions.

3. Detail

Section 106 developer contribution funds have now been received by the Council for improvements within Parks and Open Spaces. The development, funding level and the associated improvement to the relevant open space is shown below:

| Development | Section 106 Funding | Site Identified for improvement |
|---|---------------------|---|
| 08/00526/FUL Land At Halls Lane Giltbrook | £141,700 | <u>Smithurst Road Open Space and Local Nature Reserve, Giltbrook:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbishment of the play area on Smithurst Road, incorporating accessible surfacing and inclusive play equipment. • Drainage works and path surfacing improvements. • Seating, bins and refreshed signage • Habitat and planting works. |

While there are no strict limitations on how Section 106 funding can be used, it must be allocated to sites identified within the relevant Section 106 agreements. Once completed, these improvements will enhance the Borough's open spaces and play areas for all users and support the priorities set out in the Play Strategy.

4. Key Decision

This report is not a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer were as follows:

Although the respective Section 106 agreement receipts will provide the necessary funding for the parks and open spaces improvements, the Capital Programme for 2025/26 does not currently include this scheme.

If approved, the improvements scheme at the Smithurst Road Open Space and Local Nature Reserve, Giltbrook, will be added to the Capital Programme 2025/26, with the cost of £141,700 being funded by an allocation from Section 106 contributions.

7. Legal Implications

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

Section 106 of the 1990 Town & Country Planning Act (as amended) allows Local Planning Authorities to require developers to enter into Legal Agreements to provide measures to mitigate the impact of their development. These Agreements are known as Section 106 Agreements. The planning obligations contained within them either require the developer to deliver on-site mitigation or to make a financial contribution to enable the Council to provide appropriate mitigating measures. By law, these planning obligations can only be required where they are necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms; directly related to the development; and fairly and reasonably related in scale and in kind to the development. Payments can be made in the form of a capital or revenue contribution, as a lump sum or phased payments, due on defined dates or triggered as the development progresses. Local planning authorities are required to use the funding in accordance with the terms of the individual Section 106 agreement and if not spent by the date specified in the agreement must be returned to the developer.

8. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

9. Union Comments

Not applicable.

10. Climate Change Implications

Not applicable.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

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

12. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

13. Background Papers

Nil.

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Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change

New Post - Senior Environmental Development Officer

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for the creation of a new Senior Environmental Development Officer position within the Parks and Open Spaces team and for the deletion of the Sign Fabricator, Painter and Decorator post (T20). This is in accordance with the Council's Corporate Priority for Environment – 'Protect the environment for the future'.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that the creation of a new Senior Environmental Development Officer post, at a projected Grade 9, be approved. The new post would be partially funded by the deletion of the Sign Fabricator, Painter and Decorator post (T20) from the establishment, with the net cost of up to £22,650 being met from the General Fund Reserve balances.

3. Detail

The Sign Fabricator, Painter and Decorator position has been vacant since June 2024. While a potential restructure was considered at that time, the team has managed the workload and found it more cost-effective to outsource sign fabrication to external contractors rather than retain the role in-house. Since then, the duties previously undertaken by this post have been absorbed by the two Environmental Development Officers and the Conservation and Green Spaces Development Manager, supplemented by external contractors where necessary.

Over recent years, the workload of the Parks and Open Spaces team has increased significantly due to:

- Implementation of Blue/Green Asset Management requirements.
- Addition of further open spaces for management.
- Delivery and ongoing maintenance of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS), with two sites already operational and a third due this year.
- Refresh of the Blue/Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- Development of the Pride in Parks programme
- Expansion of responsibilities under the Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy.

These strategic priorities have placed considerable pressure on the team, making the current arrangement unsustainable.

To address this, it is proposed to create a Senior Environmental Development Officer post, funded by the budget previously allocated to the Sign Fabricator, Painter and Decorator role. This new position will provide the necessary capacity and expertise to support delivery of the Council's environmental and climate objectives.

The proposed Senior Environmental Development Officer post will not include line management responsibilities. The role is intended to provide technical and operational support rather than direct staff supervision.

Justification for the Senior Level Post

The proposed role is at Senior Environmental Development Officer level rather than an additional Environmental Development Officer for the following reasons:

Bridging the Gap: The new post will provide an intermediate level of responsibility between the existing Environmental Development Officers and the Conservation and Green Spaces Development Manager, ensuring clearer delegation and improved operational oversight. See **Appendix 1** for the current and revised structures.

Development Opportunity and Skills Retention: Creating a senior post offers a progression pathway within the team, supporting staff development and retention at a time when there is a recognised skills shortage in this environmental sector.

Operational Support for Strategic Focus: The Conservation and Green Spaces Development Manager requires additional support with day-to-day operational tasks, including structural and engineering checks, compliance monitoring, and project delivery. This will allow the Manager to concentrate on strategic priorities and high-profile programmes such as Pride in Parks.

Capacity to Deliver Expanding Workload: The senior role will bring enhanced technical expertise and leadership capacity to manage complex projects linked to climate resilience, biodiversity, and infrastructure, aligning with the Council's Blue/Green Infrastructure Strategy and Climate Change and Green Futures Programme.

Next Steps

If approved, the newly created Senior Environmental Development Officer post will be submitted for job evaluation. It is anticipated that the role will achieve Grade 9, and once confirmed, this post will replace the current Sign Fabricator, Painter and Decorator position (T20) which will be deleted from the establishment.

4. Key Decision

This report is not a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012?

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer were as follows:

The Sign Fabricator, Painter and Decorator post (T20) is included on the establishment at Grade 5 which for 2025/26 is an overall budgeted cost of £35,250 including oncosts.

The proposed new Senior Environmental Development Officer role at Grade 9 would require an annual budget of up to £49,500 (including oncosts). This additional cost of up to £22,650 would have to be met from General Fund Reserves balances.

7. Legal Implications

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

Whilst there are no direct legal implications that arise from this report, it is important that this recruitment process is in accordance with the Council's Recruitment and Selection policy.

8. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

9. Union Comments

Not applicable.

10. Climate Change Implications

While the creation of the Senior Environmental Development Officer post has no direct climate change implications, it will play a key role in supporting initiatives related to nature recovery, the Blue-Green Infrastructure Strategy, and the Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy. These activities collectively contribute to mitigating the impacts of climate change.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

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

12. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

13. Background Papers

Nil.

Appendix 1

Current Parks and Open Spaces Structure

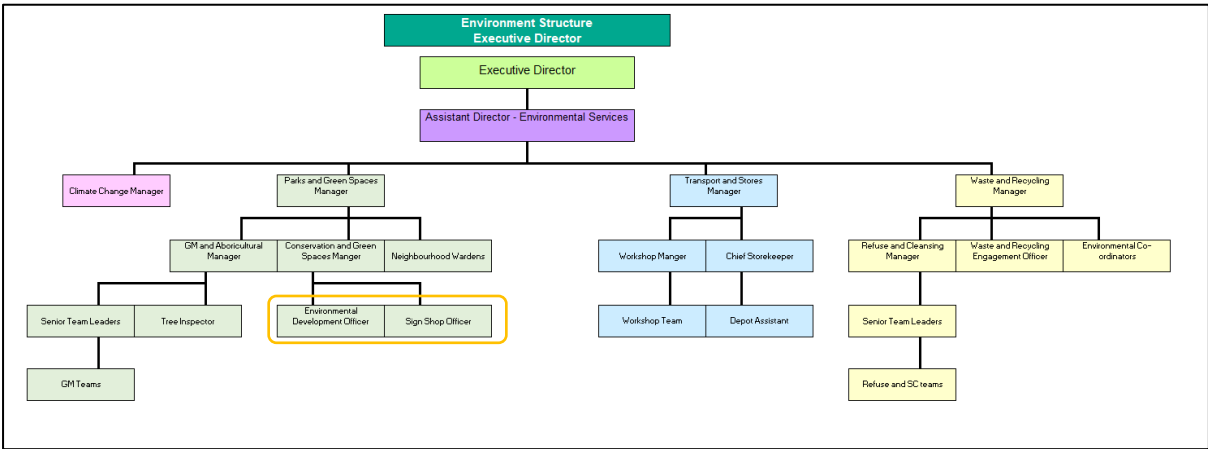


Image 1: Current structure in Parks and Open Spaces

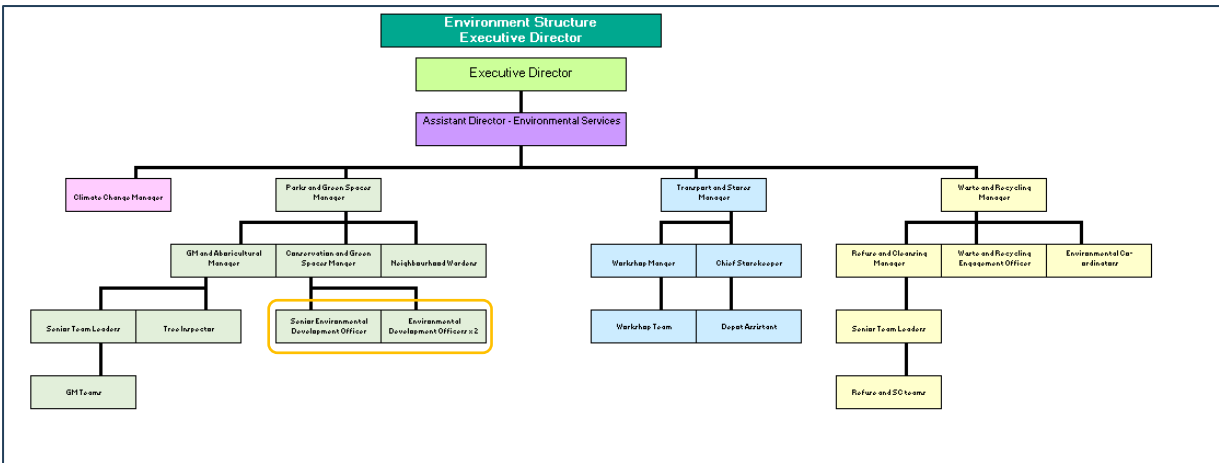


Image 2: Revised structure in Parks and Open Spaces

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Report of the Leader of the Council

Cabinet Work Programme

1. Purpose of Report

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

2. Recommendation

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

3. Detail

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

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 3 February 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Proposals and Associated Strategies • Pay Policy • Irrecoverable Arrears* • Broxtowe Design Code Householder Development* • Blue Infrastructure Audit • HMO Article 4* • Bramcote Quarry Open Space • Allocation of Section 106 Funds • Blue Infrastructure Audit • Environmental Enforcement • Capital Programme 2025/26 – Capital Budget Variations |
| 10 March 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants to Voluntary and Community organisations • Complaints Report Q3 • Complaints Assessment Report • Hate Crime Pledge • Substance Misuse Strategy • Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy* • University of Nottingham Retrofit and Decarbonisation Roadmap* |

4. Key Decisions

This is not key decision.

5. Financial Implications

There are no additional financial implications.

6. Legal Implications

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

7. Human Resources Implications

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

8. Union Comments

Not applicable.

9. Climate Change Implications

Not applicable.

10. Data Protection Compliance Implications

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

11. Equality Impact Assessment

There are no Equality Impact Assessment issues.

12. Background Papers

Nil.