



Tuesday, 7 July 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

A meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, 15 July 2026 in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Foster Avenue, Beeston NG9 1AB, commencing at 7.00 pm.

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

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zulfiqar Darr', enclosed in a rectangular box.

Zulfiqar Darr
Chief Executive

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

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence

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

2. Declarations of Interest

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

Further information can be found at: [Member Code of Conduct of Broxtowe Borough Council](#)

3. Minutes

(Pages 7 - 20)

Council is asked to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 13 May 2026.

4. Mayor's Announcements

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

6. Leader's Report

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

7. Members' Questions

8. Questions on Outside Bodies

9. Members' Speeches on Ward Issues

10. Portfolio Holder Reports

10.1 Report of the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Personnel Policy

(Pages 21 - 28)

- 10.2 Report of the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Asset Management (Pages 29 - 34)
- 10.3 Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing (Pages 35 - 36)
- 10.4 Report of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health (Pages 37 - 42)
- 10.5 Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change (Pages 43 - 50)
- 10.6 Report of the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety (Pages 51 - 56)

11. Public Questions

12. Motions

To consider motions

12.1 The Following Motion was submitted by Councillor T J Marsh:

In November 2025, leading experts delivered a [National Emergency Briefing](#) on the wide-ranging implications of the climate crisis. They outlined how it will affect us in 6 key ways: weather extremes, nature breakdown, food security, national security, health, & economics. The film also highlighted important tipping points and the importance of an energy transition.

This forms the basis for the [People's Emergency Briefing](#), which is [being screened](#) across the country, including at Broxtowe Borough Council on 28 July 2026.

The climate emergency will affect everyone sooner rather than later and urgent action is needed to get this message heard.

This Council restates its commitment to tackling the climate crisis and recognises the need for wide public support in demanding urgent national and international action on emissions and the destruction of nature.

This Council resolves to: Write to the two MPs representing Broxtowe Borough, asking them to support a televised National Emergency Briefing and push for the urgent

structural and policy changes needed to mitigate the crisis; - Write to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, asking them to hold a prime-time televised emergency briefing on the climate and nature crisis, delivered live by trusted independent experts; - Conduct and support screenings of the National Emergency Briefing across the Borough; - Write to Parish and Town Councils in Broxtowe, encouraging them to screen the National Emergency Briefing for local residents.

12.2 The Following Motion was submitted by Councillor V Smith:

On 01 May 2026, the [Renters Rights Act](#) came into force in England. Among other things, this legislation banned Section 21 'no fault' evictions, removed fixed-term tenancies, and banned the practice of rent bidding.

The Act also placed a number of [new duties on local authorities](#) regarding enforcement of the new regulations in the private rented sector. More information on these duties as they relate to Broxtowe can be found [here](#).

Concerns have been raised about the ability of the [tribunal system to handle an increase in cases](#) in a timely manner and the [levels of funding provided to councils](#).

This Council welcomes the reforms to renters rights in so far as they improve security for tenants. However, this Council also acknowledges the significant limitations of the legislation and lack of sufficient funding for local authorities expected to enforce the new regulations.

This Council resolves to write to the Minister for Housing, Communities, & Local Government, stating our position and calling on the government to:

- introduce further measures to redress the power imbalance between tenants and landlords, including rent caps and closing eviction loopholes;
- provide full and sufficient funding for local authorities to ensure proper, effective enforcement;
- empower local authorities to deliver social housing programmes at scale to further address the housing crisis.

13. Presentation of Petitions

14. Appointments To Committees And Working Groups

To make appointments to committees and working groups.

15. Annual Scrutiny Report 2025-26

(Pages 57 - 78)

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will present the Annual Review of Scrutiny.

16. Urgent Business

This page is intentionally left blank

COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 13 MAY 2026

Present: Councillor R P Bullock, Mayor

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S A Bagshaw, H L Crosby, S Kerry, J W McGrath, H E Skinner, A W G A Stockwell, D K Watts, E Williamson and K Woodhead.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2026 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

4 RECOGNITION OF THE YOUTH MAYOR

A vote of thanks was proposed for the outgoing Youth Mayor, Toby Goldszmit by Councillor R P Bullock and seconded by Councillor G Marshall. On being put to the meeting the vote of thanks was approved.

5 APPOINTMENT OF YOUTH MAYOR

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

6 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

7 VOTE OF THANKS

A Vote of Thanks to the Mayor was proposed by Councillor M Radulovic, seconded by Councillor G Marshall and carried unanimously.

8 ELECTION OF MAYOR

It was proposed by Councillor R D MacRae and seconded by Councillor T A Cullen that Councillor B C Carr be elected as Mayor of the Borough for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED that Councillor B C Carr be elected Mayor of the Borough 2026/27.

Councillor B C Carr signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked the Council for having elected her Mayor of the Borough. Councillor B C Carr stated she would be supporting AGE UK Notts and Broxtowe Youth Homelessness throughout her term in office.

9 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

It was proposed by Councillor S Dannheimer and seconded by Councillor K Harlow that Councillor S Webb be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED that Councillor S Webb be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough 2026/27.

Councillor S Webb having signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office thanked the Council for having appointed her Deputy Mayor of the Borough.

10 RECOGNITION OF POLITICAL LEADERS

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

11 APPOINTMENTS TO CABINET AND COMMITTEES OF THE CABINET

The Council NOTED the appointments to Cabinet and Committees of the Cabinet.

Cabinet

M Radulovic MBE (Chair) - Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Asset Management
G Marshall (Vice Chair) - Portfolio Holder for Resources and Personnel Policy
T J Marsh - Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change
V C Smith - Portfolio Holder for Housing
T A Cullen - Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health
G Bunn - Portfolio Holder for Community Safety
S Paterson
J W McGrath
R D MacRae
E Williamson

Policy Overview Working Group

Broxtowe Alliance

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

Conservatives

D D Pringle
M Brown
H G Khaled

Labour

D Bagshaw
S A Bagshaw

Broxtowe Independent Group

B C Carr
R D MacRae

Liberal Democrat Group

D K Watts

Events, Arts, Culture and Heritage Working Group

Broxtowe Alliance

T A Cullen (Chair)
C Carr
T Cullen
P Smith
V Smith
J McGrath
H Skinner

Conservative

L A Ball BEM
H G Khaled MBE
S Kerry

Labour

S A Bagshaw
W Mee

Broxtowe Independent Group

B C Carr (Vice-Chair)
E Williamson

Shared Prosperity Fund Members Advisory Panel (UKSPF Panel)

Broxtowe Alliance

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

Conservative

P J Owen

Labour

H J Faccio

Broxtowe Independent Group

R D MacRae

12 ARRANGEMENT FOR THE DISCHARGE OF FUNCTIONS

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

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

Planning Committee

Broxtowe Alliance

S Jeremiah (Chair)
P A Smith (Vice-Chair)
S L Camplin
G Marshall
T Marsh
G Bunn

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

Conservative

L A Ball BEM
D D Pringle
J Couch

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

Labour

D Bagshaw
P Bales

Substitutes 1 A Cooper
2. W Mee

Broxtowe Independent Group

S J Carr

Substitute 1. E Williamson

Liberal Democrat Group

D K Watts

Substitute 1. H Land

Licensing & Appeals Committee

Broxtowe Alliance

R Bullock (Chair)
S Webb (Vice-Chair)
C M Tideswell
S Jeremiah
H Skinner

Labour

A Cooper
E Winfield

Conservative

D D Pringle
J Couch
S Kerry

Broxtowe Independent Group

B C Carr
S J Carr

Liberal Democrat Group

H Land

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Broxtowe Alliance

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

Labour

E Winfield

H J Faccio

Conservative

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

Broxtowe Independent Group

S J Carr
D L MacRae

Liberal Democrat Group

H Land

Governance, Audit & Standards Committee

Broxtowe Alliance

C Carr (Vice-Chair)	Substitutes	1. P Smith
R Bullock		2. K Woodhead
S Dannheimer		3. C M Tideswell
S Jeremiah		4. H Skinner
K A Harlow		5. S L Camplin
S Webb		

Conservative

M Brown	Substitute	1. P J Owen
J M Owen		
J Couch		

Labour

A Cooper	Substitutes	1. H J Faccio
E Winfield		2. W Mee

Broxtowe Independent Group

S J Carr (Chair)	Substitute	1. B C Carr
------------------	------------	-------------

Liberal Democrat Group

A Kingdon	Substitute	1. D K Watts
-----------	------------	--------------

Advisory Shareholder Sub-Committee

Broxtowe Alliance

K Woodhead (Chair)
S L Camplin (Vice-Chair)
S Webb

Substitutes 1. K A Harlow
2. R Bullock

Conservative

J Couch
M Brown

Substitute 1. P J Owen

Labour

W Mee

Substitute 1. P Bales

Broxtowe Independent Group

B C Carr

Substitute 1. S J Carr

Chief Officer Employment Committee

Broxtowe Alliance

G Marshall (Chair)
V C Smith (Vice-Chair)
S Jeremiah
G Bunn

Substitutes 1. M Radulovic MBE
2. K Woodhead
3. S Paterson
4. P Smith

Conservative

P J Owen

Substitute 1. D D Pringle

Labour

P Bales
H J Faccio

Substitute 1. A Cooper
2. E Winfield

Broxtowe Independent Group

R D MacRae

Substitute 1. S J Carr

Liberal Democrat Group

D K Watts

Substitute 1. H Land

Independent Members

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

Local Joint Consultative Committee

Broxtowe Alliance

H E Skinner
G Marshall
P Smith

Labour

A Cooper

Conservative

D D Pringle
J Couch

Broxtowe Independent Group

E Williamson

Bramcote Bereavement Services Joint Committee

Broxtowe Alliance

M Radulovic MBE

Conservative

H G Khaled MBE

Labour

E Winfield

13 **REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

<u>NO.</u>	<u>BODY/ORGANISATION</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE</u>
1	Age Concern, Eastwood	Cllr R Bullock
2	Attenborough Nature Reserve Forum	Cllr P A Smith Cllr T Marsh Cllr H E Skinner
3	Beeston Consolidated Charity	Cllr S Webb Cllr H E Skinner
4	Beeston Rylands Community Centre	Cllr S Webb Cllr S Dannheimer

<u>NO.</u>	<u>BODY/ORGANISATION</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE</u>
5	Broxtowe Citizens Advice Bureau	Cllr P A Smith
6	Canalside Heritage Centre	Cllr R Bullock (Substitute Cllr S Paterson)
7	Chilwell Community Centre	Cllr S Jeremiah Cllr H E Skinner Cllr C M Tideswell Cllr G Marshall
8	Core City Board/Joint Leadership Board	Cllr G Marshall
9	East Midlands Councils	Cllr M Radulovic MBE or nominated representative
10	Museum Service	Cllr K Woodhead
11	Eastwood Volunteer Bureau Management Committee	Cllr K Woodhead
12	Francis Dixon and Catherine Gregory Charity	Cllr H Land Cllr D Watts Cllr T Marsh
13	Greater Nottingham Groundwork Trust	Cllr T Marsh
14	Greenwood Partnership Board	Cllr H E Skinner
15	Joint Planning Advisory Board	Cllr M Radulovic MBE
16	Local Government Association	Cllr M Radulovic MBE or nominated representative
17	Local Government Information Unit	Cllr M Radulovic MBE
18	Nottingham Express Transit Development Board	Cllr S Jeremiah
19	Nottingham Playhouse Trust	Cllr K A Harlow
20	Nottinghamshire Local Government Leaders Group	Cllr M Radulovic MBE or nominated representative
21	United Charities of Abel Collins	Cllr B C Carr
22	Health Scrutiny - Lead Member	Cllr C M Tideswell or nominated representative
23	Chilwell Family Hub (formerly Sure Start)	Cllr S Jeremiah Cllr C M Tideswell
24	Health and Wellbeing Board	Cllr C M Tideswell
25	Notts Police and Crime Commissioner's Panel	Cllr G Bunn (Substitute Cllr T

<u>NO.</u>	<u>BODY/ORGANISATION</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE</u>
26	Armed Forces Champion	Cullen) Cllr M Radulovic MBE
27	Liberty Leisure Board Member	Cllr C Carr Cllr S Dannheimer Cllr S Jeremiah
28	Joint Waste and Recycling Committee	Cllr H E Skinner
29	East Midlands Airport Consultative Committee	Cllr R D MacRae or nominated representative
30	LGA General Assembly	Cllr M Radulovic MBE or nominated representative
31	District Councils Network	Cllr M Radulovic MBE or nominated representative
32	Refugee Steering Group	Cllr G Bunn Cllr B C Carr Cllr V Smith
33	Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London Joint Committee	Cllr G Bunn
34	Bramcote Consolidated Charities (Bramcote Councillors appointed every four years, last appointed 2023)	Cllr H Land Cllr A Kingdon Cllr D K Watts

14 **SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

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

RESOLVED that the Scheme of Delegation be approved.

15 **ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION**

Members considered the recommendations of the Governance, Audit and Standards Committee from its meeting held on 23 March 2026. It was proposed by Councillor M Radulovic MBE and seconded by Councillor G Marshall that introductions for Portfolio Holders' speeches be extended to three minutes rather than the two suggested, and also that any changes to the Advisory Shareholder Sub Committee be deferred for further consideration by the Constitution Working Group. Having proposed the original motion, Councillor S J Carr agreed with the amendments.

RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Governance, Audit and Standards Committee, as amended, be approved.

16 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CHIEF OFFICER EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Members received the recommendations of the Chief Officer Employment Committee regarding the appointment of a permanent Chief Executive and Interim Directors for the Council.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. The appointment of Zulfiqar Darr as the Council's Chief Executive be approved.**
- 2. The appointment of Emma Georgiou as Interim Director of Environment and Leisure be approved.**
- 3. The appointment of Ryan Dawson as Interim Director of Planning and Economic Development be approved.**
- 4. The appointment of Rachel Shaw as Interim Director of Housing, Environmental Health and Communities be approved.**
- 5. Consequential amendments to the Constitution are made in relation to recommendations 1, 2, 3 and 4.**

17 URGENT BUSINESS

The following motion was submitted by Councillor PJ Owen and seconded by Councillor G Marshall:

"In view of the level of anti-social behaviour caused by off-road motor bikes in the Broxtowe Area and specifically Assarts Farm area of Nuthall having now reached intolerable levels. This Council calls upon the Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire and the Police and Crime Commissioner to take ownership of the problem and instigate a campaign of action to bring the nuisance to an end."

RESOLVED unanimously that the motion be approved.

COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 13 MAY 2026

Present: Councillor R Bullock, Mayor

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

Prior to the meeting a minute's silence was held following the sad passing of former Councillor David Grindell.

105 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Bagshaw, M Brown, H Crosby, S Kerry, A Kingdon, J W McGrath, H E Skinner, D K Watts, E Williamson and K Woodhead.

106 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

107 FREEMAN OF THE BOROUGH

107.1 MR SHAFIQUE AFZAL

It was proposed by Councillor G Marshall and seconded by Councillor G Bunn that:

“Mr Shafique Afzal being a person who has rendered eminent services to the Borough within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1972, be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Broxtowe.

That a Certificate of Admission be presented to Mr Shafique Afzal.”

On being put to the meeting, it was RESOLVED that, in pursuance of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the distinction of Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Broxtowe be conferred upon Mr Shafique Afzal, who has, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent service to the community of the Borough and as an expression of the high regard in which he is held by the members of the Council and his fellow citizens.

The Mayor presented to Mr Shafique Afzal the Certificate of his Admission as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough and Mr Shafique Afzal thanked the Council for the honour conferred upon him.

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

Report to Council – 15 July 2026

Finance Services Update

Statement of Accounts 2025/26

The draft Statement of Accounts for 2025/26 has been published on the Council's website. The accounts closedown process is an extensive and complex project, and it is a real achievement by the Finance Services team to meet the 30 June statutory deadline. In the previous year, Broxtowe was one of around 75% of local authorities to publish their draft accounts by the required deadline.

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

Accounts Outturn

The accounts outturn report was presented to Cabinet on 30 June with the report providing the figures and highlighting financial performance in 2025/26.

There was a net underspend of £2.5m on the General Fund. Overall, after financing and transfers to/from earmarked reserves, there was a net contribution of £183k to General Fund balances which closed at £5.7m at 31 March 2026. Variations were due to a combination of net budget underspends, additional income and grants, budget carry forwards and effective financial management across the Council. This included a net underspend in employee related costs of £370k against the budget which also had a challenging vacancy target of £1.0m. Outturn included the full-year impact of the pay award and the costs of agency and interim staff used to cover vacancies within the establishment.

It was pleasing to note the sustained levels of income being generated from its fees and charges and commercial property rentals. This is essential to support the Council in balancing its budgets and achieving financial sustainability. Income from Planning fees was significantly higher than budgeted after the Council received eight significant application fees totalling £518k. Whilst this has boosted income, it also demonstrated the potential volatility with total income from planning fees being skewed towards the larger development schemes.

In terms of financing the budget, the main area of risk, volatility and complexity is Business Rates. Whilst there continued to be growth across the Nottinghamshire Business Rates Pool area in 2025/26, the value of net rates received continues to be impacted by rating appeals and void periods, particularly for larger units.

In addition, with the Business Rates reset from April 2026, as part of the Fair Funding Review, all of the earlier growth will now be incorporated into the baseline position. With Business Rates being accounted for through the Collection Fund, any impact on General Fund balances will not materialise until the following year. This timing issue for the General Fund is monitored by the Section 151 Officer.

The Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) showed a £276k net overspend for 2025/26. This resulted in an increased draw of £720k on HRA working balances which amounted to £946k as at 31 March 2026.

With the budget deficit being higher than anticipated, the HRA Working Balance has now dipped below the Section 151 Officer's minimum recommended level of £1.0m. This outturn position is an accumulation of rising costs over several years linked to spending on compliance and safety, costs relating to damp and mould, housing disrepair claims and increased borrowing costs with higher interest rates. Also in 2025/26, there was the added impact of rent income levels not being as high as anticipated, with a higher rate of voids, and several housing delivery schemes not coming into the portfolio as early as expected.

The HRA is a ring-fenced fund and must be maintained in a surplus position. There is however no specific statutory minimum working balance, so whilst this dip below the minimum recommended balance can be tolerated in the short-term, sustained efforts are required to bring the working balance back up above the minimum level.

An HRA Medium-Term Financial Strategy and Business Strategy is being developed for this purposes which will complement the long-term HRA 30 Year Business Plan. It is normal for the HRA to experience peaks and troughs in its working balances, and this was shown in the longer-term plan.

In terms of the 2025/26 outturn, there was an underspend of £159k on employee related costs against the budget which also had a challenging vacancy target of £450k. Key services were maintained for tenants by the continued use of sub-contractors, the cost of which has offset the saving. The cost of housing disrepair claims continues to be a budget pressure, with a £48k overspend recorded and a further provision of £34k included for the potential cost of outstanding claims.

Housing rents income was significantly lower than budgeted. This included higher void losses beyond those expected and delays on the Retlaw Court development being brought into the portfolio which resulted in £452k less dwelling rent being received compared to forecast.

In terms of the Capital Programme for 2025/26, the Council spent £42.5m against a budget of £68.2m (62%). This included the significant investment in the Council's housing stock, housing delivery programme, regeneration projects at Stapleford and Kimberley, Chilwell Quarry, vehicle fleet and the ICT development programme. The capital programme is financed by a mixture of capital receipts, capital grants, Section 106 contributions and prudential borrowing.

The main slippage in the programme largely related to the housing delivery schemes, where progress can be affected by many external factors, fleet vehicles replacement and food waste programmes and the regeneration projects which continue to progress at a pace. Many of the unutilised capital budgets were approved for carry forward into 2026/27. The progress and risks associated with all schemes continues to be carefully managed by the respective budget holders and is monitored GMT. More details were presented to Cabinet on 30 June.

Medium Term Financial Strategy and Business Strategy

The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and Business Strategy will be refreshed over the summer to reflect outturn and the latest budget information. The outcomes will be presented to Cabinet in early November for approval in advance of 2027/28 budget setting.

Local Government Reorganisation

The Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer, through the Nottinghamshire Finance Officers Association (NFOA), continues to support the finance workstream and provide financial data relating to the Government's requirement for Local Government Reorganisation in Nottinghamshire. Regular updates on LGR are provided to Cabinet.

Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services

Revenues

The Revenues team is responsible for administering and collecting Council Tax and Business Rates. In 2025/26 the Council achieved 97.8% collection for Council Tax and 98.0% for Business Rates, which are broadly in line with previous years.

The team is in the final tranche of implementing the Civica OpenChannel software, which includes a module that will allow customers to access online forms to notify the Council of their changes in circumstances. The forms will provide an integrated platform making the process smoother and more efficient for those wishing to use this approach. The initial tranches have been positive with a significant number of residents using this function.

Council Tax

The Government has closed its consultation on 'modernising the administration of Council Tax'. New changes have been announced that will come into effect from April 2027, including changing Council Tax from 10 to 12 monthly instalments by default; modernising Council Tax disregards; and renaming server mental impairment disregard to encourage take up.

The move to 12 monthly payments will have a direct impact on the Council's cash flows and risks the recovery of Council Tax for those that do not pay. Officers previously used February and March each year to focus attention on outstanding amounts and this will be more limited under these changes.

Business Rates

There were several changes to the Business Rates system in April 2026 which primarily revolved around revaluation and changes to multipliers. The Council is seeing a significant number of businesses approaching with concerns regarding the increase in their Rateable Value. This is reflected in an increase in the number of hardship relief applications being received since April.

Benefits

The Benefit service is monitored externally by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) through key performance indicators relating to new claims, processing times for changes in circumstances and the annual subsidy audit. Benefits performance remains one of the best in the country with new claims taking on average 7.59 days to process and a change in circumstances taking 2.81 days in 2025/26.

Customer Services

The Customer Services team has seen its performance continue to improve in 2025/26. The team is now responsible as a first line of contact for several services areas, including switchboard; rents; benefits; council tax; business rates; grounds maintenance; street cleansing; refuse collection; and garden waste. The call abandonment rate for 2025/26 was 9.1% against a target of under 10%.

Human Resources and Learning and Development

Training

The Learning and Development team is booking employees onto the next round of ILM training courses at both Level 3 and 5. There are 24 spaces available (12 on each level) to join the course. In 2025/26, the Council booked two groups of Level 3 training and one group of Level 5, totalling 19 employees, with 12 having passed the course and five are close to completing their coursework.

The Performance Appraisals process for 2025/26 closed on 31 March 2026 with the completion rates as follows:

- Combined Council and Liberty Leisure appraisals combined at 96.0%, a slight increase on the 95.5% achieved in 2024/25.
- Council appraisals completed at 99%, a great result but just short of the 100% completed in 2024/25.
- Liberty Leisure Limited only achieved 73% completion, although improved from the 65% completed in 2024/25.

The 2026/27 Performance Appraisal is now live.

Employability and Equalities

On 11 June 2026, the Council was represented at the Regional Engagement with Defence 2026 event. This engagement supports the Council's ongoing commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant and reflects its current Silver Award status under the Employer Recognition Scheme.

HR colleagues supported the Employability and Volunteer Fair at the Council Offices on 18 June. The HR presence at this event focused on promoting career pathways within local government; providing insight into recruitment processes; and offering informal advice to individuals exploring employment opportunities or transitioning into the public sector. This activity aligns with the Council's broader priorities around employability, inclusion, and community engagement, while helping to raise awareness of opportunities within the Council.

Work Experience

The Council hosted five work experience students during January to March across a variety of services, including HR, Learning and Development, Environment, Legal Services, Planning and Economic Development, Liberty Leisure, Finance Services and Business Support.

Apprenticeships

Since its inception, 59 apprenticeship courses have been offered, with 22 being successfully completed and 21 currently in progress. The remaining 16 participants did not complete their course. Encouragingly, all of those who successfully finished their course were offered a role. Of the participants, 32 were recruited externally, while 27 were existing employees who were upskilled. Looking ahead, there are seven new courses in the pipeline, including two brand-new apprenticeship roles (Crematorium Funeral Director and Parks and Green Spaces Project Manager) while the remaining five are focused on further upskilling current staff.

The Council is looking to host an apprenticeship forum award celebration to encourage our apprentices to apply for awards and also a chance for the Deputy Leader, Councillor Greg Marshall, to meet past and present apprentices.

A breakdown of data relating to the apprenticeships are as follows:

Female	32 (54%)
Male	27 (46%)
Living in the Borough	24 (41%)
Ethnic Minority	8 (14%)
Disabled	6 (10%)
Under 25	34 (58%)

Other News

The HR and Apprenticeships Officer, Charlotte Nicholls, has been awarded the HR Apprentice of the Year 2026 by The Worshipful Company of HR Professionals.

This award recognises outstanding apprentices working within the people profession. It celebrates individuals who are making a real impact in their workplace, demonstrating exceptional professionalism, and embodying the future of HR. The award aims to celebrate excellence and achievement within HR apprenticeships; champion apprenticeships as a high-quality route into the HR profession; and inspire other employers and apprentices by showcasing success stories across the sector

Disciplinary and Grievance

There are presently seven disciplinary investigations in progress and three grievances (two of which are related to the disciplinary investigations).

Hardship Grants/Loans

Ten employees have received Hardship Grant support in this financial year, and one employee has applied for a loan, used to defray unexpected and unforeseen costs.

Communications and Engagement

The Council's website has recently been ranked 10th by Sitemorse in the UK Local Government Index. The website was ranked 20th in the previous quarter. Sitemorse assesses council websites every month to ensure they are accessible and easy to use for residents. Having an accessible website has been a legal requirement for Councils since 2018, under the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018, which builds on the Councils obligations under the Equality Act 2010.

Following a restructure, a new Digital Communications Officer role is supporting the team to manage customer enquiries and engagement across the Council's digital channels. Having a dedicated resource has facilitated increased opportunities for two-way engagement and a strong stance on online hate.

The team has established new relationships with key stakeholders such as the Sahara Asian Elders Group, The Dementia Studio, Beeston Muslim Centre and Hong Kong Notts to ensure that the Council's communications are received by harder to reach audiences.

The focus on internal communications has been on a new employee survey approach, which moves from one longer annual survey to two shorter pulse surveys with amended wording to make the questions more accessible to employees of all levels. This new approach provides increased opportunity for the Council to be reactive to employee feedback.

Significant effort has also been focused on preparations for internal and external communications on the Government's anticipated decision on LGR, as well as ongoing communications plans during any transition periods.

The team is currently developing a new Communications and Engagement Strategy which will be shared with various member working groups over the coming months, before it is presented to Cabinet for consideration in November.

Civic

Following two successful Freeman and Aldermen events, this year's 'Mayor Making' Council meeting and Armed Forces Flag Raising, the team is now focused on preparing for this year's civic event programme. This includes the Remembrance event, volunteer awards and Mayor's engagement events.

Work is ongoing to identify a suitable indoor venue to support Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations, should the event not be able to take place outdoors due to inclement weather.

The team has recently taken over administrative support for the Broxtowe Youth Mayor to provide greater continuity across both the Mayor and Youth Mayor roles.

Corporate Services

ICT Services

A new backup solution that uses cloud infrastructure has been introduced to improve resilience and availability. The new system strengthens protection against cyber-attacks through technologies such as threat detection and prevention, which operate continuously in the background to help ensure the Council's data and systems remain safe and secure.

All Leisure Centres, the Crematorium, the D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum, and Kimberley Depot have had new connectivity infrastructure installed to increase bandwidth, performance, and stability across the Wide Area Network infrastructure.

The team successfully completed a Disaster Recovery rehearsal, demonstrating that all data and systems can be restored offsite should Disaster Recovery procedures need to be invoked in the event of a major incident or disaster.

Business Support

A review has been undertaken to provide a clearer understanding of the range of activities delivered by the Business Support team. The review assessed workload requirements against available resources, confirmed alignment with existing Service Level Agreements, evaluated processes and procedures, and identified opportunities to support further digital transformation and channel shift initiatives. The review highlighted that current capacity is under pressure due to increasing demand; its outcomes are therefore intended to improve efficiency and reduce the need for additional resources.

The team is progressing the findings of the review, which identified several areas for improvement. A revised invoicing process is scheduled to go live in July 2026, with the objective of improving performance against the Council's payment target to 90%.

In addition, overflow calls are currently being incorrectly directed to the Business Support team. As part of the channel shift project, identified customer enquiries received through call handling will be resolved at the first point of contact wherever possible within Customer Services. This approach is intended to streamline the customer journey, reduce avoidable hand-offs between services, and deliver greater operational efficiency.

HR meeting recordings captured using audio recording devices are now being digitised and transcribed through built-in Microsoft 365 tools. Introducing this approach has saved approximately 40 days of effort per year. It has also improved the speed and accuracy of transcription, supported more efficient production of meeting records, and reduced reliance on manual processes.

Support Services

Hand dryers are being replaced across Council sites as part of the maintenance contract, with the new hand dryers being quieter and more energy efficient.

Parking Services

During the year, resurfacing works have been completed at Halls Road and Eaton Road car parks in Stapleford. New ticket machines with card payment functionality were also installed at Station Road, Beeston, and Victoria Street, Eastwood, which has improved payment options for car park users.

Parking Services has also taken on expanded responsibility for electric vehicle (EV) charging points beyond public car parks across the borough. This now includes charging infrastructure at Council-owned residential and business locations, as well as provision associated with future developments.

In 2025/26, Parking Services had exceeded the annual income target of £450k, achieving total income of £466k. This income was generated from Pay and Display (£413k), Penalty Charge Notice income (£29k), and parking permits (£24k).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PORTFOLIO COUNCILLOR M RADULOVIC

Portfolio Holder's Report to Council – JULY 2026

Economic Development and Regeneration

Core Work

The economic development work is guided by two sets of targets; the Corporate Business Plan and the Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy, published last year. The Strategy quantifies the criteria that will generate sustainable economic growth and runs to 2028. Most of this work is advocacy and influence and contributions to broader initiatives. There are some discrete activities based around pilots, workshops, micro business support. An example of this is a property-based start-up workshop to be held in Kimberley on 25 June 2026. Given that resources are shrinking, there will be a new Local Plan, and the Mayoral Combined Authority is more developed, the strategy requires some revision, and some early work has started on this including consideration of an exit strategy to safeguard the regeneration works undertaken over the past five years.

The KPI's in the business plan broadly fall into two categories are related to the performance in delivering our externally funded regeneration work, (discussed below), and those which are related to occupancy, footfall and the general health of the town centres. A new system of footfall recording has been installed after work by the Team. Kimberley and Beeston / Chilwell High Road are performing above many regional and national averages, Stapleford sits around the average mark, but Eastwood has proportionately more vacancies than other towns of a similar scale and nature. Regeneration has created a pipeline project to transform Eastwood and is working to attract funding for this. CEDARS in Eastwood is also growing strongly with some new services added this year including an initiative into health and the justice system together with Probation Service partners. CEDARS is currently part funded by Health partners.

UKSPF Outturn

Broxtowe reported an 89.9% spend on the £1,056,000 UKSPF funding awarded to Broxtowe via the Mayoral Combined Authority in 2025/2026. Just under 40 projects were completed including many community based and business promotion activities. There are several projects which need to be completed by September, the main ones being the extension of the CAB Financial Resilience Project, the installation of a large electronic messaging board in Beeston Square, completion of the works on the Nottingham Canal and the provision of a music room business case.

Local Regeneration Fund to 2028

The Government has compacted all previous funding from the previous administration into one fund – LRF. The Borough's broad allocation remains the same and the majority of unspent funding will be drawn down this financial year. To

date the governance arrangements and allocations for the two area-based initiatives remain unchanged although both programmes have recently reviewed the remaining activities yet to be delivered.

Broxtowe Borough Markets

There is an action plan in place to support the sustainability and growth of markets in the borough. The 2025/26 markets action plan includes improvements to marketing and communications, including a more structured social media campaign and updates to the website, alongside the rebranding and relaunch of Beeston Food Market as “Taste of Beeston” to help attract new traders and visitors. It focuses on increasing income and market viability by securing additional permanent traders, expanding commercial bookings, exploring new market concepts and reviewing opportunities across Beeston, Stapleford and Eastwood. The plan also supports the reintroduction of Stapleford Market in 2027, underpinned by a business plan, interim events, and maximising investment in Walter Parker Square.

LRF Project Updates

KMB Project One Active Travel & Bennerley Viaduct:

Improvement of the Great Northern Path through Kimberley has started and should be finalised during the summer months. The remaining active travel components of KMB are the completion of the Eastern Ramp of the Viaduct and the finished designs for Low Wood Road. (Shared with Sustrans and EMCCA with a view to future funding). The eastern ramp of the Bennerley Viaduct has been open since February, connecting both sides of the Erewash Valley for pedestrians and cyclists. Some residual site works are taking place currently. The Bennerley Viaduct Visitor Centre is now complete, and an open day scheduled for July 16, with full operations commencing shortly afterwards.

KMB Project Two Sports facilities and Industrial Units

The design and build of the sports facilities at the Stag Recreation Ground also completed earlier this summer together with the cricket club improvements and Digby Street pavilion improvements and the pitch at the Primary School's North Street ground. With this sports provision in Kimberley has been markedly uplifted. The only element still under consideration are pitch improvements at the Stag Ground, which have begun and should be completed in August.

The development of five new industrial units and additional visitor car parking has also been completed, and estates are currently marketing the units. This project was completed ahead of time and within budget. A launch event incorporating both MPs was held in April. The other site at Giltway has attracted a further £965,000 from EMCCA and has been submitted for planning. Solutions to planning issues are being re-worked and the matter is expected to come to Committee in September.

KMB Project Three Town Centre Regeneration

Construction of the new Community Hub on the site of the former Kimberley Parish Rooms is well advanced and should be completed during the autumn. This Hub will contain community and Town Council space on the ground floor with space for start-up businesses on the first floor. The town centre illuminations and screen are in place and performing well. A mural for Rumbletums' wall has been added to the plans.

The final round of business grants were issued earlier in the year and there are a handful of businesses still to complete their projects. £662,000 was awarded to a total of 84 businesses, (including 22 via small grants), raising £612,000 in matched funding. Work outstanding includes an attempt to resolve the state of mobile and data connectivity issues that hold back businesses in certain parts of the town.

Stapleford Town Deal Projects Review

In line with the aforementioned review, a revised package of works for the non-contractually committed funding has been recommended by the Delivery Board and will be considered by the Partnership's Executive Board on 3 July.

STD Community Pavillion and Steven Gerrard Academy

The Pavillion is fully open, and all parts of the building, pitches and courts are operational. Some work has been agreed on additional offsite parking, and the community garden scope is being re-examined due to cost rises. There remain some snagging issues, including grounds reparations and minor defects still to be resolved.

The final part of the project is the replacement cricket pitch. Works started on the ground week commencing 15 June and is expected to last for 10 weeks. A planning application for both temporary and permanent facilities will be submitted into planning for consideration in autumn 2026.

STD Pencil Works Enterprise Hub and Makers Space

Construction of this project is well under way and completion could be as early as late September 2026. This project has been awarded an additional £320,000 from EMCCA to include a Makers Space which will support fledgling designers and craft businesses as well projects that support the circular economy. Consideration is being given to the operational management agreement for the building and a procurement exercise is being undertaken. Work is being undertaken to explore additional off site staff tenant parking to leave 22 spaces for public parking.

STD Town Centre Recovery Grant Funding Project

82 businesses have been supported by the Town Centre Grant Funding so far. The project is currently closed to new applicants with some earmarked reserves for High Street Retail Auctions. 6-8 Derby Road is the latest project to receive a grant under

the HRSA programme. The Old Rock will go to auction, potentially the first in the country once the £200,000 refurbishment is complete.

STD Cycle Network and Associated Infrastructure Scheme

Cycle Hub, Circuit and Cycling Training Track on Ilkeston Road has been hugely successful with approximately 1700 bikes been repaired or made roadworthy. The Cycle Training track has received further investment to enable its use by visually impaired users which has received considerable acclaim. The All wheels and Skate Park were also completed and opened in April at Pasture Road Recreation ground, having attracted an extra £100,000 in FCC funding. The Skate Nottingham programme has been very well supported and will run throughout the Summer. The Pasture Road Recreation ground path and associated accessibility elements are underway and being managed by the Parks team due to be completed in the Autumn. The Pasture Road footpath improvements and new puffin crossing at Albany Road school in halfway through the programme due to be completed in August (construction by VIA EM). The Meadows view cycle route remains an aspiration but due to cost increases is now a reserve project.

Street Improvement Scheme

The Derby Road Car Park, on the Tiles UK Site has had some impact in improving the fortunes of businesses at the lower end of Derby Road. The second phase of works in focused on the design and build re-modelling of Walter Parker VC Square for which a contract has recently been awarded and planning for stakeholder engagement is underway, the construction programme is to take into consideration key events in November and Christmas activities.

Planning

The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan is now at examination with hearing sessions taking place in July. The Plan is vital in ensuring key housing and employment sites are brought forward and are supported by the necessary infrastructure including new parks and open spaces. A significant amount of work, often with other LPAs across the County, has been undertaken to get the plan to this stage and the Council is optimistic that the examination goes well and we ll bring a paper to a future meeting to formally adopt and approved Local Plan.

Not one to rest of our laurels, the government has set an extremely ambitious target of 30 months to get the next local plan, Broxtowe only, through to adoption and work has already begun on this area of work. Though once the current plan is through examination all the planning policy teams efforts will be focused on this area of work.

In the last financial year, 580 new dwellings were completed which is a record number for Broxtowe. It is predicted that the number this year will be higher still.

We are currently seeing a large number of large major applications with planning, notably 'Toton East, Toton West, Toton North and the large warehousing scheme at Bennerley. It is hoped that all of these will be determined at planning committee in the not too distant future.

Asset Management

Fire and Asbestos Management

In terms of both Fire and Asbestos, which represent two significant drivers of our Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) regrade, as well as posing the most immediate risk to housing customers and their families, our position on both has improved markedly over the last couple of months.

In respect of Fire Safety, not only have we now reached a point where the base numbers for both outstanding, overdue fire risks (now 75) and overall outstanding fire actions (1936) have come down sharply, the more significant area of performance is the reduction of 'Up and Coming' actions, that turn from being in date, to overdue. This has and will continue to allow us to reduce those base figures further, as we continue to work on reaching a position which provides the RSH with the necessary assurances.

Asbestos management in communal areas, which is the statutory requirement, has also strengthened. All blocks across the HRA have now received an inspection, asbestos has been located in a small number of blocks and are now being managed through the reinspection process.

Stock Condition and Decent Homes

Stock condition is running at 74%. No access issues are continuing to influence this figure and external legal advice has been sought for the best ways to resolve access issues.

Decent Homes compliance will return to 100% by the end of March 2027, however the programme is now minimising non decency numbers, through a 'Just in Time' approach where we are bringing investment forward, ahead of replacement dates. Decent Neighbourhoods and legacy cyclical programme works have all been compiled and issued for design and procurement.

Housing Delivery

The Kimberley Brewery site proposal is being finalised, with the final costs for the estimated land clearance work being awaited, which will allow us to produce a full cost projection of purchasing and developing the site. Eastwood sites, including Lawrence Avenue, Cross Street, and two sites on Church Street have all had architects appointed to them, demolition notices (where applicable) have been issued, and timelines have all been established in terms of actively developing the sites.

Social Housing Decarbonisation

The second wave of the Social Housing Decarbonisation programme has commenced, with circa 75 homes included in the programme. This could be

increased if the bid for further funding, created by the overall provider underspend to this funding stream, is accepted.

**Portfolio for Housing
Councillor V C Smith****Report to Council – 15 July 2026****Tenant Engagement**

Last month, the Modernisations Working Group met to review the choices tenants are offered when new kitchens are installed. Tenants were invited to look at options for handles, worktops, cupboards and tiles versus panelling for splashbacks. They were shown what is currently offered to tenants as well as other options that could be included in next years choices.

Our Complaints Panel continues to offer valuable input into our Complaints processes, ensuring the Housing Service learn from complaints that are made. At the last meeting they made recommendations regarding the complaint acknowledgement letters and the approach to awarding compensation was discussed.

Over the summer months our Engagement team will be delivering 'pop-up' events within our communities, encouraging our tenants to speak to us both to ask any questions and provide their feedback on our services.

Lifeline

In addition to providing telecare services for our own tenants, we are proud that we are able to offer all residents of the borough support via our Lifeline Service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This service is allowing 775 residents to live independently in their own homes. Over the last 12 months we have completed 182 new installations. All customers receive a home visit from our Lifeline Co-ordinator who installs the system and provides advice on the service.

Support for tenants

Building upon the success of weekly surgeries at CEDARS in Eastwood, Housing have begun to offer monthly housing surgeries at Montrose Court in Stapleford. Initially, these will be offer advice on tenancy matters and rent. It is hoped that this will be built upon and sessions can be offered covering more areas and more regularly later this year.

Rent arrears

At the end of the 2025/26 financial year, the Income Collection Team finished the year with £164,772 of total rent arrears. When comparing this to the end of the 2024/2025 financial year this is a decrease of £17,199 in arrears, even with the increase in rents this year. The achievement of 100.25% rent collected means the team have collected the rent equivalent to the full annual debit as well as reducing the arrears which were outstanding at the start of the financial year.

The reduction in arrears is an excellent achievement, especially given the continuing increase in the cost of living. The Income Team continues to work closely with our tenants offering assistance through services such as our Financial Inclusion. They are working hard to sustain tenancies, demonstrated by the fact that during the year there were no evictions for rent arrears.

Homelessness

The financial year 2025/26 introduced a new key performance indicator for the Housing Options team - Total number of nights bed and breakfast accommodation is used. Based on 2024/25 usage a target was set to reduce this to 1500 nights in total. The team significantly reduced the number of days to 546. All bed and breakfast placements were made as no other suitable accommodation was available at that time. As soon as space becomes available in our own temporary accommodation or other suitable temporary accommodation, we work to move people out of bed and breakfast as soon as possible.

At the end of the 2025/26 financial year, the Housing Options Team achieved an 83.2% success rate in intervening or preventing a case of homeless, before needing to accept a relief or main duty. This is an increase of 4.8% from the end of 2024-25 financial year and significantly above the target of 70%. Throughout the year the Housing Options Team prevented 537 instances of homelessness.

Regulator of Social Housing

We continue to engage with the regulator, meeting with them on a monthly basis. With their support we are achieving actions set out in our Service Improvement Plan to address the concerns raised. We have begun a lessons learnt process, ensuring that we address the root cause of all issues to ensure that they will be fully resolved and will not reoccur.

Private Sector Housing

15 Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) have been approved with funds committed to undertaking the works required. 21 House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Licence have been issued. 2 Prohibition Orders and 1 Improvement Notice for Housing conditions have been served.

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

Report to Council – 15 July 2026

Liberty Leisure Update

Annual Accounts

The 2025–26 year-end position for Liberty Leisure has now been finalised and presents an overall positive outcome. Income has increased over the course of the year, while expenditure has been carefully managed and reduced.

It is noted that only half of the management fee has been drawn during the year, and the financial position also reflects accrued costs to account for anticipated utility charges. Taking these factors into consideration, Liberty Leisure has achieved a modest surplus of £2,300 and, as a result, has no corporation tax liability.

This position highlights the continued focus of Liberty Leisure on strengthening income streams while maintaining robust financial control. It also reflects the significant efforts of the team in delivering a balanced and sustainable financial outcome for the year.

Stapleford Pavilion

Since opening in October 2026, usage of Stapleford Pavilion has continued to grow steadily, reinforcing its value as an important community asset.

The Padel courts are seeing strong levels of use. With improved weather conditions and lighter evenings, participation has increased significantly. To further maximise the potential of this facility, plans are being developed to install lighting and a canopy, which will enable greater year-round usage and enhanced income generation.

Stronger with Parkinson's Programme

In January 2026, a *Stronger with Parkinson's* group was launched at Hickings Lane Pavilion, in partnership with Nottingham West Primary Care Network, using the new e-gym equipment.

An initial analysis of participant outcomes has now been completed, showing encouraging results over a relatively short period:

- Average reduction in overall BioAge: 8.3 years
- Average increase in flexibility and mobility BioAge: 20.75 years
- Average increase in lower body strength BioAge: 8 years

These early findings are highly positive. In particular, the marked improvements in mobility, flexibility, and lower body strength demonstrate that personalised,

technology and supported strength training can play a valuable role in supporting people living with Parkinson's.

Communities Update

Children and Young People

Five out of the seven secondary schools in the Borough attended the Youth Conference held in February 2026, with participation from 66 young people. The event focused on the themes of mental health and social media. Research associated with the conference was undertaken by Ellen Froustis, an Oxford Lecturer, and the resulting report is nearing completion. An action plan is being developed based on the views and experiences shared by young people, and those who attended the conference will be updated on the outcomes.

A large piece of artwork created by attendees at the conference is now on display at Beeston Youth Centre. It is hoped that permission will be secured for the artwork to be displayed within the Council Offices above reception.

Progress has been made in strengthening relationships with schools, including engagement with a number of schools through the quarterly Children and Young People Partnership meetings.

Bookmarks have been distributed to schools as part of a design competition linked to the White Ribbon Campaign.

A family walk, stay and play event was delivered in Eastwood in May 2026, organised by Active Notts. The event included a short story session at Eastwood Library, followed by a walk to Coronation Park, where a range of organisations and partners hosted interactive stalls for children. Despite very warm weather, the event was well attended and achieved a high level of engagement.

Nottingham Forest Community Trust has identified Eastwood as a priority area for targeted work and has commenced a programme of football sessions. These sessions are led by Forest coaches for the first hour, followed by a 'hangout' wellbeing session in the second hour, incorporating refreshments, snacks and wellbeing mentoring. The sessions are free to attend, with advance booking recommended although attendees can also attend on the day.

Work is currently underway with the Sexual Health Promotion and Outreach Team within the City and County Sexual Health Service to establish delivery in Eastwood, including collaborative work alongside Family Hubs and Youth Centres.

Further engagement with Youth Centres is also being planned, including the potential to host open days to showcase the range of activities and support available, and to provide young people and their families with a greater understanding of the services on offer in order to encourage participation.

Planning is also underway for Anti-Bullying Week in November 2026, which will include delivery of the Odd Socks Campaign.

Health

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy has been updated to reflect current priorities and objectives for the Borough.

Two Carers Roadshows have been delivered, in Stapleford during National Dementia Awareness Week and in Beeston during National Carers Week. These events provided opportunities for carers to access help, advice and signposting to relevant services, while enabling partner organisations and stallholders to engage directly with attendees and receive referrals.

The Thrive Cancer Support Group commenced on 16 April 2026 at St Mary's Church, Eastwood, funded through the North Broxtowe Bursary Fund.

An Eastwood Parkinson's Exercise Group has also been supported through funding from the North Broxtowe Bursary Fund to purchase specialist equipment aimed at increasing physical activity for individuals living with Parkinson's.

In relation to dementia, a listening event organised through the Broxtowe Action Network for Dementia is scheduled to take place at the British Legion Hall in Beeston on 25 September 2026. The event will provide updates from the previous, offer advice and information from relevant services, include "have your say" workshops, and feature a guest speaker from Sheffield Hallam University presenting on the theme of living alone with dementia.

Mental Health

During Mental Health Awareness Week in May, information was shared and promoted through the Council's social media channels and newsletters.

In partnership with the Samaritans, leaflets and posters were distributed across a range of locations in Beeston, including the Library, Jobcentre, Tesco, and the Middle Street Resource Centre. Additional materials were placed in and around Chilwell Retail Park, including the Village Hotel, McDonald's and Costa. Posters were also displayed at Beeston Police Station, Citizens Advice, the Council Reception, and on external Council display boards. Samaritans information was further promoted through Council newsletters and media communications.

A total of 1,700 Samaritans teabags has been received and will be included in food parcels to support residents experiencing food insecurity.

Environmental Health

The food premises inspection programme continues to progress, with a high volume of new premises registrations being submitted. Currently, 73% of food premises within the Borough are rated either 4 (Good) or 5 (Very Good).

A total of 18 statutory accident notifications have been received under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR).

Nine infectious disease notifications have been recorded, including one case of legionella.

The Air Quality Status Report has been completed, confirming that all monitoring sites across the Borough continue to meet the national Air Quality Objective.

Joint working with partner agencies remains ongoing in key areas impacting public health, including Tobacco Control initiatives and the review of premises licences where non-compliant products or under-age sales have been identified.

Events Programme

Easter Fun Day at Nuthall

Broxtowe's first Easter Fun Day was held on Friday 10 April 2026 at the Nuthall Temple Centre and Nuthall Methodist Church, attracting 650 attendees. The event formed part of the new 2026/27 Events Programme and was deliberately designed to take place across both indoor and outdoor spaces during the Easter school holidays. This approach helped mitigate the risk of adverse weather, while expanding the range of cultural and recreational activities available to families during holiday periods.

On the day, favourable weather conditions enabled a full programme of activities to be delivered both in and outside, including arts and crafts, face painting, fair rides, puppet shows, Minecraft sessions and DJ workshops. Several new elements, particularly the DJ and Minecraft workshops, proved especially popular and broadened the appeal of the event across different age groups. The use of two new venues also strengthened local partnerships and increased engagement with stakeholders, building on and enhancing the reach achieved through last year's outdoor Play Day in the area.

Feedback from attendees was positive, highlighting the range of activities available, the benefit of the event being free of charge, and the effective use of both indoor and outdoor spaces.

Hemlock Happening

Hemlock Happening took place on Saturday 6 June 2026 at Bramcote Hills Park, attracting around 8,500 attendees, the second highest turnout on record. Despite an unfavourable forecast, the weather remained largely dry, enabling the event to go ahead as planned.

The Green Zone delivered its most successful year since its introduction three years ago, attracting around 550 visitors to a range of interactive activities, including live beehive demonstrations, planting sessions and recycling games. The wider event programme offered a vibrant mix of attractions, from live music and creative activities to funfair rides, a climbing wall, classic cars, a dance arena and emergency services displays, all culminating in the popular fireworks finale.

Next year is the 25th anniversary of the Hemlock Happening and planning has already started to ensure a special celebration is organised.

Beeston Summer Fete

Beeston Summer Fete took place on 4 July 2026, featuring a vibrant 'We Love Beeston' carnival parade alongside a wide range of activities, including live entertainment, face painting, African arts and crafts, hula hoop, bubble and balloon workshops, community stalls, circus skills, drumming sessions, fair rides, a dog show and Beeston's Got Talent.

The parade theme, 'We Love Beeston', celebrated the town's diverse and inclusive community, showcasing the very best of Broxtowe.

The event was proudly sponsored by Fresh Asia (Europe) Ltd.

Upcoming Events

The forthcoming events programme offers a varied and engaging line-up across the Borough. Friday18 will run every Friday at 18:00 in Beeston Square and at venues in Kimberley until 7 August 2026, giving residents the chance to enjoy free live music while supporting local businesses and boosting the vibrancy of the town centres.

Summer Fun Days will take place in Eastwood on Thursday 6 August 2026 and Chilwell on Wednesday 19 August 2026, providing a range of free activities for children and families during the school holidays. Proms in the Park is scheduled for Sunday 16 August 2026 at Dovecote Lane Park, Beeston, featuring performances from the Nottingham Concert Band and vocalist Jayne Darling. An Outdoor Theatre event is also being planned for September at Bennerley Viaduct, showcasing the site as a valued community asset, supported through the Kimberley Means Business Fund, with the date to be confirmed.

The D.H. Lawrence Festival will run from 1 August to 13 September, celebrating the town's literary heritage while engaging local communities through a diverse programme of art, literature, music and cultural events. This includes the popular D.H. Lawrence Music Festival, which brings live performances to venues across the town centre, including a special set in the Museum garden. In 2025, Museum-led events attracted 1,172 attendees, with a further 5,267 people taking part in partner-led activities across the wider festival programme.

D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum

Museum engagement continued to grow strongly during 2025/26, with 5,850 visitors attending the site and a further 21,000 people reached through outreach activity.

This represents sustained year-on-year growth since the Museum transferred into the Communications, Cultural and Civic Services Team, benefiting from a more coordinated approach to marketing and audience engagement:

- 2022/23 – 3,700 visitors
- 2023/24 – 4,450 visitors, plus 7,750 through outreach
- 2024/25 – 4,550 visitors, plus 11,500 through outreach
- 2025/26 – 5,850 visitors, plus 21,000 through outreach

Performance analysis shows that 2025/26 achieved the highest visitor numbers on record, despite operating from a single site, three days per week, with a staffing model of 1.5 FTE supported by the wider team and volunteers.

By comparison, in 2014/15 the Museum operated across two sites (including the D.H. Lawrence Heritage Centre at Durban House), opened five days per week and had 8.1 FTE, yet only attracted 5,100 visitors.

This strong performance reflects a successful shift to a more agile operating model, focused on light-touch, high-impact activity, expanded outreach, enhanced marketing, and clear alignment with the Council's wider Cultural Strategy.

C-City Project

The Council hosted the fifth annual C-City conference in June 2026, bringing together cultural representatives from four European partner cities: Châteauroux (France), Falun (Sweden), Grudziądz (Poland) and Gütersloh (Germany).

Discussions focused on future cultural collaboration, including accessible street theatre, youth engagement initiatives and digital exchanges such as a virtual choir. Since its inception in 2018, the C-City partnership has developed into a strong international network, delivering a wide range of cultural projects that support artists, promotes heritage and enhances cultural opportunities both locally and across partner cities.

Key achievements include an award-winning international recipe book, a touring amateur art exhibition, and musical exchange opportunities for local performers. The partnership has also supported initiatives such as the D.H. Lawrence Children's Writing Competition, engagement through Friday18 live music events, and the establishment of the Broxtowe Community Committee to strengthen collaboration between cultural organisations and the Council.

More recently, external funding has been secured to support inclusive arts projects, such as the Parky Players theatre group, demonstrating the continued impact of the programme in attracting investment, fostering creativity and raising the profile of Broxtowe's cultural offer.

**Portfolio for Environment and Climate Change
Councillor T Marsh**

Report to Council – 15 July 2026

The Environment Team continues to work hard to support the Council's corporate priority of protecting the environment for the future. Through a wide range of services and initiatives, the team remains focused on improving environmental quality, supporting sustainable communities, and encouraging positive action across the Borough.

Waste and Recycling

Missed bins

Following the implementation of the recent round changes, there has been an increase in reports of missed bin collections. While a temporary rise was anticipated during the transition period, it has been recognised that some issues have persisted beyond initial expectations. A significant proportion of these reports relate to garden waste collections, including those associated with the ongoing sticker issues. The Council would like to thank residents for their patience and understanding during this period of transition.

The Council is taking a proactive approach to addressing these concerns, with targeted improvement plans now in place. This includes enhanced engagement with collection crews to promote greater consistency, updates to in-cab systems, and a focused approach to identifying and resolving repeat missed collections. These actions are aimed at strengthening service reliability and ensuring that residents across the Borough receive an improved and more dependable service moving forward.

Garden Waste

Garden waste subscriptions are currently higher than this time last year, reflecting strong resident uptake of the service. However, a number of issues have been experienced with the garden waste sticker process, including challenges with the sticker machine and distribution. These factors have contributed to some missed collections and a degree of resident dissatisfaction.

The Council has undertaken a thorough review of the service, including a lessons learned exercise with the team, to identify areas for improvement. As a result, changes to the implementation process are planned for next year to strengthen delivery and minimise disruption. In the meantime, work is already underway to address current concerns, including reviewing the effectiveness of the sticker process, improving communication with residents, and supporting crews to ensure a more consistent and reliable service across the Borough.

Food Waste

The Council has a transition agreement in place for the implementation of food waste collections across the Borough, with a requirement to introduce the service by 1 October 2027. To support this, a trial is scheduled to commence in September 2026 in the Larkfields estate in Nuthall and the Cloverlands area of Watnall. Prior to the launch, information about the scheme, along with a resident survey, will be distributed from 17 August 2026, with food waste caddies and containers being delivered from 7 September 2026.

A programme of resident engagement activity, including local roadshows and workshops, is being developed to provide further information and encourage participation. The trial will enable the Council to better understand operational requirements and identify any issues at an early stage. Any lessons learned will be used to inform and strengthen the wider roll out of food waste collections across the Borough. Collected food waste will be processed at a facility in Colwick, Nottingham.

Simpler Recycling

At the end of March 2026, residents were able to place additional items in their recycling bins, including plastic pots, tubs and trays, Tetra Paks and foil, following changes to the collection service.

These changes were brought about by the Simpler Recycling initiative mandated by Government through the Environment Act 2021. Since their introduction, there has been a positive reduction in contamination rates, referring to materials that should not be placed in the green-lidded recycling bin.

By way of comparison with the same period last year, contamination rates in April reduced from 11.9% to 7.3%, and in May from 11.2% to 8.7%. This represents a substantial improvement and reflects the positive impact of clearer guidance, targeted communications, and that residents are able to recycle even more materials than before through kerbside collection.

Kerbside Battery Recycling

Members will be aware of the increasing number of vehicle fires linked to the presence of batteries, particularly lithium batteries and items such as vapes, that are incorrectly disposed of within general waste and recycling collections. To help mitigate this risk, and to provide residents with an additional recycling opportunity to safely dispose of these items, the Council will be introducing a kerbside battery recycling scheme in late summer.

The scheme will enable residents to place household batteries in clear bags (ideally freezer bags) and present them on top of their bin on their normal collection day. Collection crews will then safely remove and store these items separately on the refuse vehicle.

The scheme will be supported by a communications campaign launching in the summer, with further detailed information to be provided through the Council's usual

communication channels. More comprehensive guidance will also be included within the bin collection calendars distributed to residents in November, ensuring widespread awareness and understanding of the new service across the Borough.

Parks and Open Spaces

The past year has been a busy period for the Parks Team, with a wide range of improvement projects delivered across the Borough. Key highlights include a fully refurbished play area at Eastcote Avenue in Bramcote, the installation of new, dynamic play equipment at Coronation Park in Eastwood, and improved accessible surfacing at the play area in Jubilee Park, also in Eastwood.

Accessibility to green spaces has been further enhanced through the surfacing of over three kilometres of paths, including works at the Nottingham Canal, Dovecote Lane Recreation Ground in Beeston, Cator Lane Recreation Ground in Chilwell, and Bramcote Quarry. Progress has also been made at Brinsley Headstocks, where a substantial piled foundation has now been constructed.

The team has continued to prioritise biodiversity, including the creation of a new sensory garden at Bramcote Hills Park and habitat improvements across the Borough. Restoration work along the Nottingham Canal is supporting the endangered water vole, while new flower-rich grasslands at Brinsley Headstocks and Toton Fields Local Nature Reserve are now establishing well.

Forward Programme

An extensive programme of work is planned for the year ahead.

At Brinsley Headstocks, the team is progressing discussions with specialist timber construction companies to develop a suitable approach for the replacement wooden structure. Alongside this, a suitable cap for a previously unrecorded mineshaft has been designed, and contractors are currently being sought to undertake this work.

At Bramcote Quarry, which was adopted by the Council last year, public consultation has been completed and feedback has been used to update the site's management plan. Initial work to improve accessibility has already been carried out, and a wider programme of improvements is now being developed to transform the site into a fully accessible open space. An application is also being prepared to Natural England to designate the Quarry as a Local Nature Reserve, which would become the 16th in the Borough.

In addition, a five-kilometre circular walking route has been identified, linking Bramcote Quarry with four other Council-managed Local Nature Reserves: the Nottingham Canal, Pit Lane Recreation Ground, Stapleford Hill and Bramcote Hills Park. This "five nature reserves in five kilometres" route will connect a diverse range of habitats and showcase the Council's commitment to enhancing the environment for both residents and wildlife.

Parks Survey

The Parks Team continues to carry out an annual customer survey of parks and open spaces, with a third of sites reviewed each year on a rolling basis. The survey will be based on Green Flag standards and will provide valuable insight into how well sites are maintained from a user perspective.

This year, the survey has been updated to place greater emphasis on accessibility and biodiversity, alongside broader questions about how residents use green spaces and what they would like to see in the future. The findings will be used to inform a new performance indicator and help shape future development plans and the Council's capital investment programme.

D.H. Lawrence Heritage Walking Route

A report was presented to Cabinet at the end of June outlining proposals to develop an enhanced D.H. Lawrence walking route, aimed at strengthening connectivity between key heritage assets and green infrastructure across the Borough. The proposal builds on the existing circular route centred on Eastwood, which already incorporates important literary and historic locations such as the Birthplace Museum. While this provides a strong foundation, the current route does not fully reflect the wider range of heritage assets associated with D.H. Lawrence or the Borough's mining history.

The enhanced route seeks to create a more comprehensive and integrated walking experience, including strengthened links between key sites such as Brinsley Headstocks and Colliers Wood. This will help create a clearer and more cohesive heritage corridor, connecting important mining and literary locations. At Brinsley Headstocks, reconstruction of the wooden structure is currently underway and is anticipated to be completed by the end of the year, subject to contractor availability. The delivery of the route alongside the headstock's restoration will help position the site as a key destination within a broader heritage trail. It will also improve connectivity between green infrastructure assets, supporting better access to open spaces and encouraging walking and recreation across the Borough.

Hedge Cutting

Due to the bird nesting season, hedge cutting across the Borough does not commence until June each year. The Grounds Maintenance Team is responsible for managing hedges across approximately 450 Council properties, along with a further 195 outlying sites.

Two programmed hedge cutting cycles are carried out annually, typically in June and September. Across these programmes, around 95,000 square metres of hedging is maintained, equivalent to approximately 23 acres or 14 football pitches. In addition, on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council, the Environment Team undertakes hedge cutting along 15 public rights of way, alongside shrub maintenance at 35 highway locations across the Borough.

Grass and Verge Cutting

As the Borough moves into the peak growing season, grass growth has accelerated significantly. In some locations, this may impact access along footpaths and public rights of way.

The Environment Team carries out surface cutting along public rights of way on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council twice each year to maintain safe and accessible routes. While undertaking this work, the team also identifies and reports issues such as overgrown hedges, damage, or other obstructions to the County Council for further action.

The Council appreciates Members' continued patience during this period of rapid growth and increased demand. Any urgent concerns can be raised directly with the Environment Team.

Weed Control

Work to control weeds on the adopted highway and within town centre locations is ongoing on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council. The Borough is currently at the peak of the weed growing season, and staff are working proactively to maintain safe, accessible, and well-presented streets, parks, and green spaces.

In recent years, there has been increased scrutiny regarding pesticide use, driven by concerns about impacts on human health and the environment, alongside national policy encouraging reduced reliance on chemical treatments.

In response, a report was submitted to Cabinet on 30 June 2026 seeking approval to trial alternative weed control methods, alongside the suspension of spraying in high-footfall parks and play areas. This approach will help build an evidence base to inform a new Pesticide Policy, which is expected to be considered by Cabinet in the autumn.

Environmental Enforcement (WISE)

Since the start of the financial year, enforcement activity has continued through the Council's partnership with WISE, focusing on tackling littering and fly-tipping across the Borough. This reflects clear feedback from residents calling for stronger action to improve local environmental quality, alongside ongoing education and prevention work delivered by the Waste and Recycling Team and Neighbourhood Wardens.

To date, 869 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) have been issued, with littering, particularly cigarette-related waste, accounting for most offences. In addition, 6 FPNs have been issued for fly-tipping, reflecting a targeted approach to known incidents and priority locations.

Encouragingly, this approach is having a positive impact. Prior to the introduction of WISE in 2024/25, the Waste and Recycling Team collected 78 tonnes of fly-tipped waste. In the last financial year, with WISE in place, this was reduced to 38 tonnes, representing a decrease of approximately 51%.

The contract also delivers wider community benefits through its social value commitments. This has included support for local initiatives such as a local food bank. A proportion of income from Fixed Penalty Notices retained by the Council must be ring-fenced for environmental improvements. This income has helped to support free bulky waste collection days. Further joint initiatives, including community litter-picking events, are also being developed.

Neighbourhood Wardens

During April and May of this year, the Neighbourhood Wardens have continued to deliver a wide range of frontline services across the Borough. This has included responding to 50 reports of abandoned vehicles, addressing 45 dog-related complaints, and managing 2 cases involving stray dogs.

In addition to their enforcement role, Wardens remain a visible and valued presence within local communities, with a strong emphasis on engagement and education. So far this year, they have delivered 10 community events, including local clean-up activities and awareness sessions promoting responsible dog ownership.

The next planned event is a Community Safety Day taking place on 8 July 2026 in Beeston Square. Over the summer period, Wardens will also be hosting a series of pop-up events across the Borough to encourage responsible behaviours such as litter disposal and tackling dog fouling. Further details will be shared with Members in due course.

Climate Change

Broxtowe Borough Council's Climate Forum - Shaping Climate Solutions Together

The Council hosted its second Climate Forum on 24 April 2026 at Attenborough Nature Reserve. The event was well attended, with over 70 participants taking part throughout the day.

Delegates heard from a range of climate change and nature experts, as well as local organisations and community groups, who shared practical ideas and solutions. The event provided a strong example of effective collaboration and community-led action, helping to inspire positive environmental change across the Borough.

Heat Hub Events

The Council continues to work in partnership with Nottingham Energy Partnership's (NEP) Home Energy Advice Team Hub (HEAT) to deliver free, in-person workshops for residents.

These two-hour sessions are designed to support homeowners to reduce carbon emissions, improve comfort within the home, and lower energy bills. To date, two workshops have been delivered in the Borough: one in Eastwood, focusing on solar panels, which was attended by 17 residents, and one in Nuthall, focusing on retrofit measures, attended by 29 residents.

Both events have been very well received, and further opportunities to deliver additional sessions throughout the year will be explored.

Climate Change benchmarking

The Council has once again achieved a 'B' rating through the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) for 2025. CDP is a globally recognised framework that enables organisations and local authorities to measure, manage and publicly disclose their environmental impact, particularly in relation to climate change and carbon emissions.

This rating reflects the strong progress being made in reducing carbon emissions and improving environmental performance across the Borough. Feedback from the most recent submission highlighted that the Council is performing strongly and was close to achieving a higher rating.

Submissions for 2026 are currently in progress, with the Council working towards achieving an 'A-' rating. Attaining this level would demonstrate clear leadership in climate action and position the Council amongst the highest performing authorities in this area.

The Climate Emergency UK Scorecard assessment process has now commenced for 2027. The Council was previously recognised as the 'most improved' District Council across Nottinghamshire and, as a result, has been selected to take part in this round of assessment.

The scoring process will continue throughout Summer 2026, with final results expected to be published in Spring 2027. These scorecards provide an important benchmarking tool, enabling the Council to measure its progress against other local authorities and identify further opportunities to strengthen climate action and delivery.

Local Area Energy Plan (LEAP)

The final Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) has now been received, setting out the most cost-effective pathway to decarbonisation across the Borough and the wider East Midlands region. This work was undertaken in partnership with a cohort of neighbouring authorities, including Rushcliffe and Gedling Borough Councils. The report aligns local priorities with wider regional ambitions and national policy, and considers key areas such as energy supply and demand, transport, buildings, industry, and the natural environment.

Members may also be interested to note that the University of Nottingham's retrofit roadmap project has helped to inform the development of the LAEP. This work has helped shape both the local position and the emerging Retrofit Strategy for Nottinghamshire, ensuring alignment between local delivery and wider strategic planning.

The report from the University of Nottingham will be presented to Cabinet on 21 July 2026, where Members will be updated on the outcome of the consultation work with

the University of Nottingham and how this partnership work integrates with both the LAEP and the countywide retrofit strategy.

A regional launch of the final documents is anticipated by the end of summer 2026.

National Emergency Briefing on the Climate and Nature Crisis

Looking ahead, the Council will be hosting a free screening of the National Emergency Briefing on the Climate and Nature Crisis on Tuesday 28 July 2026 at the Council Chamber.

The briefing explores the implications of climate and nature decline across a range of areas, including public health, food systems, national security, and the economy. Following the screening, a Q&A panel session will be held to support audience discussion and explore how individuals, communities and organisations can respond to the challenges outlined.

Green Festival

Plans for this year's Green Festival, taking place on Saturday 19 September 2026 at Coronation Park in Eastwood, are well underway.

Now in its fourth consecutive year in Eastwood, the event will provide residents with a free, family-friendly day, bringing together a range of organisations and experts. Attendees will have the opportunity to access advice and information on supporting nature, improving energy efficiency, reducing household bills, and a variety of other environmental topics.

Green Rewards

There are currently 3,700 residents signed up to the Green Rewards platform (as of 19 June 2026), demonstrating continued engagement with the Council's environmental initiatives.

In October 2025, the Council undertook a resident survey on Green Rewards, which received 178 responses. Results showed that 86% of respondents were aware of the Green Rewards scheme, with 67% of those confirmed as registered users. Work is currently underway between the Council and the platform provider, Jump, to identify and address opportunities for improvement and to further increase participation.

Congratulations are extended to Beeston Rylands, which has won the Ward Prize for the second consecutive year. Residents have chosen hedgehog houses as their biodiversity award, which are scheduled to be installed in Autumn 2026.

Portfolio for Community Safety Councillor G Bunn

Report to Council – 15 July 2026

Community Safety

- Community Safety Drop In Event - Beeston Square on 8 July, 10am – 3pm information, signposting, advice, crime prevention resources and bike marking. Other agencies also attending.

Hate Crime

- Hate Crime Pledge renewed in February 26
- The Hate Crime Webpage has been updated
- Signed up to the Hidden Disability Sunflower Scheme - without a visual cue, it can be difficult for others to identify, acknowledge, or understand the daily barriers faced by people living with an invisible disability this scheme enables those with hidden disabilities to be identified
- LGBTQ+ Event March 26 in Beeston presentations and information delivered on Perimenopause, Menopause and links to Breast Cancer
- Several Places of Welcome Talks took place in Beeston Library during the spring – Hate Crime, Safety, Security, Fraud, CAB
- A Transform Event was held in the council chamber in June – Partner agencies were invited to disseminate information and signposting Communities delivered Hate Crime information
- No Place for Hate communications campaign delivered
- Independent Living Day Event – information and signposting for Hate Crime, safety, security, fraud and wellbeing

ASB

- Monthly problem solving and tasking meetings are held with the Police, Probation, Police Licencing
- Monthly ASB Group meetings are held with partners such as Police, Housing, Env Health, Mental Health and Social Care to identify and address individuals causing ASB and problem solve locations.
- PSPOs – 10 PSPOs have been reviewed and renewed one of which, Beeston Town Centre Alcohol PSPO, was extended to cover the bell area of Sainsburys following permissions from Sainsburys.
- While the police are the primary partner responsible for criminal activity, such as illegal ebikes and off-road bikes across the borough and the car racing on the A52, our officers continue to work closely to support them with as much as possible, including sharing information with councillors and residents on how to report incidents and looking at other actions that can be taken to improve outcomes for our residents.

Community Engagement and Prevention

- ASB Awareness Week (29 June – 5 July) A targeted communications campaign was delivered to raise awareness of anti-social behaviour and encourage residents to report concerns. Throughout the week, a series of social media posts were shared promoting reporting routes, support available to victims and the work being carried out to tackle ASB across the Borough.
The joint campaign between Communities and Communications developed and shared campaign messages across the Council's communication channels. Information was also provided to local schools for inclusion in newsletters, helping to raise awareness with pupils and their families and encouraging people to report concerns to the appropriate agency.
The campaign helped promote reporting pathways and reinforced the importance of partnership working in responding to anti-social behaviour. The team will continue to identify opportunities to engage with schools and local communities to support early intervention and prevention.
- The team is currently exploring opportunities to reintroduce preventative engagement sessions with primary school aged children ahead of the summer period. These sessions would focus on the consequences of ASB, community respect and awareness of knife crime, supporting early intervention and prevention.

Domestic Abuse

- Awareness raising of domestic abuse and white ribbon campaign has been done at Hemlock Happening, BBC Playdays, Local Community Coffee Mornings and Broxtowe Youth Conference.
- An event in Kimberley was held to engage local businesses in domestic abuse issues. Information distributed local businesses in Kimberley and Nuthall.
- Broxtowe Borough Council has been registered as a supporter organisation of the Employers Initiative for Domestic Abuse.
- International Women's Day event was held in March to promote domestic abuse awareness.
- Resources around domestic abuse, health and community safety delivered to Independent Living Open Days. Further events to talk about financial safety and financial and domestic abuse concerns being organised as a result.
- 3 domestic abuse events have been booked in for September, October and November this year.
- New Ask for Angela resources have been delivered through pub watch groups to all licensed premises in Broxtowe.
- Training sessions on domestic abuse have been delivered to Council Employees covering a wide range of domestic abuse related issues and engagement from employees with White Ribbon has increased as a result.
- Funding for The Sanctuary Scheme has been renewed for the new financial year with some installation works under the scheme being reduced in order to maintain the availability of the scheme for all applicants due to the ever-increasing number of Sanctuary applicants each year.

- There were 62 Sanctuary applications for the previous financial year with 12 declined. So far since 1st April this year there have been 19 applications with 5 declined.

Violence

- 74 Broxtowe cases have been heard at MARAC since 1st January 2026.
- The Serious Violence Duty response plan was completed for the 2025/26 period and the new plan has been created and is being delivered.
- A review of Clare's Law viability across the county has been requested, the VRP lead has agreed to start the process of evaluating and assessing the policy.

Safeguarding

- There have been 43 referrals to safeguarding since the beginning of the year 7 of which have been MASH referrals, and 9 of which were threats to self harm/suicide.
- The Complex Case Panel have discussed 29 individuals. 3 of them at 6 meetings, 1 at 4 meetings, 5 at 2 meetings and 20 at 1 meeting.

Modern Slavery

- There have been 5 referrals in to the Countywide Slavery and Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference (SERAC) since the beginning of the year.

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

- There have been 11 referrals for CCE since the beginning of the year all of which have been picked up by the Local Neighbourhood Safeguarding and Disruption Group, which is multi disciplinary, creating a wraparound response. 2 have been stepped up to the Countywide Child Criminal Exploitation Panel.

Prevent

- There have been 4 Prevent referrals since 01 Jan 26
- A benchmarking exercise countywide has been undertaken the results of which showed the Council meet all statutory and guidance points.
- There have been
- There have been 4 incidents in the Borough since the beginning of the year which highlight intolerance or raised tensions, these have been submitted to Counter Terrorism and will be recorded in the Counter Terrorism Local Profile

Environmental Health

The teams have been carrying vacant posts for over a year. We have recruited to posts in commercial and environmental protection who have started in the last couple of weeks.

Our Degree Apprentice student is approaching the end of her first year with us and has gained valuable experience across all areas of environmental health.

Food Safety

- The team completed 100% of programmed routine food safety inspections for the year 2025-2026 (1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026).
- The new yearly programme has been generated for 2026-2027 and officers are starting to undertake inspections.
- As in the last few years, the previous 12 months saw a high number of new food premises registrations. These included a large proportion of home-based activities such as cake bakers and a high turnover of some of the takeaway type premises. Many proposed new food businesses are proving challenging to inspect due to delays in opening and in the complexity of the type of food and manner of preparation. Whilst there are a lot of domestic cake bakers still registering, people are more regularly wanting to cook food for takeaway at home and make and process novel foods which have specific food safety challenges, especially in a domestic setting.
- A large backlog of unrated food businesses have been inspected in the last few months and officers are working to triage and inspect the rest in the coming months.
- Standards in many businesses are dropping, and we have had to arrange for several businesses to voluntarily close due to not having hot water when inspected.

Health and Safety

- For the past year there have been problems with hot tubs used by members of the public at a business in the borough. These issues have started again with an employee contracting Legionella. Work on site has identified that a new company has taken over and enforcement action is being taken (see below).
- Poor electrics, both wiring and appliances, have been discovered at a number of premises. Work has been ongoing to improve electrical safety in these businesses and enforcement action will be taken should a business fail to comply.

Sampling

- Officers contributed to national sampling programmes in February and March.
- Extensive water and environmental sampling were undertaken at the business with the hot tubs to identify poor water quality. This evidence led to the serving of Prohibitions Notices (see below).

Animal Licensing

- 13 animal activity licences (3 pet vending, 2 home dog boarders, 4 catteries – including a new cattery, 1 dog breeder, 3 new animal exhibition licences – including donkeys, Shetland ponies and micro pigs)
- Officers have undertaken the licensing inspections for our site that has Dangerous Wild Animals (DWA) and primates, along with our nominated

specialist veterinarian. The DWA licence and Primate licence will be issued in due course.

General Licensing

- 10 premises licences for skin piercing activities including a number of new tattoo studios have been registered over the past few months along with over a dozen practitioners.
- Special treatment licences are currently being reissued for the year and officers are undertaking inspections and desktop assessments so Licensing can issue the licences.

Enforcement Action

- The Department undertook a successful prosecution of an unlicensed dog breeder which was heard in court in February. The defendant was fined and banned from breeding dogs as a result of the action.
- A simple caution was issued to the previous operator of the business with hot tubs in April for offences committed last year.
- Prohibition Notices have been served on the new owners of the business with the hot tubs preventing the use of all seven hot tubs until they have been thoroughly cleaned, disinfected and pass microbiological testing.

Joint Work with Other Agencies and Departments

- The team work internally with corporate Health and Safety and the Events team to ensure the safe running of events in the borough.
- The team also assists Markets with checking stall holders at the various markets held in the borough to ensure safe food.
- Two weeks ago, the team assisted Trading Standards colleagues from County Council in a raid at a vape shop. This resulted in Trading Standards removing large quantities of illegal tobacco and vapes from sale.

Environmental Protection

- 5 Community protection Warnings Served.
- 2 Community Protection Notices Served
- Applied for and executed a warrant. Seized 3 cats and 2 kittens.

Licensing

Licences issued (April, May, June)

- 5 Personal Licences new applications
- 4 Personal licence changes of circumstance
- 88 Temporary Event Notices
- 10 Designated premises Supervisor Variations
- 1 Minor Premises Variations
- 1 Premises transfers

- Premise variations
- 4 new Premise applications
- 1 Review of premise licence

New Taxi Licences issued (April, May, June)

- 7 new vehicle licences have been issued.
- 1 New driver licences has been issued

World Cup Fever

The licensing team has been focusing on engagement with the premise licence trade to ensure that we are fully prepared for World Cup Fever. We have sent a copy of the British Beer Pub Association “ Managing World Cup Success – Advice for licensees showing FIFA World Cup Matches” to all of the premises within the borough. [world-cup-2026-guidance.pdf](#)

The government have provided national extensions for certain matches for home nations when they reach round 32 onwards, however, with the time zones for matches not all potential England games will be covered. Therefore, to ensure that our trade understand whether they are covered under the national extension or require to apply for additional licence hours, we have worked it out and passed the information to the pubs using the local Pub Watches. This could explain the high number of Temporary Event Notices we have received from April to date is 88 (for context for the whole of last year we received 150)

Trading Standards Review Hearing

We have received our first review application from Trading Standards for an off licence in Beeston. This will be determined by members of Licensing and Appeals Committee on Tuesday 30 June 2026.

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Annual Scrutiny Report 2025-26

1. Purpose of Report

Council is asked to note the Annual Scrutiny Report 2024/25.

2. Recommendation

Council is asked to NOTE the report.

3. Detail

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

4. 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. Financial Implications

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

There are no direct financial implications arising from this annual report. Any financial considerations as part of the scrutiny review process were considered at the time and any budget changes reported to Cabinet for approval.

6. Legal Implications

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

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

7. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

8. Union Comments

Unison noted the contents of the report.

9. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

10. Data Protection Compliance Implications

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

11. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

12. Background Papers

Nil.



Broxtowe
Borough
COUNCIL

Annual Report Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2025/26



Contents

Foreword	3
Overview and Scrutiny at Broxtowe	4
Membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee	5
How does Scrutiny Make a Difference?	6
Call-In Information	7
Requests for reports to be added and approved to the Forward Plan	7
Special Urgency Notices	9
Member Development	10
Key Achievements 2024/25	10
Final report of the Cemetery Memorials Task and Finish Group	10
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	14
Budget Scrutiny	15
Sub Committees	15
Spotlight Reviews	16
Work Programme	17



Foreword

“Over the past year, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has carried out robust scrutiny of the Council’s priorities, as identified in the Corporate Plan, and monitored the Council’s budget, and scrutinised the 2025/26 budget proposals.

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

Some significant achievements for Overview and Scrutiny this year include:

- The task-and-finish report into the issue of cemetery memorials.
- Advanced, comprehensive scrutiny of the 2025/26 budget proposals.
- Continued oversight of Broxtowe’s environmental enforcement contractor through performance data.
- Significant engagement with reviews of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) across many council assets, such as parks and the D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum.

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

I am happy to submit this report to Council.”



Councillor S Dannheimer
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Overview and Scrutiny at Broxtowe

Overview and Scrutiny is a key part of the local democratic governance arrangements for local authorities in England and Wales. Effective scrutiny helps secure the efficient delivery of public services and drives improvements within the authority itself. Authorities who welcome challenge and recognise the value scrutiny can bring are more likely to thrive, develop resilience, and deliver better value for their residents.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee continues to be an active and integral part of the Council's governance apparatus. During 2025/26 the Committee Members have acted as a critical friend as they have scrutinised the items selected for their work programme. It provides a vehicle for elected Members to influence the development of Council policies and enhances transparency and accountability to residents. The Committee also suggest service improvements through recommendations.

Scrutiny engagement has included appointing subcommittees, receiving presentations and taking reports followed by question-and-answer sessions, and delivering a complex task-and-finish review. This has enabled scrutiny to take an in-depth look at specific areas within the Council and has provided a variety of opportunities for Members to discuss and add value to key service areas.

During 2025/26, the Committee has received no call-ins. Legislation permits Overview and Scrutiny Committees to investigate, make reports and give recommendations regarding Cabinet decisions that have been agreed, but are pending implementation, subject to 'call-in'. The decision is suspended until it is reviewed - the Committee can ask Cabinet to reconsider its decision based on further evidence gathered.

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

Councillor S Dannheimer, J Owen and S Webb, as Chair and Vice-Chairs respectively, would like to thank all the Officers and Members who have been involved in supporting and assisting in the Overview and Scrutiny process over the past year.

Membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor S Dannheimer (Chair)
Councillor S Webb (Vice Chair)
Councillor J M Owen (Vice Chair)
Councillor S J Carr
Councillor H L Crosby
Councillor H J Faccio
Councillor K A Harlow
Councillor H Land
Councillor D L MacRae
Councillor A W G A Stockwell
Councillor C M Tideswell
Councillor E Winfield
Councillor K Woodhead



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

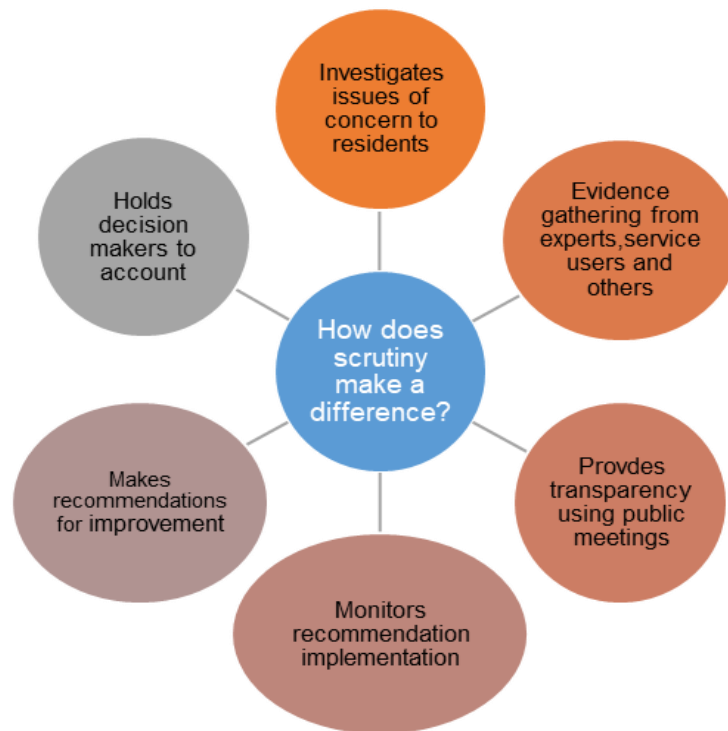


' Having been a Member of Scrutiny for two years, I appreciate the valuable role that Scrutiny is able to play in enhancing the Council's performance. The adage that Scrutiny should be a critical friend of the Council is only too true.'



"Having site visits to places that Scrutiny is examining provides hands-on evidence to support recommendations to Cabinet."

How does scrutiny make a difference?



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

Call-in Information

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

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

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

2024/25 - No Call-ins.

2025/26 – No Call-ins.

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

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

Purpose:

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

What is included in a forward plan:

Details about the key decision, such as the subject matter, proposed action, responsible Officer, date of the decision-making meeting, and relevant background information. Any report where the decision will be made in a private session will be listed by its title and the reason that the contents of the report is exempt from the press and public.

Where to access a forward plan:

The Council publish the forward plans on the website, making it accessible to the public. [Browse plans - Cabinet, 2026: Broxtowe Borough Council](#)

Legal basis:

This requirement stems from the [The Local Authorities \(Executive Arrangements\) \(Meetings and Access to Information\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#), which outline procedures for decision-making and public engagement.

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

The Chair of the Committee has approved a total of ten requests for either a Key Decision or an Exempt decision to be made in the period May 2025 to April 2026. The reports were not identified in the published forward plan giving 28 days' notice before a decision had to be made, and the decisions were considered urgent.

<i>Request to add to the Forward Plan</i>	<i>Decision Date Cabinet</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Reason for Urgency</i>	<i>Date approved by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Notice Published</i>
1	4 November 2025	Opportunity to Purchase a Property for Housing Conversion	Commercially sensitive report to be able to proceed with discussions	Tuesday, 28 October 2025
2	27 November 2025	Fire Safety Works	By virtue of paragraphs 1 (Information relating to any individual), 2 (Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual), and 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).	Wednesday, 19 November 2025
3	16 December 2025	Submission of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan for Examination	In order to meet the necessary deadlines and outcomes.	Monday, 8 December 2025

4	16 December 2025	Scrutiny Review of Cemetery Memorials	In order to meet the necessary deadlines and outcomes.	Thursday, 11 December 2025
5	3 February 2026	Scrutiny Review of Cemetery Memorials	In order to meet the necessary deadlines and outcomes.	Tuesday, 27 January 2026
6	3 February 2026	Budget Proposals and Associated Strategies	In order to meet the necessary deadlines and outcomes.	Tuesday, 27 January 2026
7	3 February 2026	Housing Scrutiny Group Report - Voids Process	In order to meet the necessary deadlines and outcomes.	Tuesday, 27 January 2026
8	3 February 2026	Environmental Enforcement Update	In order to meet the necessary deadlines and outcomes.	Tuesday, 27 January 2026
9	10 March 2026	New Replacement Bramcote Leisure Centre	In order to meet the necessary deadlines and outcomes.	Monday, 2 March 2026
10	14 April 2026	Eastwood Health Hub and Town Centre Redevelopment	In order to meet the necessary deadlines and outcomes.	Thursday, 2 April 2026

Special Urgency Notice

There were no Special Urgency Notices in the period May 2025-April 2026.

Member Development

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee built on the suite of external training delivered last year through sustained scrutiny activity, helping to effectively solidify what they had learnt in previous training and help deliver sustained benefits for residents. Select members of the Committee had the opportunity to deepen their scrutiny capabilities through

involvement in the long-running and complex task-and-finish enquiry into cemetery memorials.

Further member training is planned for later in 2026, allowing members to deepen their knowledge of other aspects on which they have not previously received training. The opportunity for members to receive bespoke training from the Association of Democratic Services Officers (ADSO) is being explored by the Council's Member Development Group.

Key Achievements in 2025/26

Final report of the Cemetery Memorials Task and Finish Group

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, following continued feedback from local residents, constituted a task-and-finish group of six members in September 2025 to investigate and consider the matter of unauthorised memorials in borough cemeteries. This followed the deferral of a decision by Cabinet at its 3 June 2025 meeting, subject to the outcome of this scrutiny exercise.

After agreeing the review's scoping document at its 25 September 2025 meeting, the group worked to scrutinise the issue of cemetery memorials, unauthorised constructions in borough cemeteries, present and previous cemetery management procedures and practices, the approaches of other authorities, and local resident interest in the issue. The group delivered its final report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting of 15 December 2025 before it was referred to the 3 February 2026 meeting of Cabinet alongside a comprehensive Equality Impact Assessment following public consultation.

The purpose of the review was to consider present cemetery management practices alongside resident feedback and, in light of national trends, make recommendations to ensure that current practices met the needs and desires of residents. Extensive review of council reports, papers from other authorities, government publications, industry guidance and other documentation was necessary alongside conducting a wide array of interviews and meetings with a range of stakeholders: these included residents who were for and against changes to the present rules, council officers, and members.

The following recommendations were put to Cabinet and approved accordingly:

1. *To recognise the confusion caused to some local residents and thank them for their contributions, while also commending the work of Council Officers, acknowledging the difficult work they undertake in an often conflicting environment and also thanking them for their contributions to the work of the task and finish group.*
2. *To allow the construction and maintenance of cemetery memorials and memorial gardens on leased grave plots in Borough cemeteries, **up to a maximum length of one metre** from the headstone plinth and of the equivalent width as the headstone at*

its base. These must be bounded by a kerbset installed by a registered stonemason (or an agreed alternative, if signed off by the Officers deemed appropriate by Cabinet), and subject to agreement on the materials used, the absence of any prohibited items, and an agreed plan of action should any issues arise. The outside of the kerbset should be in alignment with the headstone at its base.

- 3. To therefore permit the installation of kerbsets on grave plots in Borough cemeteries, subject either to official installation by Council staff, or a suitable standard of installation and maintenance that does not unduly interfere in grounds maintenance. It is advisable that any kerbing fitted to a grave should bound the outer limit within which memorial items are permitted, up to a limit of **one metre**, with the width being the same as that of the headstone at its base. Any kerbset that is not officially installed must be signed off by the relevant Council Officers.*
- 4. To instruct Legal Services to review (and draft where required) any revisions to the existing Cemetery Rules and Regulations and internment forms that may be required. This will ensure compliance by the grave owners of the terms and conditions and to ensure the Council complies with their statutory obligations.*
- 5. All new graves (plots leased or dug since new Rules and Regulations take effect) should be permitted to maintain a memorial of up to one metre as stipulated in recommendations above, while older graves will be permitted to maintain memorials of more than one metre and up to a maximum length of the length of the grave plot, where these are already in place. When such older graves are reopened, they must then revert to 'the one metre rule', only maintaining memorials of up to one metre after this reopening. Any such memorials over one metre in length must still be at or below the width of the headstone at its base and bounded by an appropriate and agreed upon kerbset.*
- 6. The owners of any graveside memorials outside of those allowed under these new rules (i.e. where older graves with pre-existing memorials do not revert to 1m in length following a reopening, are too wide, or feature prohibited items, or where new graves have memorials of >1m, etc.) should be offered time and assistance to reorganise their memorials, after which time their memorials should be removed in accordance with the new regulations. Support may include notification of the grave owners that their memorial items may need to be cleared and storage of such items for a specified period of time.*
- 7. The list of items prohibited on graveside memorials is to be reviewed and agreed, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including the Friends of Broxtowe Cemeteries and other cemetery users and bereaved families. The list should then be strictly adhered to by all grave owners and clearly enforced by grounds staff to*

safeguard against health and safety concerns. An exception should be made for a small amount of additional decoration on birthdays (for 14 days after the deceased's birth date) and Christmas (until 4 January).

- 8. Planted flowers, trees or shrubs should not be permitted in graveside memorials, due to the unsettling effects that roots can have on headstones and other features. Where planted vegetation is present, grave owners should be contacted and asked to pot them. If this is not done within an agreed timespan, any such planted features should be removed.*
- 9. To consider, in consultation with any Officers, the Friends of Broxtowe Cemeteries, and any other stakeholders as appropriate, new messaging to grave owners and cemetery visitors informing them of the changes to Cemeteries Rules and Regulations and how this may affect them, such as in relation to adjacent burials, among other areas. Consideration should be given to communications stating that the Council wishes to work with visitors to manage any new health and safety and accessibility dynamics that may arise from new regulations and that visitors are duly informed of these by entering any Borough cemetery. Input should be sought from Communications, Bereavement Services and Health and Safety to ensure accuracy and consistency.*
- 10. Grave owners should be given a copy (paper or electronic) of the Council's Cemeteries Rules and Regulations upon signing their interment form, where this is not already the case.*
- 11. To consider making available any additional funding necessary to implement changes to cemetery management and grounds maintenance procedures which are required to work around any memorials that will remain under the new rules, i.e. changes to shift patterns, procurement of different grass-cutting, soil boxes or other equipment, etc. This would need to be subject to specific approval by Cabinet where there would be budget implications. Use of the Council's apprenticeship scheme should be considered if it is deemed necessary to take on additional staff.*
- 12. The feasibility of implementing a 'cooling period' of seven days or more before the signing of the interment form by grave owners should be evaluated. This would be a period in which grave owners are able to contact the Council, enquire about and potentially reconsider whether they would like to sign their interment forms assenting to the Rules and Regulations, allowing them time to properly comprehend all of the conditions while in a state of grief, though this must of course occur before and not delay interment. This may also function as an improved accessibility measure for mourners with dyslexia, ADHD etc., who may struggle to digest the form in full when they are first presented with it.*

13. *Grave owners should be contacted again before they are able to commission an official memorial – such as a headstone – to ensure that they are still cognisant of the Rules and Regulations and appreciate what they may and may not construct. The possibility of having them sign a document again at this stage to reiterate this should also be investigated.*
14. *The Council should investigate alternative possibilities to facilitate residents' mourning at Borough cemeteries, such as the creation of designated memorial gardens where more significant, personalised memorials are permitted, or augmented reality/VR offers, such as has been implemented at the D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum, especially where this would be helpful in managing accessibility or health and safety concerns.*
15. *The Council should investigate the possibility of helping to offer or signpost cemetery visitors to bereavement counselling services as part of its communications with residents on this issue.*
16. *To consider requesting that Bereavement Services should work closely with local funeral directors to understand their processes and procedures, if it would not duplicate work and as and when resources allow. The Council's Cemeteries Team should also consider the creation of a working group or bi-monthly catch-up meeting between themselves and local funeral directors to discuss any issues regarding communications with grave owners. This may help improve co-ordination and understanding of the Rules and Regulations and allowable memorial features among grave owners.*
17. *To consider, in consultation with Officers as appropriate, investigating the co-ordination of forms of funding for those that cannot afford funeral costs, such as helping those who cannot afford one to purchase a headstone. Monies from metals extracted during cremation should also be considered for this purpose, in collaboration with the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM), as required.*

Cabinet also added the following recommendations:

18. *The formation of a working group, composed of Members, Officers, and any other stakeholders as considered appropriate, that will work to implement all new measures arising from any Cabinet resolutions on these recommendations, in a robust and compliant manner.*

19. *Any reopened graves would not be required to revert to the one metre stipulation.*
20. *To undertake consultation with concerned individuals and groups regarding the number of celebration/memorial days.*
21. *New memorials to comply with the one-metre rule.*

Members of the Committee are receiving and update on the progress made toward implementation of the recommendations at its 18 June 2026 meeting.

The Task and Finish Group was Chaired by Cllr S Dannheimer, with Councillor S Webb the Vice Chair, and Councillors D D Pringle, S Carr, E Winfield and D Watts the remaining members.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Building on the work of the previous year's review of Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) at Broxtowe, the Committee continued to scrutinise Council EDI performance in several areas, chiefly by continuing to track performance against previous recommendations and reviewing update reports.

The Committee reviewed update reports on 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Council Parks' and 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at the D.H. Lawrence Birthplace History Museum' at its September 2025 meeting.

The Committee will receive further updates on each of these at its September 2026 meeting as part of its responsibility to keep a watching brief over EDI at the Council.

EDI aspects also evaluated and accounted for in other scrutiny activities, such as the review of cemetery memorials, and will be properly considered through other upcoming planned scrutiny activities.

Budget Scrutiny

Members considered the budget through the standard budget-setting process, scrutinising the proposals before they were decided on by Cabinet. The Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer reported to the Committee on key issues affecting local government finance in the future, such as the requirement to carefully manage resources, uncertainty of the future of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

as relates to large contracts and core infrastructure (among other areas) and the work planned for residents through the capital programme. Members scrutinised the proposals and raised questions on availability of grant funding and the final business case for the replacement Bramcote Leisure Centre before enquiring about the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Housing Modernisation Programme. They also gave attention to the performance of markets and retail events and appeals to Council planning decisions.

In January 2026, there were two budget scrutiny meetings: on 19 and 20 January 2026. Members considered proposals for business plans, detailed revenue budget estimates for 2025/26; capital programme for 2025/26 to 2026/27; and proposed fees and charges for 2025/26 in respect of the Council's priority areas. The Committee recommended to Cabinet to approve the Business Plans, the detailed revenue budget estimates for 2025/26, the Capital programme for 2025/26 to 2027/28 and fees and charges for 2025/26 for all business areas and they noted the Liberty Leisure business plans. Budget scrutiny allows the Committee to ask questions to anticipate potential challenges and build meaningful oversight.

Sub-committees

Missed bins

Following discussion between Members and Officers at the 26 March 2026 meeting, the Committee constituted a Sub-Committee to examine the issue of missed bins and how these are recorded and calculated.

The Sub-Committee will:

- Review and evaluate the causes of Broxtowe's recorded below-average performance on missed bin collections and related calculations, including any specific challenges or differing working practices – what is the definition of a 'missed bin' in Broxtowe as opposed to other areas;
- Assess the effectiveness of any actions being taken to remedy any issues that are identified, understanding whether these will be effective into the future; and,
- Decide whether further change is needed to deliver best value for Broxtowe residents and, if so, recommend accordingly

Press coverage asserting an especially high frequency of missed bins in the borough has led to reviewed working practices; the sub-committee intends to review bin collection data for all bin types, any analyses of the most commonly missed bins/routes, staff testimony and resident survey and complaints data to ascertain the root of any problems and the efficacy of actions already taken in this area, making additional recommendations if deemed necessary.

The Sub-Committee will be chaired by Councillor S Webb, with Councillor H Land as the Vice Chair. Councillor S Dannheimer and H Faccio are also members of the Sub-Committee.

Once its terms of reference are agreed by the wider Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting of 18 June 2026, the Sub-Committee will gather and assess all of the relevant information and evidence, including internal reports, collection data and direct testimony (gathered from witness sessions with a range of Members and Officers, and potentially residents impacted by the issue) across a number of meetings. This will culminate in the production of a report, detailing the Sub-Committee's conclusions and any recommendations it deems necessary, which will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then Cabinet.

Spotlight Reviews

Lime bikes

No spotlight reviews were carried out in 2025/26 given the much longer and more intensive task-and-finish exercise. Nevertheless, a spotlight review into Lime bikes in the borough was scoped by its members in May 2026, to be agreed by the members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its 18 June 2026 meeting.

This review is in response to extensive resident feedback to Members on issues relating to Lime bikes, chiefly poor parking or 'dumping' of bikes outside of allocated parking bays, suspected antisocial behaviour (ASB) involving Lime bikes and reported incidents of vandalism/theft of the bikes.

To reassure residents that the Council is taking the necessary action in this area, the members of the spotlight review will gather and assess the relevant evidence, including policies and the history of their introduction into Broxtowe, any reported ASB data, testimony from relevant Broxtowe officers throughout different teams, usage data from Lime and details of the sanctions that are applied to users for causing disruption to residents.

The review will be aimed at producing the assurance for residents, as well as for Members and Officers, that the right action is being taken regarding any ASB or other inappropriate behaviour that may be taking place involving Lime bikes, and that the operation of a private e-bike hire company in the borough has the right safeguards and oversight to produce the best results for local people.

After reviewing all of the relevant information, the review will produce a report of its conclusions and any recommendations it feels are required, which will then be presented to the wider Overview and Scrutiny Committee. A report on these recommendations will then be notified to Cabinet.

Work Programme

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

- Issues identified by Members as a key issue for the public

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

The Committee also dedicated its 26 March 2026 public meeting to discussing topics for consideration and deciding the level of scrutiny that they should receive; they decided to form a subcommittee to examine missed bin collections at this meeting, as well as spotlight review on Lime bikes in the borough.

The Work Programme shows the following items for the agendas of its upcoming meetings:

18 June 2026	• Annual Scrutiny Review • Missed bin collections and calculations – agree the scope of the subcommittee • Lime bikes – to agree the scope of the Spotlight Review • Cemetery Memorials • Consideration of options for Broadgate Public Toilets
24 September 2026	• Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion in Council Parks • Equality, Diversity & Inclusion at the D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum • Environmental Enforcement • Trade Waste Service
19 November 2026	• Recycling Banks Review

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.	Building Control	Councillor B C Carr agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to put on hold. Awaiting the outcome of a report to Cabinet.	A good quality home for everyone.

2. Update items

	Title	Length	Expected date	Link to corporate priority
1.	Cemetery memorials	<i>Update paper</i>	June 2026	Protect the environment for the future
2.	Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion in Council Parks	<i>Update paper</i>	September 2026	Invest in our towns and our people
3.	Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion at the D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Heritage Museum	<i>Update papers</i>	September 2026	Healthy and supported communities; a safe place for everyone

3. Items referred from Cabinet

	Title	Details	Expected date	Link to corporate priority
1.	Renters Rights Act 2025 - Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy	At its 2 June meeting, Cabinet resolved that '<i>The Overview & Scrutiny Committee be requested to conduct regular reviews of the progress and implementation of the Policy.</i>' This is to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 18 June, and a decision taken on whether it should be scrutinised.	<i>To be determined</i>	Invest in our towns and our people

This page is intentionally left blank