

ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL



Council Offices,
Urban Road,
Kirkby in Ashfield
Nottingham
NG17 8DA

Agenda

Cabinet

Date: **Tuesday, 29th June, 2021**

Time: **10.00 am**

Venue: **Council Chamber, Council Offices, Urban Road,
Kirkby-in-Ashfield**

For any further information please contact:

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01623 457317

CABINET

Membership

Chairman:

Councillor Jason Zadrozny

Councillors:

Kier Barsby
Tom Hollis
David Martin
Helen-Ann Smith
John Wilmott

Samantha Deakin
Rachel Madden
Matthew Relf
Daniel Williamson

FILMING/AUDIO RECORDING NOTICE

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SUMMONS

You are hereby requested to attend a meeting of the Cabinet to be held at the time/place and on the date mentioned above for the purpose of transacting the business set out below.



Carol Cooper-Smith
Chief Executive

AGENDA

Page

1. To receive apologies for absence, if any.
2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and/or Non Registrable Interests
3. Minutes 5 - 8
4. Corporate Plan Refresh and Year End Position 2021/22 9 - 72
Key Decision

Portfolio Holder
Councillor Jason Zadrozny – Leader of the Council
5. Affordable Housing Development - Wesley Street, Annesley 73 - 78
Key Decision

Portfolio Holder
Councillor Tom Hollis – Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing
6. Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) - Renewal Consultation 79 - 130
Key Decision

Portfolio Holder
Councillor Helen-Ann Smith – Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Community Safety
7. Towns Fund 131 - 136
Non-Key Decision

Portfolio Holder
Councillor Matthew Relf – Portfolio Holder for Place, Planning and Regeneration

8. Leisure Transformation Programme

137 - 142

Non-Key Decision

Portfolio Holder

Councillor Kier Barsby – Portfolio Holder for Health and Leisure

CABINET

Virtual Meeting held on Tuesday, 23rd March, 2021 at 9.00 am

Present: Councillor Jason Zadrozny in the Chair;

Councillors Kier Barsby, Samantha Deakin, Tom Hollis, Rachel Madden, David Martin, Matthew Relf, Helen-Ann Smith, Daniel Williamson and John Wilmott.

Officers Present: Bev Bull, Lynn Cain, Carol Cooper-Smith, Ruth Dennis, Katherine Green, Theresa Hodgkinson, Paul Parkinson and Shane Wright.

CA.67 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

CA.68 Minutes

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 23 February 2021, be received and approved as a correct record.

CA.69 Policy on Employing Reservists

Cabinet were presented with a new Policy on Employing Reservists for approval which outlined the Council's commitment to support for the Armed Forces and any subsequent employment.

Members considered the alternative option of declining to approve the policy, but this was not recommended as Ashfield District Council remained a strong supporter of the UK's armed forces and were fully supportive of any employees who were (or wished to be) members of the Reserve Forces.

RESOLVED

that the Policy on Employing Reservists, as appended to the report, be approved.

Reason:

There has been no previous policy in place at Ashfield District Council and the new Policy demonstrates the Council's commitment that those employees who serve in the armed forces as reservists, are afforded the protection of specific HR policies.

CA.70 2020/21 Forecast Outturn for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Capital Programme as at January 2021

Cabinet were requested to receive and consider the Council's forecast financial outturn position to 31 March 2021 compared to the latest approved budgets for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and the Capital Programme.

Due to the requirements of the Council's Financial Regulations, Members did not have any alternative options to consider.

RESOLVED that

- a) the current forecast outturn for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Capital Programme 2020/21, be received and noted;
- b) the budget adjustments outlined in section 3.1, Table 3 of the report, be approved.

Reason:

To report to those charged with Governance, the financial position in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations.

CA.71 Leisure Transformation Programme

Cabinet were updated on the progress with the Leisure Transformation Programme, including progress regarding funding applications to Sport England and the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership.

Members considered the alternative option of declining to grant officer delegation to enter into the Sport England and D2N2 Funding Agreements but this was not recommended as this would reduce the budget for the leisure centre build by 20% overall.

RESOLVED that

- a) progress be received and noted in relation to the following:
 - the application to D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership for £1.5m of funding towards the new Kirkby Leisure Centre development;
 - the application to Sport England for £1.5m of funding towards the new Kirkby Leisure Centre development;
 - work towards the completion of the new Kirkby Leisure Centre;
 - the new Leisure Operating Contract mobilising towards successful transition to the newly awarded contract;
- b) delegated authority be granted to the Director of Place and Communities, in conjunction with the Corporate Finance Manager, to enter into the Sport England and D2N2 Funding Agreements.

Reasons:

1. Previous update reports regarding the Leisure Transformation Programme; that the tender process for the build contract for the Leisure Operating Contract had been awarded to Kier Group and that Everyone Active had been successful in being appointed as the Leisure Operating Contractor.
2. Council officers having now completed the process of applying to D2N2 LEP for £1.5m funding towards the Kirkby Leisure Centre. The Council has presented the project to the LEP representatives and are awaiting formal confirmation of grant award.
3. Council officers having now submitted the final grant application to Sport England and receiving positive responses. The Council now awaits from Sport England the proposed Funding Agreement which is the last step prior to the monies being awarded.
4. The Council recently receiving £265k of funding from DCMS via Sport England for the re-opening of the leisure centres.
5. The Council achieving Start on Site with works to the Leisure Centre on the 4th November 2020 and Kier, who had been appointed as the main works contractor, taking possession of the site on 18 January 2021 with phase 1 works due to be completed in April 2022.
6. Everyone Active, who had been appointed as the Leisure Operating Contractor, were working with Council officers during the mobilisation phase leading to the commencement of the new contract on 1 April 2021.

CA.72 Community Facilities Investment

Cabinet were asked to acknowledge the investment already made in Ashfield's Parks and Green spaces and consider a further, in-principle capital investment with a proposal for a procurement process for operating the café in Selston Country Park.

Members considered the alternative option of declining to consider the reopening of the Café at Selston Country Park or to run the facility as an inhouse operation.

RESOLVED that

- a) the procurement for the potential reopening of the Café at Selston Country Park, be commenced;
- b) the Council's Capital Programme for 2021/22 be amended to include an additional provisional sum of £30,000;
- c) subject to financial viability, delegated authority be granted to the Director of Place and Communities, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make a final stop-go decision once tenders have been returned;

- d) subject to the outcome of c) above, delegated authority be granted to the Director of Place and Communities to award contracts for both capital work contracts and service contracts as required.

Reason:

Following endorsement of a motion to Council on 4 February 2021, the report sought approval for the existing building at Selston Country Park to reopen as a Café, subject to financial viability, for use by local people and visitors. The precise capital and revenue implications would be determined following the procurement process.

The meeting closed at 9.52 am

Chairman.

Report To:	CABINET	Date:	29th JUNE 2021
Heading:	CORPORATE PLAN REFRESH AND YEAR END POSITION 2020/21		
Portfolio Holder:	COUNCILLOR JASON ZADROZNY, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL		
Ward/s:	ALL		
Key Decision:	YES		
Subject to Call-In:	YES		

Purpose of Report

This report presents to Cabinet the year-end outturn position and proposed refresh of the Corporate Plan for approval.

The report also provides, where relevant, updates regarding the impact of the pandemic and the Council's continued provision of services.

Recommendation(s)

1. For Cabinet to consider and proactively review the levels of performance achieved against the Corporate Plan and Corporate Scorecard, as at year-end 2020/21.
2. For Cabinet to note the significant levels of continued service provision to date, despite the impacts of the pandemic.
3. For Cabinet to approve the Corporate Plan Refresh.
4. To authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to review and revise the Corporate and Place Scorecards, aligned to the Corporate Plan.

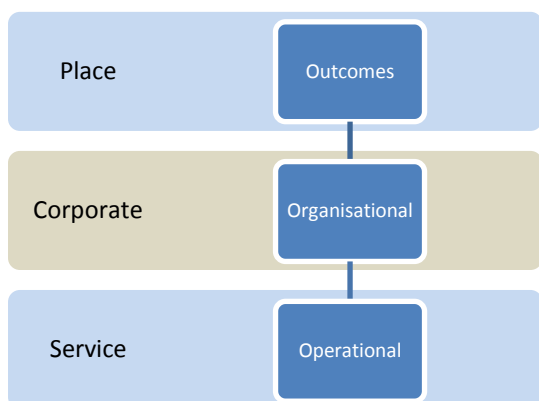
Reasons for Recommendation(s)

The Council's ambitions for the period 2019 – 2023 are clearly identified in a set of revised and updated Corporate Priorities which are presented in our Corporate Plan. These were developed by Cabinet in 2019 and have since been reviewed and updated, with particular consideration of the impact of the pandemic and our intended recovery activity.

Our priorities for the future and the key projects and initiatives we intend to deliver, are then translated and cascaded, through our Performance and Strategic Planning Framework, into specific Service Plans to facilitate focussed delivery.

The Corporate Plan sits above a wider strategic context which includes the Corporate Project Management Framework, Corporate Performance Indicators and a range of strategic documents relating to the Council and its services.

Our performance framework incorporates balanced performance scorecards on three separate levels as indicated below.



Our Corporate Scorecard measures organisational performance, and as such typical perspectives of a balanced scorecard have been adopted including Community and Customer, Funding the Future, Organisational Effectiveness and Our People. The Corporate Scorecard is aligned to our Corporate Priorities and key initiatives identified in the refreshed Corporate Plan 2019-2023.

Every four years we also undertake a Peer Challenge Review, engaging peers from across the sector through the Local Government Association sector led improvement offer, with an independent evaluation of the organisation which is mostly focussed on leadership, governance, corporate capacity and financial resilience. The outcome of the most recent Peer Challenge Review, on 29th to 31st January, 2020, is also reflected in our updated Corporate Plan and Scorecard.

We are a Values based organisation whose purpose is to create a future where everyone has the chance of a better quality of life, as such we are currently developing our approach to measuring and understanding social value which will be incorporated into our Performance Management and Project Management frameworks. A Social Value Policy has recently been developed and approved by Cabinet.

Alternative Options Considered

None

Detailed Information

The Council's Corporate Plan 2019 – 2023 was approved by Cabinet and endorsed by Full Council in September 2019. The Corporate Plan sets out our revised priorities for the future and the key projects and initiatives we intend to deliver.

The Corporate Plan sits above a wider strategic context which includes the Corporate Project Management Framework, Corporate Performance Framework and a range of strategic documents relating to the organisation and its services.

In March 2016, Cabinet agreed the use of a balanced scorecard methodology to enhance the organisation's performance framework and ability to understand how successfully the Corporate

Priorities are being delivered, the approach providing a more rounded view on performance with a greater emphasis on customer satisfaction and quality.

The Corporate Plan has been reviewed in light of the second year's progress and performance outturn, and also significant factors impacting upon the Council such as the COVID pandemic. The plan has been refreshed to ensure alignment to the Council's future ambitions and Corporate Priorities for the four year period of the plan (2019-2023).

Corporate Plan progress is monitored through both the effectiveness of successful delivery of key projects and initiatives and performance achieved against the Corporate Scorecard.

This report details progress against delivery of the Corporate Plan, for the period April 2020 to March 2021, as measured through our Corporate Scorecard and Corporate Performance Framework. The report also details how the Council has successfully continued in the delivery of services through the pandemic and our support to residents and businesses in Ashfield.

It should be noted that Ashfield is the only local authority in Nottinghamshire that has delivered all tier 1 and 2 critical services without interruption during the pandemic to date. The whole organisation has worked effectively together as one council, re-deploying staff into important roles outside of their normal duties to ensure continuance of service, whilst also delivering humanitarian services across the District.

It should also be noted that, despite the pandemic, the organisation has also delivered additional services, above and beyond standard service levels, continuing to support residents and businesses in Ashfield.

Despite the impacts of the pandemic, overall, the corporate scorecard position for April 2020 to March 2021 indicates the following positive position:-

- 67% of measures achieving or exceeding target, or within 10% variance of target.
- 75% of measures indicating an improved position compared to the same period in the previous year, or within 5% of previous year's performance levels.

We are pleased with Corporate Plan key successes delivered within the 2020/21 year and to date:-

Health and Happiness Priority

- Leisure Centres – The Leisure Centres operated for 4 months of 20/21 due to national restrictions. During this time, activities were restricted, and capacity significantly reduced to enable social distancing. Everyone Active are following strict guidance to ensure they are Covid secure and have received positive feedback from customers. The Council meets with Everyone Active weekly to review memberships, attendance, class sizes and income & expenditure. £280,000 was secured through the National Leisure Recovery Fund to support the successful reopening of leisure from 12 April 2021 onwards. Focus in 2021/22 will be to deliver the capital investment programme for the Hucknall and Lammas Leisure Centres, support the recovery of participation, and to begin to deliver the Active Communities programme to reduce physical inactivity levels in Ashfield.
- Leisure Operator Contract - following a successful procurement process, Everyone Active were awarded a new 10 year contract to continue operating Lammas, Hucknall and Festival Hall/new centre in Kirkby. The new contract will be at least cost-neutral for the Council and will see significant capital improvements, and a rise in participation year on year, by 38% to 1,698,500 per annum 2025/26.

Focus in 2021/22 will be to maximise the health and wellbeing outcomes from the new contract, complete the capital improvements and recover from the impacts of the pandemic.

- Kirkby Leisure Centre –The Council has appointed Kier as the preferred contractor. Works have commenced onsite with works completing to phase one in late April 2022. The Sport England and LEP bids were successful, securing £3m towards the build costs.
- Through the Ashfield Community Fund over £40,000 was distributed to the Community and Voluntary sector in Ashfield, to help them support residents negatively impacted by Covid. This included £20,000 from Nottinghamshire County Council, and £21,000 from Ashfield District Council.
- Volunteering activities have largely been on hold this year due to the pandemic. Individual volunteering took place during late Summer/Autumn, and then was put on hold, as we entered the third lockdown. A mixture of online inductions and face-to-face inductions have been delivered since 12 April to existing and new volunteers. Group volunteering will recommence after final lockdown restrictions have been removed.
- Officers have responded to 117 community support requests since April 2020.
- Ashfield District Council submitted an application for the Armed Forces Covenant Employers Gold Award in March 2021. We will receive notification of the outcome in late July 2021.
- £70,000 Infrastructure grants distributed to Our Centre, Under one Roof, and Ashfield Citizen's Advice.
- During the year 'Feel Good Families' provided an extensive programme of community based and online activities. This included activity promoted via the Facebook page, superhero and princess online craft and bootcamp sessions, themed trails and pebble hunts on local parks. Over 650 families have engaged in these activities and 400 activity packs were distributed to children whose families were accessing support through foodbanks.
- Since Covid-19 our Feel Good Food project has a greater focus on reducing food poverty and a District food group has been created, led by the Council in partnership with three local foodbanks. Foodbanks have been awarded c.£30k to support food supply, delivery, equipment and building improvements.
- A number of resident engagement events have taken place in the priority areas, including Leamington Secret picnic, virtual pizza making party, and street entertainment at Christmas and Easter.
- Ashfield and Mansfield Dementia Partnership continues to support local people and their carers, telephone counselling support has proved successful for carers as part of the Lammas working age dementia hub in partnership with Carers Federation. An application was successful to NCC Community Covid fund to support the extra costs associated with social distancing.
- Ashfield Health and Wellbeing partnership has launched a new strategy for 2021 – 2025, which is focussed on delivering outcomes to enable residents to have the best start in life, make healthy choices, age well, be physically active and live and work in environments that foster positive mental wellbeing. Looking forward, we will work towards achieving the vision that 'Everyone who lives in Ashfield leads a healthy and happy life', taking targeted approaches in priority places and with priority groups.
- The Environmental health team has worked tirelessly with Public Health England to provide safety advice to businesses in relation to Covid interpreting legislation, providing advice and guidance and have intervened, with warning letters and final warning letters being served upon business operators, where necessary. Despite carrying several vacancies, in the last year (April 2020 to 28th May 2021), the team have dealt with 2,261 requests for service from members of the public, commercial premises and small and medium enterprises in the District of Ashfield. Requests for new food businesses working from home were higher than

The council co-ordinated over £120,000 of Covid Winter Grants (food vouchers) to vulnerable residents.

previous years and the team prioritised inspecting these to meet our duty of care and statutory functions. There were also 146 new food premises registrations, more than double the normal application rate.

- In addition to service requests, the team investigated and helped prevent community spread of the virus by working with external partners and implementing interventions at a large warehouse in the District.
- Illegal dog breeders - Action has been taken against several unlicensed dog breeders to apply for dog breeding licences.
- We have successfully joined up to the Food Standards Agency's 'Regulating our Future' digital platform, which helps potential new businesses apply to register on line.
- The Council has assisted the health authorities over the last 10 months with the provision of sites that can accommodate community Covid testing facilities. These consist of sites for the deployment of drive-through Mobile Testing Units (MTUs), walk-through local testing sites and collect and drop facilities for self-test kits, all of which have been vital in driving down local infection rates

Homes and Housing Priority

- Ashfield acquired 32 new social housing properties as at 12th May, 2020 with a further purchase agreed of 8 S106 properties in 20/21 and 21/22.
- Planning consent has been granted for the next sites identified for affordable housing development through our Development Programme. Work will commence in 2021/22 on these.
- Non-decent housing stock has remained at 0.18% for the year. This is well within the target of <0.40%. As and when new property standards are introduced, our focus will be to implement these in all properties and thereby achieving Decent Homes 2 requirements.
- Throughout the year, we have continued to successfully prevent households from becoming homeless, through the hard work of the Housing Options, Complex Case and Tenancy Sustainment Teams. Due to the pandemic, and in line with the previous 3 quarters, the teams have successfully and positively adapted to reflect the change in the working environment and in the nature of residents' housing needs and issues. Despite the increasing complexity of cases and limited move on options, excellent casework has meant that targets have been exceeded and most importantly residents have been assisted either to remain in their current accommodation or into alternative accommodation. Over the course of the year, set in the context of COVID 19, a significant number of residents have had their housing issues resolved.
- We have been the lead authority in securing £1m Rough Sleeper Initiative funding for improvement opportunities and support for rough sleepers and those threatened with rough sleeping across the County.
- In partnership with Framework we secured Next Steps Accommodation Programme funding to fund 3 additional units of specialist accommodation for rough sleepers with complex needs.
- The Future High Street and Towns fund team has identified opportunities to let flats above existing retail units.
- During the 1st COVID 19 lockdown all households who were rough sleeping or threatened with rough sleeping were made an offer of accommodation, circa 40 households, the majority of whom were then assisted into suitable long term accommodation.

Work has commenced on 2 new affordable council housing developments, a 22 unit development of family homes and adapted bungalows and a further 9 units, including a further 4 adapted bungalows. Applicant's with an identified need for the adaptations will be prioritised. The new homes will be thermally efficient and will minimise carbon usage

- We have continued throughout the year to consistently support 100% of Council tenants to remain in their tenancy for 6 months or more following completion of their support package. This is through the work of the Tenancy Sustainment Officers, both by carrying out pre-tenancy work and by providing comprehensive support during the first few months of their tenancy to vulnerable tenants. This includes proactive partnership working with other external agencies and charities etc.
- The Council introduced an online application process for HMO and Selective Licensing, improving the service for landlords and property owners and ensuring a more effective use of resources.
- Issued further civil penalties where landlords and property owners have failed to work with the Council to address issues of serious disrepair or a failure to licence their property.
- Ashfield were one of the first councils to resume major works programmes to tenants' homes, in early June 2020, adapting to the new guidelines and restrictions.
- Successfully bid for £1m funding to improve thermal efficiency ratings of domestic properties, both Council owned and private sector.
- The Council has a statutory duty to undertake a gas safety check to all its social housing properties that have a live gas supply, and this has continued despite the impact of Covid restrictions, with no easement of the requirements to complete a gas safety check every 12 months. We have continued to visit tenants' homes and conduct gas safety checks prior to the 12 month anniversary date to meet the regulatory requirement. Throughout 2020/21, the lowest non-compliant rate reached 99.67% of the 6653 properties requiring a gas check, only 22 properties could not provide access due to issues such as self-isolating or shielding, with an average non-compliance rate of just 33 days over these 22 properties. Currently the compliance rate is at 99.97%, with only 2 properties remaining non-compliant.
- In addition, the Repairs and Maintenance section continued to complete emergency repairs during the first lockdown before gradually reverting back to a full repairs service as the restrictions eased. For 2020/21, 99.46% all repairs appointments made were kept (20,695 appointments out of 20,808), and 99.37% of emergencies repairs were attended to in government timeframes (5,356 repairs out of 5,390)
- We also successfully concluded the first enforced sale of a private property in serious disrepair. The property was a disused off-licence that had been left neglected as the owner had failed to complete essential repairs.
- There will be continued focus in 2021/22 to further develop plans commenced in last 6 months which ensure we meet the requirements set out in the Social Housing White Paper 2020 (The Charter for Social Housing Residents) .

Economic Growth and Place Priority

- Kirkby and Sutton Towns Funding –the Town Investment Plan for Kirkby and Sutton was submitted to MHCLG in February with a request for over £62m and potential investment of £99m. Through the hard work of Council Officers, Councillors and the Discover Ashfield Board it has been confirmed that £62.6 million has been secured for Ashfield as part of the government's Towns Fund. This is a tremendous achievement for Ashfield, the District as a whole and the wider area.
- Town centre masterplans for Kirkby and Sutton were adopted and underpinned towns bids and station masterplans bids.
- Ashfield's ranking against the UK Prosperity Index has improved by a third in one year from 306th to 217th (out of 379)

Confirmed that £62.6 million has been secured for Ashfield as part of the government's Towns Fund. Together with funding secured from the Towns Fund Accelerator Fund and the recently announced Future High Streets Fund of £6.27m, over £70m has now been secured for Ashfield

- To help support high street businesses through the pandemic we have employed Covid Information Officers. From last July to early May 2021 over 3,200 visits were made, offering advice and guidance to retailers, small businesses and licenced premises.
- We have installed hand-sanitising units in town centre car parks to help give confidence and reassurance to shoppers.
- The markets team continue to work closely with the market retailers, they ensured that traders selling essential goods and services could trade throughout the lockdowns, including click and collect and home deliveries. The indoor and outdoor markets are now fully reopened.
- Employment opportunities in the Idlewells Indoor Market are restricted due to the pandemic and are unchanged at 47. One trader has left the market due to financial difficulties and returned to the outdoor market in January.
- The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funded project for Kings Mill Reservoir has seen the completion of the dredging, silt management and monitoring contract alongside the café refurbishment and creation of the heritage centre as well as new and upgraded footpaths and increased parking provision. The restoration of Kings Mill Viaduct has been completed protecting the structure for the future and enhancing the pedestrian access gateway between Ashfield and Mansfield. New entrance and way marker signage has also been introduced across the sites.
- Planning applications continue to be processed well above nationally prescribed standard targets, with 95% of major applications being processed within 13 weeks and 91% of minor applications within 8 weeks.
- All dilapidated commercial buildings on the Dilapidated and Empty Buildings Priority list have received some form of intervention over the year. The group has dealt with 10 long standing empty properties this year with a range of outcomes, being either demolition, redevelopment or significant improvement. There are currently 11 long standing empty properties being worked on. The Council has undertaken a number of very positive actions which has resulted in 13 premises being taken off the dilapidated buildings list. It is of note that the roof structure is now in place for Annesley Hall, tiling battens and tiles on site. The demolition of Stoneyford Road is now complete which will resolve long term issues of anti-social behaviour, with development of new social housing estate scheduled to begin in 2022.
- An Economic Recovery Plan post Covid has been developed and is being implemented.
- Officers have offered a range of business support to residents and have dealt with over 1,270 business support enquiries throughout the year.
- Social value - the Council has introduced social value deliverables in procurements over £25k and as at 1 April 2021 the committed social and local economic value is £1,119,351, deliverables which includes local employment, apprenticeships etc.
- The Council was successful in achieving the Restoring Your Railways bid up to £50k from the Department for Transport
- The new regeneration team have created a business support directory, in an e-book format, supporting response to business enquiries and promoting inward investment. The directory is also used to monitor live schemes and we have over 130+ actively showing. The team have also set up a new local skills partnership to help us focus what training provisions partners deliver in our area and ensure they meet employer needs. From September 2020 to March 2021, the regeneration team responded to 3,209 business support enquiries.

Cleaner and Greener Priority

- The national pandemic is the backdrop to all performance reports, with increasing numbers of people using public spaces such as Parks and more people working from home, generating more household waste. The Council's Environmental Services team has been

outstanding in keeping the District clean and tidy and responding to these changing patterns of demand and will continue this in 2021/22:

- The levels of resident reported dog fouling incidents has seen a year on year decrease over the past 3 years (-54%), with a further 2% reduction in reported incidents by year end, compared to the previous year. The areas where most incidents occur are located on footpaths and Ashfield residents increasingly view owners who allow dogs to foul as irresponsible. Using digital and mapping solutions the Council has been able to identify hotspot areas and deploy staffing resources. The Council also collaborates with Keep Britain Tidy in campaigns like 'Love Parks' and the 'Responsible Dog Owner' scoreboard.
- Despite the closure of the County Council's Household Waste and Recycling Centres during the summer lockdown, resident generated reports of fly tipping have slightly reduced compared to the previous year. The District Council has been swift in removing and investigating fly tips where evidence permits. The number of fly tipping investigations from enforcement saw an increase of 142 investigations from last year making a total of 477 investigations carried out. This resulted in 56 warning letters and 23 FPNs being issued compared to 47 warning letters and 7 FPNs in the previous year. The Council is now working in partnership with WISE, undertaking targeted action against litter and dog fouling whilst also renewing public spaces protection orders to provide additional legal powers.
- A successful Big Spring Clean campaign was run in February 2021, following a successful Bag It! campaign which was run in November
- Street cleanliness in our town centres continue to meet excellent standards with all of our town centres maintaining a B+ grade in street cleanliness.
- Significant improvement in levels of detritus and graffiti across the District.
- Investment in parks and green spaces has continued with improvements completed at 19 sites.
- The Council has switched to the provision of 'clean' electricity for its larger buildings (half hourly metered electricity) under a new procurement framework, and the remainder (non-half hourly metered electricity) transitioned in April 2021 when the current non-half hourly framework ends and the new framework comes into force.
- The Council has developed a set a carbon emissions baseline for its activities, which can be used to track progress in the reduction of such emissions in future.
- The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan is nearing completion. The Council set up an Officer Working Group in relation to Climate Change, which is now well established, bringing together key officers from different departments to work collaboratively to reduce carbon emissions across its activities and the wider community through policy and promotion. This includes considering investment in 'green' projects as part of the commercial investment strategy. The Council is also working with Nottingham City Council in the development of the strategy and action plan, including options to reduce energy usage and carbon emissions across its built assets, due to be completed in early 2021/2022.

A review of the standard of all of our parks, open spaces, play areas and sports facilities has been completed which will inform a rolling programme of improvements and investment, including the aim to extend our six green flag awards to seven in 2021/22.

Safer and Stronger Priority

- The Council responded to 6,069 reports of anti-social and nuisance behaviour between April 2020 and March 2021, a 38% increase compared to the previous year, impacted by periods of lockdown: people working from home, schools closed and a lot of people less tolerant of

noise/bonfires/bbqs from neighbours. However, work undertaken by the Community Safety Section has resulted in a high volume of enforcement outputs over the same period.

- In September 2020, the Section headed up a Sutton Town Centre Taskforce to tackle on street anti-social behaviour (ASB), environmental crime and rough sleeping. The initiative resulted in a formal action being taken against a number of repeat offenders as well as providing support and accommodation to rough sleepers and vulnerable persons.
- Partnership Risk Management Panels take place bi-weekly between the Council and Police to identify victims and vulnerable persons, and increase identification and co-ordinate active targeting of offenders and hotspot locations.
- An early intervention joint Halloween and Bonfire initiative named Operation Safekeep was co-ordinated between Council, Police and partners in October 2020, to create awareness and tackle on street ASB and Covid-breaches across the District. The Operation was highly successful with over 50 Shops and Off-Licences visited and 30 incidents being responded to.
- In March 2021, Community Safety, working alongside Environmental Health Teams led on a successful day of Action In New Cross, Sutton resulting in the issue of 14 Prevention of Damage by Pests Act Notices and 23 Community Protection Warnings and notices.
- CCTV is supporting the continued identification of ASB and crime and disorder across the District with the use of cameras deployed in hotspot locations to tackle both ASB and environmental crime.
- Complex case and safeguarding – Complex Case Panels take place on a bi-weekly basis in order to discuss escalating safeguarding scenarios. Through the development of risk management action plans, targeted interventions are undertaken to assist those who are vulnerable or considered at significant risk. Throughout 2020/21, resulted in the Complex Case Team providing intensive support to 56 highly complex residents across 5 key life areas (Health, Housing, Community, Finances and Employment).
- Community Protection Officers have provided pivotal support to vulnerable persons throughout the pandemic having delivered 82 food parcels and undertaken 112 welfare checks. We have successfully recruited new officers and now have a full team.
- E-Learning Training Packages have been devised for Council Staff which includes; Modern Slavery (incorporating Human Trafficking), Hate Crime Training, Prevent (Counter Terrorism/Extremism) in order to increase awareness, risk identification and support pathways.
- Tackling domestic abuse remains a high priority, the Council has appointed a new Domestic Abuse and Vulnerability Officer in October 2020. The officer acts as the Council lead for MARAC (a multi-agency risk assessment conference) and provides key support for survivors across the district. 25th November - 10th December (within Q3), the Complex Case Team delivered the White Ribbon Campaign and 16 days of activism, aimed at ending violence against women and girls, creating awareness and empowering survivors of domestic abuse to reach out and get support. This year, the campaign was seen as more important than ever with suspected increases in domestic abuse connected to the pandemic and lockdown provisions.

- **9 x Court Convictions, 8 x Court ASB Injunctions, 1 x Criminal Behaviour Order**
- **18 x Notices Of Seeking Possession served, 1 x Suspended Possession Order, 48 x Tenancy Warnings, 2 x Sentencing**
- **41 x Prevention of Damage by Pests Notice**
- **103 x Community Protection Warnings, 47 x Community Protection Notices**
- **39 x Fixed Penalty Notices, 16 x Good Neighbour Agreements**
- **5 x Direction to Move on Notice, 24 x Alcohol Confiscations**
- **11 x Mediations**
- **318 x Letters before Action**

Innovate and Improve Priority

- Since the start of the pandemic, Ashfield District Council responded to the emergency by putting in place a variety of control measures to safeguard staff including actively encouraging and facilitating working from home where possible, social distancing measures, increased building cleansing/sanitising routines, procurement and distribution of sanitising hand gel, enhanced vehicle cleansing/sanitising and other procedures such as the ADC Home Visiting Safe System of Work.
- The continued review and implementation of changes to call handling has seen average call waiting time continue to successfully decrease over the year, despite the impacts of the pandemic with a further reduction at just 34 seconds (timed after the welcome message and from when a customer actually connects or joins a queue) which is well below our current target of 1 minute 6 seconds. There has also been a further significant 20% reduction in the level of abandoned calls for the period April 2020 to March 2021, compared to the previous year, with the call abandoned rate out-turn at 3.48%, compared to 2020/21 which was 4.26%
- Over 60,000 payments made online throughout the year, a significant increase of 14% compared to last year and 25% higher over the last 2 years since we implemented our new 'e-store', exceeding channel shift predictions. We have also realised a significant 23% reduction in costly paypoint and post office transactions compared to previous year, reducing transaction costs by £15,000. Expanding our payment channels further last year, we introduced the ability for debtors to more easily make repayments through 'recurring card payments' functionality, which has enabled the collection of over £126,000 of debt over the year.
- 50% of businesses across the District are now signed up for e-billing, a 20% increase on last year, reducing postage costs for bills by £6,000 in 2020/21.
- In 2020/21, much needed support was provided to businesses throughout all phases of the pandemic, through the administration of a variety of business grants. A total of circa 7,300 payments have been made to businesses, with a total value of around £30m.
- Online Benefit and Test & Trace applications received since 1st April 2020 - Our digital transformation programme has seen the expedient implementation of online forms enabling residents and business to be able to apply for benefits, 24/7. We have received over 2,600 online benefits related applications or notifications of changing circumstances. We also received and processed 1,286 test and trace claims, enabling £191,000 to be paid in test and trace grants.
- At the end of September, 2020, we launched a brand new, modern, user friendly website, which was accredited by the Shaw Trust as fully meeting accessibility standards. Over the last six months, since launch, website usage statistics are indicating significant improvements, particularly regarding the customer journey and easier access to information. Compared to the same period last year, page views have increased by 19% with the average time visitors to our website spend on page up by 34%. Use of the search engine is also down by 36% suggesting that visitors are navigating to where they want to be much easier. Searches for the previously most searched for content (planning) are down by at least 84%, suggesting signposting and customer journey improvements. We have also seen a large increase in direct visits to the planning page.

New Website

- Traffic to the Contact Us page(s) is down by a remarkable 53%, which equates to over 4,000 less visits to it per month
- Journeys who attempted a search, and then resorted to Contact Us down by a significant 67%, indicating that the new website is significantly enabling channel shift, reducing telephone contacts which would cost in the region of £30,000 to deal with.
- Over 100 forms now available online

- During the early summer, successful rollout of Office 365 collaboration tools, facilitating a blended approach to working throughout the pandemic and business continuity. Combined with a significant reduction of files and storage space, this has enabled the successful rationalisation of assets through the expedient decant of our Brook Street office, realising circa £200k of cashable efficiencies.
- Sickness absence out-turn has seen a 11% reduction compared to the previous year, with 2020/21 average absence levels at 8.5 days per full time equivalent (FTE) against a target of 9.5 days. Most of this, 6 days, is due to long-term sickness and 2.5 days due to short-term sickness. This is a reduction in short term absence compared to the same period last year which has been correlated to the increase in numbers of employees working from home and has been replicated across other Authorities.

The main causes of absence was due to;

- Anxiety
- Stress Depression Fatigue
- Muscular Skeletal

Absence due to Long-Covid (post self-isolation timelines) was the fourth main cause of absence in 2020/21.

- Financial Outturn was significantly within budget for both the General Fund and HRA.
- Procurement – Procurement activities conducted by Nottingham City Procurement on behalf of Ashfield has delivered savings of £2,790,551.94 in spend avoidance. This is where the procurement process has effectively driven down costs below the anticipated budget.
- Talent and skills – throughout the year, 66% of employees have undertaken training, with a significant 71% completing mandatory courses whilst also delivering services above and beyond throughout the pandemic.
- The Council also employed 8 apprentices during 2020/21.

The Administration is keen to see appropriately high levels of performance across all Council services, whilst taking into consideration the impact the pandemic continues to have on service delivery. Of the measures which have unfortunately not shown improvement compared to the performance out-turn for the same period last year, only 5 of these relate to critical functions:-

- Council Tax collection - The collection rate for Council Tax for the year 2020-21 was significantly impacted by the pandemic. The 2020-21 collection rate was 95.85% compared to a target collection rate of 97.50%. This represents a shortfall on the “in year” target collection figure of £1.1m . This impact was expected during 2020-21 as the current collection rate mirrors the national picture and clearly demonstrates the serious impact that the Covid Pandemic has had on households affected by reduced income and loss of employment. Recovery action has resumed and it is anticipated that recovery rates will continue to be impacted during the next 2-3 years (possibly longer) due to the ongoing collection of arrears.
- Business rates collection - The collection rate for Business Rates for the year 2020-21 was 95.40% compared to a target collection rate of 98.00%. This represents a shortfall on the target collection figure of £752,000. This is to be expected at this time as the current collection rate mirrors the national picture and clearly demonstrates the serious impact that the Covid Pandemic restrictions have had on Businesses, either forced to close or significantly affected by the restrictions imposed under the various Tiers. Recovery action has resumed. It is anticipated that recovery rates will continue to be impacted during the next 2-3 years due to the ongoing collection of arrears.

- Rent collection - The increasing numbers of tenants claiming Universal Credit and restrictions on income recovery enforcement introduced by the Government (eviction ban) during the pandemic has had a significant impact on the ability to collect rent from tenants. The Income Team have been successful in meeting the target set for rent collection and have achieved upper quartile performance (Percentage of rent collected as a percentage of rent due was 99.25% against a target of 99% for 2020/21) which is excellent given the significant challenges/barriers the pandemic has presented.

Welfare and money management advice/support for tenants – This service was provided to tenants during the pandemic, however, Officers also assisted with important humanitarian aid work/support across the district (due the pandemic) which included supporting residents (non-tenants). This along with the restrictions (requirement to undertake 'essential' visits only) has impacted on the number of tenants we were able to support in person (reduction from the previous year). Recovery has resumed in this area.

- The overall time taken to re-let a void property consists of both time to complete the actual repair works and the time taken to advertise and let the property. Inevitably void re-let performance suffered during the year as for the first part of the year only essential lets, to those homeless or fleeing violence, were undertaken. Void re-let performance for the year was 27 days, well above the target of 21 days but remaining upper quartile when compared against our peer group.

The time taken to complete required repairs within a standard void property has remained consistent throughout this challenging period, over the year averaging just 12 days to complete all essential works and return the property to the Lettings team. Void properties that require major works were more difficult during the early part of the year, as these rely more on contractors to complete the specialist required works, the first national lockdown allowing emergency works only in the initial period as contractors went into furlough. Works did resume as soon as they were able to, but this has impacted upon performance with the average number of days, throughout the year, for major voids repair work being 52 days compared with last year's outturn performance of 45 days.

From July onwards performance has improved, with year-end out-turn indicating an overall average re-let time of just 26.9 days, significantly closer to target, and to be applauded due to the ongoing impacts of the pandemic.

Through a successful grant application we introduced an online application process for property licensing, both HMO and Selective Licensing. The change has brought significant resource benefits and improved service delivery. We have also successfully moved to electronic document management by scanning all paper tenancy records. This will enable officers to work in a more agile manner, not needing to be in the office to access records in the traditional way.

- Recycling levels have dropped by 4%. Due to covid-19 restrictions and the introduction of the third national lockdown in the UK, residual waste was primarily collected via the kerbside as opposed to being a split between Waste Sites and Tips. This, included with garden waste not operating in the months of January and February has led to a dip in recycling rates for this quarter and has impacted the 'Year to Date' figure.
- Litter – despite 21% reduction in resident reported incidents of littering compared to the same period last year, the presence of litter on street level has seen increases across High Obstruction Housing areas (streets with dense populations of parked cars on a street level).

This has resulted in Street Sweepers being unable to reach these areas, and so they accrue litter waste, detritus and weeds by the kerbside over time. The majority of this waste is mainly confectionary packs, non-alcoholic drinks related, smokers materials and snack packs. These types of litter are also starting to affect public open spaces as lockdown measures are easing and the weather is beginning to warm up again, so more residents are now spending more time outside. Similar to the lockdown easing in July, litter and fly tipping saw increases. The Council will be undertaking campaigns relating to ‘Council’s don’t drop litter, people do’ in the coming weeks in our parks and open spaces to raise awareness of the issue and to drive positive change around changing behaviours towards littering.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

The report relates to the delivery of the Corporate Plan Priorities. The Corporate Plan sets out the Council’s proposed priorities for the period 2019 to 2023, and intended deliverables which will be monitored and managed through the Corporate Performance Framework.

It covers performance for the period April 2020 to March 2021 and where available includes more up to date performance/achievements. The Corporate Scorecard has been reviewed and refreshed to align with the refresh of the Corporate Plan and associated Corporate Priorities as a means of identifying their successful delivery.

Legal:

The Council’s new Corporate Priorities and strategic plans have been developed in consideration of current and forthcoming legislative requirements.

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	The Corporate Plan has been developed in alignment with the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the financial sustainability of the organisation. The ‘Innovate and Improve’ Priority proposes key programmes and projects which will be focussed on identifying and delivering efficiencies and more effective working practices to support financial sustainability, whilst concurrently delivering improved customer focussed services. Financial performance is included within a detailed Corporate Scorecard reported to CLT and Scrutiny. Financial Pl’s form a key element of the balanced scorecard approach, reviewed to reflect future priorities in alignment with the new Corporate Plan 2019-2023.
General Fund – Capital Programme	
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
Absence of a Corporate Plan would result in a lack of prioritisation and focus on delivering what matters	Agreed Corporate Plan every four years which is delivered via the organisation's project management framework.
Poor performance would potentially result in inability to deliver the Corporate Priorities as specified in the Corporate Plan	Regular monitoring of performance and robust performance management through the authority's performance management framework.

Human Resources:

The 'Innovate and Improve' Priority proposes key programmes and projects which will be focussed on delivering the People Strategy and developing employees.

High levels of performance can have a positive impact upon employee engagement and retention which in turn can enhance performance further.

Environmental/Sustainability

The 'Cleaner and Greener' Priority proposes key programmes and projects which will be focussed on delivering environmental improvement.

Equalities:

There are no direct implications on equality and diversity as a consequence of the proposals and recommendations outlined in this report.

Other Implications:

(if applicable)

Reason(s) for Urgency

(if applicable)

Reason(s) for Exemption

(if applicable)

Background Papers

(if applicable)

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Our Response to Covid and Continuing Delivery Of Services - Timeline

When	What Happened	Our Response
Late February, 2020		Multi-Agency response arrangements put in place through the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Resilience Forum (LRF).
Week commencing 16/03/2020	<p>Advice to work from home where possible. Schools shut except for children of key workers</p> <p>The government announced a complete ban on evictions, a suspension on all possession proceedings and extended the notice period for service of notices from one month to three months</p>	<p>In light of the growing national and international public health emergency, the LRF declared a Major Incident on 20 March 2020</p> <p>Closed Watnall Road to the public from Thursday 19 March</p> <p>Parks and Open Spaces – remained open, but contacted all those using pitches etc. to advise them to not hold large gatherings</p> <p>Community Centres - Closed those in Sheltered Courts immediately</p> <p>All Leisure Centres closed</p> <p>Cancelled all events for next 3 months</p> <p>Suspension of new evictions from social housing accommodation for 90 days, introduced serving of notices for 3 month period and delay on new possession proceedings for 3 months</p> <p>Modified arrears escalation process</p>
	1.6 billion announced for local authorities to help with adult social care and homelessness	Commandeered empty social stock already in system (10 additional designated temporary accommodation) in order to fulfil Government directive on obligations to homeless and rough sleepers. Use of direct lets to release pressures in lettings chain. Flexible use of homeless prevention fund.
Week commencing 23/03/2020	The Prime Minister's announcement of first phase of lockdown for residents, businesses and public services. Told to work at home and everything else closed by law. The Coronavirus Act 2020 received Royal Assent on 25 March 2020.	<p>Extensive LRF structure was put in place underneath the SCG to manage and monitor the crisis across the County and City. The operational structure beneath the SCG was made up of numerous cells covering health, humanitarian support, economy, finance, communications and a dedicated Local Authority cell was also established; a number of these groups had sub-groups to deal with specific issues. As an early action, the SCG agreed a list of Tier 1, Tier 2 and support services which members confirmed were the minimum essential for delivery by all Local Authorities</p> <p>The Council was (and continues to be) represented on all these LRF cells. Within the Council, each Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) member under the leadership of the Chief Executive took on responsibility for the range of Tiers 1 and 2 and support service essential service delivery issues and membership of the LRF cells. Prioritised these services and delivered other services, which were</p>

When	What Happened	Our Response
		<p>deemed a priority by Members and the Community. It should be noted at the outset, that Ashfield was the only Council within Nottinghamshire, which consistently delivered all the Tier 1 and Tier 2 services in full.</p> <p>An internal COVID-19 Incident Management Team (IMT) was established made up of the Chief Executive, Directors, Service Managers and relevant officers met on a weekly basis.</p> <p>Council took a series of decisions including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancel Council and Committee meetings and other non-essential meetings • Close its buildings to the public (the DWP appointment only at Urban Road) • Close Community Centres • Close public areas in sheltered courts • Cancel planned community events • Suspended evictions in the council owned housing stock • Council Leisure Centres were closed • Cease all non-priority housing and asset work/repairs • Close indoor and outdoor markets (except for those selling food) • Close play grounds • Provide free Town Centre parking in Town Centres in order to support businesses and key workers. • Meetings were moved on to digital platforms, eg Zoom, Teams, Webex, once the legislation, permitted virtual meetings • Car MOTs suspended due to current MOT cover being extended by 6 months and HGV MOTs suspended for 3 months. • Staff who could work from home, were asked to work from home. Those staff with underlying health conditions were sent home immediately. <p>The Council set up an internal Humanitarian Operational Support Team (HOST) to co-ordinate support for residents across Ashfield, working closely with Nottinghamshire County Council and voluntary organisations. Support involved involved prescription delivery, food/essential items delivery, handling incoming calls from either residents themselves or referrals from the County</p>

When	What Happened	Our Response
Page 25		<p>Council's golden number (via the NCC hub), matching the individuals to voluntary groups or direct action ourselves and undertaking safe and well calls/visits to vulnerable people.</p> <p>We sent letters to all 50-70 year old tenants advising them of Nottinghamshire County Council support number</p> <p>The 'critical' lifeline service adapted the service offer to include self-installs to ensure vulnerable residents could access the service. Repair arrangements were adapted to ensure the responsive service continued.</p>
	<p>Government published a range of support measures on its dedicated website: https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support. These were a combination of finance and other types of support.</p> <p>Guidance for the Small Business Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Fund was published</p>	<p>Based on the guidance issued by the Government the Council issued revised business rates demands of zero for the financial year 2020/21 for those businesses who were eligible for business rates relief due to coronavirus. The Government met the full cost of this relief, which for Ashfield was circa £10m.</p> <p>The Council was allocated £22.284m based on the number of Ashfield businesses the Government believed to be eligible for grant payments in March. The Leader wrote to all 1,800 businesses which were eligible (according to ADC's Business Rates database) for the grant and invited them to apply. Businesses who qualified for these grants received grant payments of either £10k or £25k dependent upon the type of business and the rateable value of their premises.</p>
April	Loss of the then Chairman, Councillor Anthony Brewer to Coronavirus	<p>During the first few weeks, Council officers contacted over 55 Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations, plus foodbanks, supermarkets and local shops to establish what support was available in Ashfield. All organisations were encouraged to sign up to the community hub. A decision was taken to allow data sharing to assist with communicating with the Extremely Vulnerable People and Vulnerable People as part of Humanitarian Assistance.</p> <p>Hired 10 small vans into Waste Services to enable crews to social distance whilst carrying our critical functions.</p> <p>Deferred Payment of Rent to support businesses who are unable to make timely payments of their rents due to the Government imposed closures</p> <p>Right to Buy valuations were delivered 'drive by/desktop' rather than internal inspection</p>

When	What Happened	Our Response
		<p>The Ashfield Community Fund and COVID-19 Fund was used to urgently provide immediate financial support to organisations supporting those affected by the Covid-19</p> <p>In order to continue some level of pest control service, we supplied and sold 'kits' to enable a provision of service during lockdown</p>
	New enforcement powers contained in the Enforcement of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020	Delegated the authority to exercise these powers to the Director of Place and Communities. To enable the Council to take prompt and appropriate action against businesses in the District that refuse to comply with the Regulations
<p>Week commencing 20th April</p> <p>Page 26</p>		<p>The Council held its first virtual meeting (the AGM) on 23 April. The Council's virtual meetings were streamed live on our YouTube channel and the public was able to participate in planning meetings</p> <p>Fast-tracked rollout of Office365/Teams to employees and members to support remote working and business continuity, holding virtual team meetings and engagement with employees. The Teams solution was key to enabling continuing connectivity of employees whilst working remotely, combining workplace chat, video meetings, and file collaboration and storage.</p> <p>Fast-tracked expansion of telephony Netcall system to additional services to assist with phone management by remote workers</p>
Week commencing 27 th April		WWII benches installed at Selston
Week commencing 4/05/2020	<p>Five alert plan announced by government, to ease coronavirus lockdown measures.</p> <p>Office for National Statistics (ONS) data up to 8 May 2020 is showing that deaths in care homes account for 27% of COVID-19 deaths. In care homes, between 20 March and 7 May it is estimated there were 20,457 excess deaths.</p> <p>government updated their guidance on 10 May to Stay Alert</p> <p>Guidance for the Discretionary Grants Fund was published</p>	<p>The Council was allocated £1.078m to help fund local businesses with fixed property costs who were not eligible to apply for grants from the Small Business Grant Fund or the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Fund. A Nottinghamshire-wide scheme was designed and went live on our website on 2 June</p> <p>We supported VE day with full communications campaign and activities</p>

When	What Happened	Our Response
Week commencing 11/05/2020		<p>Ashfield acquired 32 new social housing properties</p> <p>Parks and green spaces re-opened</p>
Week commencing 18/05/2020		<p>Bag It campaign commenced</p>
Week commencing 25/05/2020	<p>Contact tracing systems go live in England</p>	<p>The Nottinghamshire Local Outbreak Plan set out how local government would work with the NHS Test and Trace service, outlining emergency response systems in partnership with Public Health England, the NHS, the voluntary sector and the wider community.</p> <p>Environmental Health Teams were involved in outbreak planning from a strategic, tactical and operational position in the event of an outbreak. The Teams were in regular (weekly, daily and bi monthly) contact through the Chief Environmental Health Officers Group, which the Team Leaders were part of, to support planning for future COVID-19 Outbreaks within the district.</p> <p>In addition to this the teams worked closely with the Emergency Planning Team to plan for all eventualities in all 12 outbreak plans in place across the county. Ashfields PSE team had significant input into training for an outbreak and scenario setting to enable this to be developed county wide.</p>
		<p>Demolition of Annesley Miners Welfare</p> <p>Homefinder – re-commenced accepting bids for properties</p> <p>Welfare checks undertaken of vulnerable people</p>

When	What Happened	Our Response
<p>Week commencing 01/06/2020</p>	<p>The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2020 (SI 558) came into effect. Car and caravan showrooms, outdoor sports amenities and outdoor non-food markets may reopen. The prohibitions on leaving home are replaced by a prohibition on staying overnight away from home, with certain specific exceptions. Gatherings of people from more than one household are limited to six people outdoors and are prohibited entirely indoors, with exceptions including education. There are further exemptions for elite athletes.</p> <p>Public Health England published a report relating to Disparities in the Risks and Outcomes of COVID-19” on 2 June 2020. This report is a detailed analysis of the disparities in risks and deaths in relation to age and sex, geography, deprivation, ethnicity and occupation. The largest disparity is in relation to age with over 80s being seventy times more likely to die if diagnosed with COVID-19 than those under 40. The risk of dying from COVID-19 is higher for males than females. Those in deprived areas are more likely to be diagnosed and die from COVID-19 than those in the least deprived areas. Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) Groups are more likely to be diagnosed and die from COVID-19 than those from white ethnic groups</p> <p>The UK government's ban on tenant evictions in England and Wales was extended by two months to 23 August.</p>	<p>The outdoor markets reopened with social distancing measures in place, for example some stalls relocated to create space for queues for shops.</p> <p>The housing repairs service maintained emergency cover throughout whilst carrying on with its legal duty to service gas appliances. The completion of gas servicing was the department’s most significant risk due to both health and safety concerns for residents as well as the need to remain legally compliant. Amazingly, 1,159 gas services were carried out over the period with only 11 households exceeding their anniversary date. In addition, unlike many other authorities and associations, work also carried on in empty (void) properties meaning that properties were continually available for homelessness and domestic violence cases. Full repairs work service availability re-commenced. Despite around 250 repairs being stopped ‘mid flow’ in March, tenants were contacted 50 per day to reappoint their repairs, the repair teams showed tremendous resilience in still going in to people’s homes throughout the lockdown period, undertaking just over 2,700 repairs.</p> <p>Capital programme mobilisation commenced on external works followed by internals from mid-August. Ashfield were one of the first councils to resume major works programmes to tenants’ homes, in early June 2020, adapting to the new guidelines and restrictions</p> <p>Similarly, Disabled Adaptations resumed, picking up new works as Occupational Therapists returned to work and residents felt able to let builders in to their properties.</p> <p>Main offices for employees operated on a covid secure basis involving one way systems and strict cleaning and sanitizing regimes.</p> <p>Discretionary Grants scheme opens inviting applications until 19th June, 2020</p>

When	What Happened	Our Response
<p>Week commencing 08/06/2020</p>	<p>Rules requiring travellers arriving into the UK to quarantine for 14 days come into force</p> <p>Parts of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (Amendment No. 4) Regulations 2020 (SI 588) came into effect. In England and Northern Ireland, households with one adult may now become linked with one other household of any size, allowing them to be treated as one for the purpose of permitted gatherings. This also allows the members of one household to stay overnight at the home of the other. The government refers to this as a "support bubble". The rules on gatherings are also relaxed to allow medical appointments and births to be accompanied, and to permit some visits to people in hospital, hospices and care homes.</p> <p>Government placed additional responsibilities and duties on the Council to undertake new, specific COVID-19 related work in order to support the District such as undertaking thousands of welfare calls and visits to vulnerable people, advising businesses on social distancing requirements, paying grant monies to businesses</p>	<p>Arrangements both locally and across the LRF were reviewed to take account of the dynamic nature of the response and to start to focus on the work required to support the recovery phase</p> <p>Employees volunteered for roles outside of their normal duties, for example, Humanitarian work, Environmental work including cemeteries and Waste Collection.</p> <p>Councillors continued to undertake their community role with enormous enthusiasm to support the residents and businesses of Ashfield.</p> <p>Use of electronic forms agreed via decision to assist with digital approaches for receipt of Benefit applications whilst receptions closed. We received 244 online claims for the period 16/04/2020 – 08/06/2020</p> <p>Ability to make recurring card payments implemented and was focussed on supporting residents finding it difficult to make regular payments, particularly important during the pandemic.</p> <p>Assisted telephone payments were also implemented in order to support more vulnerable/ less digitally skilled customers</p>
<p>Week commencing 15/06/2020</p>	<p>The remainder of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (Amendment No. 4) Regulations 2020 (SI 588) came into effect, allowing the general re-opening of English retail shops and public-facing businesses apart from those that are on a list of specific exclusions such as restaurants, bars, pubs, nightclubs, most cinemas, theatres, museums, hairdressers, indoor sports and</p>	<p>The Council received £114,527 in capacity funding for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to develop an action plan for how the local authority may begin to safely reopen their local economies • Communications and public information activity to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely • Business-facing awareness raising activities to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely

When	What Happened	Our Response
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 30</p>	<p>leisure facilities. Outdoor animal-related attractions such as farms, zoos and safari parks may open. Places of worship may again be used for private prayer (but not for communal worship). English libraries still have to remain closed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary public realm changes to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely <p>A Cross Council working group was immediately set up and a detailed action plan for the short, medium and long term was developed. The Council commenced the recording of details of eligible costs incurred and submit claims and following validation, payment will be received.</p> <p>Suspension of all parking charges for town centre car parks during lockdown continued. On 30th June, Cabinet approved the extension of free car parking in town centres until 7 September 2020. The Idlewells Indoor Market remained open for food supplies, with stallholders selling fresh fruit, vegetables, fish and meat. The stallholders also provided a delivery service, which has been invaluable for many older customers who have been shielding. The indoor market reopened for non-essential traders from 15 June with all but three stalls trading in some form.</p> <p>Town centre – entertainers scheduled for July to support town centre re-opening</p> <p>New Kirkby leisure centre plans approved by Planning Committee</p> <p>The closing date for business grant applications was 19 June. An Officer Panel assessed applications against the criteria and those eligible were contacted for bank details and payments processed in June. At the closing date of 19 June the Council received 120 applications.</p>
<p>Week commencing 22/06/2020</p>	<p>Government announced that people who have been shielding can meet outside with up to 6 people following social distancing guidelines and if they live alone they can create a bubble with another household. It was also announced that people will no longer be advised to shield from 1 August.</p>	<p>The Recovery Strategy was approved by Cabinet and an officer Recovery Group established. Initially the Recovery Group met weekly as part of a dedicated item on the Corporate Leadership Team agenda</p> <p>Discretionary Grant Scheme - As at 22 June the Council had paid out £17.855m to 1,598 eligible businesses. Members undertook visits to any remaining business premises to encourage application. Following which, in total– 1,646 Grants paid @ value of £18,440,000</p>

By end of
June

- The Council received grant funding of £1,383,514 to support economically vulnerable people and households with the expectation that the majority of the hardship fund was used to provide council tax relief, alongside existing local council tax support schemes. In accordance with the guidance the Council provided all recipients of working age local council tax support ('LCTS') during the financial year 2020-21 with a further reduction in their annual council tax bill of up to £150 and revised council tax demands were issued.
- The Council received two tranches of funding with a total value of £1,351,127 to meet additional costs and lost income pressures arising as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic. Details of additional costs and lost income were collated weekly and reported through to Government on a monthly basis.
- The Council supported residents during the first 3 months of the pandemic, including food parcels, shopping, medicine collection and befriending services. Officers made links between supermarkets and foodbanks, to ensure no food went to waste, and was distributed fairly across the foodbanks in Ashfield. Food from the Nottinghamshire Hub was distributed across all food banks. Officers promoted the NCC Covid-19 Community Fund, and where appropriate, supported organisations to apply. Over £70,000 was awarded to organisations who either work solely in Ashfield or have Ashfield as a priority area. The Council awarded £10,000 to help continue the efforts of organisations who very quickly adapted their offer to ensure the needs of vulnerable residents in Ashfield were met.
- Activity packs and Little Bags of Sunshine were distributed through schools and foodbanks in Ashfield's priority places. Love Leamington packs were developed and distributed in the Leamington area, in partnership with First Art, and families were encouraged to stay active together through Feel Good Families.
- 190 cases to the Nottinghamshire hub were resolved by our Housing staff e.g. provided with advice/support/signposted, whilst Ashfield's cross-Council Humanitarian Team (HOST) have delivered 105 emergency food parcels to Extremely Vulnerable Persons (EVPs). 150 food parcels received from the Red Cross were distributed to Food Banks and homeless persons across the District. In addition to this, there were further supplies from NCC which we passed onto food banks including fresh vegetables (grown and donated by Nottingham Trent) salad stuff, nappies, personal items e.g. deodorants, shampoo, bread. 100 Easter Eggs donated by ALDI were delivered to Food Banks and to vulnerable families with young children.
- 15,147 letters were sent out to vulnerable residents across the District by the Council advising of the support available. This included the 3,190 letters sent to tenants aged 50-70 advising of NCC telephone number, 334 to sheltered courts and 11,623 letters to the elderly where we held dates of birth on our various computer systems. We telephoned 1,396 Lifeline customers to offer support and assistance. Housing and Community Protection Officers also carried out 7 physical welfare checks. These were undertaken as and when NCC had not been able to make contact. Action was taken by the ADC Humanitarian volunteers (HOST), to call 2,600 vulnerable residents based in health and national data, in order to confirm if they need help or support or are managing under their own means. This also involved door knocking if the resident could not be contacted by phone after several attempts.
- The Housing Options Team carried out 90 assessments placing 44 households under the relief duty and 22 under prevention. Of those under the relief duty, the Council accommodated 37 households, including 10 families and 27 single applicants. 6 households in temporary accommodation were fleeing domestic violence. All rough sleepers from the original cohort were accommodated or had an offer of accommodation. 19 of the single households were moved onto longer-term accommodation such as supported accommodation with the YMCA. In addition, despite restrictions, an additional 8 households were assisted into privately rented accommodation with financial assistance from the Council through the bond guarantee scheme and homelessness prevention fund. Casework such as family negotiation also enabled a number of households to remain in their existing accommodation.

- The housing team continued to liaise with tenants throughout, assisting with money advice and making new arrangements to pay. Compared to the end of quarter 1 last year there was 27% more money owed, representing £104k additional debt.
- Private Sector housing work continued throughout in terms landlord enforcement, dealing with illegal encampments and fulfil wider environmental health duties in terms of infection control and enforcement, general difficulty of accessing properties during the main lockdown phase.
- Environmental Services provided resource to waste and burial services, whilst continuing to deliver all aspects of street cleansing, emptying over 1,000 litter bins, keeping town centres and parks clean, litter picking on estates and carrying out weed control to keep the District looking tidy. Grass cutting on highways, housing estates and parks also continued. The team developed a garden area at Kings Mill Reservoir accompanying their 'Thank You' message to the NHS. At this site the team carried out a significant amount of tree work and maintenance and have worked collaboratively with the Mill Waters project.
- The Council was able to maintain full-service burials provision with support from the Environment Team as sickness and self-isolation of employees in the service reduced capacity. They dealt with a 62% increase in burials in Ashfield in April.
- Community Protection team provided a visible presence in undertaking patrols in hotspot locations in collaboration with Nottinghamshire Police, Environment, Housing and direct reports made to the Council in our parks, estates, town centres and cemeteries. They undertook a range of activities to support communities and ensure the safety of residents, including engaging and educating groups that may not be complying with social distancing, addressing bonfires and waste on land, supporting the Environment Team in problem solving activities to maintain distances, secure play equipment gates, deliver food parcels and undertaking welfare checks. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) caseworkers maintained contact and continued to visit residents to ensure residents were supported, evidence gathered, and case work maintained. During this period, 192 new ASB cases were created following triage assessment and 124 cases closed. The Complex Case Team continued to support complex, vulnerable residents throughout the period and supported 29 complex cases that has contributed to homeless prevention, drug/alcohol support, benefit support, domestic abuse and safeguarding.
- The Environmental Health team was heavily involved in ensuring the safety of residents and businesses through proactively engaging with businesses prior to clarification on emerging regulations and also compliance with regulations. The team called over 800 businesses to provide advice and guidance on business closures and social distancing and safe practices. Requests for service and advice were higher in the first lockdown, with 504 relating to covid 19
- 3 new HMO online forms went live by end March 2020, our first digital delivery with full integration to 2 other systems (our payments portal and the back office case management system). The new digital feature, through automation, removes all burdensome administration, releasing much needed housing officer resource to be undertaking important enforcement duties across the district, particularly important during the pandemic.
- Void re-let performance suffered during the first quarter as the pandemic put a stop on properties being let, with only essential lets being completed, typically to people who were homeless or fleeing violence. During this period performance fell to an average 50 working days to let each property, well below the target of 21 days. However, our performance remained upper quartile compared to our peers.

When	What Happened	Our Response
Week commencing 06/07/2020	Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, announces that gyms, indoor pools and leisure centres can reopen from 25th July	<p>COVID-19 Response and Recovery Scrutiny Panel was established at the 9 July meeting of the Council, following recommendations made by Cabinet for the establishment of the Panel. The purpose of this Panel will be to review the Council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and take an active role in respect of the Council's recovery plans.</p> <p>New Byron cinema opened in Hucknall. Feel Good Families summer trails commence</p>
Week commencing 13/07/2020	<p>The remainder of The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 came into effect, allowing the re-opening of nail bars and salons, tanning booths and salons, spas and beauty salons, massage parlours, tattoo parlours, and body and skin piercing services. UK government announces the wearing of face coverings compulsory in shops and supermarkets in England from 24 July.</p> <p>From 18 July, local authorities will have the power to enforce local shutdowns. Local authorities in England get new powers to close shops and outdoor public spaces, and to cancel events</p>	<p>Opened new 'maze' at Sutton Lawn</p> <p>Discretionary Grants scheme re-launched – closing 31st July 2020</p>
Week commencing 20/07/2020	Face coverings become compulsory in shops and most other enclosed public places in England	<p>Refreshed Corporate Plan was approved at the July 21 meeting of Cabinet. reviewed to take account of the impacts of COVID-19 and with a forward look to potential recovery plans</p> <p>Corporate Risks were also updated to take account of the impact of COVID-19</p> <p>Days of action all week on Carsic estate to improve environment and street cleanliness</p>
Week commencing 27/07/2020	<p>the shielding programme is paused for England and Scotland, but continued for the areas where extra precautions were introduced</p> <p>Aware that the reimbursement of lost income from Investment Properties and Commercial Units across the District are not recoverable</p> <p>Gyms, indoor swimming pools and leisure centres can reopen</p>	<p>The estimated loss of income from the hotel owned by the Council where the former tenants (Shearings) went into liquidation was £408k for 2020/21. A new Tenant (Vine Hotels) was secured in July 2020. The financial impact of the change in tenancy was factored into a revision of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).</p> <p>Festival Hall, Lammas and Hucknall Leisure Centres reopened on 1st August. The mix of activities available is increasing with health and fitness, group exercise, lane swimming, swimming lessons, gymnastics and some sports and ice activities now available</p>

When	What Happened	Our Response
		<p>Skip into Summer campaign launched</p> <p>Provided support for vulnerable people who have been shielding through promotion of NCC helpline</p>
<p>Week commencing 03/08/2020</p>	<p>eat out to help out begins</p>	<p>Supported 'Eat Out to Help Out' through communications campaigns advertising local businesses taking part in the scheme</p>
<p>Week commencing 10/08/2020</p>		<p>Re-opened reception at Urban Road Office, by appointments only</p> <p>Supported 'Shop Local' week</p> <p>Announcement that Amazon would be locating within the district</p>
<p>Week commencing 17/08/2020</p>	<p>As many as three million self-employed people whose trade was affected by the pandemic become eligible for a second government grant worth £6,570.</p>	<p>The Discretionary Grant Scheme closed at midnight on 17th August and in total 209 applications were received. As at 21st August 68 businesses were paid a total of £492,302 in discretionary grants, representing 45.64% of the £1,078,750 Discretionary Grant funding allocated.</p> <p>As at 21st August 1,629 businesses were paid Small Business Grants and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grants, to a total value of £18.210m, representing 98.13% of the businesses we believed were eligible for these grants. The remaining 26 businesses were visited by a Visiting Officer to check whether they were still trading and if so encourage them to apply for the grants.</p> <p>Swimming sessions commenced at our leisure centres on 22nd August</p> <p>Community Fund opens back up for grant applications</p>
<p>Week commencing 24/08/2020</p>		<p>Launch 'Call B4 You Serve' partnership campaign regarding impartial support and advice being available for private landlords and tenants</p> <p>Applications could now be made online for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support, including the ability to provide evidence online too, reducing the need for applicants to visit our offices. Since 17th April, 2020 we had received 422 online benefits applications.</p>

When	What Happened	Our Response
		<p>Since lockdown over 1,300 new customers signed up for an e-store account, nearly 25,000 transactions were made, enabling customers to pay over £3m for services during that period (end March to mid-August 2020).</p>
<p>Week commencing 31/08/2020</p>	<p>eat out to help out ends from 1st September, schools, nurseries and colleges opened for all children and young people on a full-time basis</p> <p>The Government closed Business Grant Schemes and no payments could be made after 28th August 2020.</p>	<p>The Discretionary Grants Panel met regularly to process remaining applications and make payment to those businesses who are eligible for grant as soon possible but by no later than the end of September 2020.</p> <p>On 5th September First Art in partnership with the Council and Leamington school delivered a Secret Picnic event for families which was attended by over 100 residents throughout the day. Feedback was collected to understand what people like and don't like about where they live and ideas for future opportunities.</p>
<p>Week commencing 07/09/2020</p>	<p>new rules regarding social gatherings in England from 14 September are outlined</p>	<p>2 hours free car parking continue</p> <p>Environmental Health team investigated and helped prevent community spread of the virus by working with external partners and implementing interventions at a large warehouse in the district, preventing further community spread, arranging covid testing of an entire workforce</p>
<p>Week commencing 14/09/2020</p>	<p>The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) (England) (Amendment) (No. 4) Regulations 2020 came into force at 12.01 a.m. Unless one of the exceptions applies, the statutory instrument provides authority to limit the number of persons in a gathering to no more than six; hence the rule of six</p>	<p>Launch of brand new, modern, user friendly website, which was accredited by the Shaw Trust as fully meeting accessibility standards</p>

When	What Happened	Our Response
Week commencing 21/09/2020	New regulations (SI 1029) come into force, in part, at 5 am in England, prohibiting certain 'restricted businesses' and 'restricted services' from carrying on that business or providing that service between the hours of 22:00 and 05:00. The regulations affect a wide range of establishments, including restaurants, bars, public houses, social clubs, casinos, bingo halls, bowling alleys, cinemas, theatres, concert halls, amusement arcades, funfairs (indoors or outdoors), theme parks and adventure parks. The protected area of Bolton is excluded from the scope of this legislation as additional restrictions apply.	<p>Sutton Town Centre Taskforce established to tackle on street anti-social behaviour (ASB), environmental crime and rough sleeping. The initiative resulted in a formal action being taken against a number of repeat offenders as well as providing support and accommodation to rough sleepers and vulnerable persons.</p> <p>Annesley Recreation Ground investment completed</p> <p>Promote NHS Covid 'app'</p>
By end of September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through an enhanced understanding of our voluntary sector, how it interlinks, how robust it is and what support they require from us to ensure their longevity, the council maximised opportunity to benefit the communities and residents of Ashfield through effective partnership working, establishing new bonds and support mechanisms. • Officers responded to 48 community support requests since April. • During the summer Feel Good Families provided an extensive programme of community based and online activities. This included a daily activity promoted via the Facebook page, superhero and princess online craft and bootcamp sessions, themed trails and pebble hunts on local parks. Nearly 500 people engaged in these activities that we are aware of and 400 activity packs were distributed to children whose family was accessing support through foodbanks • From April to September, 35% more households were prevented from becoming homeless, due to the hard work of the Housing Options, Complex Case and Tenancy Sustainment Teams. • From April 2020 to date, 99.66% of the 5,056 properties requiring a gas check, have been completed, with just 17 properties that have not been able to provide access due to issues such as self-isolating or shielding, with an average non-compliance rate of just 22 days over the 17 properties. From April to September 99.44% all repairs appointments made were kept (9264 appointments out of 9316), and 99.85% of emergencies repairs were attended to in government timeframes (2019 repairs out of 2022) • Also successfully concluded the first enforced sale of a private property in serious disrepair. The property was a disused off-licence that had been left neglected as the owner had failed to complete essential repairs. • Idlewells Indoor Market retained 97% occupancy with only one stall vacant. • The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funded project for Kings Mill Reservoir progressed; the dredging, silt management contract and café reconfiguration were completed and significant progress to improving access and connectivity has been made with new and upgraded footpaths and increasing parking provision. The restoration of Kings Mill Viaduct was completed protecting the structure for the future and enhancing the pedestrian access gateway between Ashfield and Mansfield. 	

When	What Happened	Our Response
Page 37		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning applications were processed well above nationally prescribed standard targets, with 100% of major applications being processed within 13 weeks. • A further five premises had active intervention over the last quarter and made sufficient progress. • Environmental Services team were outstanding in keeping the District clean and tidy and responding to these changing patterns of demand. The levels of resident reported dog fouling incidents saw a year on year decrease over the past 5 years, with a further 9% reduction in reported incidents compared to the previous year. • The Council was swift in removing fly tips and investigating fly tips where evidence permits. The number of fly tipping investigations from enforcement saw an increase of 234 investigations from 86 investigations last year, a staggering 172% increase when compared to last quarter's number of investigation. Similarly, Q2 has seen a 44% increase of fly tipping investigations, from 92 to 133 over this period. The number of fines and warnings have also seen increased. • responded to 2,574 reports of anti-social and nuisance behaviour between April-September 2020. work undertaken by the Community Safety Section has resulted in a high volume of enforcement outputs over the same period, with 7 prosecutions, 5 injunctions, and 169 other enforcement actions. April-September 2020, resulted in the Complex Case Team providing intensive support to 56 highly complex residents across 5 key life areas • further significant 35% reduction in the level of abandoned calls for the period April to September 2020, compared to the previous year. realised a 9% reduction in paypoint and post office payments from April to October 2020 (nearly 11,000 transactions), saving the Council a further £8,000 in transaction costs. • Over 1,700 Businesses were paid grants in excess of £19m by the end of September. • From July onwards voids turnaround performance improved, with quarter 2 out-turn indicating an overall average re-let time of 32 days, which has further reduced to an average of 29 days by the end of December 2020.
Week commencing 12/10/2020	<p>New three-tier system of restrictions for England announced, taking effect from 14 October. Ashfield and Nottinghamshire placed in 'High' Alert level = no mixing indoors, rule 6 outdoors and 10pm curfew for bars and pubs</p> <p>Test and Trace scheme announced</p>	<p>Ashfield Community Fund opened from mid-August to October for the second round this year with £10,000 available for community groups to apply. The fund has been awarded to 12 voluntary organisations across Ashfield. For example, the grant to Lets All Eat funded four weeks' worth of food which went to 278 homes</p> <p>Building of affordable homes in Sutton given green light by Cabinet</p>
Week commencing 19/10/2020		<p>Confirmation secured £1.5m from accelerated Towns Fund.</p> <p>Action taken by environmental Health to ensure a closure notice could be served on a close contact barbers who refused to engage to comply with CV19 legislation and requirements</p> <p>Restoration works completed on Kirkby Cross</p>

When	What Happened	Our Response
		<p>Launched 'take a tin' campaign – supporting Marcus Rashfords campaigning</p>
<p>Week commencing 26/10/2020</p>	<p>Government discussions held on 28th October, around whether Ashfield and Nottinghamshire would move to Tier 3 – Very High. Confirmed would commence from 30th October, 2020</p>	<p>Regular communications around move to higher tier – alerts etc</p> <p>29th October – announced that classes at leisure centres would continue in a covid safe manner – stressing the importance of exercise and wellbeing</p> <p>Communications to confirm that we were awaiting government guidance regarding business grants in tier 3</p> <p>An early intervention joint Halloween and Bonfire initiative named Operation Safekeep was co-ordinated between Council, Police and partners in October 2020, to create awareness and tackle on street ASB and Covid-breaches across the District. The Operation was highly successful with over 50 Shops and Off-Licences visited and 30 incidents being responded to</p>
<p>Page 38 Week commencing 02/11/2020</p>	<p>Second national lockdown announced to begin on 5th November, 2020</p>	<p>Ongoing communications that we were still awaiting government guidance regarding business grants for tier 2, 3 and now national lockdown. Expected week commencing 9th November, 2020</p> <p>5th November – national lockdown begins – leisure centres closed</p> <p>November New Tier 3 Grants – 146 Grants Paid @ value of £203,000 for very short period of tier 3</p>
<p>Week commencing 09/11/2020</p>		<p>13th November – business grant scheme applications opened</p>
<p>Week commencing 16/11/2020</p>		<p>Committed further £3k to support 'Lets All Eat' foodbank Sutton</p> <p>To date 470 businesses applied for grants with £371k paid out</p>

When	What Happened	Our Response
Week commencing 23/11/2020		<p>New leisure management contract awarded following extensive, robust procurement activity. The Council and Everyone Active started work on mobilisation plan with the new contract coming into operation as of the 1st April 2021.</p> <p>Started Christmas campaigns early – wellbeing</p> <p>By 26th November 820 businesses applied for grants with £1.7m paid out. Deadline 29th November</p> <p>25th November - 10th December (within Q3), the Complex Case Team delivered the White Ribbon Campaign and 16 days of activism, aimed at ending violence against women and girls, creating awareness and empowering survivors of domestic abuse to reach out and get support</p> <p>2nd Lockdown – 619 Grants paid @ value of £2.23 million</p>
Week commencing 30/11/2020 Page 39	second national lockdown ends but new local tier system to commence 2 nd December – Ashfield and Nottinghamshire will be Tier 3 Very High	<p>successful Bag It! Campaign commenced</p> <p>2nd December – invite to businesses to still apply for grants</p> <p>Cabinet approved Green Space Improvement Programme £366k</p> <p>Covid Officers have now visited over 760 businesses offering support on restrictions</p> <p>Ability to pay for car parking through ‘app’ introduced with hand sanitizers in all council operated car parks. Free parking Saturdays and Sundays throughout December</p> <p>Supported Small Business Saturday</p>
Week commencing 07/12/2020	first person to get vaccine in UK	<p>Vaccination programme starts across Nottinghamshire on 9th December</p> <p>Improvements on Titchfield Park completed</p>
Week commencing 14/12/2020	17 th December - Government announcements of changes to tiers – confirmed Ashfield and Nottinghamshire to stay at Tier 3 Very High	<p>New Miners statues installed at Brierley Forest Park.</p> <p>Started works on new Kirkby Leisure Centre site. appointed Kier as the preferred contractor</p>

When	What Happened	Our Response
Week commencing 21/12/2020		26 th December – Future High Streets successful bid announced – Ashfield to received award of £6.2m Additional waste collections undertaken
By end December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foodbanks awarded c.£16k to support food supply, delivery, equipment and building improvements as well as to support families during the Christmas period. • To help support high street businesses through the pandemic we have employed Covid Information Officers, since early October they have made almost 800 visits, offering advice and guidance to retailers. • Officers have offered a range of business support to residents and have dealt with over 1270 business support enquiries by December 2020 • A total of 2,565 grants have been paid to businesses, as at end December 2020, at a total value of over £21m • December Tier 3 (open and closed and wet led pub) Grants – 154 grants, with payments made from 2nd December totalling a value of £211,252 	
Week commencing 04/01/2021	third national lockdown begins	Sport England bid submitted to support costs of new Leisure Centre Kirkby Commenced build of social housing on Wild Orchid site Task force coordinated for planned action at New Cross and Central ward
Week commencing 11/01/2021		Installation of new CCTV on Welbeck Street Sutton Business grants applications re-open for businesses forced to close due to tier 4 and national lockdown including discretionary grants for non-rateable businesses
Week commencing 25/01/2021		The Kirkby and Sutton Towns Funding –completion of the Town Investment Plan for Kirkby and Sutton submitted to the Towns Fund
Week commencing 01/02/2021	May elections given green light	New play equipment completed on Coxmoor estate New zero tolerance enforcement scheme launched 150 trees planted on Sutton Lawn

When	What Happened	Our Response
Week commencing 08/02/2021		<p>Big Spring Clean campaign launched, including 3 weeks of free bulky collections</p> <p>Construction work commenced on new Kirkby Leisure Centre</p>
Week commencing 08/02/2021		
Week commencing 22/02/2021	Government announced roadmap out of lockdown and latest business grant scheme	<p>Advice on website of business grant scheme operating until 31st March 2021</p> <p>24th February – announced Ashfield part of Council Tax will be frozen for 21/22 – only district or borough across the country to freeze their element of council tax</p> <p>Announce plans for improvements at Hucknall Leisure Centre</p> <p>Support Kickstart scheme</p>
Week commencing 08/03/2021		<p>Re-surfacing works completed Piggins Croft car park Hucknall</p> <p>Car parking free</p>
Week commencing 29/03/2021	Step 1 out of lockdown	<p>We have received 146 new food premises registrations since April 1st 2020 to 28th April 2021- more than double the normal application rate</p> <p>The Environmental Health team have read 7 versions of regulation and guidance and advised other teams to ensure the authority stayed legal and compliant and didn't act ultra vires</p>

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Ashfield

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Corporate Plan 2019-2023



Ashfield District Council continues to successfully deliver against its Corporate Plan and our positive flight path. Throughout the pandemic we have sustained excellent standards of delivery across all of our services, maximising resources and working effectively together as one council, re-deploying staff into important roles outside of their normal duties to ensure continuance of service, whilst also delivering humanitarian services across the District. Significant challenges remain but these are balanced against our excellent track record and our ambition for the future. It should also be noted that, despite the pandemic, the organisation has also delivered additional services, above and beyond, continuing to support residents and businesses in Ashfield.

The Council remains clear on its purpose and wishes to sustain its valued services, while helping to shape a better future for the District by working in partnership with other public agencies, residents and local businesses.

During the last four years significant improvements in the Council's partnership working have been achieved with a much greater focus on Ashfield as a place and how the Council can support communities and businesses. This will be maintained and developed through this Corporate Plan.

A major feature of this Corporate Plan will be the drive to improve customer experience and satisfaction through increased use of digital technologies thereby allowing customers to access services when and where they want to.

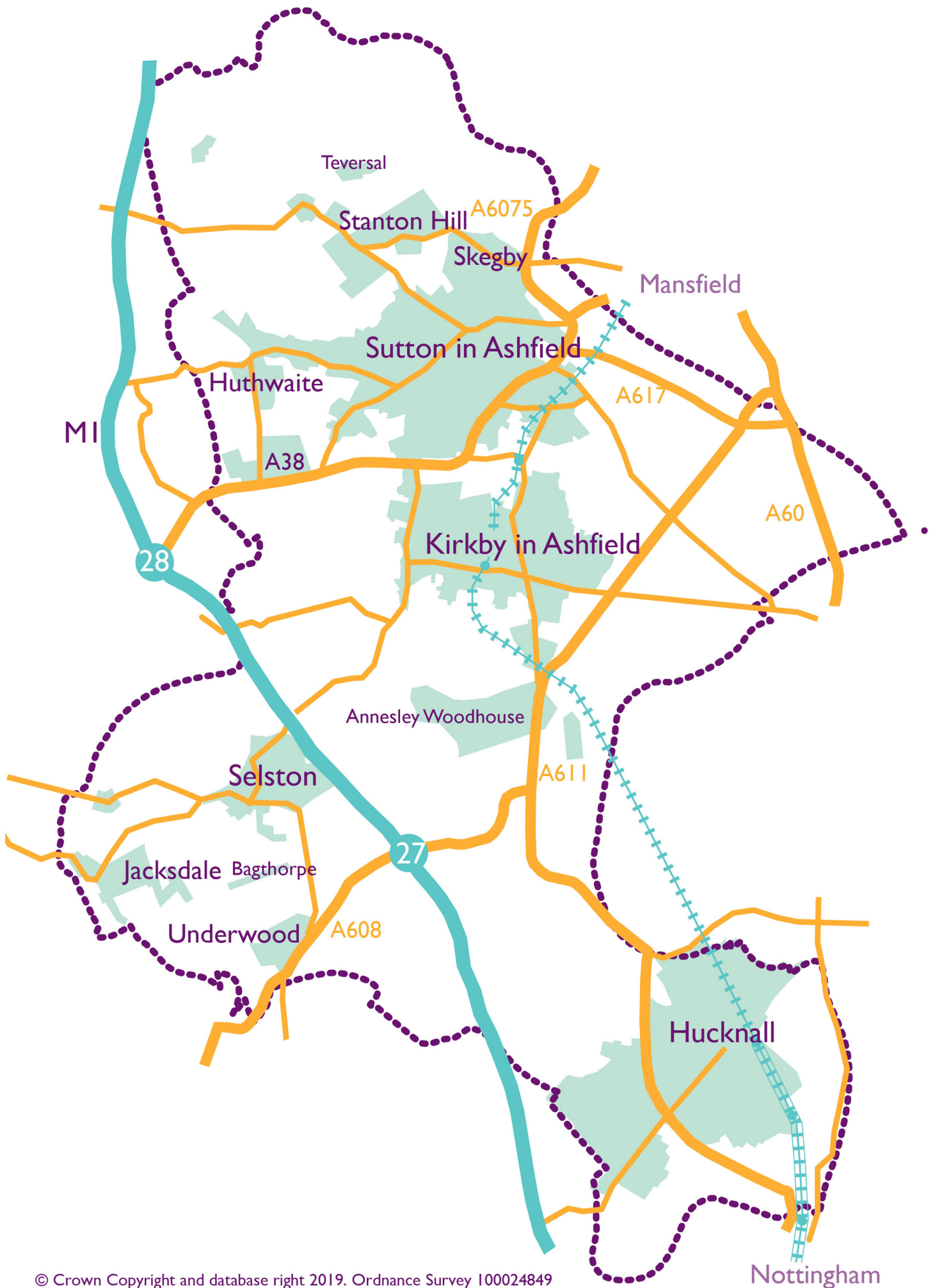
A further key element of this plan is to maximise opportunity and concentrate on the many positive characteristics of Ashfield as a place and to support individuals and communities to achieve a better quality of life.



Carol Cooper-Smith
Chief Executive Officer



Cllr Jason Zadrozny
Leader of Ashfield District Council

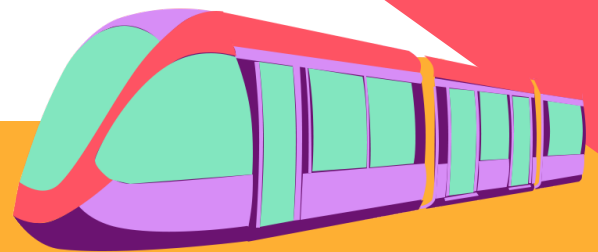
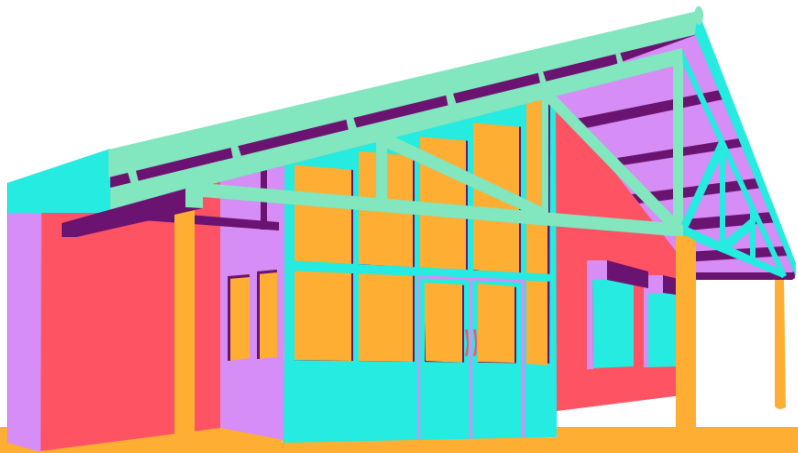


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Nottingham

Ashfield -The Place

Ashfield is ideally situated in the heart of the country, situated on the M1 directly between the cities of Nottingham, Derby and Sheffield. Nestled on the edge of beautiful countryside, with three towns and a number of rural villages it is renowned for its welcoming, supportive and passionate communities. The area is complemented by a wide variety of award winning parks and outdoor spaces, a range of sporting facilities, educational activities, cafes and natural environments to relax and enjoy.



The three town centres in Ashfield; Hucknall, Kirkby and Sutton provide a great variety of shops and services. With low cost, easy to access parking and well served by public transport links. Hucknall is on the NET Nottingham tram network and is the most northerly stop on the green line.

There are three railway stations in the district, along the Robin Hood line, connecting with Worksop (to the North) and Nottingham (to the South).

Rich in natural, cultural and industrial heritage, Ashfield is the home of a number of historical and cultural/literary figures, most notably Lord Byron and his daughter Ada Lovelace, regarded as being the first ever computer programmer.

The area has miles of way-marked rural walks, cycle paths and bridleways nestled amongst wooded areas and open countryside. Areas of countryside within the district are much of what D. H. Lawrence referred to as "The country of my heart" and based many of his novels around the places and families of the area. The villages of Jacksdale, Underwood, Bagthorpe, Lower Bagthorpe, Selston, Annesley, Ravenshead, Newstead, Linby and Papplewick are set within the Hidden Valleys landscape.



We are committed to making Ashfield a location and destination of choice for business and visitors and a desirable place to live for all residents. Enhancing the identity and brand for Ashfield so it is cherished by those who live or work here, desirable to those who visit, and attractive to those who bring jobs and investment; whilst also raising the profile of Ashfield as a place where people want to visit and spend their time enjoying themselves.

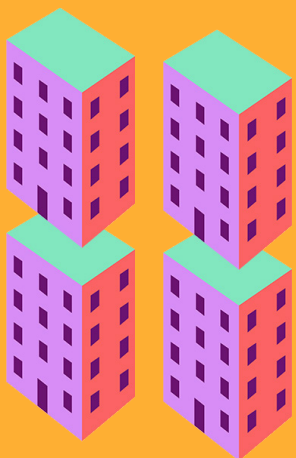
We have established an independent Ashfield Place Board to:-

- promote Ashfield in a positive manner;
- create pride and aspirations in our communities;
- improve the vibrancy of the town centres within Ashfield;
- encourage and promote inward investment;
- support tourism and the visitor economy in the Ashfield area.



A wide range of stakeholders and partners have been involved in developing our new place brand Discover Ashfield, which incorporates key activities that are focussed on the themes of; Visitors and Tourism 'More to Discover'; Residents 'Love where you live'; Fitness & Wellbeing 'Be Happy Be Healthy'; and Business and investment 'Succeed in Ashfield'.

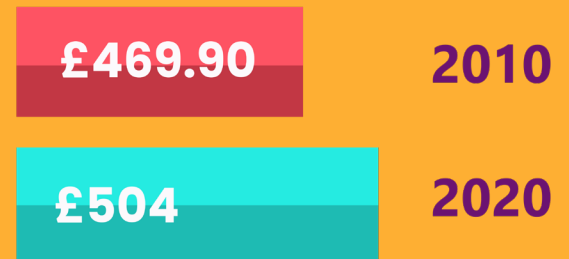
Working in Ashfield



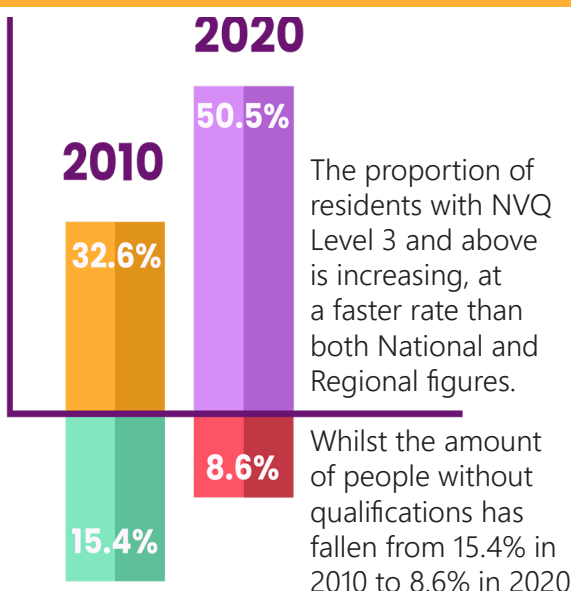
20 businesses that employ more than 250 people

Ashfield has the greatest number of large enterprises in the area (20) that employ in excess of 250 people and 75 medium sized businesses with between 50 and 250 employees.
(Office of National Statistics)

Gross weekly pay has risen since 2010



There are a number of indicators that show the economy of Ashfield is improving; wages are rising; job density is improving; all at a faster rate than both National and Regional figures.



The number of enterprises in Ashfield has risen from 2,530 in 2010 to 2,985 in 2020, including an increasing number of small and micro enterprises.



Our Purpose

One.

The Council exists to serve the communities and residents of Ashfield.

Our priority is to understand the needs and desires of Ashfield residents, communities and businesses. The Council has a unique role, leading and enabling delivery of improvements for Ashfield as a place. We are committed to engaging more effectively with our communities and working more closely together to deliver the changes we all want to see in Ashfield.

Two.

We will provide good quality, value for money services.

We want to deliver good quality council services, consistently and reliably, putting the customer at the heart of everything we do. We are focussed on delivering an improved customer experience, simplifying and standardising basic transactional processes. Enabled by digital technology we will transform the way we do things, encouraging people who can access services online to do so. This will create capacity for us to better support in person the people who need us the most.

Three.

We will act strategically and plan for the future, working with others to bring about sustainable improvements in people's lives.

Whether it's making our communities safe, our town centres more vibrant or our environment cleaner we need strong and effective partnership working to achieve our goals. We recognise that, with fewer resources, the Council, along with other public sector organisations, cannot work in isolation to effectively deliver what matters for Ashfield.

Our Values

To ensure we deliver high-quality public services we have adopted a set of corporate values which underpin the successful delivery of our priorities. How we work is as important as what we do.

People Focussed.

Putting people at the heart of what we do

Honest.

Being honest with people in an open and professional way

Proud.

Being proud that Ashfield is a positive place to live, work and visit

Ambitious.

We are ambitious about Ashfield's future

COVID-19 Impact and Recovery

Ashfield District Council is the only local authority in Nottinghamshire that has continued to deliver all tier 1 and 2 services without interruption during the pandemic. The whole organisation has worked effectively together as one council, re-deploying staff into important roles outside of their normal duties to ensure continuance of service, whilst also delivering humanitarian services across the district.

Our local recovery plans align with both national and regional plans.

National recovery themes are focussed on:-

Health Recovery

Considering overall health outcomes, not just those directly caused by COVID-19.

Economic Recovery

Protecting and restoring people's livelihoods and improving people's living standards.

Social or Community Recovery

Considering the wider effect of the social distancing measures on how the public live their daily lives.

Regional Local Resilience Forum Recovery Aims are to support the whole of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, including its communities, businesses and public services, to recover following COVID-19.

As well as addressing the very real adverse impacts – the global scale of which have likely not been seen for decades - this will also mean striving to advance long term opportunities for better physical and mental health, tackling climate change, better health outcomes and supporting a sustainable, fast growing local economy.

Recovery planning and impact assessment is focussed on the following:-

- Humanitarian Assistance (including Health)
- Economic
- Environmental
- Infrastructure

Our Local Recovery Aims

To support and coordinate the process of rebuilding, restoring and rehabilitating the emotional, social, economic and physical wellbeing of the community, businesses and the Council's employees.

Recovery will cover two main strands:

Ashfield as a Place – Community and Economic Recovery

- Supporting the community and businesses in achieving stability and a new normality following COVID-19, assisting in rebuilding, restoring and rehabilitating the community's emotional, social, economic and physical wellbeing; and

The Council – Organisational Recovery

- Assessing the impact of COVID-19 on Council services, finances and employees and planning for its future financial resilience and how it will need to operate differently.

The following table indicates the alignment of our local recovery planning with corporate priorities:-

Local Recovery Theme External Housing and Communities

Corporate Priority

COVID-19 Recovery Considerations

Health and Happiness	<p>Build on humanitarian work with the community and voluntary sector</p> <p>Re-introduction of events when safe to do so</p> <p>Ensure workplace health</p>	<p>Distributed over £40,000 distributed to the Community and Voluntary sector in Ashfield, to help them support residents negatively impacted by Covid</p> <p>Responded to 117 community support requests</p> <p>£70,000 Infrastructure grants distributed to Our Centre, Under one Roof, and Ashfield Citizen's Advice</p> <p>Engaged over 650 families engaged in Feel Good Families activities</p> <p>Co-ordinated over £120,000 of Covid Winter Grants (food vouchers) to vulnerable residents</p> <p>Number of resident engagement events have taken place in the priority areas</p>	<p>Continue to support the Community and Voluntary Sector to help residents' recovery from the impact of Covid-19</p> <p>Deliver an annual programme of events in town centres and green spaces</p> <p>Engage at all levels to improve support for health and wellbeing</p> <p>Aligned with regeneration and skills, continue to provide advice regarding education and interventions</p>
Homes and Housing	<p>Review of homeless strategy to understand covid impact</p>	<p>Successfully and positively adapting our practices to reflect the change in the working environment and in the nature of residents' housing needs and issues. Despite the increasing complexity of cases and limited move on options, set in the context of COVID 19, a significant number of residents have had their housing issues resolved.</p> <p>Secured £1m Rough Sleeper Initiative to improvement opportunities and support for rough sleepers across the County</p> <p>In partnership with Framework we secured Next Steps Accommodation Programme funding to fund 3 additional units of specialist accommodation for rough sleepers with complex needs</p>	<p>Work with partners to identify sustainable housing solutions for individuals continuing to rough sleep following accommodation offers made during Covid</p>
Cleaner and Greener	<p>Delivery of 'Bag it' campaign</p> <p>Safe re-opening of park buildings</p>	<p>Successful delivery of 'Bag it' and 'Spring Clean' campaigns</p> <p>Safe re-opening of our parks and open spaces with investment in improvements completed at 19 sites</p> <p>A review of the standard of all of our parks, open spaces, play areas and sports facilities has been completed which will inform a rolling programme of improvements and investment, including the aim to extend our six green flag awards to seven in 2021/22</p>	<p>Support community and business volunteers to enhance their local area</p>
Safer and Stronger	<p>Provide refuge accommodation for people in abusive relationships</p> <p>Raise awareness of domestic abuse and ensure support is provided to survivors</p>	<p>Appointed a new Domestic Abuse and Vulnerability Officer in October 2020, providing key support across the District</p> <p>Complex Case Team delivered the White Ribbon Campaign and 16 Days of Activism</p>	<p>Continue to support for high risk survivors of domestic abuse</p> <p>Provide refuge accommodation for people in abusive relationships</p> <p>Raise awareness of domestic abuse and ensure support provided to survivors</p> <p>Aim to extend our white ribbon accreditation to a Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance accreditation in next 12 months</p>

External Economy and Place | Finance - External

Corporate Priority

Economic Growth and Place

COVID-19 Recovery Considerations

Open up our town centres safely in response to the recovery from Covid-19 implementing appropriate measures

Ensure that eligible businesses receive COVID-19 grant support funding to help their future sustainability

Ensuring transport is safe (social distancing)

Permitting processes and safe practices

In 2020/21 we have

Employed Covid Information Officers to help support high street businesses through the pandemic

Installed hand-sanitising units in town centre car parks to help give confidence and reassurance to shoppers

Worked closely with the market retailers, ensuring that traders selling essential goods and services could trade throughout the lockdowns, including click and collect and home deliveries

Set up a new local skills partnership to help us focus what training provisions partners deliver in our area and ensure they meet employer needs

From September 2020 to March 2021, the regeneration team responded to 3,209 business support enquiries

Circa 7,300 grant payments have been made to businesses, with a total value of around £30m

Processed 1286 test and trace claims, enabling £191,000 to be paid in test and trace grants

In 2021/22 we will

Support businesses through implementation of the Economic Recovery Plan

Deliver the Future High Streets and Towns Fund programmes

Support employment through inclusion of social value in our key contracts

Offer eligible businesses start up grants

Local Recovery Theme

Council Services | Legal and Governance | Finance - Internal

Innovate and Improve

Fast tracking our digital transformation delivery to improve accessibility and online capability centred on the customer

Support employees to increase digital skills
Work in partnership to increase digital inclusion across the District

Enabling employees, where appropriate and relevant, to work from home, having adequate digital tools and equipment, and a safe working environment

Ensuring employee wellbeing at home or when returning to the work environment

At the end of September, 2020, we launched a brand new, modern, user friendly website, which was accredited by the Shaw Trust as fully meeting accessibility standards

Expedient implementation of online forms enabling residents and business to be able to apply for benefits, 24/7. We have received over 2,600 online benefits related applications or notifications of changing circumstances

Over 100 forms now available online

Expanded our payment channels further introducing the ability for debtors to more easily make repayments through 'recurring card payments' functionality, enabling the collection of over £126,000 of debt over the year

Successful rollout of O365 collaboration tools, facilitating a blended approach to working throughout the pandemic and business continuity. Combined with a significant reduction of files and storage space, this has enabled the successful rationalisation of assets through the expedient decant of our Brook Street office, realising circa £200k efficiencies

Putting in place a safe working environment, enabling employees the opportunity to work either in the office or from home, throughout the pandemic

Continue to fast track delivery of significant digital change, increasing the availability of online services

Support employees and members to increase digital skills

Review and refresh the People Strategy, including consideration of new ways of working being embedded as a result of the pandemic

Continuing to ensure employee wellbeing at home or the work environment

Delivery of services during the pandemic



4,500,000

bins emptied with no services interrupted (14k per day)

136,000

visits to our Covid-19 webpages



£70m

in grant payments to eligible businesses



15,147

welfare letters sent to vulnerable residents (+ 1,396 welfare calls to Lifeline customers)





4,742

visits to businesses by our Covid Information Officers

350

activity packs distributed to families and those living with dementia and their carers

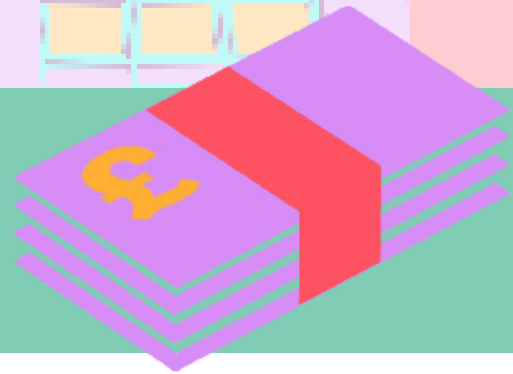


956

Pest Control appointments

£100,000

distributed in grant funding to the voluntary sector



49,000

repairs and gas services completed

Financial Strategy

There is significant uncertainty about the level of Government funding the Council will receive beyond 2021/22 pending the outcome of the:

- Impact of, and recovery from, COVID-19 pandemic
- The next Spending Round
- Fair Funding Review
- Business Rates - future levels of retention and clarification of what will happen around the baseline re-set; and the
- Future of New Homes Bonus and distribution methodology

The Council currently estimates that from 2022/23 to 2025/26 it has a cumulative estimated funding gap of £3m with the largest proportion of this (£2.46m) front-loaded into 2022/23. Once the outcome of the above factors has been determined this will provide greater clarity on the true extent of our financial challenge.

The Council has a strong track record in both setting robust annual budgets and consistently delivering within those budgets and is working hard to address the estimated financial pressures going forward.

The Cabinet and Corporate Leadership Team continue to meet frequently to discuss options for addressing the estimated funding gaps going forward.

The areas of focus to address the financial challenge include:

- Income generation opportunities and a review of fees and charges.
- Benefits realisation from our investment in technology through our Digital Services Transformation Programme which will continue to bring about both further cashable efficiencies, and improved ways of working for our employees, and also improve services to residents and businesses.
- Progress at a pace, the development and delivery, of our Local Plan clearly setting out our aspirations for the District in terms of where we want to see both business and homes growth and attract developers to help deliver that vision.
- Work with our Procurement Partner (Nottingham City Council) to review and renegotiate our contracts to reduce costs.
- Ongoing review of our services ensuring they are aligned to the delivery of our Corporate Plan priorities.

The aim of the Council is to ensure that we continue to remain financially sustainable, whilst at the same time ensuring that we continue to provide the key services on which our residents and businesses rely.

Our Priorities

Our priorities have been developed based on knowledge and understanding of the needs of Ashfield residents and businesses, using a comprehensive evidence base from various key sources such as the Community Safety Strategy, Joint Economic Masterplan and community consultation through our Citizens Panel.

**Health and
Happiness**

**Homes and
Housing**

**Economic Growth
and Place**

**Cleaner and
Greener**

**Safer and
Stronger**

**Innovate and
Improve**



The health and happiness of our residents is a major contributing factor to ensuring:-

- That Ashfield is a vibrant and healthy place to live
- That the local workforce is skilled, productive and employable
- Children have the best chance for health throughout life.

As people live longer and have increasing expectations upon public services, there is a recognised increase in demand for health and social care related provision.

The picture of the health of Ashfield is not overall positive, but trends of life expectancy, adult obesity, children in poverty, and smoking prevalence have improved over recent years.

The District and our communities are changing and we recognise the need to build stronger, more resilient communities that can come together to provide help and support to each other. It also means focusing on some of our most deprived neighbourhoods to make sure that everyone has the same opportunities to achieve their goals and lead happy and healthy lives.

Health and Happiness

Vision

Our vision for 2023 is to help people improve their health and happiness by developing pride and aspiration in our communities, developing and strengthening partnerships, focussing on prevention, and improving health service provision.

Key Projects, Programmes and Initiatives

Arts, Culture and Events

We will:-

1. Support partners to develop Ashfield's arts and cultural offer
2. Deliver an annual programme of events in town centres and green spaces
3. Facilitate community-led events: summer galas, sports events etc

Community Engagement

We will:-

1. Deliver our Community Engagement Strategy, toolkit, and statement of community involvement
2. Continue to support the Community and Voluntary Sector to help residents' recovery from the impact of Covid-19
3. Review and manage the Volunteering Policy, enhancing volunteer skills and experience

Health and Wellbeing

We will:-

1. Engage with and influence Health and Wellbeing Partnerships to help improve health equalities through integration and system change
2. Focus on delivering outcomes to enable residents to have the best start in life; make healthy choices; age well; be physically active and live and work in environments that foster positive mental wellbeing
3. Engage with and influence Health Commissioners and Providers
4. Review Aids and Adaptations Policy to improve opportunities to retain independence

Strategic Leisure

We will:-

1. Deliver the Leisure Transformation Programme, maximising the wellbeing benefits whilst reducing costs
2. Deliver a new leisure destination in Kirkby
3. Deliver the capital investment programme for Hucknall and Lamas Leisure Centres
4. Maximise wellbeing outcomes in the new Leisure Operating Contract

Outcomes we want to achieve

In partnership, to narrow the gap between Ashfield and our comparator groups (Nottinghamshire and Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Family Benchmark Group) for the following health measures:-

- Increase participation in physical activity
- Reduce adult obesity
- Reduce child obesity
- Reduce children in poverty
- Reduce smoking prevalence
- Reduce economic inactivity due to long term sickness
- Reduce excess winter deaths
- Support partners new approaches with elderly care and supported living
- Maximise attendance at our leisure centres
- Achieve the Workplace Health Platinum Award
- Increase levels of community engagement and volunteering
- Deliver social value from new leisure management contract

Targeted Health Activities

We will:-

Work towards achieving the vision that 'Everyone who lives in Ashfield leads a healthy and happy life' through targeted work in priority places and with priority groups

Regulatory Services

We will:-

Engage at all levels to improve support for health and wellbeing

Homes and Housing

By 2023 we will have successfully delivered further improvements to housing services and housing provision for those either in need of affordable housing, or living in properties which need adapting or improving, as well as for residents needing to find new accommodation and those living within our own Council housing stock.

Affordable, warm, safe housing contributes to making Ashfield a great place to live. The proportion of social rented sector stock is however lower than average, and we strive to work with developers for the provision of additional affordable homes. Housing standards are good within the social rented sector and the Council is working with landlords to improve homes within the private rented sector as well as providing advice and support to tenants.

The majority of homes in the district are owner occupied and in good condition. The Council is proactive in supporting owners to return empty properties back to occupation and fixing signs of disrepair.

For those with additional housing needs the Council continues to improve its homelessness service and provide adaptations, efficient heating systems and lifeline services for those potentially vulnerable residents who wish to remain independent in their own homes.



Key Projects, Programmes and Initiatives

Housing Development

We will:-

1. Review land and assets held by the Council to determine potential development opportunities and options for future use
2. Explore opportunities manage and private market rent properties through the Council's Housing Company
3. Review the Council's new homes specification to ensure homes are thermally efficient and that we are minimising the carbon footprint in line with government targets

Tackling Disrepair and Poor Housing Conditions

We will:-

1. Utilise additional enforcement powers and review the current property licensing arrangements to improve housing conditions in the private rented stock
2. Review the Council's Aids and Adaptations Policy to ensure we are maximising opportunities to help any resident remain independent in their home

Customer Focus

We will:-

1. Further enhance tenant co-regulation, engagement and scrutiny in line with the regulatory framework for social housing in England and any new regulatory standards that are introduced
2. Deliver a fully agile housing service which will enable tenants to interact with the service in a way which suits them (aligned with our digital transformation programme)
3. Continue to redesign our Housing Repairs Service to improve customer service and save over £0.5m within three years

Reduce and Prevent Homelessness

We will:-

1. Enhance the pre-tenancy offer to ensure new tenants have the skills and understanding needed to successfully manage their tenancy
2. Improve the accommodation offer to rough sleepers, increasing the type, number and accessibility of supported housing places
3. Improve levels of homelessness prevention through better early detection and a focus on key trigger points

Suitable and appropriate housing

We will:-

1. Continually refine the Housing Revenue Account to ensure sufficient funds are available over the next 30 years to maintain, enhance and add to our housing stock
2. Acquire and/or build over 100 new social housing properties over the next five years (affordable housing delivery strategy)
3. Create additional housing stock through empty spaces above shops
4. Implement new property standards as and when introduced, including installing carbon monoxide alarms in all properties and achieving Decent Homes 2
5. Work with partners to identify sustainable housing solutions for individuals continuing to rough sleep following accommodation offers made during Covid

Compliance with Social Housing White Paper 2021

We will:-

Develop plans to meet the requirements set out in the Social Housing White Paper 2020 (The Charter for Social Housing Residents) to cover the following themes:

- Safety
- Landlord Performance
- Complaint Handling
- Consumer Regulation
- Tenant Voice
- Quality Home and Neighbourhood
- Home Ownership

Outcomes we want to achieve

- Increase the overall supply of affordable and appropriate homes in the District
- Increase thermal comfort of properties and reduce levels of fuel poverty
- Assist tenants with welfare and monetary advice to increase tenancy sustainment (i.e. prevent evictions)
- Maintain and increase positive and preventative action, to minimise homelessness
- Support landlords and tenants in ensuring private rented properties are well maintained and in line with safety regulations
- Ensure Ashfield's share of the Government's Better Care Funding is fully utilised within the District year on year in an effective and appropriate manner
- Ensure best use of stock through prompt relets
- As a minimum, maintain and surpass the Government's Decent Homes Standard in all Council owned stock



Economic Growth and Place

Vision

By 2023 we will have supported sustainable housing and economic growth and developed a greater sense of place maximising the areas assets to support business growth and investment.

We are committed to making Ashfield a location and destination of choice for business and visitors and a desirable place to live for all residents.

The Council will work with local communities and other public, private and voluntary organisations to enhance the perception of Ashfield as a great place; cherished by those who live here, desirable to those who visit and enabling to those who bring jobs and investment.

With Ashfield's advantageous geographical location; close to a range of strategic road, rail and airport links, the District has successfully attracted many inward investors, who now play an important part in our local and regional economy and sustain local supply chains and employment.

Ashfield District Council and its partners are committed to increasing the number of higher skilled/higher paid jobs in Ashfield. Doing this will benefit the local economy, as people spend their greater disposable income in shops and with other local services, and will also assist the reputation of Ashfield as a location of choice for investors, where all of their employment and supply chain needs can be met. The funding secured from the Towns Fund and Future High Streets, as well as future funding opportunities, will facilitate major investment across the District and help to realise this vision.

Key Projects, Programmes and Initiatives

Discover Ashfield

Discover Ashfield celebrates all that is best about living, visiting, working and doing business in Ashfield.

We will:-

1. Support and promote Discover Ashfield, including the Ambassador programme
2. Work with partners to implement the themed delivery plan

Business Support and Recovery

We will:-

1. Implement the Economic Recovery Plan
2. Work with new and established businesses and encourage investment in order to aid improvements in productivity, innovation and growth
3. In partnership identify and facilitate routes to improve skills and employment
4. Offer eligible businesses grants, start-ups and premise improvements
5. Develop online technologies to support businesses and update supporting information, through the digital transformation programme

Outcomes we want to achieve

- Improved resident satisfaction with the area; people enjoy living and working here
- To narrow the gap between Ashfield and our East Midlands comparator group in respect of:-
 - average workplace earnings levels
 - employment levels and employment density
 - skills levels – NVQ level 3 and above
- Maximise the number of business start ups
- Maximise business survival rates
- Reduced vacancy rates of shops and commercial units, including a reduction in the number of dilapidated buildings
- Improving resident perception of our town centres, increasing footfall and spend
- Process planning applications in a timely manner
- Influence the repurposing of disused retail properties into housing
- Maximise the amount of external funding received into the District for economic regeneration projects
- Employment enhanced through social value in priority areas

Town Centres

We will:-

1. Deliver key masterplans, including town centres and railway stations
2. Revitalise and re-purpose town centres by:-
 - a. Bringing empty buildings back into use
 - b. Diversifying the town centre economy
 - c. Capitalising on external funding

Infrastructure and Economic Partnership

We will:-

1. Work with partners facilitating growth around transport in alignment with potential government funding and wider transport schemes
2. Build and develop M1 corridor and transport hubs to facilitate and enable development ie implementation of station masterplan
3. Continue to influence key economic partnerships

Strategic Planning

We will:-

1. Deliver our Local Plan to agreed timescales
2. Complete the Hucknall town centre masterplan
3. Facilitate planning of towns fund projects – such as advanced Manufacturing centre

District Wide Physical Regeneration

We will:-

Support economic growth by:-

1. Delivering the Future High Streets and Towns Fund programmes
2. Developing potential regeneration projects and maximising funding opportunities
3. Continue working with proprietors of dilapidated and empty buildings to help bring them back into use
4. Facilitate the speed of regeneration via our efficient planning application process

Cleaner and Greener

Vision

By 2023 we will create a cleaner and greener Ashfield, enabling communities and businesses to thrive in a clean and tidy district, minimising waste and recycling more.

Ashfield is pro-active in encouraging more recycling, tackling environmental crime and finding innovative ways of delivering services that are responsive to the needs of our residents, visitors and businesses.

By working with our communities and businesses the Council is better able to understand what matters and to shape services to help people enjoy living, visiting and working in Ashfield.



Key Projects, Programmes and Initiatives

Parks and Open Spaces

We will:-

1. Continue to review, improve and rationalise green space facilities
2. Work towards a seventh Green Flag Award for parks for Kingsmill Reservoir
3. Continue to deliver a rolling programme of restoration and adopt a community protocol to protect war memorials
4. Refresh the Council's Cemetery Strategy to include the wider approach to bereavement services and memorials

Waste and Recycling

We will:-

1. Refine the Council's approach, working in partnership with NCC, in response to the government's waste strategy
2. Review and deliver a programme of waste and recycling education in schools, businesses and communities in collaboration with Discover Ashfield's 'Love Where you Live' branding

Environmental Sustainability

We will:-

1. Finalise a Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Strategy, and action plan
2. Reduce the impact of CO2 emissions in Ashfield by our own activities whilst ensuring we increase tree coverage in the District to help reduce it further
3. Commence delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan and monitor impact

Street Cleanliness

We will:-

1. Review and deliver one Big Ashfield Spring Clean initiative annually
2. Tackle fly tipping and littering through targeted campaigns including educational campaigns in our schools, targeting those directly responsible through robust enforcement and sting operations
3. Deliver a number of targeted hard hitting campaigns to tackle littering, dog fouling and fly tipping

Environment

We will:-

1. Review and deliver our Environmental Charter
2. Refresh the Green Business Scheme to engage businesses and promote environmentally sustainable behaviours
3. Support community and business volunteers to enhance their local area

Outcomes we want to achieve

- Improved public perception that Ashfield is a cleaner and more attractive place
- Improved street cleanliness, reducing levels of litter, detritus, graffiti and fly-posting, district wide with a particular focus in our town centres
- Encouraging improved recycling rates
- Improved public satisfaction with Ashfield's parks and open spaces
- Reduced carbon footprint from Council operations
- Increase tree coverage across the District, working with stakeholders
- Improved business and community engagement in the environment
- Maximise green homes/ carbon funding
- Deliver against key outputs of the Environmental Charter
- Improve air quality

Environmental Crime Enforcement

We will:-

1. Continue to develop effective patrol plans and priorities for the Community Protection team, targeting hotspot areas
2. Undertake targeted problem solving for environmental crime
3. Review the impact of the environmental crime pilot



Vision

By 2023 we will ensure the foundations for a good quality of life are in place; reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

This means we will ensure cleaner and attractive neighbourhoods prioritising both an effective response to issues but also working on prevention and behavioural change. We will work with our partners to ensure people feel safe and are safe by reducing levels of crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour.

Safer and Stronger

Key Projects, Programmes and Initiatives

Anti-social Behaviour and Hot Spots

We will:-

1. Increase identification and active targeting of offenders developing partnership patrol plans for hotspot locations
2. Work with partners to improve positive activity and tasking
3. Review mechanisms for supporting resident's understanding of Ashfield's offer to tackle ASB
4. Continue to develop effective patrol plans and priorities for the community protection team, targeting hotspot areas
5. Influence operational tasking through more effective use of council data to determine priorities and activity

Complex Cases and Safeguarding

We will:-

1. Safeguard our most vulnerable residents with robust safeguarding processes and the development of strong partnerships
2. Increase identification and support for vulnerable residents and victims

Domestic Abuse

We will:-

1. Provide support for high risk survivors of domestic abuse
2. Provide refuge accommodation for people in abusive relationships
3. Raise awareness of domestic abuse and ensure support provided to survivors

CCTV

We will:-

1. Develop and implement a CCTV strategy for the whole district to encompass both strategy and hotspot areas
2. Review the options for temporary CCTV in hotspot locations in the district

Working in Partnership to Deliver Outcomes

We will:-

1. Renew Ashfield's Community Safety Strategy and deliver key priorities from the partnership plan
2. Engage fully in county wide strategies, policies and working groups enabling better outcomes for the communities of Ashfield
3. Seek opportunities to integrate services within the Police and Community Safety integrated hub

Outcomes we want to achieve

- Reduce vulnerability ensuring people feel safe and are safe
- Improve perception that anti-social behaviour has reduced
- Respond promptly to all reports of ASB
- Respond promptly to all safeguarding/ complex cases
- Maintain and promote the White Ribbon accreditation
- Achieve the Domestic Abuse Housing standard
- Increase enforcement levels

Innovate and Improve

Vision

By 2023 we will be a financially sustainable, responsive, reshaped and transformed organisation; where the customer is at the heart of what we do and the services we provide.

We will deliver this as a learning organisation, with leaders at every level of the organisation, whom are highly skilled, innovative and passionate about responding effectively to local needs.

It is important that the Council has the most effective infrastructure and support to enable:-

- The delivery of the other priorities in this Corporate Plan
- Financial sustainability to continue to deliver key services
- A productive workforce that delivers services well

We will increase the pace of modernising the Council's development as an innovative, values led, pioneering organisation; one that is people centred and supported by an organisational culture that promotes creativity, quality over quantity, joined up and collaborative working with our key partners and constantly thinks in unique and different ways. We will achieve this through delivery of our People Strategy and comprehensive learning & development programmes.

It is important that the organisation continues to evolve and develop in order that we can effectively facilitate the Council's transformation vision and roadmap including maximising opportunities through developing technology, commercial enterprise ethos and different, more efficient and effective delivery models in the future.

The Council recognises that continued development of technology is an underpinning critical success factor to achieving the corporate priorities. The Council will continue to develop its ability to enable resident's greater choice in accessing the Council and obtaining key information in a method convenient to them including improving the Council's website and its functionality. The Council will equally support further productivity and work life balance of its employees through provision of technology that supports mobile, flexible and responsive working and delivery of an effective training programme.



Key Projects, Programmes and Initiatives

Procurement

We will:-

Maximise efficiencies and cost avoidance through delivery of outcomes of the strategic procurement review including scheduling of contract renewal and commissioning

Financial Sustainability

We will:-

1. Assess the impact of central government funding decisions on our medium term financial strategy, recognising the further impact of the COVID pandemic, we will ensure timely delivery of the annual savings strategy
2. Enhance our focus on identifying savings and income to support the Medium Term Financial Strategy

Future Workforce and Employer of Choice

We will:-

1. Review and refresh the People Strategy including the developed new ways of working being embedded as a result of the pandemic
2. Refocus recruitment and retention strategies promoting the wider employer of choice benefits
3. Enhance our focus on the targeted recruitment and development of young people (e.g. Kickstart, apprenticeships, graduate scheme)
4. Fast track the implementation of a digital skills programme tailored to employee's different needs
5. Streamline the job evaluation process and progress development of job families to simplify the grading process

Digital and Service Transformation

We will:-

Continue to fast track delivery of significant digital change which incorporates

- improved customer experience
- ongoing productivity gains and associated structure reviews
- innovative use of technology and digital product developments to support the business and facilitate agile working
- improving digital skills for residents and employees

Assets

We will:-

Continue to reduce the net cost of the Council's operational-land and property assets through rationalisation, third party rental/income generation and operating efficiencies

Outcomes we want to achieve

- Reduce employee sickness levels
- Increase recruitment and retention of young people
- Increase employee satisfaction
- Increase levels of online interaction, for example online payments
- Improve our availability and accessibility, answering calls faster
- Delivery of a balanced and sustainable Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Reduce the net cost of our assets
- Delivering savings and cost avoidance through contracts review
- Improve employee wellbeing
- Increase customer satisfaction
- Increase workflow/productivity

How will we deliver our priorities?

This Corporate Plan sets out our priorities for the future and the key projects and initiatives we intend to deliver.

The Corporate Plan sits above a wider strategic context which includes:



Corporate Project Management Framework



Corporate Performance Indicators



A range of strategic documents relating to the organisation and its services

Implementation of the Corporate Plan will be achieved through:-

Programme Management

Delivery of similar projects and initiatives under a priority theme

Project Management Framework

Delivery of all projects

Service Reviews

Rolling programme of reviews to inform the Savings Strategy

Service Plans

Annual review of each service in respect of added value improvement activity/ projects and service performance

Performance Management Framework

Using a balanced scorecard approach

People Strategy

Embedding desired organisational culture. Providing a motivated, flexible and skilled workforce

The Corporate Plan also aligns with relevant partnership strategies, providing a structured and consolidated approach to successful delivery.

How do we know we are performing well?

Our performance framework incorporates balanced performance scorecards on three separate levels as indicated below.

Place

Ashfield's Place Scorecard aligns directly with each of our outward facing corporate priorities. With each balanced scorecard perspective represented by a corporate priority and focused on relevant outcomes measures of Ashfield as a place.



Corporate

Our Corporate Scorecard measures organisational performance, and as such typical perspectives of a balanced scorecard have been adopted including Community and Customer, Funding the Future, Organisational Effectiveness and Our People.



Service

Each service area has a performance scorecard which measures performance for that particular service area.

Every four years we will undertake a Peer Challenge Review, engaging peers from across the sector through the Local Government Association sector led improvement offer, with an independent evaluation of the organisation focused on leadership, governance, corporate capacity and financial resilience.

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Report To:	CABINET	Date:	29 June 2021
Heading:	AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT – WESLEY STREET, ANNESLEY		
Portfolio Holder:	CLLR TOM HOLLIS, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HOUSING & ASSETS		
Ward/s:	ANNESLEY AND KIRKBY WOODHOUSE		
Key Decision:	YES		
Subject to Call-In:	YES		

Purpose of Report

To advise Members about the opportunity to develop affordable bungalows on a Council owned undeveloped plot of land at Wesley Street, Annesley, and seek approval of said development.

Recommendation(s)

Subject to planning consent and Homes England funding:

1. To approve the use of the unused section of the Council-owned Wesley Street Allotment site for bungalows let on an affordable rent basis.
2. To grant delegated authority to the Director of Housing and Assets, in conjunction with the Director of Legal and Governance, and the Chief Finance Officer, to agree the appropriation of the Wesley Street site from the General Fund to the Housing Revenue Account based upon best consideration of the land value and the parameters of the social housing viability model and in line with details set out in the report.
3. To approve the use of both Housing Revenue Account reserves and Commuted Sums to fund the construction of 12 new affordable homes.
4. To grant delegated authority to the Director of Housing and Assets, in conjunction with the Chief Finance Officer, to negotiate and formalise final scheme costs, specification and delivery.

5. To grant delegated authority to the Director of Housing and Assets, to procure and appoint a contractor to develop the site.
6. To grant delegated authority to the Director of Housing and Assets to contract, on behalf of the Council, with Homes England, for the purposes of receiving subsidy to ensure that developments are viable and fall within the Council's 30-year business plan model.
7. To grant delegated authority to the Director of Housing and Assets, in conjunction with the Director of Legal and Governance, to negotiate a settlement figure with The Welbeck Estate, to allow the removal of a covenant on the title that currently forbids development.
8. To delegate authority to the Director of Housing and Assets in conjunction with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to apply to the Secretary of State to release the land for the purposes of social housing.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

The development will help to achieve the Council's Corporate Plan objective of delivering much needed additional good quality affordable housing in the District.

The development will bring into use, in an extremely positive way, an under used site.

Alternative Options Considered

- Do nothing with the land. This was rejected because the land is not currently being used and has development potential.
- Sell the land for private development. This was rejected as the existing covenant would negate private development

Detailed Information

The Corporate Plan sets out the Council's ambition to ensure there is sufficient good quality, affordable housing for the residents of Ashfield. To achieve this the Council cannot rely upon Registered Providers and private house builders alone; it is important that the Council looks at the opportunities to develop new affordable housing on sites it owns.

Within the curtilage of the Council owned allotment site on Wesley Street, Annesley, is a section of unused land that has been identified as being potentially suitable for affordable housing.

The proposal is the use the section of land to construct 12 two-bedroom bungalows. Demand for such accommodation; during the last 12-month period 11 two-bedroom bungalows have become available in the Kirkby area with each property attracting an average of 37 bids. Bungalows will also be in keeping with the existing street scene.

Whilst the site is in the ownership of the General Fund, and would need to be transferred to the HRA, it is important to note there is a covenant on the land, which was placed on by The Duke of

Portland (The Welbeck Estate). The land was originally gifted by The Welbeck Estate in the 1930's, and a covenant was placed on the title to restrict any development. Officers have been in negotiation with The Estate and as the proposal is for new council housing, they would be willing to remove or adapt the covenant for an agreed fee of £70,000.

The development, in addition to delivering much needed affordable housing, would bring in extra Council Tax revenue and may, subject to potential changes to Government funding arrangements, also generate New Homes Bonus funding.

The viability of the development is dependent upon the Council receiving Homes England funding. The development is also dependent on securing approval from The National Allotment Society. Although the site is unused as an allotment, under regulations permission must be sought.

In keeping with other Council housing, some of the units will be eligible for the Right to Buy. However, an adaptation to the covenant could insist on the properties not being eligible for private ownership.

Cost

The plans and procurement are at an early stage. We estimate the development of the site, including costs associated with procuring the site for the HRA will be in the region of £1,984,000. If Homes England funding is secured of £480,000, the net cost to the Council would be circa £1,504,000. HRA reserves plus any available commuted sums would be used to cover development costs.

Net of Homes England grant the average cost per unit is £126,166, meaning the scheme pays back in year 40, which is within the Council's acceptable parameters.

If Homes England funding fails, the scheme would not be viable and would not proceed.

This scheme is viable based on an assumption of £31k appropriation to the General Fund. If the Scheme is implemented and final costs are less than those included in the model, any surplus will be added to the £31k appropriation value, again based on the 40 year pay-back period.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

The Corporate Plan identifies a need to ensure there is sufficient housing available in the District of the right size, type and quality, ensuring an adequate supply of affordable housing.

Legal:

Legal advice and support will be provided throughout the process. Contract Procedure Rules allow procurement through framework agreements. Appropriation to HRA - Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers a Local Authority to appropriate land for any purpose for which the Council is authorised by the 1972 Act (or any other enactment) to acquire land by agreement and which is surplus to the Council's requirements. With regard to the former, the Council is able to acquire land for housing purposes under section 17(1) of the Housing Act 1985 by agreement or otherwise. Appropriation under section 122 is expressly made subject to the rights of other persons in respect of the land concerned. Section 19 (1) of the Housing Act 1985 states that a Local Authority may appropriate for the purposes of housing any land for the time being vested in them or

at their disposal and the authority shall have the same powers in relation to the land appropriated as they have in relation to land acquired by them for the purposes of housing.

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	Additional Council Tax and potentially New Homes Bonus. Reduction in capital charges due to reduction in General Fund Capital Financing Requirement (CRF) due to the appropriation of land to HRA
General Fund – Capital Programme	None
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	Additional annual rent of £5,385 per plot per annum, thus £64,620 for all 12 units.
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	As detailed in the body of the report (Cost Section)

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
Homes England funding not secured	None. Scheme will not go ahead
Planning permission not granted	None. Scheme will not go ahead
Land proves unsuitable without significant remediation	Topographical and ground surveys produced before contract commitment.
Unexpected costs	Risks to be minimised through robust contractual arrangements.
Material and/or building supply delays	Risk sits with contractor, offset through a longstop clause

Human Resources:

No implications.

Environmental/Sustainability:

All new properties to be built to current environmental regulations, with lowest achievable u value. The U value measures Thermal Transmittance and refers to heat escaping from the home. The lower the U value, the less movement of heat and cold between inside and outside. This compliments the Regulator for Social Housing’s proposal that all Social Housing stock will attain a minimum of EPC rating ‘C’ by 2030 and net-zero carbon by 2050.

Equalities:

An Equalities Impact Assessment Screening Form will be completed and submitted in accordance with the Council's policy.

Other Implications:

(if applicable)

Reason(s) for Urgency

(if applicable)

Reason(s) for Exemption

(if applicable)

Background Papers

(if applicable)

Report Author and Contact Officer

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Report To:	CABINET	DATE:	29th JUNE 2021
Heading:	PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) – RENEWAL CONSULTATION		
Portfolio Holder:	DEPUTY LEADER CLLR HELEN ANN SMITH		
Ward/s:	ALL		
Key Decision:	YES		
Subject to Call-In:	YES		

Purpose of Report

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's) to allow Councils to regulate activities; in particular, public spaces that have a detrimental effect on the local community.

PSPO's are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a specific locality by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. The Order enables Authorised Officers and Police to take specific action within a defined area as set out within requirements of the PSPO.

Recommendation(s)

The purpose of the report is to seek approval from Cabinet to:

1. Carry out the necessary consultation, publicity and notification for the extension of the existing 2015 Public Spaces Protection Order (extended and varied in 2018) for a further period of 3 years;
2. To carry out the necessary consultation, publicity and notification for the variation of the existing 2015 Public Spaces Protection Order (extended and varied in 2018) to include the prohibitions previously set out in the 2018 Junction 27 M1 Car Cruising PSPO which expired on 3 May 2021.
3. To carry out the necessary consultation, publicity and notification for the variation of the existing 2015 Public Spaces Protection Order (extended and varied in 2018) to include a prohibition which restricts the public right of way over the highway namely the strip of land which runs between Bentinck Street and Welbeck Street, Sutton-In-Ashfield.
4. Approve £1,000 be added to the Annual Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy from 2022/23 to meet the estimated annual maintenance costs of works proposed within this report.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

Recommendation 1

In accordance with Section 60, Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, a PSPO may not have effect for a period of more than 3 years unless extended. The existing PSPO of 2015 as amended and varied in 2018, relating to a number of dog, alcohol, direction to move on and urinating issues will expire on 30 September 2021. Unless the PSPO is extended, it will restrict the Council and Police being able to tackle these types of issues throughout the District.

Extending the PSPO ensures that the Council and Police can take suitable action to effectively manage these matters. In addition, evidence has been gathered to support continuation and variation of the PSPO, as detailed within the main body of the report.

Recommendation 2

In line with Section 59 of the Act there must be evidence to support and extend the need for a PSPO including any variations. The separate 2018 PSPO relating to Junction 27 M1 Car Cruising expired on 3 May 2021 and unless the prohibitions in this PSPO are re-introduced, the Council and the Police will not be able to take suitable action to effectively manage these issues. Previous action has included a number of successful partnership operations to tackle car cruising acting as a deterrent for vehicles being driven in an anti-social manner within the Junction 27 vicinity.

Recommendation 3

In line with Section 59 of the Act there must be evidence to support and extend the need for a PSPO including any variations. Initial reports submitted relating to the New Cross area and in particular Welbeck Street and Bentinck Street, Sutton-In-Ashfield, validates the need to close a strip of land between Bentinck and Welbeck Street to reduce incidents of crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour within this vicinity.

Alternative Options Considered

Recommendation 1

That the Council does not approve the necessary consultation and notification to extend and vary the existing PSPO before it ceases on 30 September 2021. This would mean that officers could not continue to take action under these provisions, for instance requesting a person to hand over alcohol, issue a fixed penalty notice or provide evidence for legal action for breaching the PSPO.

This would result in an operational gap, and is likely to impact upon the Council's reputation through public awareness and is likely to lead to:

- an increase in dog fouling (duties also undertaken in partnership with WISE LTD)
- dogs being allowed in children's play areas or in enclosed sports facilities on parks,
- dogs being walked off leads on highways and in cemeteries,
- any number of dogs being walked at any time by one person,
- people consuming alcohol and behaving in a manner to cause a nuisance in any of the areas currently specified,
- no or limited methods to control a dog (i.e. requirement to put a dog on a lead)
- urinating in a public space in any of the areas currently specified,
- Increased Incidents of car cruising and motor related offences at and around Junction 27.
- Not having powers for Community Protection Officers to move a person on when they are behaving in an anti-social manner in specified areas

Recommendation 2

That the Council does not approve the necessary consultation, publicity and notification to vary the existing PSPO to re-introduce the prohibitions which were included in the Junction 27, M1 Car Cruising PSPO. In line with Section 59, Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, there must be evidence to support the need for a PSPO including variation.

This would result in an operational gap, and is likely to impact upon the Council's reputation through public awareness and is likely to lead to increased Incidents of car cruising and motor related offences at and around Junction 27.

Recommendation 3.

That the Council does not approve the necessary consultation, publicity and notification to vary the existing PSPO in support of closing the said strip of land which runs between Bentinck Street and Welbeck Street, Sutton-In-Ashfield resulting in continued reports of anti-social behaviour and enviro-crime and frustrated residents.

In line with Section 59, Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, there must be evidence to support the need for a PSPO including variation.

Detailed Information

Existing PSPO which came into effect 1 October 2015 (amended and varied 2018) - Detailed Information on Recommendation 1

The existing Public Spaces Protection Order came into effect on 1 October 2015, which brought together and replaced powers the Council had previously introduced under Alcohol Designated Public Place Orders, Dog Control Orders and a previous by-law (urinating) after the introduction of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The 2015 PSPO was extended and varied in 2018 and expires on 30 September 2021..

This existing Public Spaces Protection Order enables the Council to take preventive or enforcement action in public places on:

1. Alcohol consumption in a designated area
2. Urinating/defecating within a designated area
3. Direction to move on in specified areas
4. Dog fouling
5. Failing to produce device or other means of removing dog faeces on demand
6. Dog exclusion in specified areas
7. Dogs on lead in specified areas
8. Dogs on lead by direction
9. Dogs specified maximum amount

Within the PSPO, there are schedules showing the restricted areas as detailed below:

Schedule 1: deals with alcohol consumption, urination/defecation, orders to move on, along with maps showing the relevant areas.

Schedule 2: deals with dog fouling, requirement to carry dog bags or other suitable receptacles, maximum number of dogs being exercised at one time, dogs on leads by direction. The area to be covered is the whole of Ashfield District, except for Forestry Commission land,

Schedule 3: deals with dog exclusion areas and maps are provided along with lists, showing the relevant areas.

Schedule 4: deals with dogs needing to be on leads in specific areas designated by maps and on lists of areas.

Detailed information as follows:

Alcohol consumption in a designated area.

If a person who is drinking alcohol is behaving or likely to behave in a manner to cause nuisance and annoyance, an officer can request the person not to consume and/or surrender their alcohol, the officer can pour it away. Failing to comply allows an officer to take action by means of issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice or provide evidence for legal action through the Court. There are 8 designated areas in Ashfield where this applies within the PSPO .

Urinating/defecating within a designated area.

If a person urinates or defecates within the specified area an officer can take action by means of issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice or provide evidence for legal action through the Court. There are 8 designated areas in Ashfield where this applies within the PSPO.

Dog fouling in specified areas.

If a person does not comply with placing their dog on a lead on: each and every length of road (including pavements, footways and verges, and the pedestrianised areas and cemeteries and churchyards - detailed as per **Schedule 4** and accompanying maps) an officer can take action by means of issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice or provide evidence for legal action through the Court.

Failing to produce device or other means or removing dog faeces on demand.

If a person does not produce a device or other means for removing dog faeces upon request an officer can take action by means of issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice or provide evidence for legal action through the Court. This relates to the entire District with the exception of forestry commission land as highlighted within **Schedule 2** and accompanying map as drafted.

Dogs on lead by direction.

If a person does not comply with placing their dog on a lead at the request of an authorised officer, the officer can take action by means of issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice or provide evidence for legal action through the Court. This relates to the entire District with the exception of forestry commission land as highlighted within **Schedule 2** and accompanying map as drafted.

Dogs specified maximum amount.

No more than 6 dogs can be taken out at any one time by one person or an officer can take action by means of issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice or provide evidence for legal action through the Court. This relates to the entire District with the exception of Forestry Commission land as highlighted within **Schedule 2** and accompanying map as drafted.

Dog exclusion in specified areas

Dogs are excluded from specific locations within Ashfield including: enclosed children's play areas and enclosed sports facilities on parks i.e. tennis courts, bowling greens. An officer can take action by means of issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice or provide evidence for legal action through the Court if the person responsible for the dog allows it to enter the exclusion areas as highlighted within **Schedule 3** of the Order and accompanying map as drafted.

Dogs on leads in specified areas.

If a person does not comply with placing their dog on a lead on: each and every length of road (including pavements, footways and verges, and the pedestrianised areas and cemeteries and churchyards (detailed as per **Schedule 4** and accompanying maps) an officer can take action by means of issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice or provide evidence for legal action through the Court.

Direction to move on

If a person is engaging in behaviour that is anti-social or creating a nuisance or annoyance and fails to move on when asked to do so, an officer can take action by means of issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice or provide evidence for legal action through the Court which may result in prosecution. There are 8 designated areas in Ashfield where this applies and are highlighted within the PSPO 2015 (as extended and varied 2018) **Schedule 1**.

Proposed Extension: The proposed PSPO (as above) will remain in place for a further period of 3 years.

Amendment/Variation – 2018 Junction 27 M1 Car Cruising PSPO which expired on 3 May 2021 - Detailed Information on Recommendation 2

The 2018 PSPO relating to Junction 27 M1 Car Cruising prohibited car cruising events within the designated areas of Junction 27 of the M1 Motorway and A611 where motor vehicles congregate and any of the following activities occurred:

- Motor vehicles are driven at excessive speed or accelerated aggressively;
- Motor vehicles are raced against one another
- Stunts are performed in motor vehicles
- Music is played on equipment installed in a motor vehicle which is audible outside the vehicle; or
- Motor vehicles are driven in convoy, whether side by side or in single file
- Sounding horns (so as to cause public nuisance)
- Congregating to spectate the above activities. So as to cause any of the following:
 - Excessive noise
 - Danger to other road users
 - A risk of injury to any person
 - A risk of damage to property
 - Causing obstruction on a public highway, or
 - Publicly accessible place, or private land, whether moving or stationary.

It is proposed that the prohibitions previously contained in the 2018 Junction 27 M1 Car Cruising PSPO are re-introduced.

Amendment/Variation – Strip of land between Bentinck and Welbeck Street, Sutton-In-Ashfield- Detailed Information on Recommendation 3

A number of issues of anti-social behaviour within the vicinity of the cut through between Bentinck and Welbeck Street have been reported which are having a direct impact on the local community and those who reside in, work and visit, Sutton-In-Ashfield.

It is proposed to close the strip of land which runs between Bentinck Street and Welbeck Street, Sutton-In-Ashfield (the Restricted Access Highway) in order to minimise incidents within the area (refer to Map).

The land is unregistered and the Council had been unable to identify an owner and no individuals or other representation have come forward and claimed the land.

The proposal is to install gates at the Welbeck Street and Bentinck Street end of the strip of land. The gates would be locked permanently and keys retained by Ashfield District Council, Nottinghamshire Police and Sanctuary Housing. Keys may be given to some Sanctuary Housing tenants on Bentinck Street who require access and they would be required to lock the gates after use. Under the legislation the Council is responsible for maintaining and operating the barriers.

Evidence

District PSPO

The Council has the power to make a PSPO in accordance with sections 59 to 65 of the Anti Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. The PSPO can be made if the local authority is satisfied on reasonable grounds that two conditions are met:

1. Activities being carried on, or that are likely to be carried on, in a public place within the authority's area have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality and;
2. The effect, or likely effect of such activities are of a persistent or continuing nature, such as to make the activities unreasonable and justifies the restrictions with the order.

From the initial evidence gathered from Nottinghamshire Police (as accompanied with this report) anti-social behaviour recorded by Nottinghamshire Police has increased over the past two years and by 50% throughout Ashfield during 2020, excluding covid related incidents, anti-social behaviour has increased by 20% in comparison to the previous year.

Around 19.1% of Ashfield residents reported having experienced crime/ASB in 2020, which is 3% higher than the Nottinghamshire force average of 16.1%.

Detailed within the reports is a breakdown of alcohol related ASB incidents which is commonly seen throughout the whole of the Ashfield District. Community Protection Officers have regularly made use of the powers contained within the existing PSPO and confiscate alcohol from adults within the 8 areas, and now have Direction to Move on Notice booklets.

Unlike the Police, Community Protection Officers are unable to disperse groups drinking or causing Anti-Social Behaviour which has a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality. The use of the Direction to Move on powers is seen as a crucial tool to help continue to manage anti-social behaviour across the district with 41 'Direction to Move On Notices' issued by Community Protection Officers since April 2021.

Dog fouling and dog control issues continue to be a public concern and are reported to the Council regularly. During 2018-21, 756 reports of dog fouling were received, and patrolling officers often receive reports which are not included within these figures. The management of dog control issues has been further supplemented by the partnership approach with Wise Ltd, and retaining the provisions within the PSPO is seen as fundamental to tackling these issues in partnership with WISE Ltd; and in tandem to the delivery of educational and preventative programmes.

Car Cruising Junction 27

Notwithstanding the reduction of Car Cruising and motoring offences at a county and district-wide level due to the covid-19 pandemic, the car cruising PSPO has been seen as significantly important by both Ashfield District Council and Nottinghamshire Police, for managing issues relating to motoring offences in and around Junction 27.

A downward trajectory of 86 motoring reports relating to Junction 27 were recorded since the introduction of the PSPO. The PSPO has been instrumental for the effective management by the partnership in addressing car cruising through the use of localised initiatives and operations; thus allowing for warnings and where appropriate Fixed Penalty Notices to be issued for such issues. During this period 39 Warnings and 12 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued by Ashfield District Council and Nottinghamshire Police demonstrating the effectiveness of maintaining these provisions for a further 3 years.

Bentick Street and Welbeck Street – Strip of Land

Reported levels of anti-social behaviour within this area amounts to 205 over a yearly period 2019/20 which included incidents relating to alcohol, threatening behaviour, violence, trespassing, and fireworks. Furthermore there were 26 incidents of criminal damage, 74 incidents of stalking and harassment, 85 incidents of violence with injury and 81 incidents without injury.

It is sometimes difficult to attribute crime and ASB to the strip of land, as it is often not recorded in this specific location. However, the overriding anecdotal evidence is that the level of anti-social behaviour within this direct location is considered disproportionately high in comparison to other parts of the District; with police incident reports, officer and community insight, validating the standpoint that the said strip of land is a contributory factor for crime and anti-social behaviour within the area, and informal consultation suggests local residents and partners would support restricting public access.

Evidence received to date from stakeholders within the vicinity which may be affected by closing off the access area, includes informal consultation with residents on Welbeck and Bentinck Street, Stonewater Housing who own the complex of flats at the end of Bentinck and Welbeck Street, and Sanctuary Housing who own properties immediately adjacent to the strip of land on Bentinck Street.

All parties that Ashfield District Council have informally consulted with are in favour of putting in place a long-term solution to the difficulties encountered by anti-social behaviour in the area in question. Currently, due to the number of ASB and criminal incidents (refer to report), residents are concerned about the impact of anti-social behaviour within the area, particularly when it is dark. There are also other monetary implications to consider, such as officer time of attending to service requests, and associated with tidying the area which includes environmental crime such as litter, fly tipping and graffiti with 82 service requests for Environmental issues being reported from April 19 to present. These issues have been longstanding.

Public Consultation, Publicity and Notification

In accordance with statutory guidelines and detailed in Section 72, Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 the Council must undertake public consultation. This will include: Chief of Police, appropriate community representatives, owners or occupiers of the land, the Parish Council and the County Council. It is therefore intended that:

- Formal Public Notices will be placed in the Chad/Dispatch
- Letters will be sent to Partners/statutory consultees
- Letters to be sent to interested parties identified i.e. dog walker clubs/groups
- Letters to be sent to all elected Members at District and County level for Ashfield.
- Copies will be placed on the Council's internet site
- Awareness raised through the Council's social media
- Copies of the Orders will be made available in reception
- Awareness raised through screens in reception
- Surveys are undertaken in town centres and localities across Ashfield

In addition, and in accordance with section 64 of the Act in relation to the proposed prohibition restricting the public right of way over the highway between Bentinck Street and Welbeck Street, the Council will consider the likely effect of making the Order on the occupiers of adjoining or adjacent premises and on other persons in the locality. If the highway constitutes a through route, the Council will consider the availability of a reasonably convenient alternative route. The Council will notify potentially affected persons of the proposed Order, inform them of how they can see a copy of the proposed Order, notify them of the consultation period within which they can make representations and consider any representations they make. If appropriate the Council will consult any other local authority if the highway is also within their area.

Timeline

- **29th June 2021** Cabinet Decision to Approve the PSPO 2021 Consultation.
- **12th July- 23rd August 2021** The period of consultation will be 42 days (6 weeks).
- **23th September 2021** Decision for enacting the PSPO 2021 at full Council.

The Council will publish the text of the proposed extended and varied order and will notify authorities including Parish Councils and the County Council as appropriate.

Cost

There is no service budget allocated for the PSPO renewal, therefore the one-off cost implications listed below will be funded from the Community Safety Reserve. The estimated £1,000 annual maintenance cost will be included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy from 2022/23.

Costs have been established for these works as detailed below:

- Publication costs £1,000
- Signage costs £3,000
- Gaiting and Install costs £5000
- Ongoing annual maintenance costs £1000

It must be clearly highlighted that the consultation is not seeking views on whether to incorporate any additional ASB or nuisance issues into this PSPO. The consultation is seeking to ensure there are no material objections or representations with the proposal before a final decision on the enactment of the PSPO as it stands by Full Council is implemented.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

The PSPO will help support place enhancement and safer and stronger priorities enshrined within the Council's Corporate Plan and commitments under the renewed Environmental Charter in order to improve the quality of life for residents within Ashfield. Tools and powers provided as part of the PSPO provisions will assist in enabling an effective response to tackling anti-social behaviour and environmental crime across the district.

Legal:

Section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ("the Act") provides the authority with the power to make a PSPO if satisfied on reasonable grounds that two conditions are met. Section 60 of the Act provides that a PSPO shall not have effect for longer than 3 years unless extended under this section. Section 61 provides a power to vary a PSPO by increasing or reducing the restricted area; or by altering or removing a prohibition or requirement included in the order, or adding a new one.

Section 72 details the requirements for convention rights, consultation, publicity, and notification. The authority must have taken into account articles 10 and 11 of the Convention, carried out the necessary consultation and publicity and notification before making, extending or varying or discharging a PSPO.

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	A one-off budget approval of approximately £10,000 will be required to meet the costs identified which will be funded from the Community Safety Reserve in 2021/22. The £1,000 recurrent annual maintenance cost will be included in the refresh of the Medium Term Financial Strategy from 2022/23.
General Fund – Capital Programme	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	N/A

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
Risk of not obtaining requirements within the PSPO	To explore options of obtaining additional dissolved powers as part of the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) and in line with Police Reform Act 2002.

Human Resources:

No direct implications.

Equalities:

In recommending consultation of the proposed PSPO, consideration has also been had to Articles 10 and 11 of the Human Rights Act 1998 which allows the rights to expression and assembly. However, the Human Rights Act does allow restriction of these human rights for the purposes of the prevention of crime and disorder, or to protect the health or the rights and freedoms of others. The proposals set out for the PSPO are intended to ensure that the anti-social behaviours caused by the activities are addressed so that public spaces can be enjoyed without fear or intimidation by the law-abiding majority of the community.

Other Implications:

The PSPO is seeking to address issues which impact on quality of life and public safety. These issues can affect both the physical and mental well-being of residents and therefore these proposals would have a significant impact on community well-being.

Communications: a press statement will be published, and social media will be regularly updated on progress.

Reason(s) for Urgency

Not applicable

Reason(s) for Exemption

Not applicable

Background Papers

Not applicable

Report Author and Contact Officer

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ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014 (the “Act”)

The Public Spaces Protection Order

– Ashfield District Council 2021 (the “Order”)

Ashfield District Council (“the Authority”), being satisfied that:

- (a) activities as described in articles 1-11 below which are carried on in a public place within the Authority’s area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality; or
- (b) it is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect.

And that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities:

- (a) is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature,
- (b) is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and
- (c) justifies the restrictions imposed by this Order.

And that the prohibitions described in articles 1-11 below are reasonable to impose in order—

- (a) to prevent the detrimental effect from continuing, occurring or recurring, or
- (b) to reduce that detrimental effect or to reduce the risk of its continuance, occurrence or recurrence.

And being satisfied on reasonable grounds that extending the period for which The Public Spaces Protection Order – (Ashfield District Council) 2015 (as extended and varied 2018) (the “2018 Order”) has effect is necessary to prevent—

- (a) occurrence or recurrence after that time of the activities identified in the 2018 Order, or
- (b) an increase in the frequency or seriousness of those activities after that time

And pursuant to section 72 of the Act the Authority:

- (a) having had particular regard to the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly set out in articles 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights and
- (b) having carried out the necessary consultation, notification and publicity

HAS DECIDED TO EXTEND AND VARY the 2018 Order under section 60 and 61 of the Act as follows:

1. The land described in the Schedules to this order (“the Restricted Areas”) being land in the area of the Authority to which the Act applies is land protected by this Order.
2. This Order may be cited as The Public Spaces Protection Order – Ashfield District Council 2021 (the “Order”) and shall come into force on **1st October 2021 and remains in place for a period of 3 years.**

Definitions

In this Order:

“**Alcohol**” has the meaning given by section 191 of the Licensing Act 2003

“**Authorised Officer**” means an employee of the Authority who is authorised in writing by the Authority for the purpose of this Order

“**Authorised Person**” includes an Authorised Officer and a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)

“**Prescribed Charity**” means:

- i. Dogs for the Disabled (registered charity number 700454)
- ii. Support Dogs Ltd (registered charity number 1088281)
- iii. Canine Partners (registered charity number 803680)
- iv. Dog Assistance in Disability (Registered Charity Number 1098619)
- v. Medical Detection Dogs (Registered Charity Number 1124533)

“**Public Place**” means any place to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission

Offences

1. Prohibition of Alcohol Consumption

- 1.1 This article applies to land specified in Schedule 1 of this Order.
- 1.2 No person shall consume alcohol or have an open container of alcohol in their possession on any land to which this article applies subject to the exemptions referred to at Appendix A below.
- 1.3 Where a constable or an Authorised Person reasonably believes that a person is or has been consuming alcohol in breach of the prohibition in 1.2 above, or intends to consume alcohol in circumstances in which doing so would be a breach of that prohibition, under section 63(2) of the Act the constable or Authorised Person may require the person:
 - (a) not to consume, in breach of the Order, alcohol or anything which the constable or Authorised Person reasonably believes to be alcohol;
 - (b) to surrender anything in the person's possession which is, or which the constable or Authorised Person reasonably believes to be, alcohol or a container for alcohol.
- 1.4 A constable or an Authorised Person who imposes a requirement under section 63(2) of the Act must tell the person that failing without reasonable excuse to comply with the requirement is an offence.
- 1.5 A requirement imposed by an Authorised Person under section 63(2) of the Act is not valid if the Authorised Person is asked by the person to show evidence of his or her authorisation and fails to do so.
- 1.6 A constable or an Authorised Person may dispose of anything surrendered under section 63(2)(b) of the Act in whatever way he or she thinks appropriate.
- 1.7 A person who fails without reasonable excuse to comply with a requirement imposed on him or her under section 63(2) of the Act commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale.

2. Urinating

- 2.1 This article applies to land specified in Schedule 1 of this Order.
- 2.2 A person commits an offence if they urinate or defecate on any land to which this article applies unless:
 - (a) he has a reasonable excuse for doing so; or
 - (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has expressly consented to his doing so.

2.3 In accordance with section 67 of the Act a person who is guilty of an offence under article 2 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

3. Direction to Move On

3.1 This article applies to land specified in Schedule 1 of this Order.

3.2 A person commits an offence if they fail to comply immediately with a direction by a constable or an Authorised Person to move on from any location on any land to which this article applies to such distance from that location and for such a time period as specified by the constable or Authorised Person unless:

(a) he has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or

(b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has expressly consented to his failing to do so.

3.3 A constable or an Authorised Person may only give a direction under this article if such direction is reasonably necessary to prevent nuisance or behaviour by a person that is likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to any other person.

3.4 In accordance with section 67 of the Act a person who is guilty of an offence under article 3 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

4. Dog Fouling

4.1 This article applies to land specified in Schedule 2 of this Order

4.2 If a dog defecates at any time on any land to which this article applies and a person who is in charge of the dog at that time fails to remove the faeces from the land forthwith, that person shall be guilty of an offence unless—

(a) he has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or

(b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has expressly consented to his failing to do so.

4.3 For the purposes of this article:

(a) A person who habitually has a dog in his possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog;

(b) placing the faeces in a receptacle on the land which is provided for the purpose, or for the disposal of waste, shall be a sufficient removal from the land;

(c) being unaware of the defecation (whether by reason of not being in the vicinity or otherwise) or not having a device for or other suitable means of removing the faeces shall not be a reasonable excuse for failing to remove the faeces;

4.4 In accordance with section 67 of the Act a person who is guilty of an offence under article 4 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

5. Failure to produce device or other suitable means of removing dog faeces on demand

5.1 This article applies to land specified in Schedule 2 of this Order.

5.2 If at any time on any land to which this article applies a person who is in charge of a dog at any time fails to produce forthwith a device for or other suitable means of removing dog faeces (whether or not the dog has defecated) when asked to do so by a constable or an Authorised Person, that person shall be guilty of an offence unless:

(a) he has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or

(b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has expressly consented to his failing to do so.

5.3 For the purposes of this article, a person who habitually has a dog in his possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog.

5.4 In accordance with section 67 of the Act a person who is guilty of an offence under article 5 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

6. Dog Exclusion

6.1 This article applies to land specified in Schedule 3 of this Order

6.2 A person who is in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time, he takes the dog onto, or permits the dog to enter or to remain on, any land to which this article applies unless—

(a) he has a reasonable excuse for doing so; or

(b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has expressly consented to his doing so.

6.3 For the purposes of this article, a person who habitually has a dog in his possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog.

6.4 In accordance with section 67 of the Act a person who is guilty of an offence under article 6 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

7 Dogs on Leads

7.1 This article applies to land specified in Schedule 4 of this order

7.2 A person who is in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time, on any land to which this article applies he does not keep the dog on a lead of not more than five (5) metres in length, unless—

(a) he has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or

(b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has expressly consented to his failing to do so.

7.3 For the purposes of this article, a person who habitually has a dog in his possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog.

7.4 In accordance with section 67 of the Act a person who is guilty of an offence under article 7 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

8 Dogs on Lead by direction

8.1 This article applies to land specified in Schedule 2 of this Order.

8.2 A person who is in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time, on any land to which this article applies, he does not comply with a direction given to him by a constable or an Authorised Person to put and keep the dog on a lead of not more than five (5) metres in length, unless—

(a) he has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or

(b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has expressly consented to his failing to do so.

8.3 For the purposes of this article:

(a) a person who habitually has a dog in his possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog

(b) a constable or an Authorised Person may only give a direction under this article to put and keep a dog on a lead if such restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent a nuisance or behaviour by the dog likely to cause annoyance or

disturbance to any other person on any land to which this article applies or the worrying or disturbance of any animal or bird.

- 8.4 In accordance with section 67 of the Act a person who is guilty of an offence under article 8 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale

9 Dogs Specified Maximum Amount

- 9.1 This article applies to land specified in the Schedule 2 of this Order.
- 9.2 A person who is in charge of more than one dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time, he takes onto any land to which this article applies more than six (6) dogs, unless—
- (a) he has a reasonable excuse for doing so; or
 - (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has expressly consented to his doing so.

- 9.3 For the purposes of this article, a person who habitually has a dog in his possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog.

- 9.4 In accordance with section 67 of the Act a person who is guilty of an offence under article 9 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

10 Restricting Access

- 10.1 This Article applies to land specified in Schedule 5 of this Order (“the Restricted Access Highway”).
- 10.2 A person commits an offence if at any time he uses the public right of way on land to which this article applies unless he has a reasonable excuse for doing so.
- 10.3 A barrier or barriers may be installed, operated and maintained at each of the respective ends of the Restricted Access Highway. Ashfield District Council is responsible for maintaining and operating the barrier or barriers.
- 10.4 In accordance with section 67 of the Act a person who is guilty of an offence under article 10 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

11 Car Cruising

- 11.1 This Article applies to land specified in Schedule 6 of this Order (“Restricted Area Car Cruising Junction 27”).

- 11.2 A person commits an offence if at any time without reasonable excuse he:
- (a) participates in Car Cruising;
 - (b) promotes, organises or publicises Car Cruising (including but not limited to via email, the internet, Facebook, Twitter or similar social media, or any publication or broadcast);
 - (c) attends any meeting either as a vehicle owner, driver, passenger or spectator where a reasonable person would consider that Car Cruising is taking place.
- 11.3 “Car Cruising” is defined as two or more motor vehicles (including motor bikes) being on a highway or a public place where any such vehicle or occupant of such vehicle performs any of the Prohibited Activities.
- 11.4 The “Prohibited Activities” are:
- (a) causing danger or risk of injury to road users (including pedestrians) by speeding or racing;
 - (b) causing damage or risk of damage to property;
 - (c) speeding or racing;
 - (d) performing stunts (including but not limited to performing a doughnuts manoeuvre drifting, skidding, handbrake turns, wheel spinning);
 - (e) sounding horns or playing loud music so as to cause a nuisance;
 - (f) revving of engines so as to cause a nuisance;
 - (g) using foul or abusive language;
 - (h) using threatening, intimidating or anti-social behaviour; or
 - (i) causing obstruction on a public highway or publicly accessible place (whether moving or stationary)
- 11.5 In accordance with section 67 of the Act a person who is guilty of an offence under article 11 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

Exemptions

Nothing in articles 4, 5 and 6 shall apply to a person who has a disability which affects his sight, hearing, mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity and upon which he relies for assistance.

Fixed Penalties

A constable or an Authorised Person may issue a fixed penalty notice to anyone he or she has reason to believe has committed an offence under section 63 or 67 in relation to a public spaces protection order.

EXECUTED AS A DEED by affixing)
THE COMMON SEAL of)
ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL)
This day of 2021)
In the presence of :-)

Chairman:

Authorised Officer:

DRAFT

Appendix A

Section 62 of the Act - Premises etc. to which alcohol prohibition does not apply

(1) A prohibition in a public spaces protection order on consuming alcohol does not apply to—

(a) premises (other than council-operated licensed premises) Authorised by a premises licence to be used for the supply of alcohol;

(b) premises Authorised by a club premises certificate to be used by the club for the supply of alcohol;

(c) a place within the curtilage of premises within paragraph (a) or (b);

(d) premises which by virtue of Part 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 may at the relevant time be used for the supply of alcohol or which, by virtue of that Part, could have been so used within the 30 minutes before that time;

(e) a place where facilities or activities relating to the sale or consumption of alcohol are at the relevant time permitted by virtue of a permission granted under section 115E of the Highways Act 1980 (highway-related uses).

(2) A prohibition in a public spaces protection order on consuming alcohol does not apply to council-operated licensed premises—

(a) when the premises are being used for the supply of alcohol, or

(b) within 30 minutes after the end of a period during which the premises have been used for the supply of alcohol.

(3) In this section—

“club premises certificate” has the meaning given by section 60 of the Licensing Act 2003;

“premises licence” has the meaning given by section 11 of that Act;

“supply of alcohol” has the meaning given by section 14 of that Act.

(4) For the purposes of this section, premises are “council-operated licensed premises” if they are Authorised by a premises licence to be used for the supply of alcohol and—

(a) the licence is held by a local authority in whose area the premises (or part of the premises) are situated, or

(b) the licence is held by another person but the premises are occupied by a local authority or are managed by or on behalf of a local authority.

The Public Spaces Protection Order

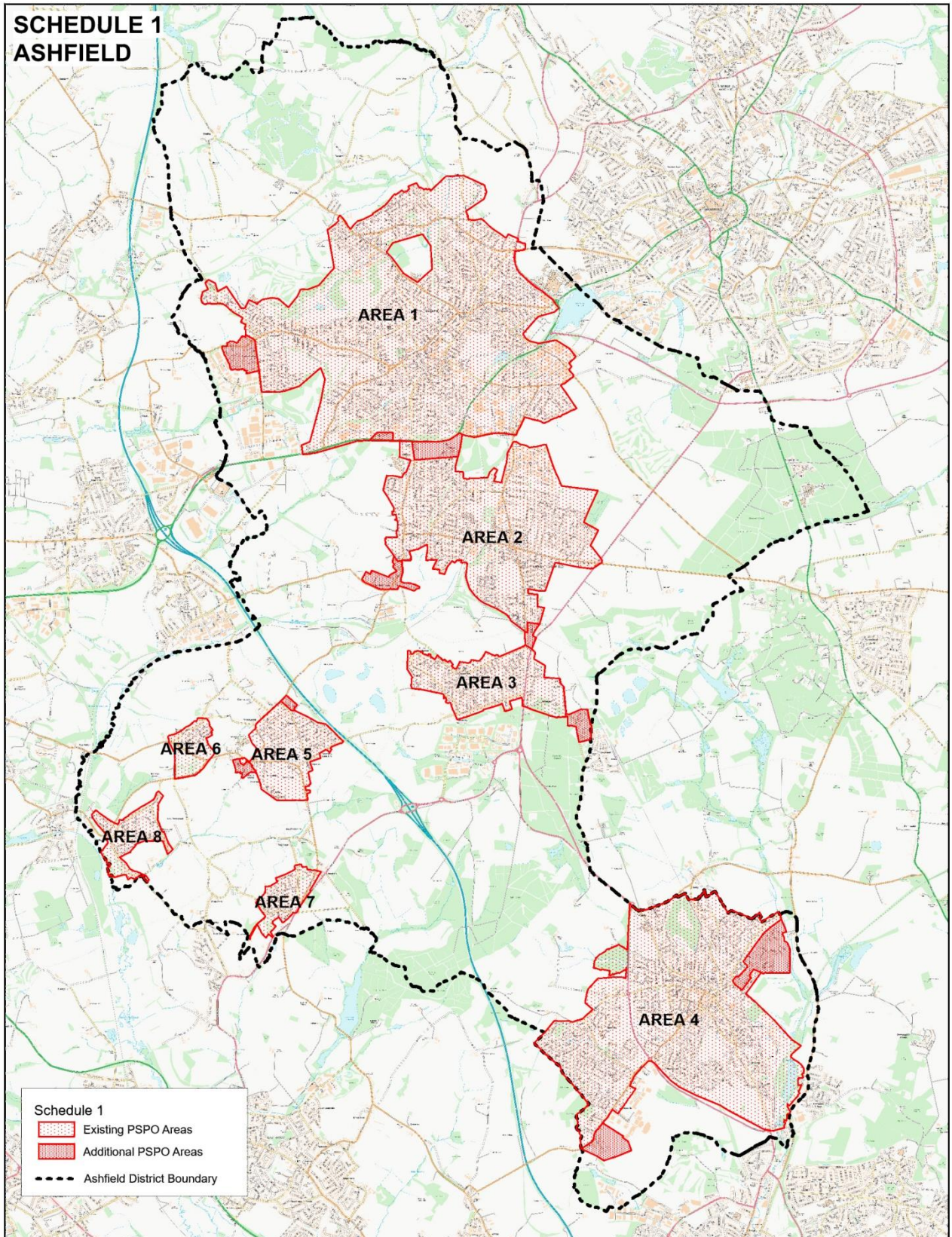
– Ashfield District Council 2021

Schedule 1 – Alcohol Consumption, Urinating, Direction to move on (Prohibitions 1, 2 & 3)

Public spaces within Areas 1-8 (shown edged in red and shaded in red on the plans attached), being Public Places in the Authority's area to which the Act applies.

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**SCHEDULE 1
ASHFIELD**



Schedule 1
Existing PSPO Areas
Additional PSPO Areas
Ashfield District Boundary

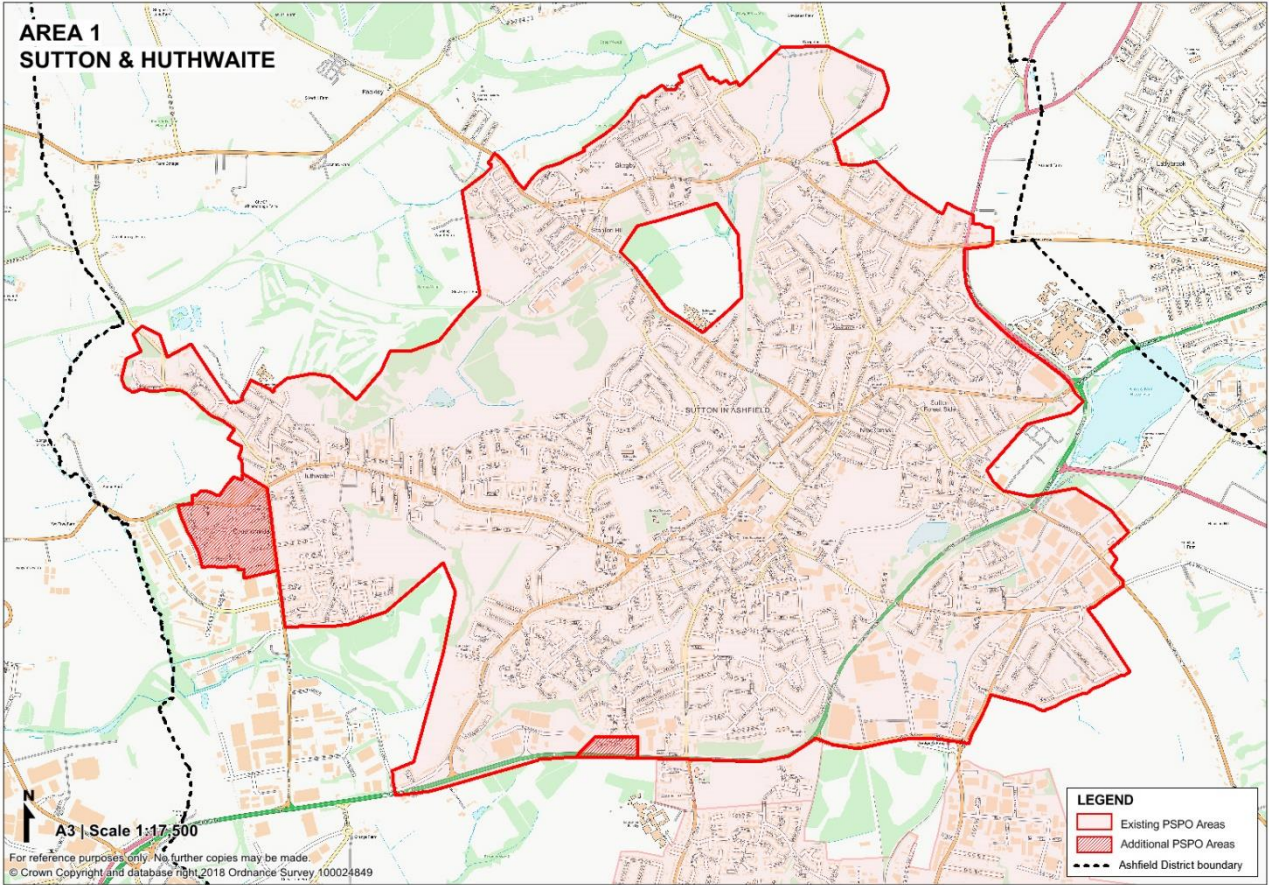
**SCHEDULE 1
ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION
URINATING
DIRECTION TO MOVE ON**



22 May 2018
A3 | Scale: 1 to 50,000

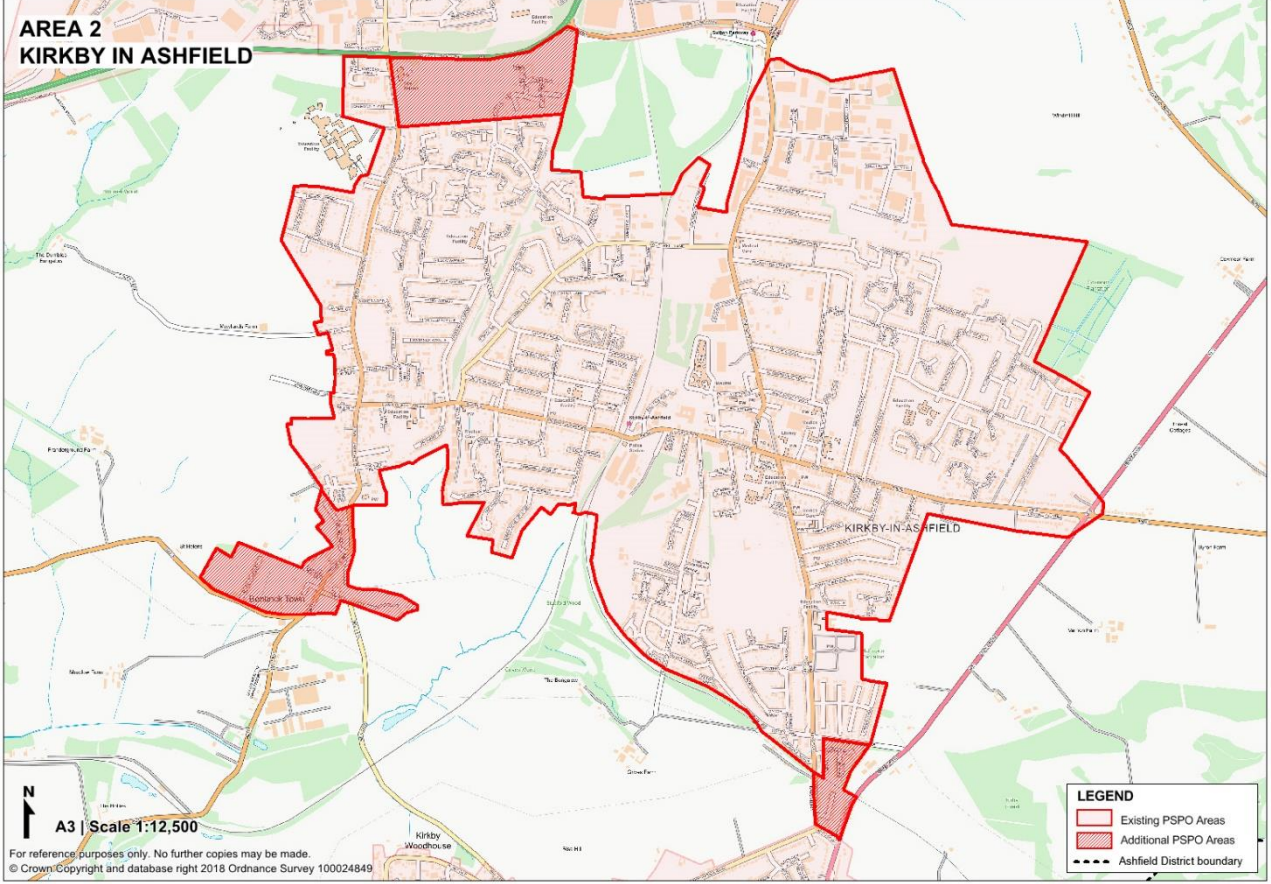
Ashfield District Council
Urban Road
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Nottingham
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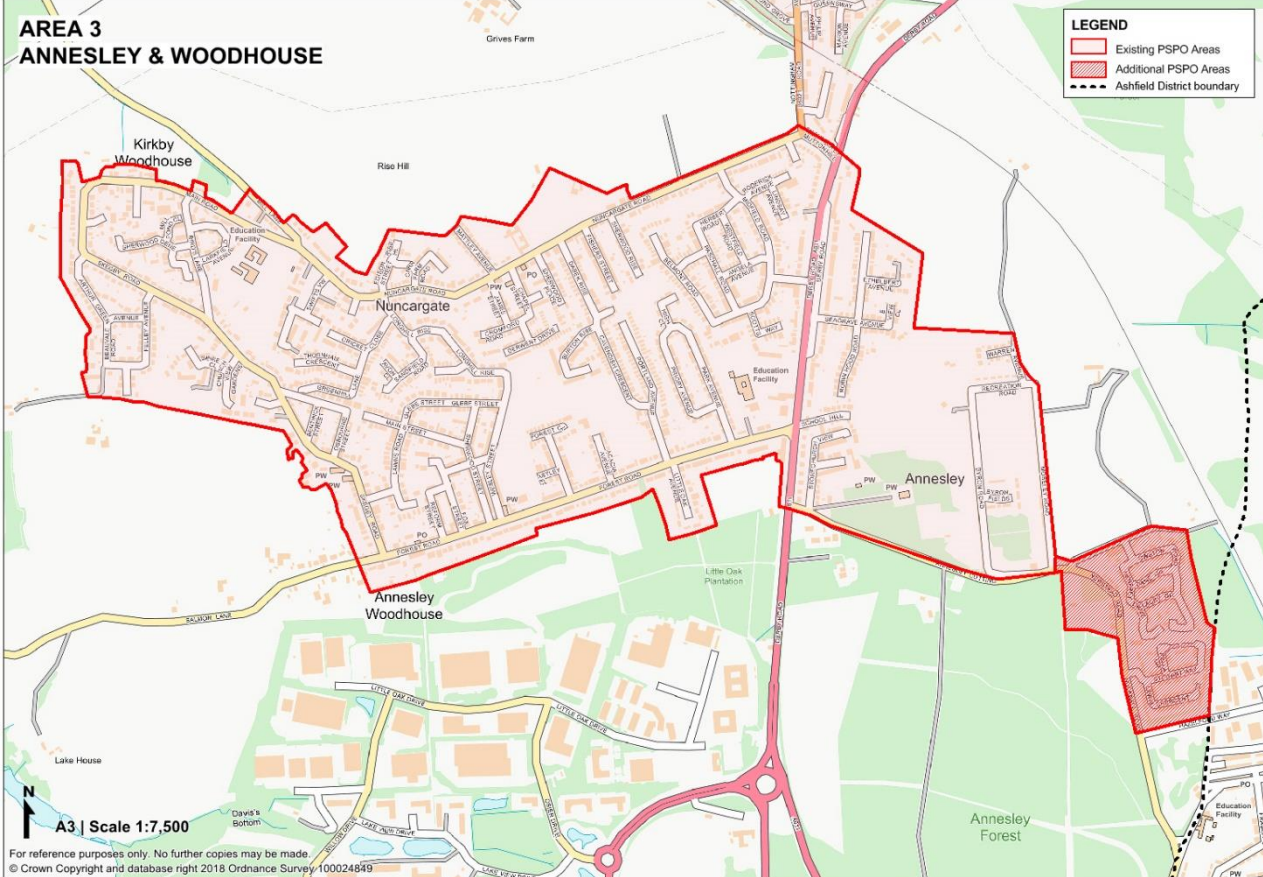
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**AREA 2
KIRKBY IN ASHFIELD**

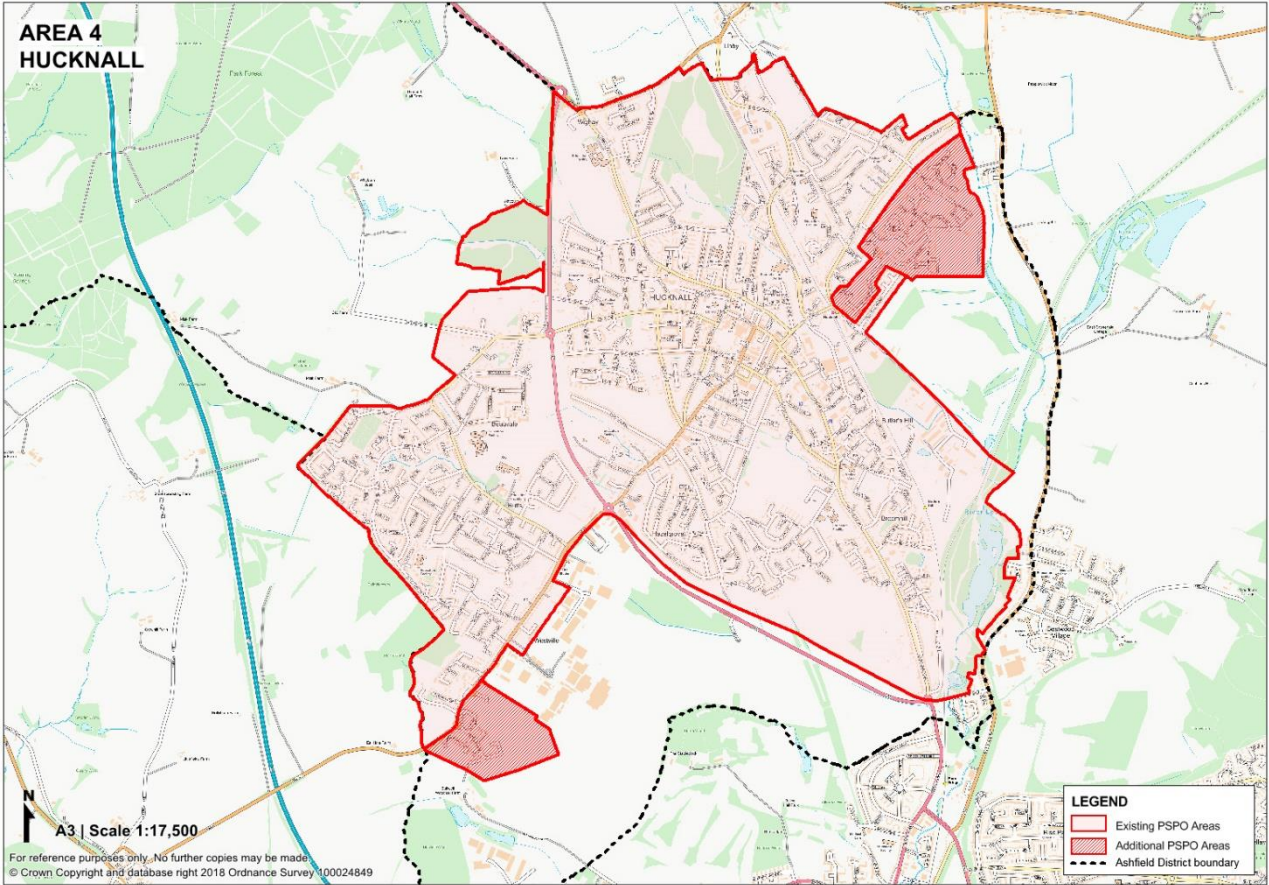


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**AREA 3
ANNESLEY & WOODHOUSE**

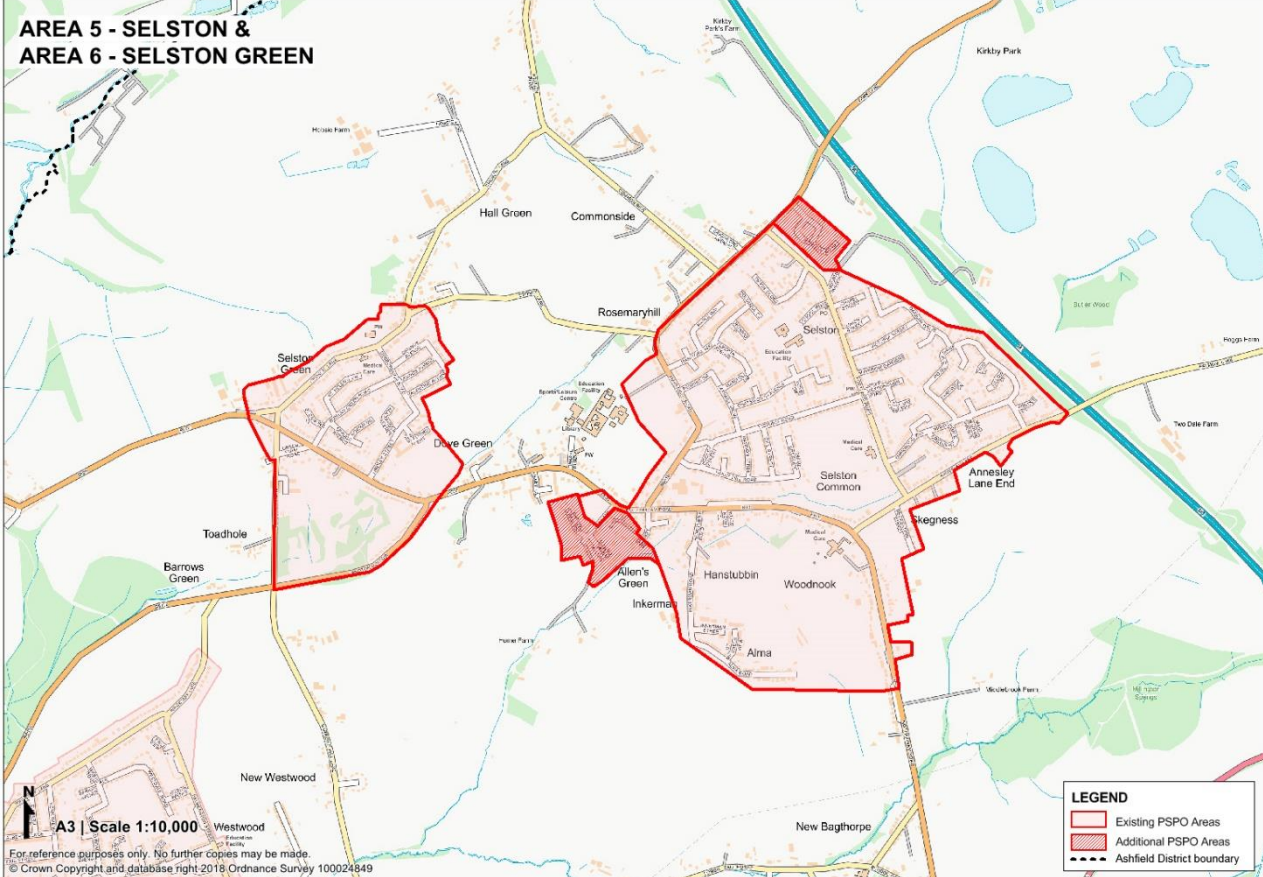


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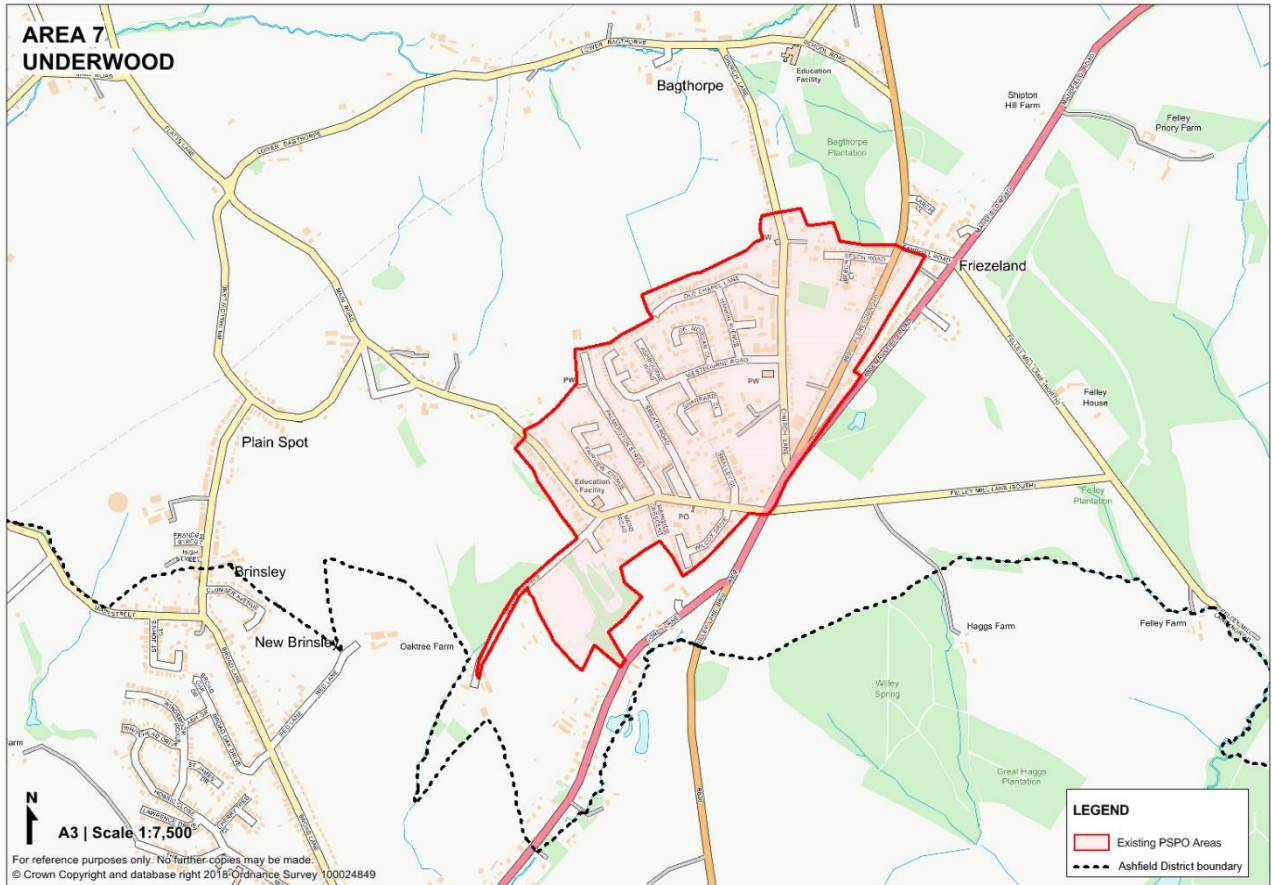


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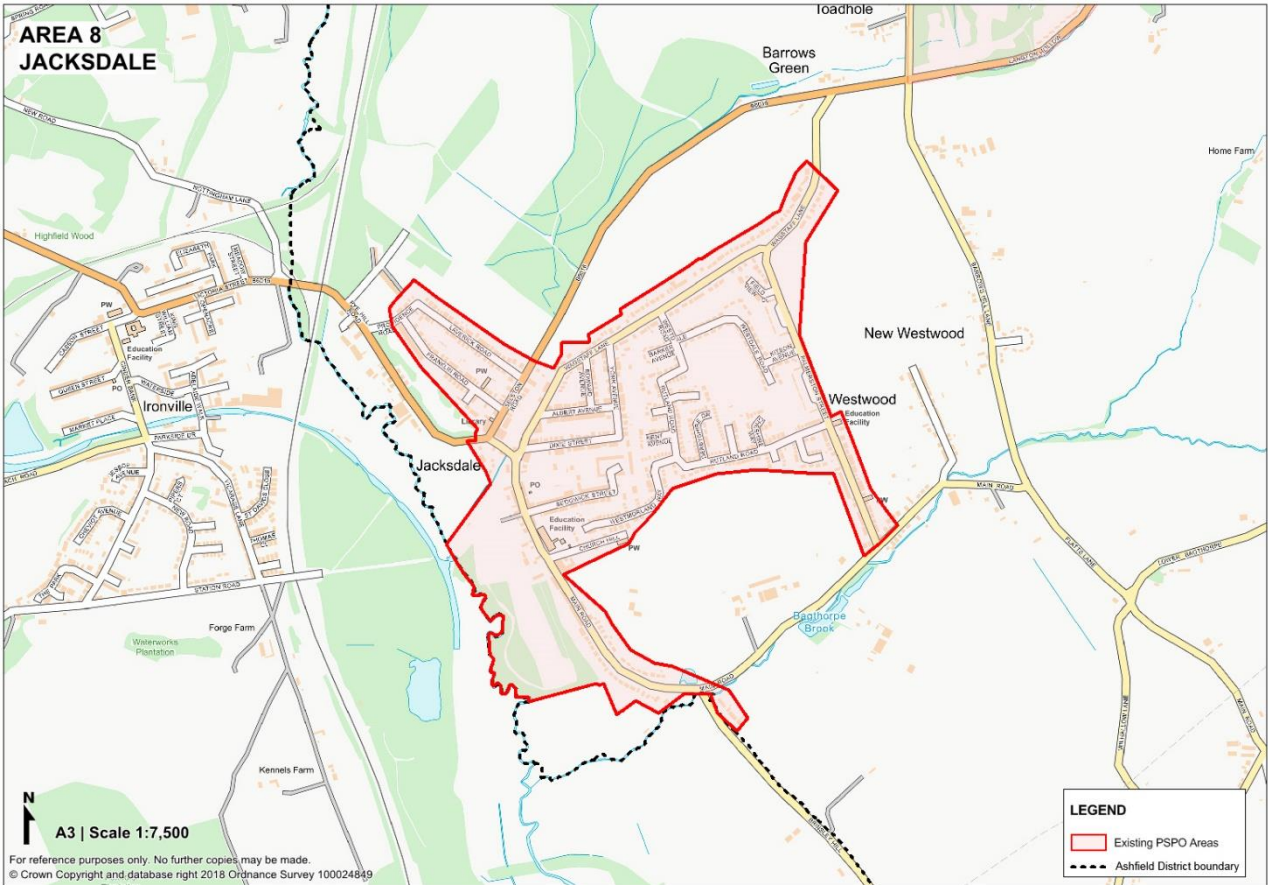
**AREA 5 - SELSTON &
AREA 6 - SELSTON GREEN**



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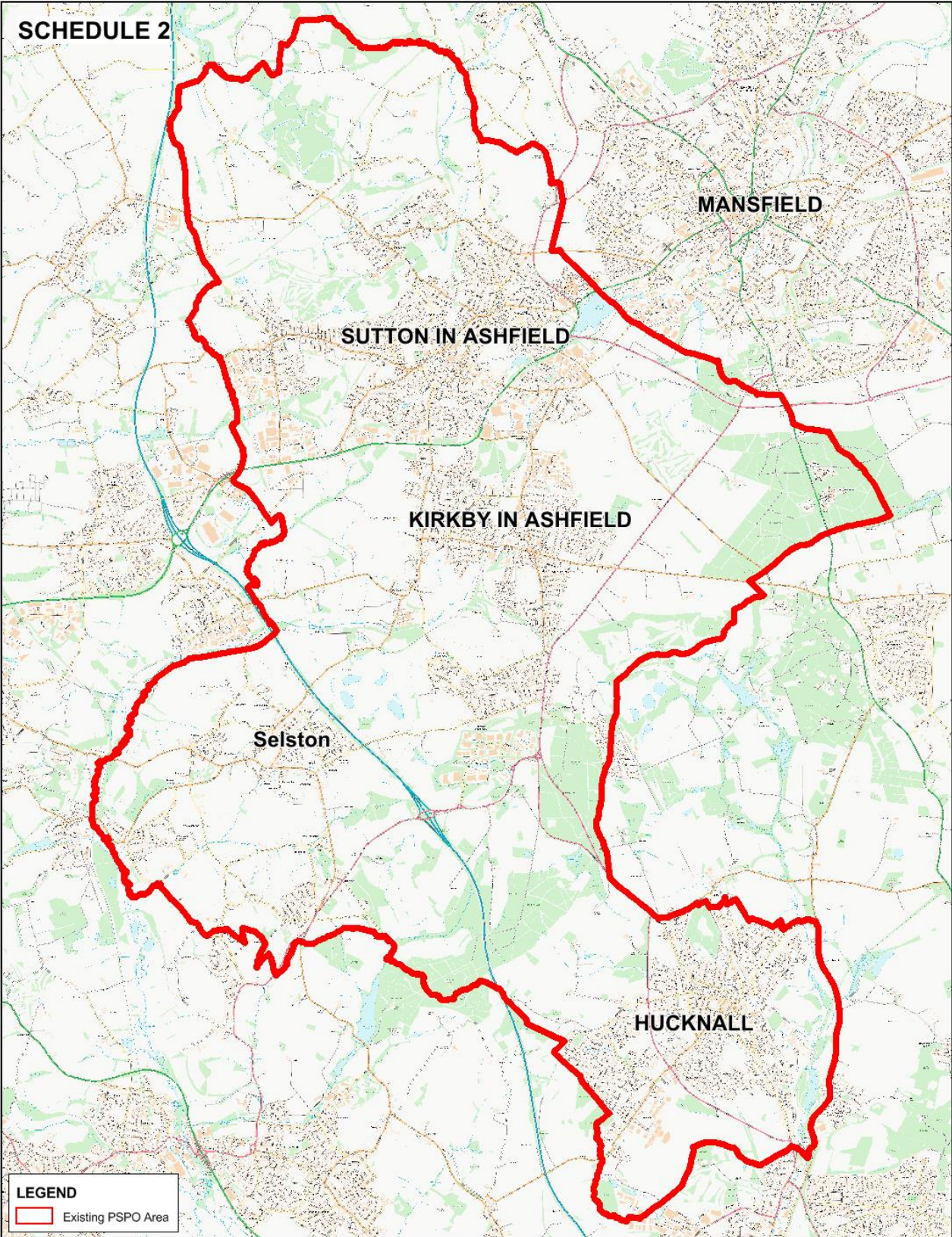
The Public Spaces Protection Order

– Ashfield District Council 2021

Schedule 2 – Dog Fouling, Failing to produce a suitable means of removing dog faeces, Dogs on lead by direction, Dogs specified maximum amount (Prohibitions 4, 5, 8, & 9)

1. Subject to the exception in paragraph 2 below, public spaces within the area shown edged in red on the plan attached, being Public Places in the Authority's area to which the Act applies.
2. Excepted from the description in paragraph 1 above is land that is placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commissioners under section 39(1) of the Forestry Act 1967

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SCHEDULE 2
DOG FOULING
FAILURE TO PRODUCE A SUITABLE MEANS OF REMOVING DOG FAECES
DOGS ON LEAD BY DIRECTION
DOGS SPECIFIED MAXIMUM AMOUNT

22 May 2018
 A3 | Scale: 1 to 50,000

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The Public Spaces Protection Order

– Ashfield District Council 2021

Schedule 3 – Dog Exclusion areas (prohibition 6)

Public spaces described in the following Schedule and shown within the areas coloured in red on the plans attached, being Public Places in the Authority's area to which the Act applies, and which is signed at its entrance(s) as a "Dog Exclusion Area" (whether the sign uses those particular words or words and/or symbols having like effect)

Land Designated Specifically:

1. Sutton-in-Ashfield

- 1.1 The children's play area at Stoneyford Road Recreation Ground
- 1.2 The children's play area and ball court at The Oval Recreation Ground
- 1.3 The children's play area at Brierley Country Park, Huthwaite
- 1.4 The children's play area, the tennis courts, the bowling green, the all weather football pitch and the ball court at Sutton Lawn Pleasure Ground
- 1.5 The children's play area and ball court at Cowpasture Lane Recreation Ground
- 1.6 The children's play area at the John Whetton Recreation Ground (Roundhills),
- 1.7 The children's play area at Stamper Crescent Recreation Ground
- 1.8 The children's play area, the ball court, and the fitness area at Healdswood Recreation Ground
- 1.9 The children's play area at Brand Lane Recreation Ground
- 1.10 The children's play area at Hill Crescent Recreation Ground
- 1.11 The children's play area at Bluebell Wood Way Recreation Ground
- 1.12 The children's play area at Sudbury Drive Recreation Drive
- 1.13 The children's play area at Charnwood Street Recreation Ground
- 1.14 The children's play area at Springwood View Close Recreation Ground
- 1.15 The children's play area, ball court, tennis court, and the bowling green at the Welfare Grounds, Huthwaite, Sutton in Ashfield.

2. Kirkby-in-Ashfield

- 2.1 The children's play area at Mayfield Street Recreation Ground
- 2.2 The children's play area, the all-weather football pitch, the youth area/skate park, and the tennis courts at Kingsway Park
- 2.3 The children's play area, tennis courts, bowling green and additional enclosed area at Titchfield Park
- 2.4 The children's play area at Morvern Park, Welbeck Street
- 2.5 The children's play area, at Beacon Drive Recreation Ground
- 2.6 The children's play area at Forester Street Recreation Ground (attached to West Park)
- 2.7 The children's play area at Orchid Close Recreation Ground
- 2.8 The ball court at West Park Recreation Ground

3. Annesley / Annesley Woodhouse

- 3.1 The children's play area at The Steeples Recreation Ground, Annesley Woodhouse
- 3.2 The children's play area and ball court at Cavendish Crescent Recreation Ground, Annesley Woodhouse
- 3.3 The children's play area at Byron Road Recreation Ground, Annesley
- 3.4 The children's play area at Nuncargate Road Recreation Ground, Annesley Woodhouse

4. Hucknall

- 4.1 The children's play equipment areas, the bowling green, skate park, tennis court, and basketball court, at Titchfield Park
- 4.2 The children's play area and basketball ground at Bestwood Road Recreation Ground
- 4.3 The children's play area at the Leisure Centre Recreation Ground, Linby Road
- 4.4 The children's play areas at Nabbs Lane Recreation Ground
- 4.5 The children's play area at Milton Rise Recreation Ground
- 4.6 The children's play area at Snowdrop Close
- 4.7 The children's play area at Washdyke Lane

5. Selston

- 5.1 The children's play area and skate park at Nottingham Road Recreation Ground
- 5.2 The children's play area at Valentine Avenue Recreation Ground
- 5.4 The children's play area at Green Well Park
- 5.5 The children's play area at Green Farm Road Recreation Ground
- 5.5 The children's play area at Jubilee Recreation Ground
- 5.6 The children's play area at New Selston Recreation Ground

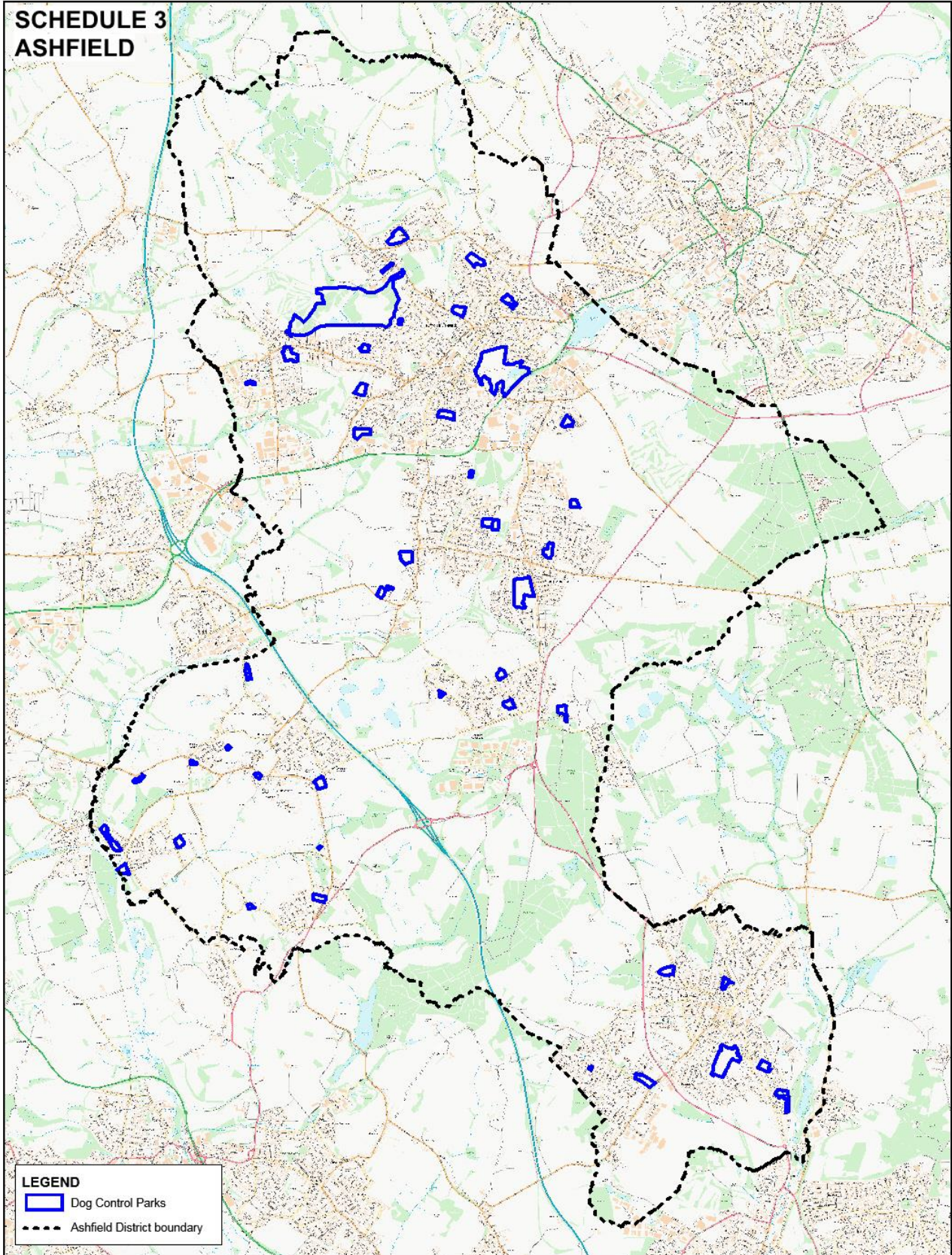
6. Jacksdale

- 6.1 The children's play area at Palmerston Street Recreation Ground, Westwood.
- 6.2 The children's play area at Pye Hill Road Recreation Ground.
- 6.3 The children's play area and skate park at Main Road Recreation Ground



7. Underwood

- 7.1 The children's play area at Underwood Hill Recreation Ground
- 7.2 The children's play area at Middlebrook Road Recreation Ground
- 7.3 The children's play area at Church Lane Recreation Ground

**SCHEDULE 3
ASHFIELD**



LEGEND

-  Dog Control Parks
-  Ashfield District boundary

**SCHEDULE 3
PARKS WITH DOG EXCLUSION AREAS**

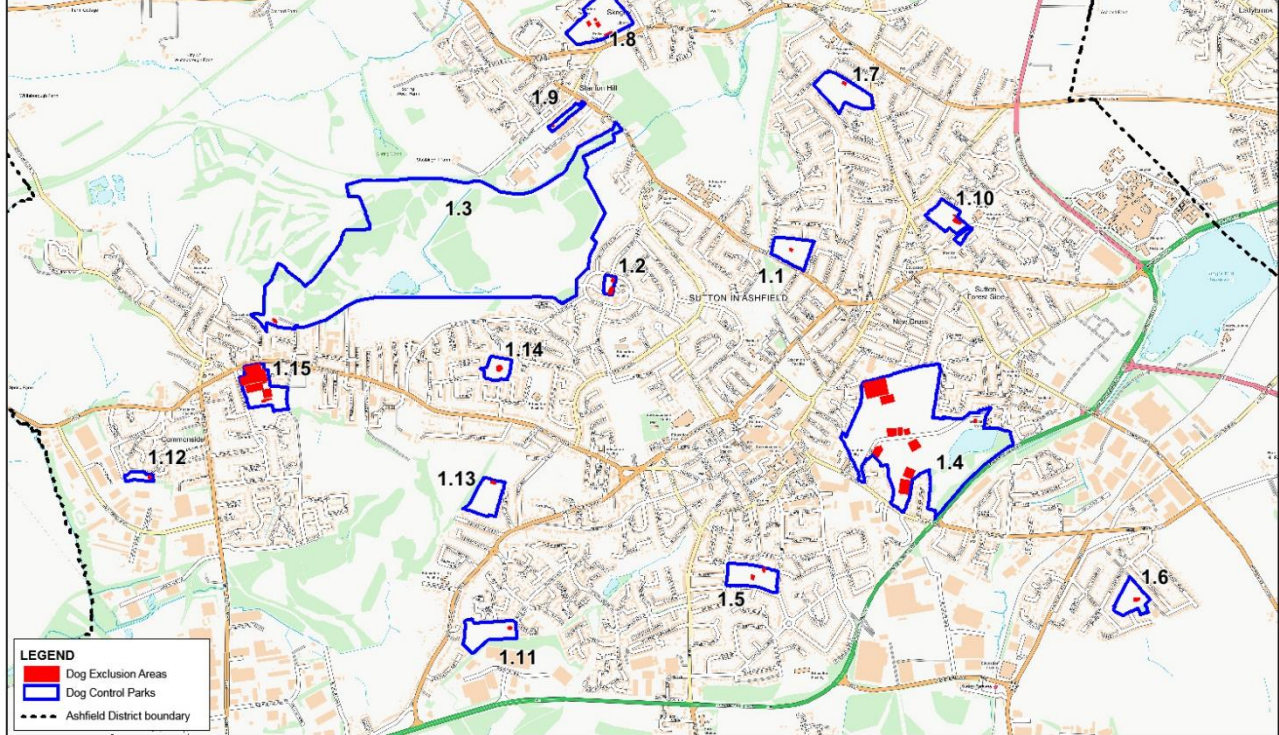
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A3 | Scale: 1 to 50,000

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**SCHEDULE 3
SUTTON IN ASHFIELD**



**SCHEDULE 3
DOG EXCLUSION AREAS**

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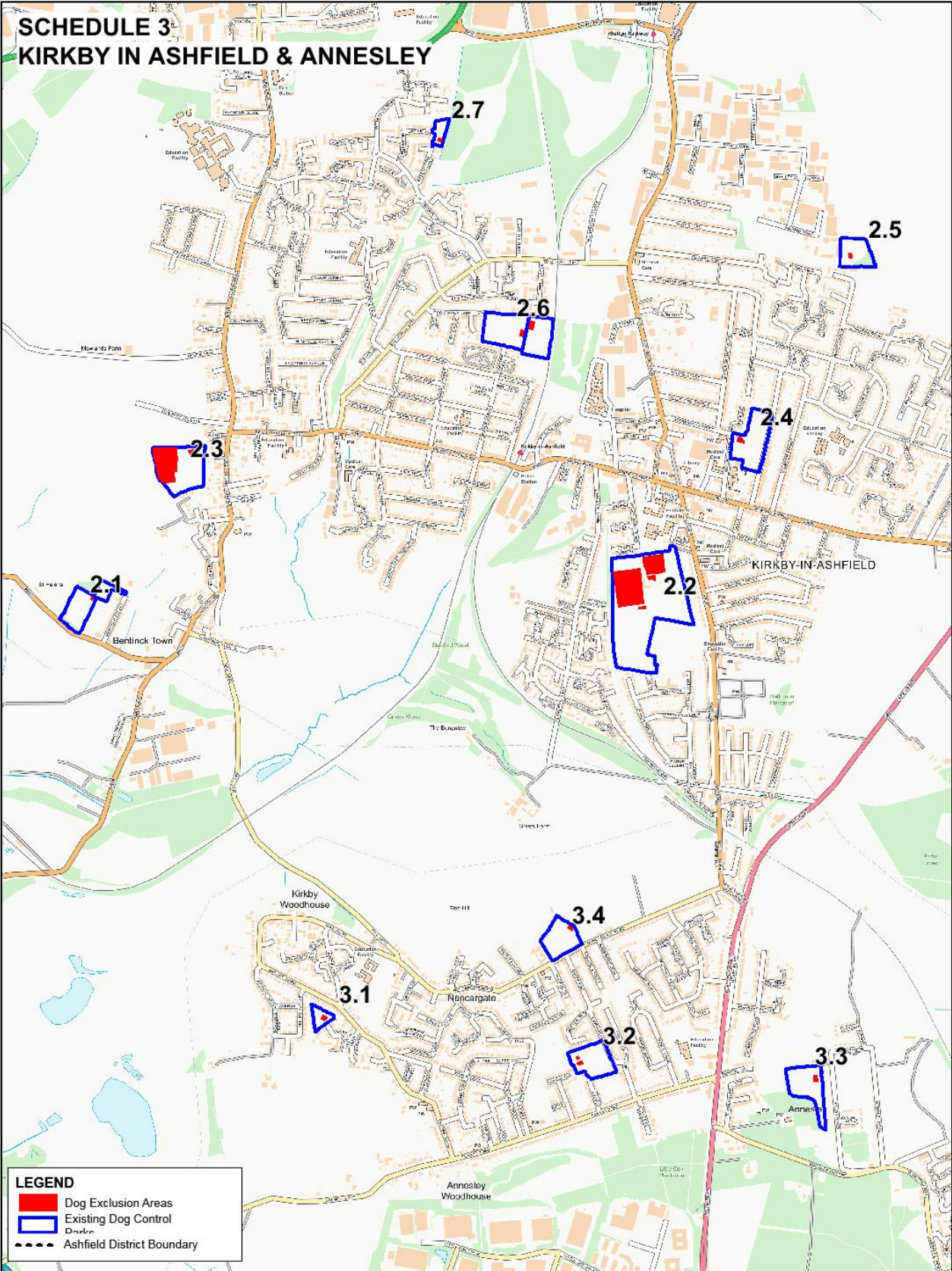


21 May 2018
A3 | Scale: 1 to 15,000

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Kirkby in Ashfield
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**SCHEDULE 3
KIRKBY IN ASHFIELD & ANNESLEY**



LEGEND

- Dog Exclusion Areas
- Existing Dog Control Areas
- - - - - Ashfield District Boundary

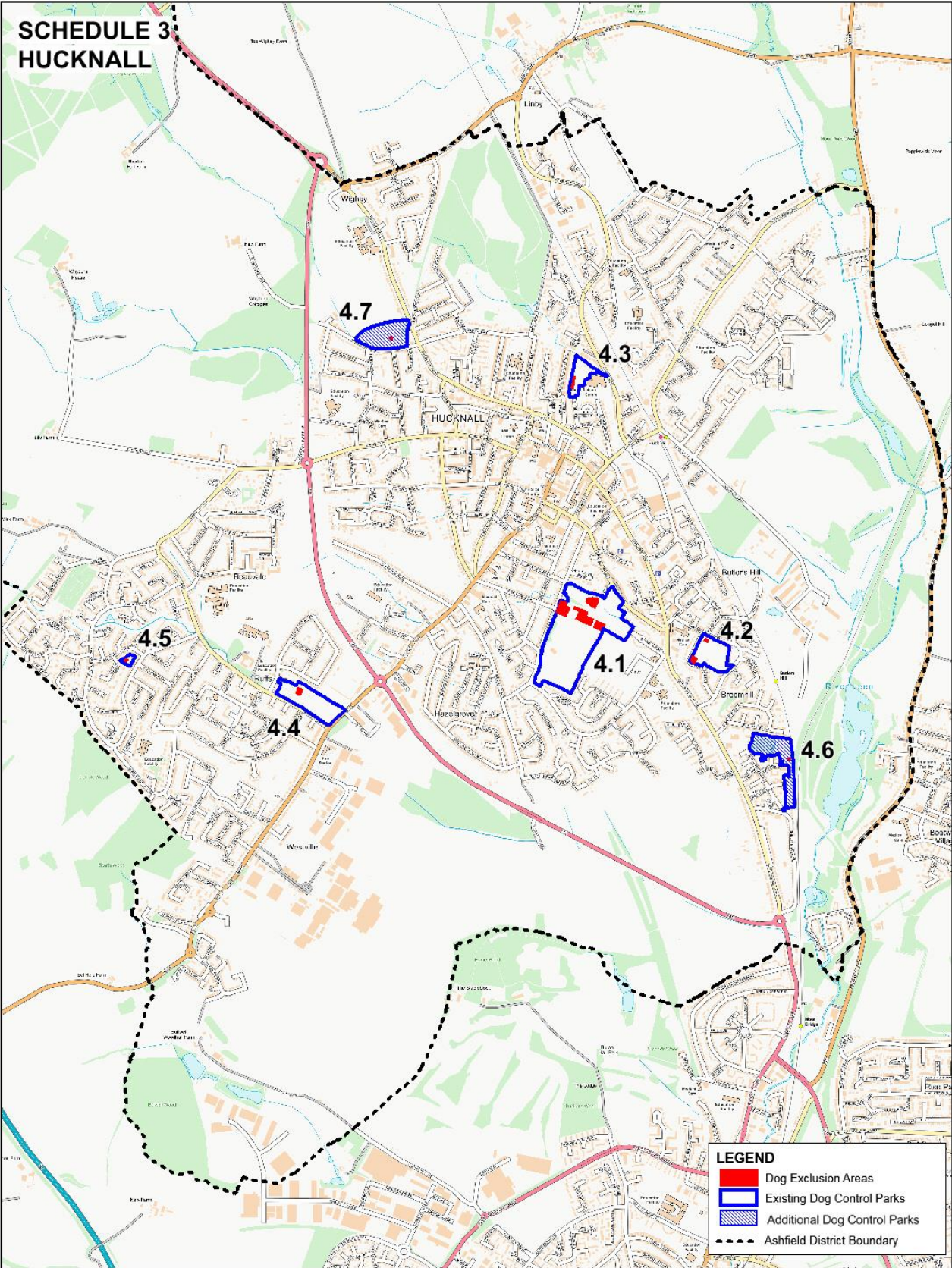
**SCHEDULE 3
DOG EXCLUSION AREAS**

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**SCHEDULE 3
DOG EXCLUSION AREAS**

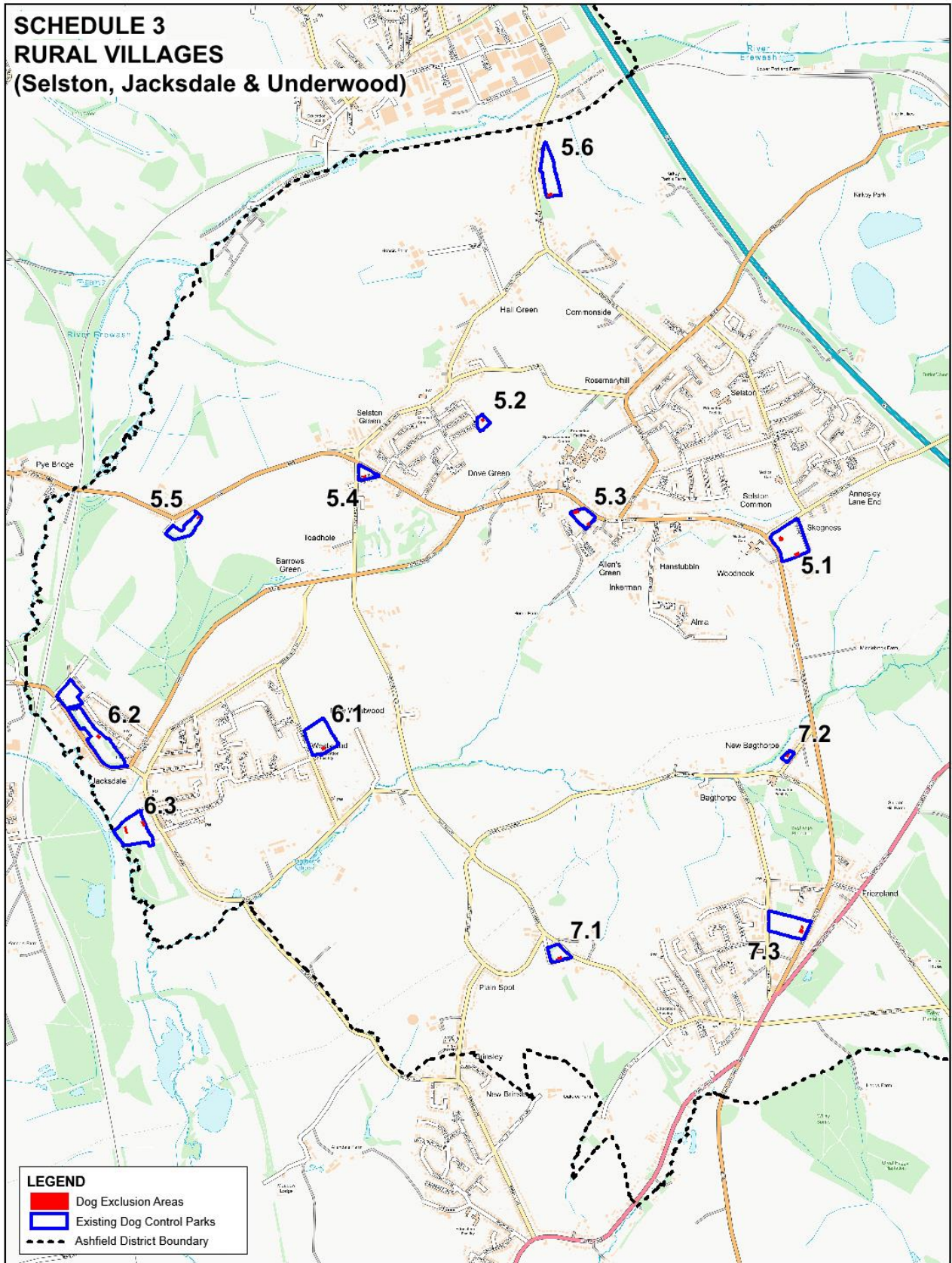
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**SCHEDULE 3
RURAL VILLAGES
(Selston, Jacksdale & Underwood)**



**SCHEDULE 3
DOG EXCLUSION AREAS**

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The Public Spaces Protection Order

– Ashfield District Council 2021

Schedule 4 – Dogs lead only areas (Prohibition 7)

Public spaces described in the following Schedule, being Public Places in the Authority's area to which the Act applies, and which is signed as “Dogs on leads area” (whether the sign uses those particular words or words and/or symbols having like effect)

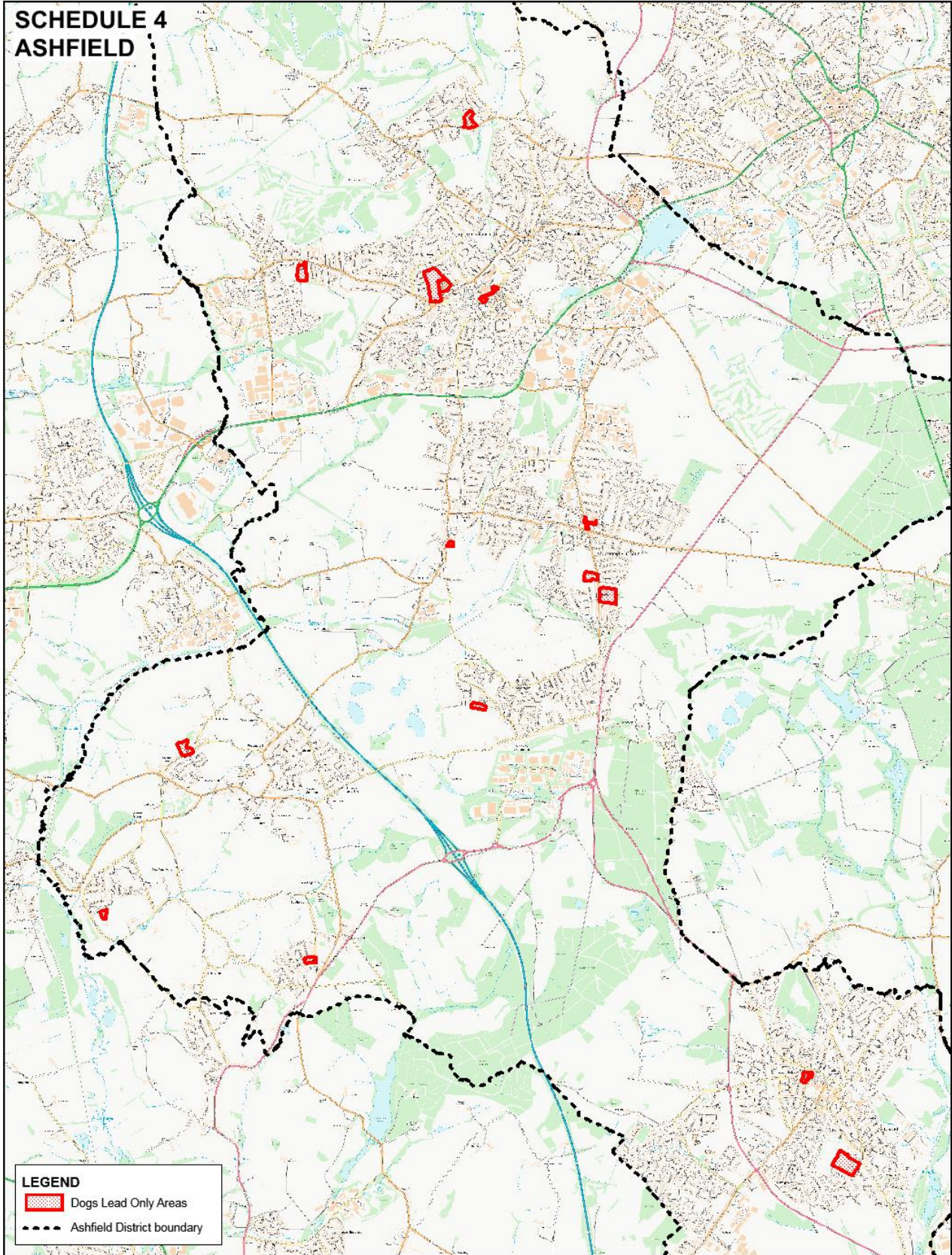
Land Designated Specifically:

1. Each and every length of road (which term includes adjoining pavements, footways and verges) except public footpaths and bridleways



The following areas which are shown edged in red and shaded in red on the plans attached hereto:

2. The following pedestrianised areas: (a) Hucknall Market Place, Hucknall (b) Kirkby Precinct, Kirkby-in-Ashfield (c) Portland Square, Low Street and Sutton Market Place, Sutton-in-Ashfield
3. Cemeteries and churchyards:
 - Hucknall: St Mary Magdalene Church, Hucknall Cemetery
 - Kirkby-in-Ashfield: St Wilfrids Church, Kingsway Old Cemetery, Kingsway New Cemetery, Annesley Woodhouse Cemetery
 - Sutton-in-Ashfield: St Andrews Church, St Mary Magdalenes Church, Sutton Cemetery, Huthwaite Cemetery
 - Rural Villages (Selston, Jacksdale and Underwood): St Helens Church, St Marys Church, St Michaels and All Angels Church

**SCHEDULE 4
ASHFIELD**



LEGEND

-  Dogs Lead Only Areas
-  Ashfield District boundary

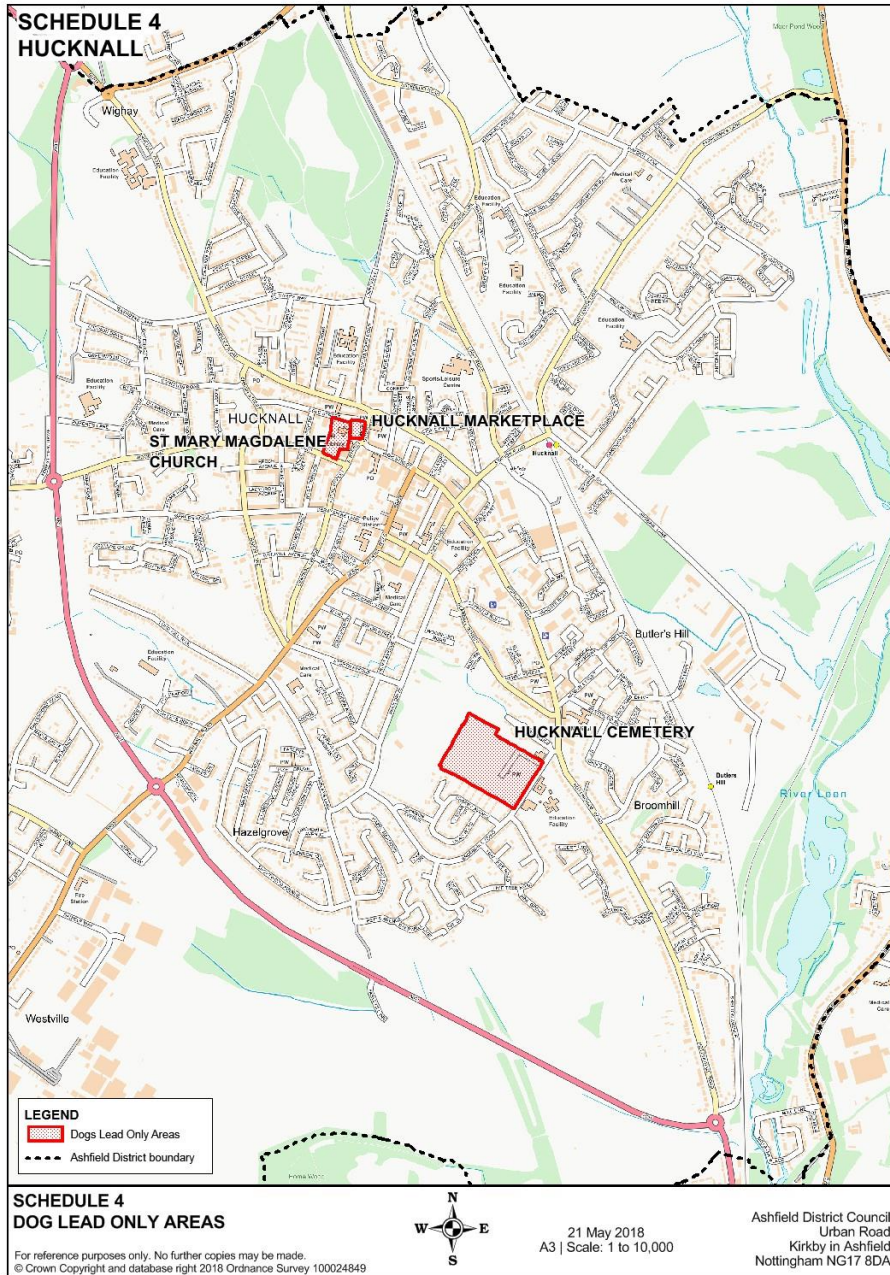
**SCHEDULE 4
DOG LEAD ONLY AREAS**

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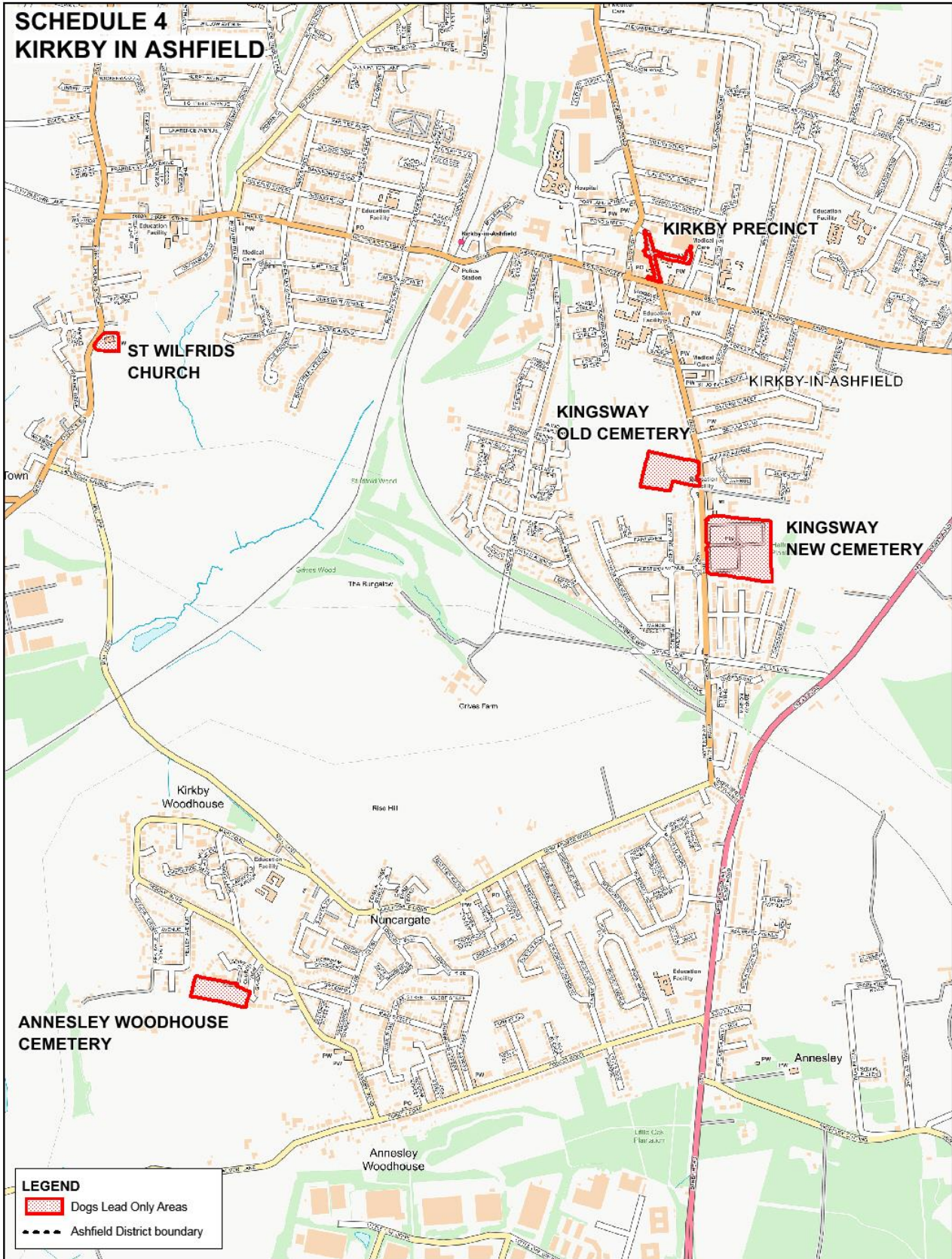


21 May 2018
A3 | Scale: 1 to 40,000

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Urban Road
Kirkby in Ashfield
Nottingham NG17 8DA



**SCHEDULE 4
KIRKBY IN ASHFIELD**



**SCHEDULE 4
DOG LEAD ONLY AREAS**

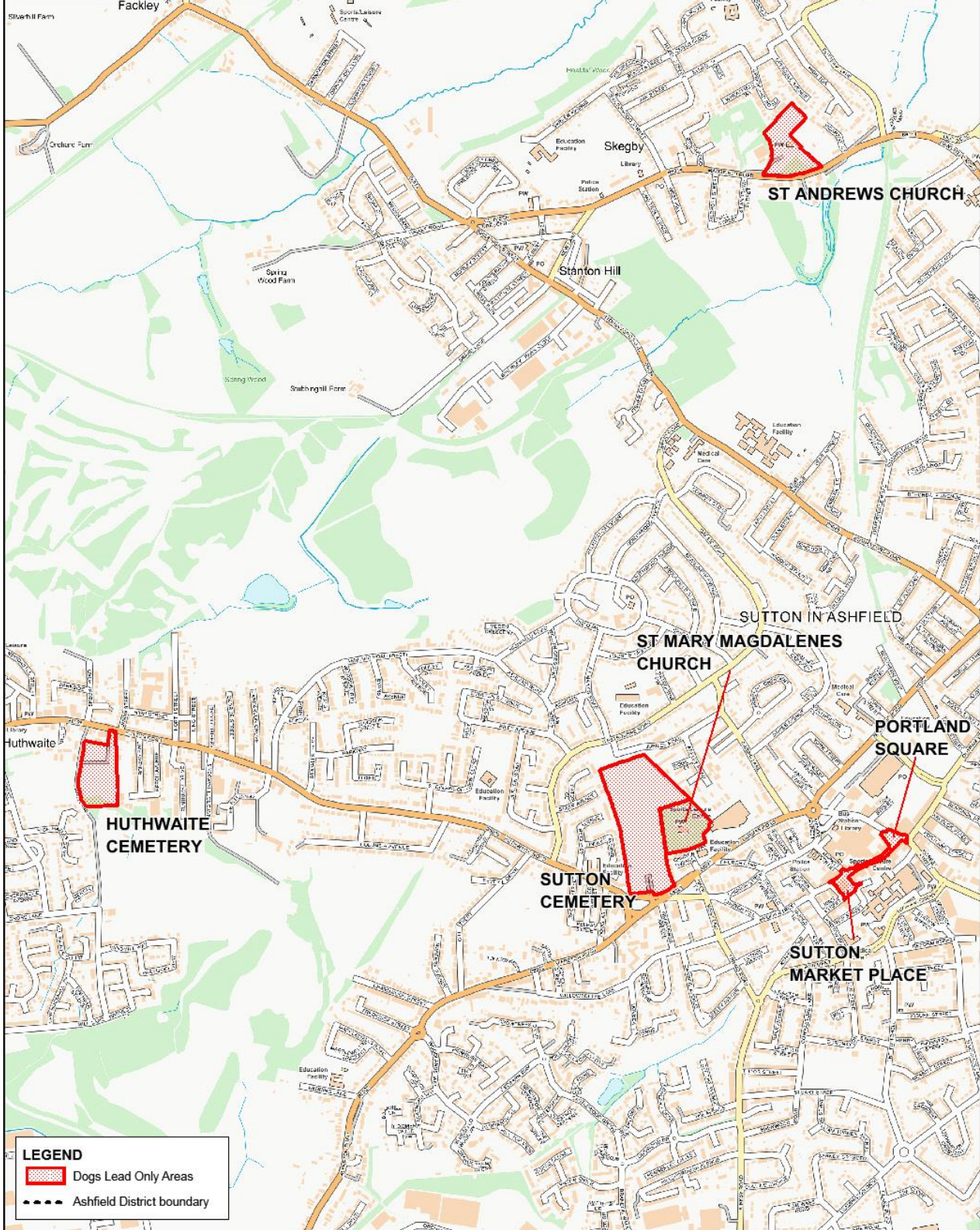
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21 May 2018
A3 | Scale: 1 to 10,000

Ashfield District Council
Urban Road
Kirkby in Ashfield
Nottingham NG17 8DA

**SCHEDULE 4
SUTTON IN ASHFIELD**

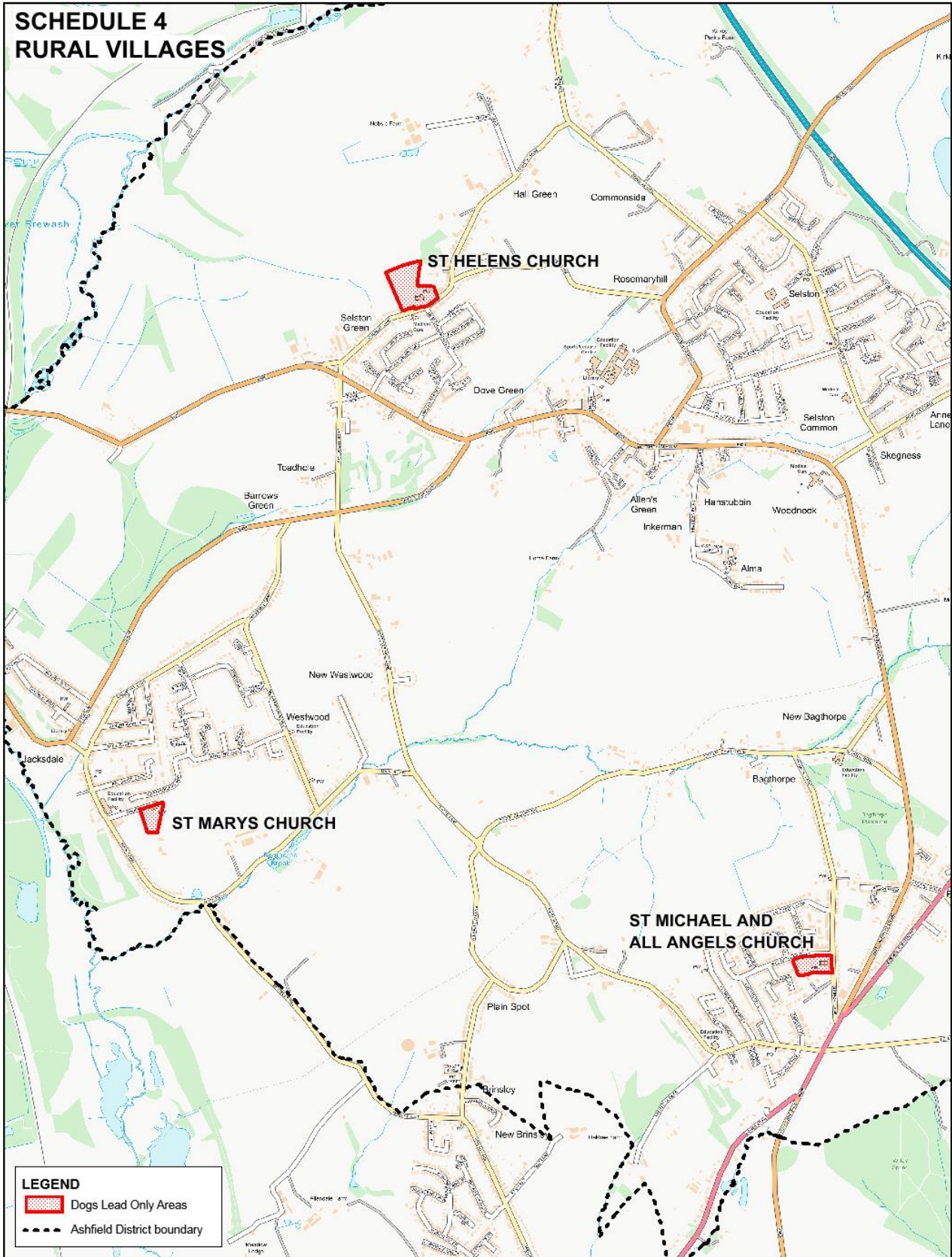




**SCHEDULE 4
DOG LEAD ONLY AREAS**

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21 May 2018
 A3 | Scale: 1 to 10,000
 Ashfield District Council
 Urban Road
 Kirkby in Ashfield
 Nottingham NG17 8DA

**SCHEDULE 4
RURAL VILLAGES**



LEGEND
 Dogs Lead Only Areas
 Ashfield District boundary

**SCHEDULE 4
DOG LEAD ONLY AREAS**

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21 May 2018
 A3 | Scale: 1 to 12,500

Ashfield District Council
 Urban Road
 Kirkby in Ashfield
 Nottingham NG17 8DA

The Public Spaces Protection Order

– Ashfield District Council 2021

Schedule 5 (Restricting Access – Prohibition 10)

The highways described in the following Schedule and shown edged by bold red lines on the plan attached, being Public Places in the Authority's area to which the Act applies

Land Designated Specifically (“the Restricted Access Highway”):

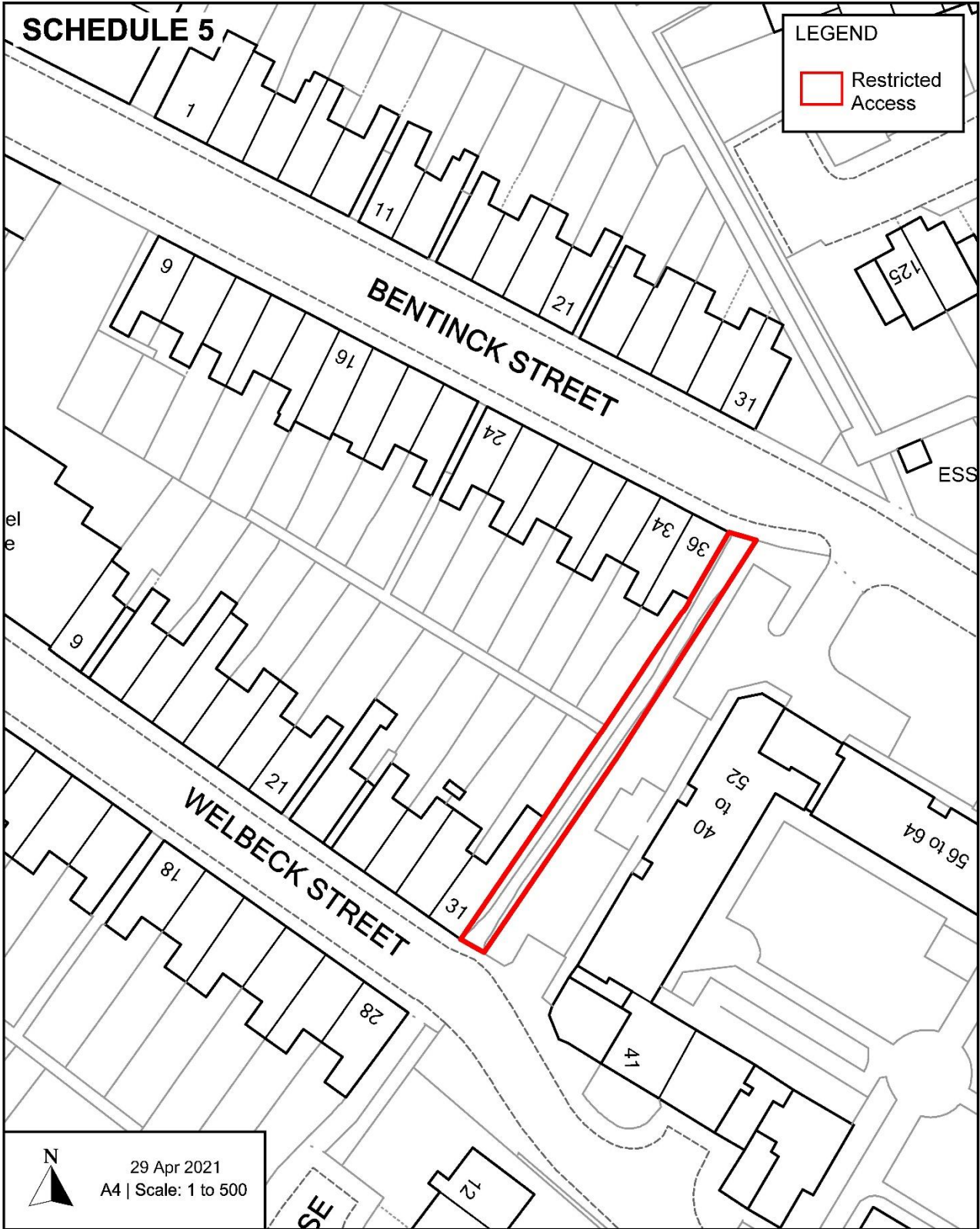
The strip of land between Bentinck Street and Welbeck Street, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire.

DRAFT

SCHEDULE 5

LEGEND

 Restricted Access



**SCHEDULE 5 - RESTRICTED ACCESS
BETWEEN BENTINCK STREET AND WELBECK STREET
SUTTON IN ASHFIELD**

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Ashfield District Council
Urban Road
Kirkby in Ashfield
Nottingham NG17 8DA

The Public Spaces Protection Order

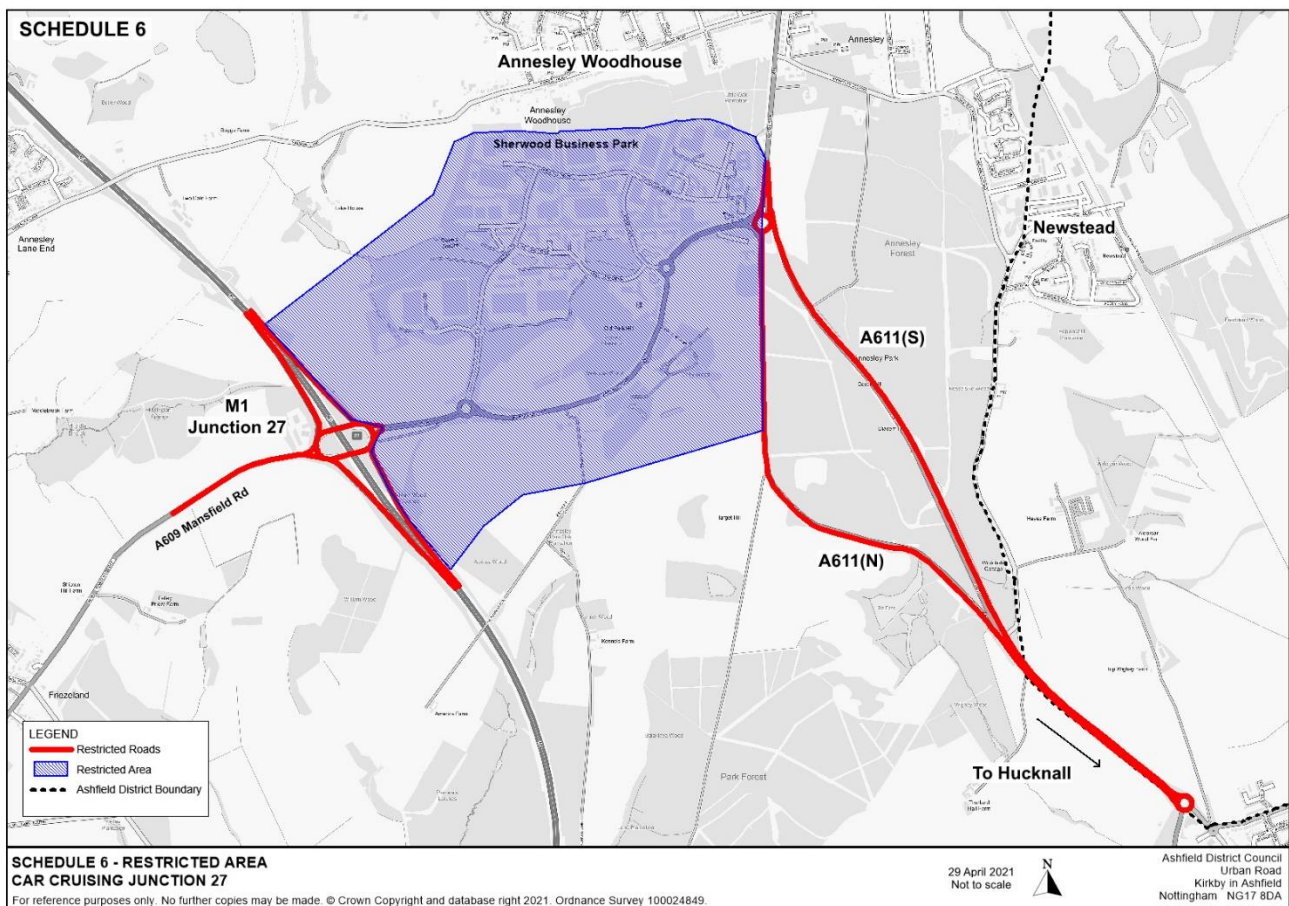
– Ashfield District Council 2021

Schedule 6 (Car Cruising – Prohibition 11)

Public spaces described in the following Schedule and shown in bold red lines (the “Restricted Roads”) and within the area shown shaded in blue (the “Restricted Area”) on the plan attached, being Public Places in the Authority's area to which the Act applies

Land Designated Specifically (the “Restricted Area car cruising Junction 27”):

Land at Junction 27 of the M1, Nottinghamshire.



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Gating Strip of Land: Record of Public Consultation

Address Bentinck Street, Sutton-in-Ashfield	Resident spoken to? Y/N	Resident in support of gating off land? Y/N	Letter and map delivered to address? (Y/N)
2 Bentinck St	N		Y
4 Bentinck St	Y	Y	Y
6 Bentinck St	N		Y
8 Bentinck St	Y	Y	Y
10 Bentinck St	Y	Y	Y
12 Bentinck St	Y	Y	Y
14 Bentinck St	Y	Y	Y
16 Bentinck St	Y	Y	Y
18 Bentinck St	N		Y
20 Bentinck St	N		Y
22 Bentinck St	N		Y
24 Bentinck St	Y	Y	Y
26 Bentinck St	Y	Y	Y
28 Bentinck St	Y	Y	Y
30 Bentinck St	N		Y
32 Bentinck St	Y	Y	Y
34 Bentinck St	N		Y
36 Bentinck St	N		Y
38 Bentinck St	Y	Y	Y
40 Bentinck St	N		Y
42 Bentinck St	Y	Y	Y
44 Bentinck St	Y	Y	Y
46 Bentinck St	Y	Y	Y
48 Bentinck St	Y	Y	Y
50 Bentinck St	Y	Y	Y
52 Bentinck St	N		Y
54 Bentinck St	N		Y
56 Bentinck St	N		Y
58 Bentinck St	N		Y
60 Bentinck St	N		Y
62 Bentinck St	Y	Y	Y
64 Bentinck St	Y	Y	Y
66 Bentinck St	N		Y
68 Bentinck St	N		Y
70 Bentinck St	Y	Y	Y
1 Bentinck St	N		Y
3 Bentinck St	Y	Y	Y

Address	Resident spoken to? Y/N	Resident in support of gating off land? Y/N	Letter and map delivered to resident? (Y/N)
5 Bentinck St	N		Y
7 Bentinck St	N		Y
9 Bentinck St	N		Y
11 Bentinck St	N		Y
13 Bentinck St	N		Y
15 Bentinck St	N		Y
17 Bentinck St	N		Y
19 Bentinck St	N		Y
21 Bentinck St	N		Y
23 Bentinck St	Y	Y	Y
25 Bentinck St	N		Y
27 Bentinck St	N		Y
29 Bentinck St	Y	Y	Y
31 Bentinck St	Y	y	Y

Undertaken by Community Protection Officers
 between January 25th – January 31st 2021

Gating Strip of Land: Record of Public Consultation

Address Welbeck Street, Sutton-in-Ashfield	Resident spoken to? Y/N	Resident in support of Gating off land? Y/N	Letter and map delivered to address? (Y/N)
2 Welbeck St	N		Y
4 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
6 Welbeck St	N		Y
8 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
10 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
12 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
14 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
16 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
18 Welbeck St	N		Y
20 Welbeck St	N		Y
22 Welbeck St	N		Y
24 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
26 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
28 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
9 Welbeck St	N		Y
11 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
13 Welbeck St	N		Y
15 Welbeck St	N		Y
17 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
19 Welbeck St	N		Y
21 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
23 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
25 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
27 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
31 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
35 Welbeck St	N		Y
37 Welbeck St	N		Y
39 Welbeck St	N		Y
41 Welbeck St	N		Y
30 Welbeck St	N		Y
32 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
34 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
36 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
38 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
40 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
42 Welbeck St	N		Y

29 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
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Address Welbeck St	Resident spoken to? Y/N	Resident in support of Gating off land? Y/N	Letter and map delivered to resident? (Y/N)
31 Welbeck St	N		Y
44 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
46 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
48 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
50 Welbeck St			Y
52 Welbeck St			Y
54 Welbeck St			Y
56 Welbeck St			Y
58 Welbeck St			Y
60 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
62 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
64 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y
66 Welbeck St			Y
68 Welbeck St			Y
70 Welbeck St			Y
33 Welbeck St			Y
41 Welbeck St			Y
43 Welbeck St			Y
45 Welbeck St			Y
47 Welbeck St			Y
49 Welbeck St			Y
51 Welbeck St			Y
53 Welbeck St			Y
55 Welbeck St			Y
57 Welbeck St			Y
61 Welbeck St			Y
65 Welbeck St			Y
67 Welbeck St	Y	Y	Y

Undertaken by Community Protection Officers
between January 25th – January 31st 2021

Report To:	CABINET	Date:	29th June 2021
Heading:	TOWNS FUND		
Portfolio Holder:	CLLR MATTHEW RELF, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PLACE, PLANNING AND REGENERATION		
Ward/s:	KIRKBY AND SUTTON WARDS		
Key Decision:	NO		
Subject to Call-In:	YES		

Purpose of Report

The report provides further information about the success of the Towns Fund submission for Kirkby and Sutton which has secured a massive £62.6m of funding.

Recommendation(s)

- 1. To note the announcement that Ashfield has secured £62.6m from the Towns Fund for investment in Kirkby and Sutton**

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

To make Cabinet members aware that £62.6m funding has been secured from the Towns Fund as part of the Council's ambitious plans to regenerate the District. Together with funding secured from the Towns Fund Accelerator Fund and the Future High Streets Fund, over £70m has now been secured for Ashfield. Together with co-funding this will bring well over £100m of investment into the District over the next five years.

Following the tremendous success of these bids we will be focusing on accessing funding to support Hucknall, with a bid to the Levelling Up Fund due to be developed over the next few months.

Alternative Options Considered

For information only – not applicable.

Detailed Information

It was announced on 8th June that a massive £62.6 million has been secured for Ashfield as part of the government's Towns Fund for Kirkby and Sutton. This was the largest award in the latest round

of Towns Fund announcements and well exceeds the £25m per town which the government had provisionally allocated to each town. The government had advised that in exceptional circumstances, an allocation of more than £25 million would be considered, but would be limited to the most ambitious and credible investment plans, which would be subject to a higher level of scrutiny.

To secure more than £25m per town the investment plan was required to credibly target not only transformational impacts for the town but for the wider region or nationally.

The funding provides a once in a lifetime opportunity to make a real and long-lasting change in the area. The investment will bring benefits to the whole district including Hucknall and the rural area, as well as the wider East Midlands region. Several projects are of regional significance, including The ADMC (Automated Distribution and Manufacturing Centre), the new educational centres for construction and civil engineering and the planetarium and education centre at Sherwood Observatory.

The bid was developed with partners from the Discover Ashfield Board throughout 2020 and submitted in early 2021. Lee Anderson MP supported the bid in Parliament.

Together with funding secured from the Towns Fund Accelerator Fund and the recently announced Future High Streets Fund, over £70m has now been secured for Ashfield. Together with co-funding this will bring well over £100m of investment into the District over the next five years.

In Autumn 2019 Sutton and Kirkby were selected to receive Towns Fund investment of up to £25 million each. Since then, the Council and the Discover Ashfield Board have been working closely with stakeholders including business, education, health, transport, and local elected Members to develop the Kirkby and Sutton Town Investment Plan. Public consultation on the suggested projects a year ago received a huge number of responses that shaped which projects were moved forward.

The investment will deliver jobs and further education opportunities, long-term economic and productivity growth, new homes, improved transport infrastructure, reduced carbon and new cultural and visitor facilities.

The investment plan focuses on four key areas:

Business and education:

The centrepiece of the plan is an Automated Distribution and Manufacturing Centre to create a national centre of excellence focussed on promoting and providing access to the latest technologies and best practice in automated distribution.

Two new education centres will provide opportunities for qualifications in construction and civil engineering. At Kirkby and Sutton libraries there will be new innovation centres which will support residents with digital skills, helping them access digital services, learn new skills and adapt to new ways of working.

Health and wellbeing:

A new Kirkby Health Hub and Sports Hubs at Kingsway Park and Sutton Lawn will give residents greater access to healthier lifestyles and help improve local health outcomes.

Boost visitor economy:

A new Planetarium and Science Discovery Centre at Sherwood Observatory will help inspire a new generation of scientists and engineers across the region.

A new leisure facility at Kings Mill Reservoir will offer a range of new water sports attractions for visitors from across the region. A network of cycling and walking routes across the area will connect visitor attractions, homes and places of work.

Make Ashfield Greener:

The gateway area around Kirkby train station will be developed to provide better access to the station and interchange to buses and the new cycle/walking network to promote use of more sustainable forms of transport, as well as a programme to fit existing buildings with solar and other green energy sources.

Next steps

Heads of Terms have been issued by MHCLG which must be returned by 29th June. Within two months of the offer date of 8th June, confirmation is required by MHCLG as to which projects will be taken forward, together with more detailed information on the planned outputs and outcomes for each project.

Appointments for the project management team are being progressed via an Executive Decision Record and business cases will start to be produced for the projects.

Following the tremendous success of the Future High Streets and Towns Fund bids we will now be focusing on accessing funding to support Hucknall, with a bid to the Levelling Up Fund due to be developed over the next few months.

Projects in delivery

Several projects are currently underway using the £1.5m from the Accelerated Towns Fund funding, including:

- New Kirkby indoor market – due to open in late July
- Off-road cycle path improvements between Sherwood Business Park and Kirkby
- New play area at Hornbeam Park, Kirkby
- Purchase of vacant properties on Low Street, Sutton
- Creation of a Centre of Excellence for disabled people in Sport and Theatre, at Portland College

Sutton also received £6.27m funding from the Future High Streets fund with the money being used to help regenerate areas of Sutton town centre. All of the following projects are now in delivery:

- Renovating Sutton Community Academy theatre to create a new cinema, live music and theatre space with café and bar all open to the public
- Refurbishing and re-purposing empty shop units on Low Street for a variety of new uses on the ground floor and residential apartments above
- Fox Street - developing the derelict land behind Lloyds Bank to provide better access between ASDA and Portland Square, additional car parking and a place for pop up events and food markets
- Maker Space and shared workspace that will offer access to tools and workspaces so that those lacking the space or funds at home will be able to make anything they like. There will be wood and metal working tools, sewing machines, 3D printers and laser cutters. The new facility will also provide a range of offices for businesses to rent.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

Economic Growth and Place - Capitalise on external funding opportunities, e.g.: Future High Streets and Towns fund, to improve our town centres

Legal:

No legal implications in this report. Due to the timeframe authority for the signing of the Heads of Terms will be through an Executive Decision Record.

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	
General Fund – Capital Programme	<p>In addition to the Government grant funding referred to in the body of the report the Council is providing capital co-funding to some of the schemes, largely through prudential borrowing, the cost of which will be met from revenue income from the various projects. The financial implications for the Council will continue to be evaluated as the business cases are developed. Once the business cases have been approved by MHCLG for the main Towns Fund bid they will be added to the Capital Programme.</p> <p>The FHSF schemes and Accelerated Towns Fund Schemes have been approved and included in the current capital programme.</p>
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	None
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	None

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
The report is for information only, no risk identified	

Human Resources:

No HR implications within the report.

Environmental/Sustainability

Not applicable.

Equalities:

Not applicable.

Other Implications:

Not applicable.

Reason(s) for Urgency

Not applicable.

Reason(s) for Exemption

Not applicable.

Background Papers

Not applicable.

Report Author and Contact Officer

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01623 457249

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Report To:	Cabinet	Date:	29th June 2021
Heading:	LEISURE TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME		
Portfolio Holder:	CLLR KIER BARSBY, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HEALTH AND LEISURE		
Ward/s:	N/A		
Key Decision:	No		
Subject to Call-In:	No		

Purpose of Report

This report updates Cabinet on the Leisure Transformation Programme, including progress with the Leisure Operating Contract, confirming that the previously identified preferred supplier, Everyone Active have now signed and commenced the new leisure operating contract.

This report confirms to Cabinet that the Leisure Operating Contract will at least achieve the required financial break even position along with necessary capital improvements by Everyone Active to Hucknall and Lammas leisure centres.

This report updates Cabinet as to progress with the Kirkby Leisure Centre development along with the development of a second swimming facility at Hucknall Leisure Centre.

Recommendation(s)

- 1. Cabinet are recommended to note the commencement of the new Leisure Operating Contract with Everyone Active which achieves at least a financial 'break even' position for the Council.**
- 2. Cabinet are recommended to note the progress with capital developments at both Kirkby Leisure Centre and Hucknall Leisure Centre.**
- 3. Cabinet are recommended to support and delegate authority to the Director of Place and Communities in conjunction with the Corporate Finance Manager and Portfolio Holder for any in term variations to the Leisure Operating Contract as long as the financial 'break even' position is not reduced.**

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

Cabinet Members will recall previous reports confirming that Everyone Active were appointed as the preferred supplier to the Leisure Centre Operating Contract. This report confirms to Cabinet that Council officers supported by external specialists and legal advisors have successfully concluded the final elements of contract negotiation and that Everyone Active commenced the new contract on the 1st May 2021.

Alternative Options Considered

Leisure Operating Contract – Do not commence with Everyone Active (Not Recommended)

Council officers with external specialist support have successfully concluded the negotiations with Everyone Active. The new leisure operating contract, not only looks to improve the physical offering at the leisure centres, including much needed capital investments at Lammas and Hucknall centres, it also ensures a greater engagement with communities within Ashfield, via community engagement, outreach services and improved facilities.

Kirkby Leisure Centre will introduce a swimming pool with moveable floor which is predominantly for swim access with limited swimming classes.

Should the Council have decided to not appoint and commence the contract with the successful tenderer the Council would not have been in a position to re-open the leisure centres in line with the government's Road Map. Additionally, the Council would not have been in a position to extend the previous contract, therefore requiring the Council to put in emergency measures to take control of the centres and open them to the public. This would not have achieved the improved financial position of the contract.

Second swimming pool at Hucknall – Do not proceed (Not recommended)

The Council could choose to cancel the development work ongoing regarding the second swimming pool at Hucknall. This is not recommended as the additional swimming facility at Hucknall is noted as being a specific output for the Leisure Centre Contract and failure by the Council to deliver this improvement would lead to a significantly worse financial position. Additionally, not moving forwards with this facility will limit the capacity for swimming lessons, family swims and sessions specifically targeting those with long term health conditions.

Detailed Information

Leisure Operating Contract

Council officers along with external specialist and legal support have concluded the negotiations with Everyone Active. Whilst robust, these negotiations have been completed in good faith and the resultant contract will not only achieve an improvement on the financial position for the Council (through to a minimum 'break even' position) but also will see significantly improved leisure offerings across the existing sites at Lammas and Hucknall as well reinvestment into the new Kirkby Leisure Centre when it is completed in 2022.

The final form of contract which is based upon a Sport England compliant contract protects the Council and outlines the performance targets that Everyone Active must achieve. The contract sets out key performance indicators, mechanisms for additional profit share and processes where applicable for how to deal with short and long term impacts on the trading environment due to such things as pandemics and changes in law from HM Government.

Internal lead officers were supported by in house legal team and specialists at FMG Consulting and Blake Morgan who coordinated the legal elements of the contract negotiations.

The procurement outturn significantly improves the Council's financial position regarding this service provision, removing a previous payment to the operator and achieves a positive contribution over the life of the 10 year contract. The initial target for the Leisure Centres Operating Contract was to achieve a minimum financial 'break even' position, which would result in the saving on the payment to the operator, funding the prudential borrowing costs associated with New Kirkby Leisure Centre. The additional achievement of the positive contribution beyond the 'break even' position is funding the prudential borrowing costs of the second swimming pool at Hucknall Leisure Centre.

The procurement outturn has also achieved capital improvements to fixtures, fittings and equipment at Hucknall and Lammas Leisure Centres. These capital improvements are all funded by prudential borrowing, which will be incurred by the Council. The revenue costs of the prudential borrowing are provided for in the Leisure Operator's financial model and the Leisure Operator will make payments to the Council to fund the prudential borrowing costs.

The Leisure Operating Contract has a number of scenario-based future negotiation routes which predominantly protect the Council through the life of the contract. There are also provisions for ensuring any short or long-term changes in trading conditions (such as pandemics) are clearly managed with implications upon the contract measured and agreed. Such changes in trading conditions could alter the financial return for the Council through the contract. It is not anticipated that such trading conditions would alter the Council's at minimum 'break even' position, however the ability to act swiftly and via the terms of the contract are paramount in managing such potential impacts

Kirkby Leisure Centre

Phase 1 of the Kirkby Leisure Centre development is the construction of the new facility on land at the rear of the existing Festival Hall. This is due to complete in May 2022. Phase 2 is the demolition of the existing Festival Hall and creation of the car park. This phase is still planned for completion by October 2022.

Kier PLC continue to progress the construction of the Kirkby Leisure Centre development with all piling completed during May 2021. Structural steelwork commenced during W/C 24th May with this due to be completed by the end of June 2021. Works are progressing generally to programme, with some activities being brought forwards to enhance the sequencing of works, whilst others are specifically held in abeyance. Additionally, external works such as surface water drainage tanks and the retaining wall to B&M Bargains have also been installed.

Following a detailed study of energy usage at the site, the Council has just committed (subject to statutory approval) to the installation of photovoltaic solar panels to the roof which will see an estimated £29,000 of electricity generated for the centre per annum significantly reducing energy costs whilst additionally reducing the carbon footprint of the building.

Hucknall Leisure Centre

Phase 1 works have been completed on site with a new reception area, café provision, toilet facilities and a refresh for the existing squash courts. Work is already underway on phase 2 which will see the fitness suite extended and refurbishments to the group exercise studios, with works due to be completed by late Autumn 2021.

Design development has commenced for the second swimming pool. Sitting adjacent to the existing, this will offer a more tailored and specific facility for swimming lessons, family activities and sessions designed to meet the needs of people living with disabilities and long-term health conditions. With moveable floor, the facility will also be suitable for a general access swimming facility. Further improvements to the changing facilities will also be completed and this development work will significantly improve the swimming offer at Hucknall. These works are due to be completed by October 2022.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

The Council will deliver its commitments to provide a transformational leisure offer via the Leisure Operating Contract.

The Council will deliver on the significant capital investment of a new leisure centre for the people of Ashfield whilst improving the Hucknall Leisure Centre.

Once operational, these new facilities will play an important role in delivering the outcomes set out in the Council's Corporate Plan and the Be Healthy, Be Happy Strategy 2021-25, previously approved by Cabinet.

Legal:

The Council has protected its legal position by procuring and appointing Everyone Active as the Leisure Operating Contractor for the next ten year period.

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	<p>The Leisure Operating Contract will see a positive financial position which compares favourably to the previous contract where the Council paid an annual management fee to the operator.</p> <p>The saving on the annual management fee paid over to the operator will fund the prudential borrowing costs on the new Kirkby Leisure Centre.</p> <p>The positive contribution achieved will fund the prudential borrowing costs on the second swimming pool at Hucknall Leisure Centre.</p> <p>The prudential borrowing costs associated with improvements to fixtures, fittings and equipment at Lammas and Hucknall will be met by payments from the Leisure Operator Contractor.</p>
General Fund – Capital Programme	The developments at Kirkby, Lammas and Hucknall will be delivered within the approved capital programme allocation for the schemes.

Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	N/A

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
That the trading conditions for the Leisure Operating Contract worsens	The Council has included a detailed mechanism for addressing and agreeing the implications on the Contract. This includes the requirement for the contractor to look to seek central HM Government support prior to any review of financial arrangements with the Council.
That Kirkby Leisure Centre is delayed	The Council is ahead of programme with its 'Reviewable Design Detail', ahead in its programme of operator engagement. The JCT Contract with Kier also identifies necessary processes for them to follow should delays be incurred.
That the second swimming pool at Hucknall is delayed	The Council has appointed the same design team as it is using at Kirkby for the design development. The programme set is achievable and budget is realistic.

Human Resources:

There are no Human Resource implications of this report.

Environmental/Sustainability

The Council is committing the installation of photovoltaic solar panels to the roof of Kirkby Leisure Centre to improve its energy efficiency and reduce electricity costs.

Equalities:

There are no equalities implications of this report

Other Implications:

Not Applicable

Reason(s) for Urgency

Not Applicable

Reason(s) for Exemption

Not Applicable

Background Papers

Leisure Transformation Cabinet reports 2018 - 2021

Report Author and Contact Officer

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