

ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL



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

Agenda

Council

Date: **Monday, 12th February, 2024**

Time: **7.00 pm**

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

For any further information please contact:

Lynn Cain

lynn.cain@ashfield.gov.uk

01623 457317

If you require an adjustment to enable you to participate or access the meeting, please contact the Democratic Services team at least 48 hours before the meeting.

Council

Membership

Chairman: Councillor Dale Grounds

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Arnie Hankin

Councillors:

Kier Barsby

Will Bostock

Jodine Cronshaw

Anna Ellis

Paul Grafton

Oliver Hay

Tom Hollis

Dawn Justice

Trevor Locke

Sarah Madigan

Cathy Mason

Warren Nuttall

Matthew Relf

Dave Shaw

Helen-Ann Smith

Lee Waters

Jason Zadrozny

Jamie Bell

Ian Briggs

Samantha Deakin

Andy Gascoyne

Julie Gregory

Vicki Heslop

Christopher Huskinson

Sarah Lewsey

Rachel Madden

Gordon Mann

Andy Meakin

Nicholas Parvin

Phil Rostance

John Smallridge

David Walters

John Wilmott

FILMING/AUDIO RECORDING NOTICE

This meeting may be subject to filming or audio recording. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact Members' Services on 01623 457317.

SUMMONS

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



Theresa Hodgkinson
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. To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27 November 2023. 7 - 14
4. To receive any announcements from the Chairman, Leader, Members of the Cabinet and the Head of Paid Service.
5. To undertake any presentations of awards and/or certificates by the Chairman.
6. To receive questions from the Public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, if any.

1. From Hannah Denny:

Question to Jason Zadrozny, Leader of the Council -

“As you will be aware national legislation came into force on 31st December 2023 regarding XL bullies.

From 31 December 2023 it became against the law to:

- * Sell an XL Bully dog*
- * Abandon an XL Bully dog*
- * Give away an XL Bully dog*
- * Breed from an XL Bully dog*
- * Have an XL Bully in public without a lead and muzzle*

Hundreds of dogs in shelters have been euthanised already due to the non rehoming law, hundreds and hundreds more are reportedly being abandoned in the streets by their owners who are either struggling with all the new legislation’s, or having exempted their dog, being given eviction notices from their homes due to having a banned breed.

From February 1st 2024, it will be a criminal offence to own an XL Bully dog unless it is covered by public liability insurance, microchipped, neutered and has a Certificate of Exemption. If the owners are unable to achieve every one of these in just a few weeks, they by law must arrange for their pet to be euthanised.

*Cost.
Insurance - £25 (dogs trust)
Microchipping - around £20
Neutering - up to £400
Government exemption -£92.40*

This totals up to over £500, which many people simply cannot afford. To put this in context, The average monthly food budget in the UK is £194 per person.

Under the Government's compensation scheme, owners of XL Bully dogs who elect to have their dogs euthanised are then entitled to claim £200 towards these costs.

Locally vets for pets in Ashfield have now confirmed they will euthanise healthy dogs - while this is a national issue, it's happening here in Ashfield!

Many people in Ashfield strongly disagree with Healthy animals being put down unnecessarily through no fault of their own.

Could you outline your position on this? Also what stance and actions Ashfield District Council intend to take to support these dogs and their owners."

- 7. To receive and consider any petitions submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12, if any.**
(None received for this meeting)

- 8. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2 (viii) to receive reports from the Cabinet in relation to the Council's budget and policy framework, reports of the Principal Select Committee for debate and reports from Officers of the Council:-**
 - a Pay Policy Statement 2024 - 2025.** 15 - 28
 - b Electoral Registration and Election Matters.** To Follow
 - c Annual Select Committee Report 2023/24.** 29 - 54

- 9. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2 (ix), to receive recommendations from the Cabinet and the Council's Committees and resolve in accordance with the Council's rules of debate as per the attached schedule.** 55 - 130

- 10. Updates from Members of the Cabinet on their Portfolio Activity.**

11. **Notices of Motion.**
(None received for this meeting)

12. **To answer any questions submitted in writing by Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, if any.**
(None received for this meeting)

13. **To receive a list of minutes and a web link to access Cabinet and Committee meeting minutes that have been published since the last ordinary meeting of the Council for Members to give notice of their intention to ask a question of a relevant Chairman under Procedure Rule 13.2.** 131 - 132

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Agenda Item 3

COUNCIL

Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Urban Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield,

on Monday, 27th November, 2023 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor Dale Grounds in the Chair;

Councillors Jamie Bell, Ian Briggs,
Jodine Cronshaw, Samantha Deakin,
Andy Gascoyne, Paul Grafton, Julie Gregory,
Arnie Hankin, Oliver Hay, Vicki Heslop,
Tom Hollis, Christopher Huskinson,
Dawn Justice, Sarah Lewsey, Trevor Locke,
Rachel Madden, Gordon Mann, Cathy Mason,
Andy Meakin, Warren Nuttall, Matthew Relf,
Phil Rostance, Dave Shaw, John Smallridge,
Helen-Ann Smith, David Walters, Lee Waters,
John Wilmott and Jason Zadrozny.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Kier Barsby, Will Bostock, Anna Ellis,
Sarah Madigan and Nicholas Parvin.

Officers Present: John Bennett, Craig Bonar, Lynn Cain,
Ruth Dennis, Theresa Hodgkinson,
Peter Hudson, Mike Joy, David Needham and
Shane Wright.

C.53 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and/or Non-Registrable Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

C.54 Minutes

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25 September 2023, as
now submitted, be received and approved.

C.55 Presentation of Awards

The Chairman took the opportunity to welcome Waimi, Mbetmi and Yimi Fongue to the meeting and present them with certificates in recognition of their achievement in receiving the British Citizen Youth Award. The triplets had recently received the Youth Award for their services to Hucknall, which included litter picking, planting trees and the collection of soft plastics for recycling.

Members were thrilled to celebrate the achievement with them and listened to Waimi, Mbetmi and Yimi's plans for continuing their good work in the future.

C.56 Announcements from the Chairman, Leader, Members of the Cabinet and the Head of Paid Service

Chairman of the Council

The Chairman took the opportunity to give an update in respect of the events he had hosted and attended from September to November 2023. He also advised the Chamber that his young friend Harley was now out of hospital and was continuing to recover at home.

Details were given regarding the Chairman's upcoming Christmas fund-raising events and Christmas cheer and good wishes were extended to all present at the meeting.

To conclude, congratulations, birthday wishes and a card were extended to Councillor Andy Meakin who had turned 60 that day.

Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council firstly wished his colleague, Councillor Andy Meakin a happy 60th birthday and then took the opportunity to congratulate and express his admiration to Waimi, Mbetmi and Yimi Fongue for receiving the British Citizen Youth Award for their litter picking, tree planting and recycling endeavours in Hucknall.

An apology was then proffered to Lee Anderson, the standing MP for Ashfield, for a comment that was made at the previous meeting and finally an announcement of the Leader's intention to stand in the next General Election as a parliamentary candidate for Ashfield.

C.57 Questions from the Public

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, the following question had been submitted by Kerry Thornton:

"Can the Council explain their reasons for building on Hardwick Lane Recreation Ground, a green space before building on derelict garage sites owned by the Council?"

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Jason Zadrozny, responded by stating that the Council had already built on a number of derelict garage sites across the District including selling on available sites to third parties for housing development. The Council were proud to have already delivered good quality family homes on sites around the District with the benefit of also removing land eyesores at the same time.

The Council, under the Ashfield Independent's administration, had prioritised and delivered many housing projects providing the first new Council owned family homes since the District Council's inception in 1974. The Council's housing waiting list was continuing to increase and currently stood at over 4,000 people desperate to secure safe and comfortable homes for themselves and their families. It would remain a priority over the next term for the Ashfield Independents to build as many new homes as possible.

The Chairman then gave Ms. Thornton the opportunity to ask a supplementary question and she responded as follows:-

"The public consultation on the appropriation of Hardwick Lane Recreation Ground ended on 3 August. The Strategic Leadership Team met on 22 August to discuss the petition; no less than 568 objections obtained in 10 days. This also included 68 letters of objection and we were duly informed that the outcome from the consultation would be presented to Cabinet. We are now almost four months from the close of the consultation and two Cabinet meetings have now passed.

Can the Leader explain what is the hold up?"

The Leader of the Council firstly responded to the supplementary question by stating that he wished to clear up some inaccuracies in relation to various housing developments mentioned in Ms. Thornton's preamble to her question. He then offered the services of the Council's housing and planning officers, should Ms. Thornton wish to meet with them, to enable further explanation in respect of current housing and planning processes.

To conclude, the Leader advised that there wasn't any delay regarding consideration of the potential housing development on Hardwick Lane Recreation Ground post consultation, and officers were continuing to work through due legal process as required.

C.58 Petitions

No petitions were received for consideration.

C.59 Report on an Urgent Key Decision

In accordance with Rule 17.2 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules, the Leader informed Council of an executive decision that had been taken pursuant to Rule 16 (Special Urgency Provisions.)

The decision related to a Grant Confirmation Document in respect of some funding awarded to the Council and it was required that the Grant Confirmation Document was to be signed and returned no later than 2 October 2023.

The decision was key and contained exempt information and the full 28 days' notice could not be given. The Rule 16 Notice and the non-exempt elements of the decision were duly published on the Council's website.

C.60 Polling District and Polling Places Review

Council was requested to approve the proposals set out in the report for the revision of some polling districts and polling places following the statutory review required by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013. The proposals were based on the recommendations from the Polling Places Review Working Group.

RESOLVED that

- a) the recommendations of the Polling Places Review Working Group as set out in the minutes of the meetings held on 7 August, 21 August, 11 September and 6 November 2023, as shown in Appendices A-D, be approved;
- b) as a result of a) above, the final proposals report setting out the changes to the polling places and polling districts, having considered all the representations received during the consultation period and included therein, as shown in Appendices E-F, be approved;
- c) the Returning Officer be requested to formally publish the notice of conclusion of the review, its findings, the responses from consultees and all other relevant documentation;
- d) it be noted that in the event of a polling place being unavailable in the run up to an election, the (Acting) Returning Officer has delegated authority to select an appropriate alternative and formal retrospective approval be sought by Council following the election, should this be a permanent proposed change.

C.61 Appointments to Outside Bodies

Council was requested to consider three appointments to outside bodies.

RESOLVED that

- a) Councillor John Wilmott be appointed as the Council's representative on the Ashfield Community Safety Partnership Joint Strategic Group with Councillor Helen-Ann Smith replacing Councillor Jason Zadrozny as substitute, for the term ending 31 May 2024;
- b) Councillor Helen-Ann Smith be appointed as the Council's representative on the Nottinghamshire Joint Waste Management Committee for the term ending 31 May 2024;
- c) Councillor John Wilmott be appointed as the Council's representative on the Police and Crime Commissioner Panel with Councillor Helen-Ann Smith replacing Councillor Jason Zadrozny as substitute, for the term ending 31 May 2027.

C.62 Recommendations from the Cabinet and the Council's Committees

Council was requested to consider and approve three recommendations from Cabinet and the Licensing Committee.

In respect of the Licensing Committee recommendation, Council was advised that no responses had been received in relation to the public consultation exercise which closed on 22 November 2023.

Minute No. CA.34

Cabinet – 6 November 2023

Ashfield Local Plan 2023 to 2040: Regulation 19 Pre-submission Draft

RESOLVED

that the final version of the Ashfield Local Plan 2023 to 2040 Regulation 19 Pre Submission Draft, as presented, be approved for the purposes of public consultation and submission to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, in accordance with provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Minute No. CA.36

Cabinet – 6 November 2023

Programme Monitoring Report: Major Projects and Funding

RESOLVED that

a) in respect of the 'Plan for Towns' programme for Kirkby, approval be given to:

- accept funding from the programme;
- agree that the Council will act as the Accountable Body;
- delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer for the signing of documents including a Heads of Terms and Memorandum of Understanding;

b) the Devolution – Retrofit funding, as outlined in the report, be accepted.

At this point in the proceedings a suspension of Council Procedure Rule 23.1 (Conclusion of Proceedings) was moved and seconded to enable conclusion of the business of the Council and upon being put to the vote, it was duly carried.

(Prior to consideration of the next recommendation and in accordance with the Council's Constitution and the Members' Code of Conduct, Councillors Tom Hollis and Jason Zadrozny declared Non-Registrable interests regarding their ownership of rental properties within designated Selective Licensing areas. Councillor Samantha Deakin also declared a Non-Registrable interest as she was currently residing in a rental property within a designated Selective Licensing Area. However, their interests were such that they stayed in the meeting and took part in the discussion and voting thereon.)

RESOLVED

that having acknowledged that no valid responses were received in respect of the public consultation exercise, the revised Statement of Licensing Policy, as presented, be approved.

C.63 Updates from Members of the Cabinet on their Portfolio Activity

The following Cabinet Members gave updates in relation to their portfolio activity:

Councillor Samantha Deakin – Executive Lead Member for Parks and Environmental Services

Councillor Matthew Relf – Executive Lead Member for Growth, Regeneration and Local Planning

Councillor John Wilmott – Executive Lead Member for Governance.

(During the portfolio update from Cabinet Members, Councillor Cathy Mason left the meeting at 8.50pm.)

C.64 Notices of Motion

No motions were received for consideration.

C.65 Questions received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13

No questions were received from Members.

C.66 Questions received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.2 - In relation to Cabinet and Committee Meeting Minutes published since the last ordinary meeting of the Council

No questions were received from Members.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Chairman.

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Report To:	COUNCIL
Date:	12 FEBRUARY 2024
Heading:	PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2024 - 2025
Portfolio Holder:	CLLR VICKY HESLOP, EXECUTIVE LEAD MEMBER FOR GOVERNANCE
Ward/s:	NOT APPLICABLE
Key Decision:	NO
Subject to Call-In:	NO

Purpose of Report

Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to publish a Pay Policy Statement by 31 March each year. This report presents the Ashfield District Council Pay Policy Statement 2024-2025 for agreement.

Recommendation(s)

That the Pay Policy Statement 2024-2025 is approved.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

To ensure that the Council complies with legislative requirements.

Alternative Options Considered

(with reasons why not adopted)

No other alternatives considered.

Detailed Information

Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to publish a Pay Policy Statement by 31 March each year. The purpose of the Statement is to increase accountability in relation to payments made to senior members of local authority staff by enabling public scrutiny.

A Pay Policy Statement must set out the Authority's policies relating to:

- a) the remuneration of its chief officers,
- b) the remuneration of its lowest-paid employees, and
- c) the relationship between the remuneration of its chief officers and the remuneration of its employees who are not chief officers.

The Statement must include the Authority's policies relating to:

- a) the level and elements of remuneration for each chief officer,
- b) remuneration of chief officers on recruitment,
- c) increases and additions to remuneration for each chief officer,
- d) the use of performance-related pay for chief officers,
- e) the use of bonuses for chief officers,
- f) the approach to the payment of chief officers on their ceasing to hold office or to be employed by the authority, and
- g) the publication of and access to information relating to remuneration of chief officers.

The Pay Policy Statement may include information relating to the policy on employment terms and conditions for all chief officers.

The Statement must be approved by a resolution of the Authority before the 31 March immediately before the financial year to which it relates. The Pay Policy Statement may be amended by resolution during the year. It must be published on the Authority's website as soon as possible after approval. Publishing the Pay Policy Statement also meets requirements under the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities in Data Transparency.

The term 'chief officer' referred to above includes:

- a) the head of paid service designated under section 4(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989;
- b) the monitoring officer designated under section 5(1) of that Act (monitoring officer also Executive Director, Governance);
- c) a statutory chief officer mentioned in section 2(6) of that Act (S151 Chief Finance Officer also Corporate Resources Director)
- d) a non-statutory chief officer mentioned in section 2(7) of that Act (three Executive Directors by virtue of reporting directly to the head of paid service).

The Pay Policy Statement must include the following information in relation to each chief officer listed above:

- a) the chief officer's salary,
- b) any bonuses payable,
- c) any charges, fees or allowances payable,
- d) any benefits in kind to which the chief officer is entitled,
- e) any increase or enhancement to the chief officer's pension entitlement, and
- f) any amounts payable to the chief officer on the chief officer ceasing to hold office or be employed by the Authority.

Appendix One contains the full Pay Policy Statement for Ashfield District Council for the year 2024 - 2025. It is intended to publish this document on the Council's website immediately after resolution.

Summary of the Pay Policy Statement 2024 - 2025

The Pay Policy 2024-2025 reflects the pay for the period 2023-2024.

Remuneration of chief officers

- Chief Executive (CEO) – incorporates statutory officer Head of Paid Service total annual remuneration (excludes Election duties) £129,158
- Executive Director Governance (incorporating Monitoring Officer) £95,220
- Executive Director – Place £95,220
- Executive Director –Transformation - £95,220
- Executive Director – Operations - £95,220
- Corporate Finance Manager (incorporating Section 151 officer) - £85,698

Remuneration of lowest paid employees

The current minimum point for a competent employee taken on in a defined role is £23,114.00.

Relationship between the above

- The relationship between the remuneration of Chief Executive (the highest paid employee) and the lowest paid employees is 5.59:1
- The relationship between the remuneration of the Chief Executive (the highest paid employee) and the median average earnings across the Council is 4.49.1

Implications

Corporate Plan:

Not applicable.

Legal:

Approval of the Pay Policy Statement before 31 March 2024 ensures compliance with the Localism Act 2011. [RLD 25/01/2024]

Finance: There are no direct financial implications arising from approval of this Pay Policy Statement. [PH 30/01/2024].

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
Failure to comply with the legislative requirements.	Approval of the Pay Policy Statement in accordance with the recommendation in the report ensures compliance.

Human Resources:

The policy is produced by Human Resources taking into consideration relevant legislation [NM 16/01/2024]

Environmental/Sustainability

Not applicable.

Equalities:

The equality impact assessment has been reviewed as part of the updating of the policy.

Other Implications:

None. Reason(s) for Urgency

Not applicable.

Reason(s) for Exemption

Not applicable.

Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Pay Policy Statement 2024-2025

Report Author and Contact Officer

Nikki Morris
Senior HR Adviser
nmorris@mansfield.gov.uk
01623 463150

Sponsoring Executive Director
Ruth Dennis
Executive Director – Governance and Monitoring Officer
ruth.dennis@ashfield.gov.uk
01623 457009



Ashfield District Council

Pay Policy Statement 2024 - 2025

March 2024

VERSION CONTROL

Version Number	Date Issued
Original	16.1.24
Revised V1	
Revised Final Version	29.1.24

ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Pay Policy Statement 2024 – 2025

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to publish a Pay Policy Statement by 31 March each year. The purpose of the statement is to increase accountability in relation to payments made to senior members of local authority staff by enabling public scrutiny. The policy reflects the financial year for 2023 - 2024.
- 1.2 The Act and supporting statutory guidance provides details of information that must be included in this statutory pay policy but also emphasises that each local authority has the autonomy to take its own decisions on pay and pay policies. The Pay Policy Statement must be approved formally by Council by the end of March each year; can be amended in year; must be published on the Council's website and must be complied with when setting the terms and conditions of Chief Officer employees.
- 1.3 This Pay Policy includes a policy on:
- The level and elements of remuneration for each Chief Officer
 - The remuneration of the lowest paid employees
 - The relationship between the remuneration of Chief Officers and other Officers
 - Other specific aspects of Chief Officer Remuneration, fees and charges and other discretionary payments
- 1.4 Remuneration includes any charges, fees, allowances, benefits in kind, any increase in enhancements of pension entitlements and termination payments.
- 1.5 Attached to this Statement is a summary of Chief Officer's pay in the Authority and those earning above £50,000 per year.

2. Remuneration of the Council's Chief Officers

- 2.1 The posts which are Chief Officer posts for the purposes of the Council's Pay Policy Statement under the Localism Act 2011 are:-
- Chief Executive (as Head of Paid Service S43 (2) (a) of the 2011 Act)
 - Executive Director - Governance and Monitoring Officer (S43 (2) (b) of the 2011 Act)
 - Executive Director - Transformation (S43 (2) (d) of the 2011 Act)

- Executive Director – Place (S43 (2) (d) of the 2011 Act)
- Executive Director – Operations (S43 (2) (d) of the 2011 Act)
- Corporate Resources Director (as Section 151 Officer S43(2)(c) of the 2011 Act)

2.2 The policy for each group is as follows:-

Chief Executive

- The salary for this post is within a locally determined pay scale which is spinal points CEOP1 to CEOP3, which equates to £115,331 - £129,158 per annum.
- The pay scale was determined by the Council's Chief Officers Employment Committee following an analysis of benchmark data with other comparators and an analysis of the degree of responsibility for the role.
- Progression through the scale is determined through satisfactory annual performance appraisals.
- Other Conditions of Service are as prescribed by the Joint National Council (JNC) for Local Authority Chief Executives national conditions.

Monitoring Officer and Executive Directors

- The salary for these posts is a locally determined fixed salary point of £95,220 per annum.
- The pay scale was determined by the Council's Chief Officers Employment Committee following an analysis of benchmark data with other comparators and an analysis of the degree of responsibility for the role.
- Other Conditions of Service are as prescribed by the Joint National Council (JNC) for Local Authority Services.

Section 151 Officer (Corporate Resources Director)

- The salary scale for this post is a locally determined fixed salary point of £85,698 per annum.

Other Conditions of Service are as prescribed by the Joint National Council (JNC) for Local Authority Services.

No member of the Strategic Leadership Team (i.e. those posts listed above) is entitled to other additional elements of remuneration in respect of overtime, flexitime, bank holiday working, stand-by payments etc. as these officers are expected to undertake duties outside their contractual hours and working patterns without additional payment.

Other Chief Officer posts

- Although not defined as Chief Officers for the purposes of the Pay Policy, the Council also employs employees at Assistant Director level, whose Terms and Conditions of Service are as prescribed by the Joint National Council (JNC) for Local Authority Services. The salary range for these posts is £63,756- £71,933 per annum determined locally. Details of these posts are listed below:-

Assistant Director - Assets
Assistant Director - Corp Health and Safety
Assistant Director - Customer Experience
Assistant Director - Democracy
Assistant Director - Digital
Assistant Director - Housing Management
Assistant Director - Housing Operations
Assistant Director - Legal
Assistant Director - Neighbourhoods
Assistant Director - Planning
Assistant Director - Policy and Performance
Assistant Director - Regeneration
Assistant Director - Strategic Housing
Assistant Director - Revenues and Benefits

2.3 Cost of Living Pay Awards

A cost of living pay increase was agreed at 3.5% for JNC Chief Executives, JNC for Chief Officers and, this agreement was payable from 1st April 2023.

For staff on NJC terms and conditions a pay increase of 3.5% was payable from 1st April 2023.

Pay awards are negotiated nationally. When a national pay award is agreed the pay rates stated in 2.2 above will change to reflect the percentage increase awarded.

3. **Additional Fees**

- 3.1 Special fees are paid for Returning Officer duties, which are not part of the postholder's substantive role. These fees are payable as required and can be made to any senior officer appointed to fulfil the statutory duties of this role. The Returning Officer is an officer of the Council who is appointed under the Representation of the People Act 1983. The role of the Returning Officer involves and incurs personal responsibility and accountability and is statutorily separate from their duties as an employee of the Council. As Returning Officer they are paid a separate allowance for each election for which they are responsible.

The Nottinghamshire Election Officers group regularly review the scale of fees and these reviews determine the rates applied for the elections held in 2023/2024. This information is available on the Council's Website.

4. Pay Structure

- 4.1 The pay structure for all employees outside the Chief Officers is in accordance with the NJC for Local Authorities National Pay Spine.
- 4.2 All posts outside the Chief Officers are evaluated using a locally adopted job evaluation scheme. The Council adopted the NJC Job Evaluation Scheme for all employees outside those on Chief Officer's terms and conditions during 2014 – 2015.

5. Remuneration of the Council's lowest-paid employee

- 5.1 With effect from 1 April 2023 the lowest paid employee within the Council is paid at local grade A1 which equates to £23,114 per annum for full time employees.
- 5.2 The Council ensures that remuneration of the lowest paid employee reflects the Living Wage.

6. Allowances and benefits in kind

- 6.1 Allowances and benefits typically follow nationally agreed rates. Locally agreed allowances or benefits in kind payments include:
- All employees of the Council have access to Ashfield Benefits, which enables employees to enjoy discounts with major retailers. There is a contribution cost from the employer of £2.95 per employee per annum.
 - Access to salary sacrifice schemes such as child care vouchers (this is only applicable to existing employees already in the scheme in line with current legislation) and cycle to work schemes, which are available to all employees in accordance with current policies.
 - Reimbursement of professional fees, where applicable, in accordance with the current policy introduced with effect from 1 October, 2014.

7. Payments, charges and contributions

- 7.1 All employees, including Chief Officers, who are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), make individual contributions to the scheme in accordance with the following, which were effective from 1 April 2023.

Band	Range	Contribution rate for employment	
		Main Section	50/50 Section*
1	Up to £16,500	5.50%	2.75%
2	£16,501 to £25,900	5.80%	2.90%
3	£25,901 to £42,100	6.50%	3.25%
4	£42,101 to £53,300	6.80%	3.40%

5	£53,301 to £74,700	8.50%	4.25%
6	£74,701 to £105,900	9.90%	4.95%
7	£105,901 to £124,800	10.50%	5.25%
8	£124,801 to £187,200	11.40%	5.70%
9	£187,201 or more	12.50%	6.25%

*Please note: 50/50 scheme is for employees who opt to pay reduced contributions for a reduced pension.

7.2 The Council makes employers contributions into the scheme. The current rate of contribution is 19.3%. The next review by the actuary will be in 2024 and the revised rate will be implemented once confirmed.

8. Relationship between remuneration levels

8.1 The Council's current ratio between its top earner (£129,158) to its median earner (£28,770.00) is: 4.49:1.

8.2 The Council's current ratio between its top earner (£129,158) to its lowest earner (£23,114.00) is:5.59:1

8.3 These ratios will be monitored annually within the Pay Policy Statement and the figures exclude apprentices.

9. Severance and Discretionary payments

9.1 The policy for the award of any discretionary payments is the same for all employees, regardless of their pay level and is in accordance with the Council's current Discretionary Compensation Payment Policy.

9.2 The Council also reserves the right and discretion to implement settlement agreements with individual employees, which may include enhanced severance and discretionary payments in accordance with a business case. The business case will be considered and determined by:

Chief Officers Employment Committee: Chief Officers and Statutory Officers as defined in the Council's Constitution

Chief Executive: All other employees.

10. Remuneration Decisions

10.1 Decisions on remuneration relating to pay, starting spinal point (for Chief Executive only) and any additional allowances for Chief Officers as defined in the Council's Constitution are determined by the Chief Officers Employment Committee and ratified by the Council.

10.2 Spinal point progression for the Chief Executive is considered and approved by the Chief Officer Employment Committee subject to satisfactory performance.

- 10.3 The Chief Officers Employment Committee acts as the recruitment interviewing committee for all posts defined as Chief Officers and/or Statutory Officer posts in the Council's Constitution.
- 10.4 Where individual officers are requested to carry out part of a role at a higher level in excess of four weeks and/or carry out project related activities outside of their substantive role, Chief Officers may, at their discretion, propose that an honoraria is paid in accordance with the Council's Acting Up/Honorarium Arrangements Guidance.

11. Publication

- 11.1 This Pay Policy Statement will be published on the Council's website in accordance with Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011. The statement also contains information of posts attracting salaries in excess of £50,000 to meet the requirements of the Local Government Transparency Code (see Appendix 1)

12. Annual Review

- 12.1 The Pay Policy Statement will be annually reviewed on or before 31 March each year.

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Appendix 1

Pay Policy 2024– 2025 (Reflecting Financial Year 2023 - 2024)

Post	Total annual Salary	Salary Range	Salary on recruitment	Amount payable on cessation of employment
Chief Executive	£129,158	£115,331 - £129,158	£109,506 - 2021	See Policy
Executive Director – Governance (also Monitoring Officer)	£95,220	£95,220 - Single point	£71,000 - 2011	See Policy
Executive Director – Place	£95,220	£95,220 - Single point	£95,220 - 2023	See Policy
Executive Director - Transformation	£95,220	£95,220 - Single point	£71,000 - 2011	See Policy
Executive Director – Operations	£95,220	£95,220 - Single point	£73,144 - 2016	See policy
Corporate Resources Director (also Section 151 Officer)	£85,698	£85,698 - Single point	£56,100 - 2018	See policy

Posts attracting salaries in excess of £50,000 (to meet the requirements of the Local Government Transparency Code)				
Post	Total annual salary	Salary range	Salary on recruitment	Amount payable on cessation of employment
Assistant Director - Planning	£71,933	£69,863 - £71,933	£56,100	See policy
Assistant Director - Assets	£69,863	£69,863 - £71,933	£56,100	See policy
Assistant Director - Policy and Performance	£68,828	£66,758 - £68,828	£57,222	See policy
Assistant Director - Housing Operations	£69,863	£69,863 - £71,933	£57,222	See policy
Assistant Director - Housing Management	£69,863	£69,863 - £71,933	£59,677	See policy
Assistant Director - Neighbourhoods	Vacant	£69,863 - £71,933		See policy
Assistant Director - Regeneration	£69,863	£69,863 - £71,933	£61,603	See policy
Assistant Director - Revenues and Benefits	£66,758	£66,758 - £68,828	£54,382	See policy
Assistant Director - Strategic Housing	£66,758	£66,758 - £68,828	£49,191	See policy
Assistant Director - Legal	£63,756	£63,756 - £66,033	£48,691	See policy
Assistant Director - Corporate Health and Safety	£66,758	£66,758 - £68,828	£39,660	See policy
Assistant Director - Customer Experience	£66,758	£66,758 - £68,828	£49,866	See policy
Assistant Director - Democracy	£66,758	£66,758 - £68,828	£54,500	See policy
Assistant Director - Digital	£66,758	£66,758 - £68,828	£66,758	See policy

Service Manager Commercial Development	£54,707	£52,580 - £54,707	£48,691	See policy
Service Manager - ICT	£54,707	£52,580 - £54,707	£41,146	See policy
Financial Services Manager	£54,707	£52,580 - £54,707	£54,707	See policy
Forward Planning and Economic Growth Team Man	£50,512	£48,474 - £51,515	£46,549	See policy
Planned, Cyclical and Estates Maintenance Manager	£51,515	£48,474 - £51,515	£45,591	See policy
Responsive and Voids Maintenance Manger	£51,515	£48,474 - £51,515	£45,290	See policy
Strategic Asset Manager	£51,515	£48,474 - £51,515	£45,859	See policy

Lowest-paid employee	£23,114.00
Median Pay	£28,770.00
Mean Pay	£31,889.45
Ratio between the highest paid employee and lowest paid.	5.59:1
Ratio between the salary of the highest paid employee and the median salary	4.49:1
Ratio between the salary of the highest paid employee and the mean salary	4.05:1



Report To:	COUNCIL
Date:	12 FEBRUARY 2024
Heading:	ANNUAL SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT 2023/24
Executive Lead Member:	EXECUTIVE LEAD MEMBER FOR GOVERNANCE
Ward/s:	NOT APPLICABLE
Key Decision:	NO
Subject to Call-In:	NO

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the Annual Select Committee Report 2023/24. The Annual Select Committee Report 2023/24 summarises the activity of the Principal Select Committee, Inward Focus Select Committee, and Outward Focus Select Committee through 2023/24, including some activity occurring between 2021/22.

The Annual Select Committee Report 2023/24 is appended to this report.

Recommendation(s)

Council is recommended to:

- a. Note the work undertaken by the Committees appointed by Council to carry out the overview and scrutiny function from 2023/24, as detailed within the Annual Select Committee Report 2023/24 appended to this report.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

There is a statutory requirement for Council to be kept informed of the activity undertaken by those committees appointed to undertake the overview and scrutiny function, established in the Local Government Act 2000.

Alternative Options Considered

No alternative options have been considered.

Detailed Information

The Annual Select Committee Report 2023/24 is appended to this report.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

Consideration is given to the Corporate Plan in all activity undertaken by the Select Committees, ensuring that any activity aligns with the priorities and objectives established within the Plan.

Legal:

There are no legal implications resulting from the recommendation within this report.

Finance:

There are no financial implications resulting from the recommendation within this report.

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	None.
General Fund – Capital Programme	
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	

Risk:

There are no risk implications resulting from the recommendation within this report.

Human Resources:

There are no HR implications resulting from the recommendation within this report.

Environmental/Sustainability:

There are no environmental/sustainability implications resulting from the recommendation within this report.

Equalities:

There are no equalities implications resulting from the recommendation within this report.

Other Implications:

There are no other implications resulting from the recommendation within this report.

Reason(s) for Urgency

None.

Reason(s) for Exemption

None.

Background Papers

None.

Report Author and Contact Officer

Shane Wright
Scrutiny Research Officer
shane.wright@ashfield.gov.uk
01623 457318

Sponsoring Executive Director

Ruth Dennis
Executive Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer
ruth.dennis@ashfield.gov.uk
01623 457009

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Ashfield

DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT 2023/24



CONTENTS

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD.....	3
SELECT COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS	4
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FUNCTION.....	5
PRINCIPAL SELECT COMMITTEE.....	6
50 Year Anniversary	6
Social Value.....	7
No Mow May.....	8
Executive Lead Member Updates	9
Petitions.....	9
Other Principal Select Committee Activity	11
INWARD FOCUS SELECT COMMITTEE	12
Climate Change Mitigation.....	12
Dog Fouling and Littering.....	14
Damp and Mould	15
OUTWARD FOCUS SELECT COMMITTEE	17
Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Prevention Strategy.....	17
Selective Licensing	18
Christmas Lights	19
Tenancy Support	20



CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD



Over the past year, the overview and scrutiny function has undergone changes in an effort to refocus the work of the function and increase its effectiveness.

The newly appointed Principal Select Committee has been established to ensure that the principles of scrutiny continue to provide a forum for challenge, review, and improvement. It also provides guidance and direction to the Inward and Outward Focus Select Committees.

Post Covid, several social issues have come to the forefront of the function's considerations, including the cost of living, homelessness, small business support and climate change. The work of the Select

Committees continues to ask those probing questions, discuss options, and put forward innovative suggestions and recommendations for continuous improvement.

The opportunities to make tangible improvements not only lie in the ability to challenge and review, but also providing a forum for the public to engage in, whether that be through the hearing of petitions, public meetings, or engaging in the review process of a topic of interest. In 2024, I will continue to promote public engagement in the process and provide an accessible and transparent function that focusses on the issues that matter to the community.

Lastly, I would like to personally acknowledge and thank all who have engaged with the Select Committees over the past year. This includes past Committee Members, Officers, Executive Lead Members, partner organisations, and residents.

Councillor Kier Barsby, Chairman of the Principal Select Committee



SELECT COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS

Principal Select Committee



Chairman
Councillor Kier Barsby



Vice Chairman
Councillor Julie Gregory

Inward Focus Select Committee



Chairman
Councillor Oliver Hay



Vice Chairman
Councillor David Walters

Outward Focus Select Committee



Chairman
Councillor David Shaw



Vice Chairman
Councillor Sarah Lewsey

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FUNCTION

Ashfield District Council has a statutory requirement to have an overview and scrutiny function in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000. The function acts as a counterweight to the political governance system the Council has in place. The purpose of the overview and scrutiny function is to allow the rest of the Council to scrutinise the decisions and policies of the Executive, issuing reports and recommendations informed by evidence and understanding the needs of local communities.

Ashfield District Council appoints three committees to facilitate the overview and scrutiny function.

Principal Select Committee

The Principal Select Committee is appointed by Council to maintain an overview of the work undertaken by the Outward and Inward Focus Select Committees. This incorporates management of the select committee work programme, including selecting topics for inclusion on the work programme and delegating topics to each Committee as appropriate.

The Principal Select Committee has an important role in monitoring the Council's performance through regular reports, which can often highlight potential areas for scrutiny involvement across the Council.

The Principal Select Committee also undertakes regular scrutiny of the Council's finances, with particular attention to the annual budget and tax setting process.

Outward and Inward Focus Select Committees

The Outward and Inward Focus Select Committees are appointed by Council to carry out reviews of topics added to the select committee work programme by the Principal Select Committee. On rarer occasions, the Committees also undertake work as requested by Council or the Executive.



PRINCIPAL SELECT COMMITTEE

50 Year Anniversary

Ashfield District Council was formed on 1 April 1974, under the Local Government Act 1972, by the merger of Urban Districts of Hucknall, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield and parts of Basford Rural District, namely the parishes of Annesley & Felley and Selston.

The Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) suggested that the milestone should be marked in some way and recommended to the Principal Select Committee that the topic be included in the select committee work programme. The Principal Select Committee held a meeting to share ideas and suggestions for marking the milestone.

At this meeting, the Chairman decided to take the idea around the table and asked all Members and Officers present at the meeting for their ideas and suggestions for marking the event as follows:

Ideas/Suggestions:

- to organise an event for Officers, Members, past Members and past Chief Executives with slideshow and refreshments
- a celebratory item to be included on the Council meeting agenda scheduled for 15 April 2024
- celebratory signs to be erected at all the Council's market site including showcase stalls with special offers available on the anniversary day
- memory videos/photos to be posted on the Council's website
- publicity comprising all the Council's achievements over the past 50 years (i.e. new leisure centres and Robin Hood line)
- 'Do you remember?' interviews with older, local residents including a special feature on couples married for 50 years or more



- a one day promotional offer of 1974 prices at all the Council's leisure centres
- a promotional 'then and now' publicity campaign with a 1974 fancy dress day at Council facilities across the District on the anniversary date
- magnetic vehicles signs for the Council's fleet stating 'Proudly serving Ashfield for the last 50 years'.
- celebratory afternoon event amalgamated with the Council's 2024 staff recognition awards for all employees.

Since this meeting, the ideas and suggestions formulated by the Principal Select Committee have been shared with the Strategic Leadership Team. Subsequently, an ADC 50 Years Working Group has been formed, bringing together Officers from across the Council to work with Members and ensure the milestone is appropriately celebrated.

Social Value

Through other related work, Members were interested in learning more about the Council's increasing use of social value, particularly through procurement, as well as other activities.

Members welcomed the Procurement and Projects Officer to a meeting who provided a detailed overview of how the Council utilises social value and how it was planned to be further embedded in the organisation.

Members learned that the Cabinet had recently approved the adoption of a Social Value Policy, setting out the Council's commitment to social value and the added societal benefits to be gained from projects and public procurement.

Members were glad to note the information provided and looked to incorporate social value considerations into future work within the wider overview and scrutiny function.



No Mow May

No Mow May was added as a review topic to the select committee work programme as Members wished to review the Council's previous involvement with the campaign and identify any areas for improvement.

Members learned the origins of the No Mow May campaign, founded in 2019 by conservation charity Plantlife, calling all garden owners and green space managers not to mow during May. The goal of the campaign is to create a more wildlife-friendly environment by liberating the lawn to host wildflowers and other plants to provide a feast for pollinators, tackle pollution, and lock away carbon in the ground for good.

Members worked with the Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods throughout the review to understand the areas the Council has previously designated to take part in No Mow May and the challenges the Neighbourhoods Team faced.

At the conclusion of the review, the following recommendations were made to Cabinet:

- a. Reaffirm the Council's commitment to partaking in future No Mow May campaigns.
- b. Expand the use of maze cutting and wildflower planting to appropriate green spaces designated as part of future No Mow May campaigns.
- c. Ensure that a communication campaign is rolled out ahead and alongside future No Mow May campaigns to raise public awareness of No Mow May, including the areas taking part as well as the origins and benefits of the campaign.
- d. Commit to ensuring the ongoing maintenance of play parks, sports pitches, and road junctions that could otherwise become dangerous if not maintained, during any future No Mow May campaigns.

All recommendations were accepted by Cabinet. Furthermore, it has been agreed that the results of the 2024 No Mow May campaign will be reported back to the Principal Select Committee in July 2024.



Executive Lead Member Updates

As a component of the refocusing of the Council's overview and scrutiny function, agreed at the 2023 Annual Council Meeting, the Principal Select Committee look to engage more closely with the Cabinet through a programme of Executive Lead Member Updates. Executive Lead Members will be invited to meetings of the Principal Select Committee to provide the Committee with an update on activity within their portfolio, and to answer any questions Members may have themselves or on behalf of residents.

The programme of updates began with the Principal Select Committee welcoming the attendance of the Executive Lead Member for Social Housing and Assets, who was asked to provide an update on the impact of universal credit following an earlier review by the Committee.

The Executive Lead Member for Social Housing and Assets, supported by the Assistant Director, Housing Management, shared with Members the most recent data regarding universal credit, as well as the deadlines the Council and other agencies are working to. Members were further given full details of all measures the Council has in place to support tenants, including the Tenancy Sustainment Team and Money Management Advice Team.

As a result of the presentation and subsequent debate, Members identified further key lines of enquiry to explore the ongoing impact of universal credit.

For 2024/25, the Principal Select Committee will develop a set schedule for Executive Lead Member Updates, to be managed alongside the select committee work programme.

Petitions

Ashfield District Council has an established Petition Scheme approved by Council. As part of the scheme, the response to a petition is decided by the number of signatures the submitted petition has received.

As per the Petition Scheme:

- If a petition submitted to the Council contains between 750 and 1,499



signatures, it will be referred to the Principal Select Committee for consideration.

The Petition Scheme continues:

- A petition containing between 750 and 1,499 signatures will be considered by the Council's Principal Select Committee.
- The most appropriate Senior Council Officer(s) will be invited to give evidence at a public meeting of the Principal Select Committee relating to the issues set out in a petition.
- The petition organiser will be permitted a total of 15 minutes to ask up to a maximum of three questions to the Officer(s) in attendance regarding the petition.
- The petition organiser must provide the Service Assistant Director, Democracy with written notice of these questions at least 10 clear working days before the Principal Select Committee meeting.
- Questions submitted as part of this process considered by the Chief Executive to be vexatious, discriminatory, abusive, unreasonable, or otherwise inappropriate will not be considered.
- Following the questions asked by the petition organiser, a further 15 minutes will be allocated to allow discussion between Principal Select Committee Members and the invited Officer. During this allocated time, Committee Members may seek further clarification from the petition organiser.
- Following discussion, Members of the Principal Select Committee may decide to approve recommendations to be submitted to a future meeting of the Council's Cabinet.

In accordance with the above process, the Principal Select Committee has considered one petition over the period covered by this annual report.



Other Principal Select Committee Activity

Performance

The Principal Select Committee receives a report on Corporate Performance on a quarterly basis. The report provides Members with insight into how well each service area is performing and highlights any areas of the Council experiencing issues as they arise.

In consideration of performance information, Members utilise various methods to assess how well the Council is performing, including delivery against the Corporate Plan, outcomes from service reviews, feedback from peer challenges, place surveys, and performance scorecards.

Members have the opportunity to discuss any issues with Officers and Executive Lead Members and put forward any recommendations for improvement. Consideration of performance information is also used to inform topics to be added to the select committee work programme.

Budget

The Principal Select Committee holds an extraordinary meeting each year in line with the Annual Budget and Tax Setting process. At this meeting, Members receive an update on the key considerations within the framework of the process, prior to being presented to Council for determination.

Select Committee Work Programme

Management of the select committee work programme is one of the core functions of the Principal Select Committee. This includes formally approving items to be added to the programme for review and receiving updates on progress made. All Select Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs are invited to take part in this process throughout the year.



INWARD FOCUS SELECT COMMITTEE

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation was added to the scrutiny work programme as it was recognised as a key corporate priority for the Council. Members of the former Scrutiny Panel B held five formal meetings and three informal working groups reviewing the topic. The review was underpinned by guidance published by the Local Government Association and the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny.

During the review, Members were supported fully by the Council's Assistant Director, Assets and Investments and Strategic Asset Manager. Officers provided Members with comprehensive details of the Council's efforts towards mitigating the many impacts of climate change, past, present, and future. This included sharing details of a Carbon Management Plan developed for Ashfield, setting out the District's carbon baseline used to measure the Council's progress on carbon reduction thereafter.

Further work was undertaken to understand the three key emission areas, and what actions the Council needed to take to address each one. These included:

- Scope 1 emissions – Direct (e.g., ADC offices/Fleet)
- Scope 2 emissions – Indirect utilities (e.g., Purchasing utilities for offices/housing courts)
- Scope 3 emissions – Indirect other (e.g., investment properties, housing stock, staff commuting, purchased goods/materials)

Members learned of the internal Climate Change Working Group, made up of Officers from across the Council, who had been working towards the following:

- Staff Commuting Survey
- Waste Management Plan
- Energy Review
- Public Sector Decarbonising Bid
- Flood Protection Measures



Members focused on providing feedback on the Council's developing Climate Change Strategy and accompanying Climate Change Action Plan. This included reviewing the extensive list of proposed strategic actions.

The review conducted by Scrutiny Panel B concluded with Members agreeing a total of thirteen recommendations to submit to Cabinet for consideration.

Recommendations

- a. Support the approval of a proposed target of net-zero by 2030 for the Council's Scope 1 and 2 emissions, as recommended in the Climate Change Strategy report.
- b. Support the approval of proposals to minimise Scope 3 emissions by 2050, as recommended in the Climate Change Strategy report.
- c. Support the approval of the Climate Change Strategy, Climate Change Action Plan, and Carbon Management Plan, as recommended in the Climate Change Strategy report.
- d. Continue to ensure an increase in the number of electric charging points available to the Council and the wider public.
- e. Continue the commitment towards the expansion of a greener transport fleet.
- f. Continue to invest appropriately in renewable technology opportunities.
- g. Promote low carbon and sustainable procurement across the Council.
- h. Continue to support tree planting schemes throughout Ashfield.
- i. Continue to support and promote energy saving initiatives to Ashfield residents.
- j. In addition to the Green Rewards Scheme, consider other targeted recognition initiatives aimed at communities, educational institutions, and businesses to increase innovation, action, and awareness in Ashfield.



- k. Work with schools and community groups to improve knowledge and understanding of climate change mitigation.
- l. Explore the possibility of establishing wildlife friendly verges across the District as part of the Council's commitment to supporting nature and wildlife.
- m. Ensure that local businesses and communities are involved in implementing the key objectives set out within the Climate Change Strategy.

Following presentation to Cabinet, all recommendations were accepted. It was further agreed that an update on the implementation and progress of the Climate Change Strategy and associated initiatives will be reported to the Principal Select Committee on a bi-annual basis.

Dog Fouling and Littering

Dog Fouling and Littering was added to the scrutiny work programme by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the June 2022 meeting. Members agreed that dog fouling and littering offences remain key issues for the Council to focus on, being the source of a high number of complaints reported to Councillors.

Throughout the review, Members worked closely with the Director of Place and Communities, Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods and Environment, Community Safety Manager, Executive Lead Member for Community Safety and Crime Reduction, Executive Lead Member for Parks, Town Centres, and Environmental Services, and the Leader of the Council.

The review concluded with Members agreeing a total of five recommendations to submit to Cabinet for consideration.

Recommendations

- a. Review the status of the Council's Neighbourhood/Environmental Charter and proactively engage Scrutiny Members in the process.



- b. Continue to target future resources towards reducing dog fouling and littering across the District, including facilitating preventive education measures regarding responsible dog ownership and disposal of litter/waste management within primary and secondary schools as appropriate.
- c. Continue to explore all available options relating to environmental enforcement duties following the discontinuation of the previous Environmental Enforcement Contractor pilot scheme and proactively engage Scrutiny Members in the process.
- d. Explore the possibility of undertaking a light touch review of local businesses and organisations within the Ashfield District, to ascertain and ensure they continue to meet their obligations in respect of keeping sites/curtilages within the District clean and free of litter.
- e. Continue gathering and utilising accurate locational data to identify hotspot areas in the District to enable effective targeted action to reduce dog fouling and littering offences in these areas.

Scrutiny Panel B Members resolved that:

- f. Cabinet, and the wider Teams engaged in this work, be commended for the array of mitigation measures already being undertaken, to address the issue of dog fouling and littering within the District.

Following presentation to Cabinet, all recommendations were accepted.

Damp and Mould

Damp and Mould was added to the select committee work programme in June 2023 by the Principal Select Committee. Members were increasingly aware that damp and mould in both private rented and social housing has been under the spotlight for some time, with mainstream media running campaigns highlighting and naming landlords in regular news bulletins on prime-time news slots.

As a result of this publicity, the Council had witnessed a significant increase in contact from customers requesting inspections and reporting damp and mould,



as well as an increase in disrepair claims against the Council that relate to damp and mould.

Nationally, this came to a head with the sad passing of 2-year-old Awaab Ishak in Rochdale. The coroner's report identified that mould present in his home was a contributing factor in his death and that he died from prolonged exposure to mould.

As a direct consequence of this case the Government tabled amendments to the Social Housing Regulation Bill to introduce 'Awaab's Law', requiring landlords to fix reported health hazards in homes within specified time limits.

Members learned of the 10 questions sent by the Regulator of Social Housing to all social landlords. The Regulator required assurance that social landlords have a 'clear understanding and strong grip on damp and mould issues in their homes' and were addressing risks to tenants.

Throughout the review, Members worked with the Assistant Director, Housing Operations and Team Manager, Environmental Health. The Assistant Director, Housing Operations explained to Members all of the steps the Council has been taking to tackle damp and mould issues. Including the procedure used to respond to reports of damp and mould, how property data is utilised to eliminate systemic damp and mould issues, and how regular cross-department meetings are held to discuss damp and mould cases, complaints, and sector wide information and judgements to identify any emerging trends, identify best practice, and inform the Council's capital programme.

Members also discussed the gaps and challenges the Council had to consider, including resourcing, recent peer reviews, new legal requirements, and communication with residents.

To conclude the review, Members commended the Council's emerging Damp and Mould Policy and associated tenant guidance document. Through the review, Members also identified further training needs



OUTWARD FOCUS SELECT COMMITTEE

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Prevention Strategy

Members of the Outward Focus Select Committee were invited to take part in the consultation process for the Council's developing Homeless and Rough Sleeping Prevention Strategy 2024 – 2029.

The Housing Strategy Lead Officer attended a meeting of the Committee to provide a comprehensive presentation on the subject. Members were advised that the Homeless and Rough Sleeping Prevention Strategy was one of four sub-strategies that made up the Council's overall Housing Strategy which had recently been reviewed and refreshed. Both the updated Housing and Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Prevention Strategies were due to be submitted to Cabinet in January 2024 for consideration.

All local authorities were required to review homelessness within their areas at least every 5 years and the most recent review by the Council had been commenced the previous autumn, working in collaboration and on average one day a week with Mansfield District Council and Newark & Sherwood District Council. Working in collaboration had ensured that common aims and objectives were aligned across the neighbouring authorities.

During the presentation, the Housing Strategy Lead Officer continued to explain the aims, objectives, achievements, and challenges of the previous Strategy, and how this information would be used to inform the development of the revised Strategy.

Finally, Members were asked to provide feedback on the proposed priorities and aspirations regarding the homelessness service over the next 5 years.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Members noted the progress regarding the development of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Prevention Strategy and welcomed the priorities and aspirations outlined within the Strategy. Furthermore, Members agreed that progress towards the associated action plan be reported back to the Outward Focus Select Committee when appropriate.



Selective Licensing

The former Scrutiny Panel A undertook a review of the established Council's Selective Licensing Scheme. The review was carried out concurrently with wider the review of the Scheme towards the conclusion of the agreed 5-year pilot period.

Members worked closely with the Service Manager for Strategic Housing & Lettings and the Environmental Health Team Leader to gather information and evidence regarding the implementation of the Scheme, as well as the benefits achieved, and areas for improvement needed if the Scheme was to be renewed.

Members firstly looked to understand why the Selective Licensing Scheme was originally implemented, and were informed that the following objectives underpinned the establishment of the Scheme:

- Improve housing standards, properties, conditions within the private rented stock
- Improve management practices
- Improve levels of demand for housing and reduce the number of empty homes
- Contribute towards partnership working to improve wider community issues including crime, anti-social behaviour, and domestic nuisance

Officers explained to Members the many aspects of selective licensing schemes, including benefits to landlords, benefits to tenants, benefits for the District, and benefits for the Council. Members were shown numerous case study examples of property conditions that selective licensing schemes look to address and learned of the enforcement measures available to the Council under the proposed scheme.

At the conclusion of the review, Members agreed that the Selective Licensing Scheme should be renewed and made the following four recommendations to Cabinet.



Recommendations

- a. Support the renewal of the Selective Licensing Scheme in designated parts of Stanton Hill and Sutton Central (New Cross) for a further 5 years.
- b. Explore the feasibility of expanding the Selective Licensing Scheme to other areas in Ashfield that meet the conditions for selective licensing designation.
- c. Ensure that, if approved, the Selective Licensing Scheme continues to be self-funded through the license fee structure.
- d. Ensure that the Council continues to provide available support to private sector tenants outside of designated Selective Licensing Scheme areas.

Following presentation to Cabinet, all recommendations were accepted, and the Scheme was subsequently renewed in the following decision. The Outward Focus Select Committee will be looking to revisit the topic following renewal of the selective licensing scheme.

Christmas Lights

The Outward Focus Select Committee is currently working to review the Council's Christmas light provision across Ashfield. The item was added to the select committee work programme following a recommendation from the Leader of the Council as Members were made aware that the Council's contract for the provision of Christmas lights in the District was due to end, and options would be explored for a renewed provision. Moreover, Members noted that the Council, as outlined in the Corporate Plan, is committed to providing a visually attractive destination for residents and visitors during the festive period.

Members have been working closely with the Assistant Director, Regeneration to understand the successes and challenges of the previous contract and provide feedback on what the Council should be looking to achieve going forward. Members were given an overview of the previous Christmas lights contract, which included displays in the three town centres of Hucknall, Sutton-in-Ashfield, and Kirkby-in-Ashfield. Members were given further details of the budget available and the key considerations as the Council moves towards securing a



new contract for a renewed provision.

Within the ambit of the review, Members provided feedback on behalf of residents regarding the previously used 3D designs and associated Christmas events held in past years, which were said to have been received positively. Members also discussed some of the challenges experienced with the previous provision, including some display lights failing and decorations being vandalised.

The Outward Focus Select Committee will continue the review of Christmas Lights, looking to provide a steer on the areas included and the types of design sought in any newly agreed provision.

Tenancy Support

Tenancy Support was added to the former scrutiny work programme as Members looked to further understand the rights and responsibilities of both tenants and the Council as a social landlord.

Members learned the different types of tenancies and the rights that accompanied each, including but not limited to the right to be consulted with, to have repairs carried out, and to make alterations and improvements. Members also discussed the responsibilities tenants agree to, including but not limited to paying rent and other charges on time, keeping the home in a satisfactory condition, and to adhere to tenancy conditions to prevent court action.

Members continued to debate the rights of the Council as a social landlord, including access to properties to carry out inspection or repairs and the right to ask the courts to end a tenancy if conditions of a tenancy agreement are broken. Members understood the responsibilities of the Council as a social landlord to include dealing with any complaints, maintaining service standards, and to act on any repairs that are the Council's responsibility.

Throughout the review, Members were supported by the Service Manager, Housing Management & Tenancy Services and Service Manager, Strategic Housing & Lettings. Officers explained to Members the detailed process that needed to be followed regarding evictions.

The review of Tenancy Support was used as an opportunity for Members to build on knowledge of the rights and responsibilities of both tenants and the



Council as a social landlord. The review was later refocused selective licensing, leading to the Selective Licensing Scheme review also detailed in this annual select committee report.



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Meeting of the Council
12 February 2024
Schedule of Recommendations

N.B.

The Schedule sets out recommendations from the Cabinet and the Council's Committees upon which Council is required to reach a decision. During discussion of these items Council Procedure Rule 16 applies (Rules of Debate). Speeches must be relevant to the item being debated. Speeches do not have to be in the form of, or include a question. Members may speak for up to 5 minutes. The Chairman may allow a further 2 minutes at his/her discretion. A Member may only speak once on a motion but may also speak once on an amendment.

<u>Meeting:</u>	<u>Minute No:</u>	<u>Subject:</u>	<u>Recommendation(s):</u>
Cabinet 29 January 2024	CA.43	<u>Community Safety Partnership – Strategic Plan</u>	d) the new Community Safety Plan for 2024-2027 and the accompanying action plan, be recommended to Council for approval by 31 May 2024. (Report attached at Appendix A)
Cabinet 29 January 2024	CA.51	<u>2023/24 Forecast Outturn for General Fund, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Capital Programme as at October 2023</u>	c) Council be recommended to approve the amendments and the addition of new schemes to the Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2027/28 and the funding of the Capital Programme as set out in Section 7 and Appendix 3 of the Cabinet report; (Report attached at Appendix B)

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Report To:	CABINET	Date:	29th JANUARY 2024
Heading:	COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - STRATEGIC PLAN		
Portfolio Holder:	COUNCILLOR JOHN WILMOTT, EXECUTIVE LEAD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME REDUCTION		
Ward/s:	ALL		
Key Decision:	YES		
Subject to Call-In:	YES		

Purpose of Report

Tackling crime, anti-social behaviour and protecting vulnerable people are corporate priorities for the Council and that of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The Ashfield CSP, of which the Council is a key statutory partner, has proposed a new Community Safety Strategic Plan, setting focus to key thematic areas over the next three years (2024-2027).

Whilst the partnership and agencies within them will continue to focus on all demands relevant of their service area, additional focus will be placed on new priorities to support a safer Ashfield, which are:

- Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour
- Protecting Vulnerable People
- Addressing Serious Violence, Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women and Girls
- Tackling Neighbourhood Crime

This plan will guide the partnership to build on significant work already being achieved to build safer and more cohesive communities, ensuring service accountability for responsible agencies and that key deliverables are undertaken to tackle crime and disorder, and safeguard those who are at risk.

Recommendation(s)

- To note the positive work of the Community Safety Partnership over the past three years and approves the new Community Safety Plan for 2024-2027.
- To agree for the proposed priorities in the Community Safety Plan
- To ask the Executive Director – Place, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member for Community Safety and Crime Reduction and the Ashfield Community Safety Partnership, to prepare an action plan to implement the plan's priorities
- To present the new Community Safety Plan and the action plan to Council for approval by 31st May 2024

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

This refreshed plan builds on the previous Community Safety Plan. The report contains refreshed priorities and how these now need to be developed to meet current demands.

The new plan has been formulated using an evidence-based process to agree the new priorities, drawing on analysis of partnership crime and community safety data and the outcomes of a public consultation to capture the views of key stakeholders and residents across Ashfield.

Alternative Options Considered

That the Council does not approve the new plan. This would result in priorities relevant to Ashfield not being appropriately addressed and delivered. The requirement to produce a Community Safety Strategic Plan is a statutory requirement. This option is not advised.

Detailed Information

Community Safety Partnerships were established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 with an overarching aim of protecting communities and making them feel safer. They have responsibility for implementing strategies, frameworks and interventions concerning crime and disorder within their partnership area.

There are five responsible authorities that make up the Ashfield CSP, these are:

- Ashfield District Council
- Nottinghamshire Police
- Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service
- HM Prison and Probation Service
- Mid-Nottinghamshire Place-Based Partnership (NHS)

The co-location of partners within the Community Safety Hub located at Ashfield District Council offices includes many of these partners and has facilitated more effective joined-up working through

neighbourhood tasking meetings, improved sharing of information and increased co-operation between agencies to support delivery or partnership objectives.

Collectively, these organisations direct community safety delivery and ensure that priorities remain relevant and appropriate across the partnership. They work in coalition with other bodies such as social housing providers, Nottinghamshire County Council, drug and alcohol service providers, voluntary and faith sector, and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The partnership has a duty to give due regard to the priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Safer Nottinghamshire Board (SNB). This includes priorities such as serious violence, domestic abuse, violence against women and girls and neighbourhood crime. The Ashfield CSP will support the work of the PCC whilst delivering on local priorities relevant to Ashfield.

The new plan outlines how agencies will address key priorities shown above. The plan will be monitored on a quarterly basis at the CSP Strategic board where all statutory agencies are present. The CSP will be responsible for holding agencies to account where they have failed to fulfil the actions they committed to within the plan.

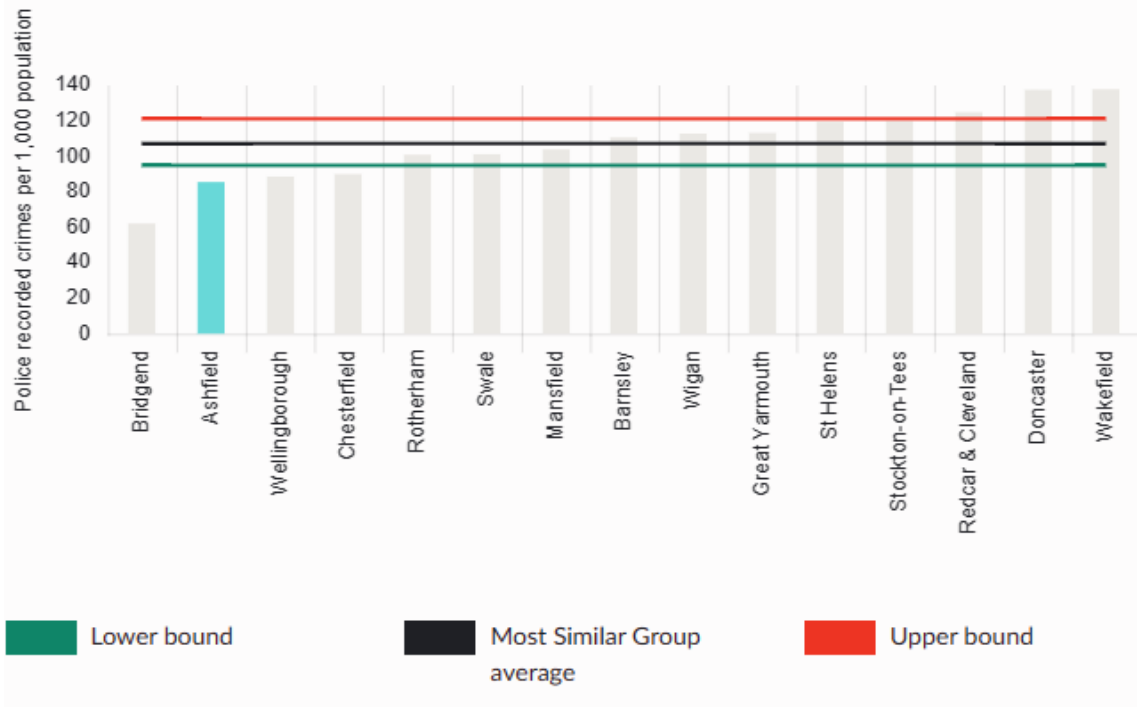
As part of the consultation process when devising the revised plan, all statutory consultees were notified as well as drug and alcohol services, Nottinghamshire County Council and The Police and Crime Commissioner's Office. There was also a period of consultation with the public to enable them to have input, including the Council's recent Residents' Survey.

The draft plan is attached to the report. Approval from Council will be required. If approved the Council will undertake a period of publicity and ensure awareness is raised. The plan and associated documents will be made available on the Council's website and circulated with partner agencies.

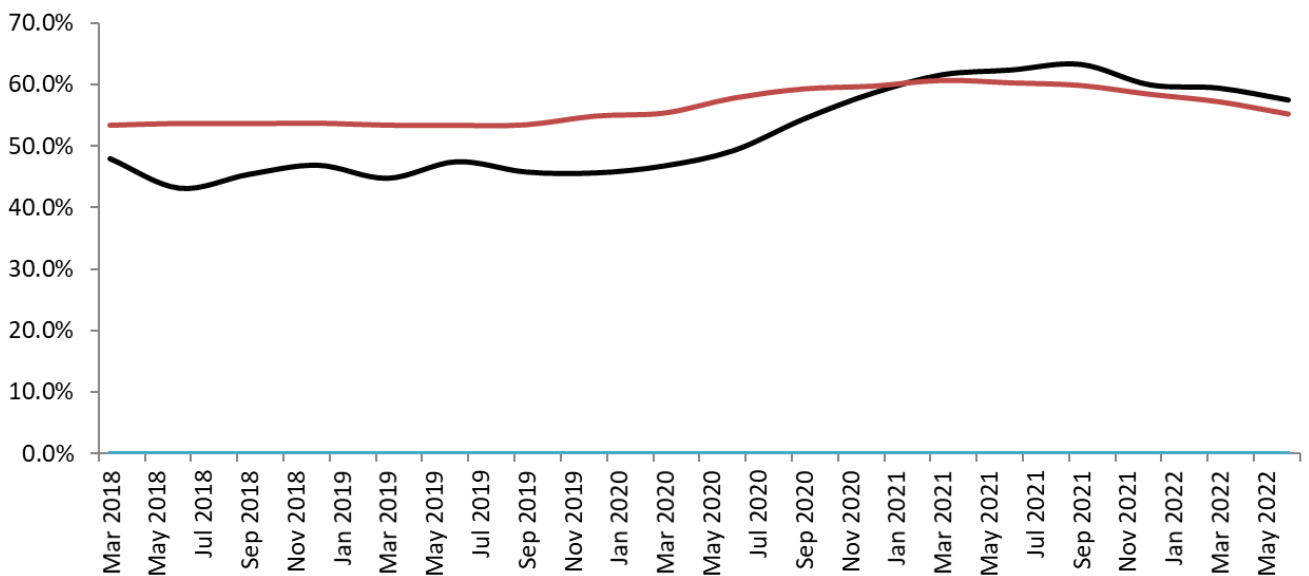
Previous Plan (Achievements)

Over the course of the previous partnership plan, there has been significant developments undertaken by the Community Safety Team and that of the Partnership. This has been illustrated below:

- Marked sustained reductions of reported anti-social behaviour (ASB) across Ashfield by - 35.16% (January 2021 – December 2023 Police Crime figures)
- Over £1.8 Million of external funding secured for Community Safety interventions in the past three years (which is considered high external investment in comparison to other District or Borough Council's across Nottinghamshire) that has statistically resulted in lower levels of crime than other comparable areas; indicating that the work of the CSP and Council's Community Safety is having a positive impact long term in tackling crime and disorder across the District.



- Successfully awarded funding to deliver the last three consecutive rounds of the Home Office Safer Streets programme for Coxmoor, Kirkby Carsic, Sutton and Sutton East, and delivered approximately £150k funded projects in Hucknall town centre. This has enabled the Council and its partners increase safety provision; including increasing our public space CCTV from 29 to 59 devices, increased street lighting, 8 alleyway closures, safe space accreditation and shop watch schemes in all three town centres, burglary reduction scheme, diversionary and healthy relationship programmes, and our revolutionary 'U.K first' safe point cameras amongst others.
- Findings of the Nottinghamshire Police Crime Survey, confirmed Ashfield has also seen positive improvements in public trust and confidence in the police/CSP since 2020, largely driven by funded projects (safer streets) secured by the partnership and improvements in visibility (Operation Springboard) and local activity (Intervention and engagement events) to tackle issues that matter most to people in the area (Ashfield in black – force average in red).



- Enhanced partnership work at a tactical and operational level to help tackle ASB and protect vulnerable people through key initiatives such as Operation Springboard, the Vulnerable Adult Support Scheme, Complex Case Panel and neighbourhood tasking meetings, and service co-location amongst others.
- Funding and interventions implemented to address domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls etc including securing White Ribbon accreditation until 2025, and successful delivery of the and Sanctuary and Serenity scheme which is providing support and safe accommodation to survivors of domestic abuse.
- The body for fly tipping reporting DEFRA released on 23rd August 2023 relating to updated 2021/22 statistics confirmed Ashfield is ranked in the 2nd quartile comparatively and close to being in the top quartile, with our position out of 309 local authorities being 80th. With additional focus being placed on education and prevention over the duration of the next plan.

Over the course of the new plan, there will be increased strategic focus on outcome-based accountability, placed based problem solving and partnership visibility, and strengthened strategic alignment with health and social care partners, regulatory services, communications; in tandem to further emphasis on preventable demands via education, early intervention, community cohesion (engagement) and designing out crime. The Council and partnership will continue to pursue external investment if viable and relevant to the CSP and Council priorities.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

Approval of this plan will directly contribute to the delivery of the Safer & Stronger priority within the Council's Corporate Plan, and support the delivery of the Cleaner & Greener and Homes & Housing priorities.

Legal:

As detailed in the body of the report, the CSP Strategic Plan is formulated as required by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Regulation 4 and Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 require Full Council to adopt the Partnership Plan. At this stage there are no direct consequences arising from the recommendation that adversely affect individual's rights and freedoms as set out in the Human Rights Act 1998.

As part of the plan, legal consequences may occasionally arise in the future delivery of the plan objectives which would need to be reviewed at the time. [08/01/2024]

Finance:

No direct financial implications arising from this report. All actions within the plan will be undertaken from existing resources or funded by the Community Safety Partnership and/or external funding received to assist delivery e.g. Safer Streets projects [PH 09/01/2024].

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	Not applicable
General Fund – Capital Programme	Not applicable

Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	Not applicable
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	Not applicable

Risk:

There is an organisational risk of requirements set with the plan not being delivered within tolerance. As set out within the body of the report, a framework under the CSP Strategic Board has been implemented to enable quarterly reporting and agency accountability which will help mitigate such risk.

Human Resources:

No direct implications.

Equalities:

This plan supports duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty, Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires authorities to have due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups, and foster good relations between people from different groups.

Consideration has also been given to Articles 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights which provide for the rights of freedom of expression and assembly. An Equalities Impact Assessment Form has been produced as part of this report.

Other Implications:

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

Background Papers

Community Safety Partnership Plan

Report Author and Contact Officer

Antonio Taylor
 Community Safety Manager
Antonio.Taylor@ashfield.gov.uk

Sponsoring Executive Director

John Bennett
 Executive Director - Place
John.Benett@ashfield.gov.uk



ASHFIELD

COMMUNITY SAFETY

STRATEGIC PLAN

2024-2027

Photos to go here



Contents	3
1. Foreword	4
2. Our Aim	5
3. Working in Partnership	7
4. Strategic Context	8
5. What does our 2022/2023 strategic assessment tell us?	10
6. Safer Streets for Ashfield	22
7. Delivering our Priorities	23
8. Our Outcomes	28
9. Further information and useful contacts	32

1. Foreword

The Ashfield Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is committed to preventing and reducing crime and disorder across the District.

As a partnership of agencies, we will work together to ensure we are tackling crime and anti-social behaviour and protecting vulnerable residents. Our vision is to provide a safer Ashfield where residents, businesses and visitors feel safer in the District.

We have identified four strategic priorities for the partnership which we will deliver over the next three years. These are the issues which evidence and public consultation tells us are causing the most harm and concern to those who live in, work in and visit Ashfield.

The plan sets out how we will address these community safety issues over the period of the strategy. Success in addressing our priorities requires the trust and confidence of the public in our agencies; as a result, there is a strong theme of engagement running throughout the partnership aims. Partnership working, community engagement and empowerment will continue to be the core components to tackling crime, anti-social behaviour and supporting the most vulnerable in our communities.



Theresa Hodgkinson
Chief Executive Officer and
Chair of Ashfield CSP



Cllr Jason Zadrozny
Leader of Ashfield
District Council



Cllr John Wilmott Executive
Lead for Community Safety
and Crime Reduction

2. Our Aim

Our aim is to make our communities safer, and our residents feel safer through strategically focusing our efforts at a local level to help tackle anti-social behaviour, neighbourhood crime and violence through a mixture of enforcement, preventative and educational interventions. We are also equally committed to supporting our most vulnerable residents within our District by addressing underlying causes and hidden harms.

This plan will guide the partnership to build on significant work already being achieved to build safer and more cohesive communities, ensuring service accountability for responsible agencies and that key deliverables are undertaken to tackle crime and disorder, and safeguard those who are at risk.

Our work will be delivered through the HIPE model:

- **H**arm-focused
- **I**ntelligence-led
- **P**roblem-oriented
- **E**vidence-based

This means we will consider the harm caused by crime and disorder as our first prerogative in prioritising activity. We will use intelligence to guide our activity and undertake interventions in a problem-oriented fashion, seeking to fully analyse and understand issues which will help direct our activity in the most effective manner, being truly evidence-based in our decision-making.

Whilst the partnership and agencies within them will continue to focus on all demands relevant to their service area, through this plan additional focus will be placed on key areas to support a safer Ashfield, and we will aim to achieve this through committing to the following thematic areas:

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

- We are committed to investigating anti-social behaviour and environmental crime that blights our communities. We will actively design out anti-social behaviour, through target hardening, problem solving and active patrolling.

Protecting Vulnerable People

- We are focused on supporting vulnerable residents recognising that victims, survivors and perpetrators of crime and anti-social behaviour can be vulnerable. We will safeguard adults and children to prevent harm and reduce the risk.

Addressing Serious violence, Domestic Abuse & Violence against Women and Girls

- Tackling violence remains one of our priorities, including crimes that disproportionately affect women and girls, such as domestic abuse and assaults. We recognise these crimes can often impact significantly on individuals and communities. We will offer support to those impacted and focus on preventing incidents and improving feelings of safety in public spaces.

Tackling Neighbourhood Crimes

- We will tackle neighbourhood crime by addressing domestic burglary, robbery, vehicle crime and theft from persons and businesses ensuring victim centred and problem-solving approaches are adopted to support those impacted and prevent re-occurrence.

3. Working in Partnership

The Ashfield Community Safety Partnership consists of the following responsible authorities:

- Ashfield District Council
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Nottinghamshire Police
- Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service
- His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service
- National Health Service – Mid-Notts and South Notts Place-Based Partnerships

As well as the responsible authorities, the following organisations and partnerships support the work of the Community Safety Partnership:

- Discover Ashfield
- Change Grow Live (Substance Misuse)
- Domestic Abuse services
- Faith, charity and community sectors
- Education providers
- Housing Associations
- Local businesses
- Residents, the community and elected representatives

Each responsible authority has a duty to work in partnership to protect their local communities from crime, and anti-social behaviour, protecting vulnerable people and helping people feel safer. They work together to address key areas such as anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, and re-offending by assessing trends and emerging issues impacting on the local area.

The overall aim of the Ashfield Community Safety Partnership is to:

- Create a safer and stronger District for people to live, work, and visit.
- Work in partnership to deliver local priorities that address crime and disorder.
- Deliver local, regional, and national priorities.

To support this, we undertake annual reviews to inform our objectives and priorities which is used to help inform what is delivered locally across Ashfield. The Ashfield Community Safety Strategic Plan (2024 – 2027) identifies how the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) aims to address local community safety issues impacting on communities and neighbourhoods across the District.

4. Strategic Context

Safer Nottinghamshire Board

The Safer Nottinghamshire Board (SNB) is a countywide strategic group that is required under Crime and Disorder Regulations to guide the delivery of shared priorities and partnership plans.

The SNB supports local community safety partnerships, including the Ashfield Community Safety Partnership. The SNB was established in 2008 and has fulfilled the requirement for a county strategy group in Nottinghamshire since then.

The priorities set by the SNB are:

- Domestic abuse
- Serious violence incorporating young people at risk of offending and/or criminal exploitation
- Prevent
- High Harm offences – slavery and exploitation
- Fraud and cyber crime

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Plan

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Nottinghamshire has published their Police and Crime Plan 2021-25. By law, this strategy must have regard to the priorities of the PCC.

The PCC's priorities are:

- Preventing Crime and Protecting People from Harm
- Responding efficiently and effectively to local needs
- Supporting victims, survivors, witnesses, and communities.

The Ashfield CSP has considered these priorities as part of its delivery. Our delivery plan highlights the contributions made by the Police and Crime Plan to delivering our objectives, and the successful delivery of the Ashfield strategy will contribute towards achieving the PCC Police and Crime Plan objectives.

Ashfield District Council Corporate Plan

In September 2023 Ashfield District Council approved a new Corporate Plan. This sets out the council's ambitions for the next four years and includes six priorities to guide the work of the council:

1. Health and happiness
2. Homes and housing
3. Economic growth and place
4. Cleaner and greener
5. Safer and stronger
6. Innovate and improve

This plan and its implementation will have a positive impact on several of these priorities. For the Safer and Stronger priority, the council's ambitions include:

- Communities feeling safer
- Tackling and reducing levels of crime and ASB
- Delivering initiatives that focus on preventative, educational and enforcement interventions across areas of most prominence
- Targeting areas most impacted by crime and ASB
- Supporting vulnerable victims of crime and ASB and safeguarding vulnerable residents
- Providing support for high-risk survivors of domestic abuse and high harm offences

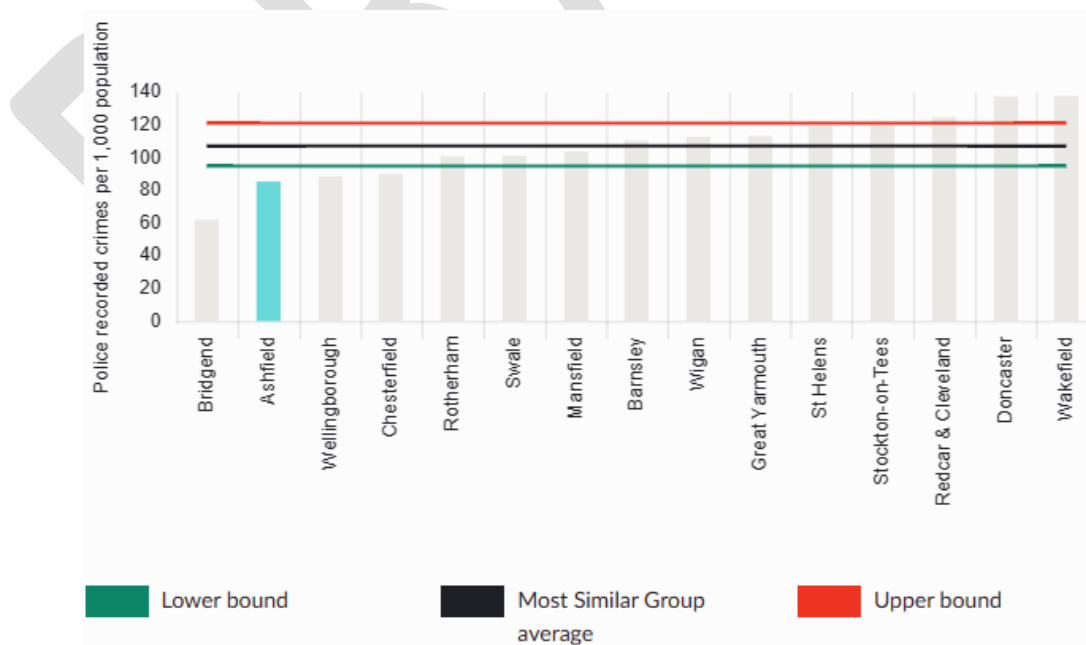
5. What does our 2022/2023 strategic assessment tell us?

Every year we refresh our 'Strategic Assessment' of crime and disorder with the support of the PCC. This document provides us a full picture of crime and Anti-Social Behaviour in Ashfield and helps us to agree our priorities. The assessment looks at crime and disorder across Ashfield so that solutions and interventions can be developed via a robust, evidence-based decision-making format, considering volume, impact, and harm.

In addition to crime and disorder issues, we consider the impact of socio-economic drivers of risk which may lead to an increased vulnerability to crime and heightened risk. These include, but not limited to:

- The cost of living
- Vulnerable adults, in particular those who do not meet the threshold for criminal or safeguarding interventions.
- Housing and homelessness
- Place shaping and regeneration

Compared to the 15 local authorities in England and Wales deemed as being most similar to Ashfield, recorded crime in Ashfield is significantly lower than all but one area, indicating that the work of the CSP, and agencies within it is having a positive impact in tackling crime and disorder across the District.



The key findings of the Strategic Assessment are outlined below. It is based on this assessment that we have agreed the four thematic areas that guide our partnership work over the next three years.

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

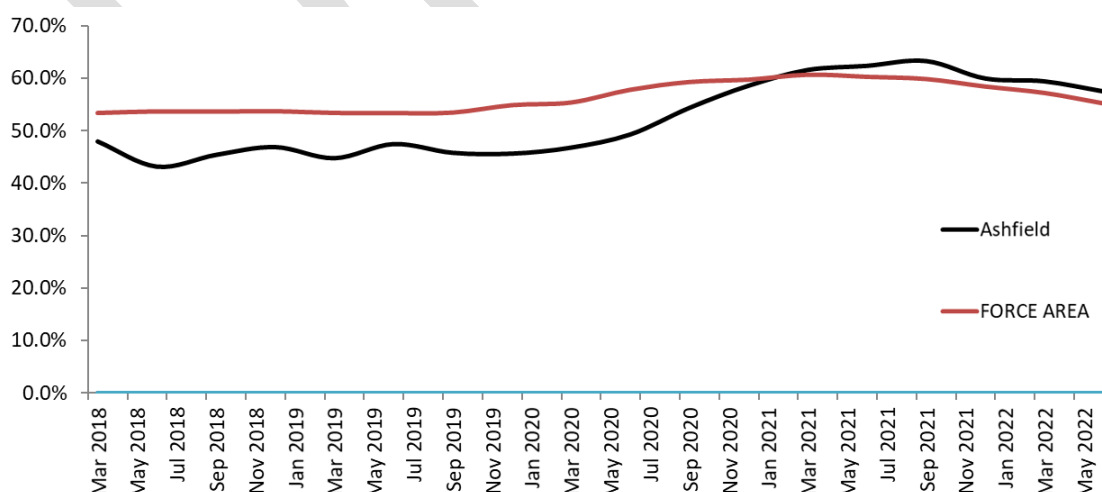
Anti-Social Behaviour in Ashfield	Oct 2021 – Sept 2022	Oct 2020 – Sept 2021	Volume change	Percentage change
	3575	4439	-864	-24%

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) was a priority for the partnership under the previous plan and several targeted operations have helped to achieve these significant decreases in ASB. This includes operation Springboard, a joint Council and Police initiative that sees joint patrols undertaken by Police and Council officers at peak times and in areas of priority, diversionary and educational activities, community cohesion events and targeting of offenders.

Findings of the Nottinghamshire Police Crime Survey, confirmed Ashfield has seen a marked and sustained improvement in public trust and confidence in the police/CSP since 2020, largely driven by funded projects (safer streets) secured by the partnership and improvements in visibility (Operation Springboard) and local activity (cohesion and engagement events) to tackle issues that matter most to people in the area.

From July 2020, public confidence in Ashfield in the police and Community Safety Partnership has increased, and although there was a slight downturn in Spring 2022 it was still higher than for the force area as a whole.

This is illustrated in the graph below:



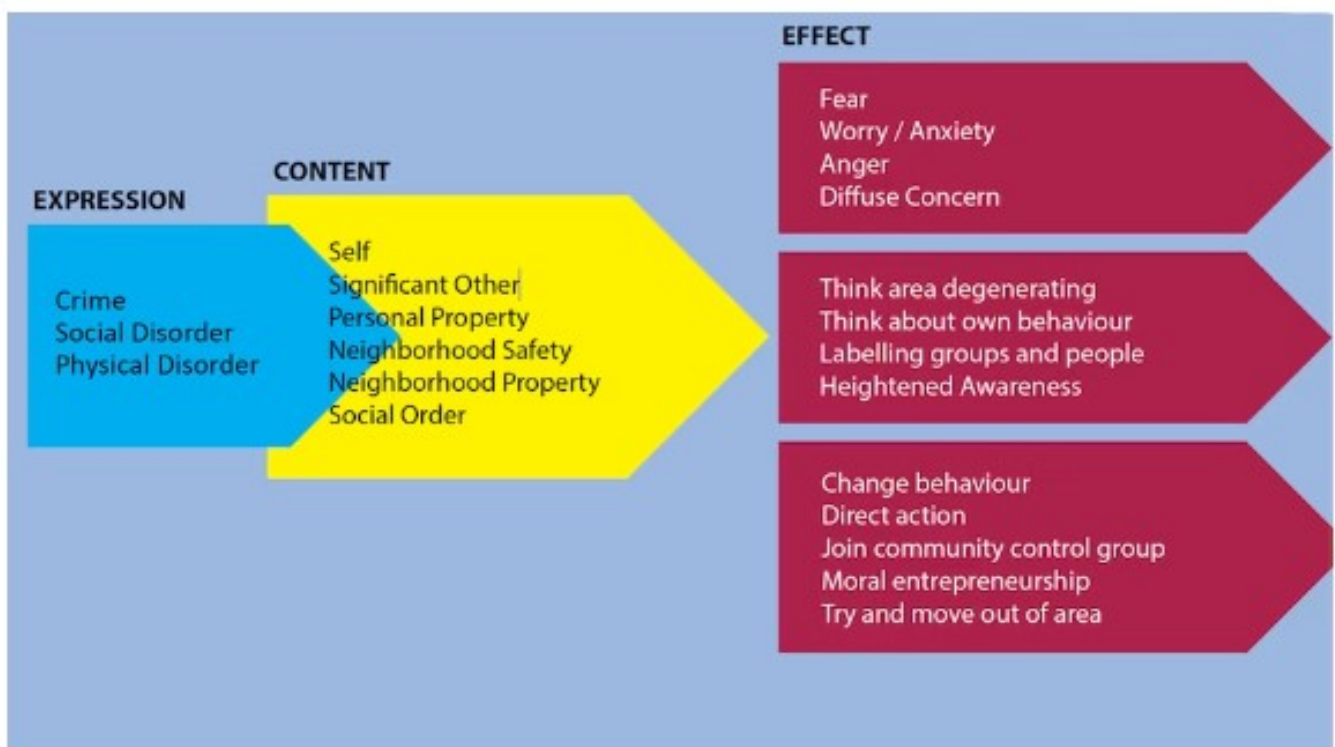
A community consultation was conducted between August and September 2022 across Ashfield which illustrated that the largest proportion of residents, 79%, identified that

crime and anti-social behaviour in the District had become worse over the past 12 months. 19% identified that it had remained the same and only 2% identified that it had improved.

Respondents are most concerned that drug issues, shoplifting and anti-social behaviour are the key issues that they encounter. They would like the partnership to prioritise increased police patrols, taking positive action that tackles behaviour that generates fear, and address substance misuse to help tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and improve feelings of safety.

A major factor in people’s feelings of safety in the area in which they live is so-called “signal crimes” – the visible indicators of disorder which impact on people’s perceptions of security. ‘Signal Crimes’ are criminal incidents which causes a change in the public’s behaviour and/or beliefs about their security; signal disorders are acts which breach normal conventions of social orders and signify the presence of other risks. These can be social (for example, intimidating behaviour by groups of people) or environmental (for example, graffiti or litter, or an unkempt area).

This is why the partnership will be prioritising preventative and engagement work over the next three years to help design out crime, reassure local residents, and provide regular communication and consultation with Ashfield’s communities.



In Ashfield, 4,294 service requests were received for environmental crime issues in 2021-22.

Report Type	No. of reports
Littering	989
Graffiti	83
Flytipping	1880
Dog Fouling	426
Waste on land	916
Total	4,294

The areas with the highest volume of service requests were Hucknall, Kirkby and Sutton.

Area	No. of reports
Annesley	21
Bestwood	10
Hucknall	206
Huthwaite	68
Jacksdale	4
Kirkby	209
Selston	49
Skegby	16
Stanton Hill	25
Sutton	302
Underwood	6

Fly tipping is a significant concern for residents of Ashfield.

Area	No. of reports
Annesley	88
Bestwood	12
Hucknall	457
Huthwaite	102
Jacksdale	36
Kirkby	324
Selston	32
Skegby	47
Stanton Hill	112
Sutton	633
Underwood	36

The highest overall demand for Environmental Crime in Ashfield during this period was in Sutton in Ashfield, followed by Hucknall and Kirkby in Ashfield. A breakdown has been provided below:

Area	No. of reports
Sutton	1465
Hucknall	948
Kirkby	807

The highest overall demand for each of the top three areas is provided below:

Sutton	Sutton Central
Hucknall	Hucknall North
Kirkby	Kirkby East

The assessment confirms that environmental crime such as fly tipping, littering, dog fouling, waste on land, graffiti and abandoned vehicles remain a prominent issue for Ashfield residents and as a form of anti-social behaviour, the Community Safety Partnership is committed to addressing the issue through targeted patrolling, education and awareness, action days and problem solving initiatives.

Furthermore, residents were asked which crime and disorder types made them feel most insecure:

NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA: Ashfield

Year to June 2022

587 respondents

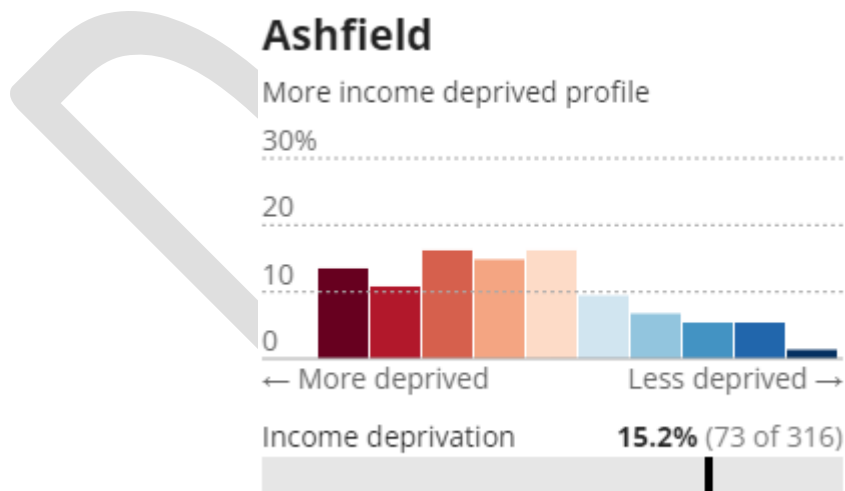
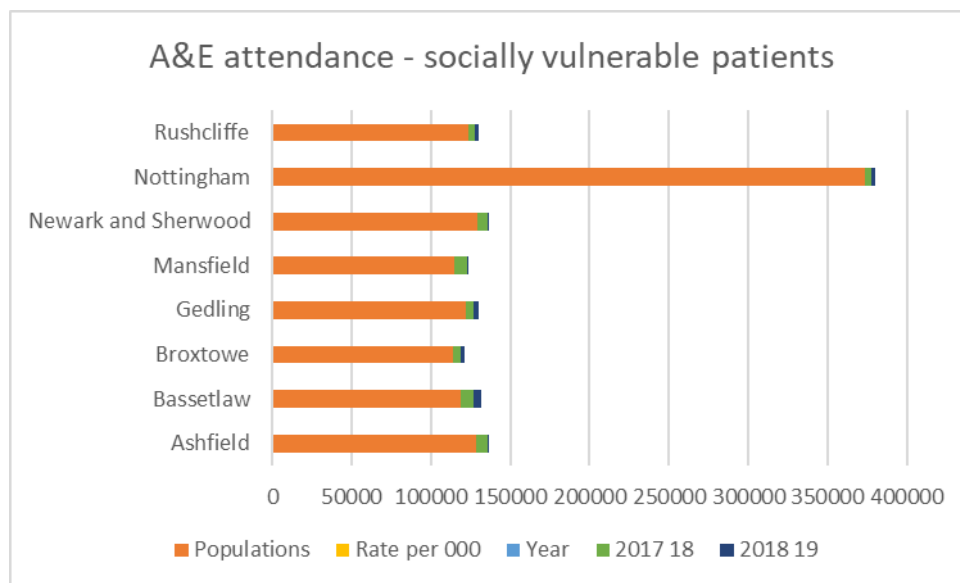
1	Reckless & dangerous driving	40.7%	↓ Reducing community concern	Above average concern
2	Drug use and dealing	38.7%	→ Stable level of concern	Above average concern
3	Speeding	36.1%	↓ Reducing community concern	Average level of concern
4	Car crime	22.8%	↑ Rising community concern	Above average concern
5	Nuisance & rowdy behaviour	22.4%	→ Stable level of concern	Average level of concern

The partnership recognises these crime types continue to impact on residents' feelings of safety and as such, Nottinghamshire Police have additional policing priorities which get reviewed on a 3 monthly basis to ensure that emerging issues and trends are appropriately addressed and remain under constant review.

The partnership also recognises that addressing underlying causes of crime and disorder is a crucial factor in tackling crime and disorder such as drug use and dealing and will attempt to engage residents to seek support as well as enforcement where appropriate.

Protecting vulnerable people

Outside of Nottingham City, Ashfield has the highest number of socially vulnerable patients entering Accident and Emergency units. This can be taken as a proxy measure to indicate that demand caused by vulnerability in Ashfield which is above the Nottinghamshire average. Ashfield is an area of Nottinghamshire with higher-than-average levels of economic disadvantage; this can often correlate with increased levels of personal vulnerability.



Although the economic situation in Ashfield is improving, Ashfield is the 73rd most income deprived local authority area in England (of 316) – roughly equivalent to Lambeth and Waltham Forest. Social deprivation and crime are inextricably linked. There is a strong link between deprivation, poverty and poor mental health to serious violence and domestic abuse. In turn, these issues beget other, generational crime and disorder problems.

Recognising this as prominent matter, amongst other initiatives, the partnership has implemented a Vulnerable Adult Support Scheme to assist existing forums such as the Complex Case Panel to help support vulnerable groups. The CSP is also strategically aligned to health and wellbeing agendas to ensure joined-up holistic working.

Hate crime

Hate crime is defined as ‘any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic.

Five strands of motivation are monitored: race/ethnicity, religion/beliefs, sexual orientation, disability and transgender identity. Nottinghamshire Police monitor additional strands: alternative sub-cultures and misogyny as further motivating factors. Rates of hate crime in Ashfield are low, but increasing:

Hate crime	Oct 2021 – Sept 2022	Sept 2020 – Oct 2021	Volume change	Percentage increase
	150	138	12	9%

The partnership will continue to ensure hate crime awareness is of key focus and will actively promote ways in which agencies within the partnership will address perpetrators and support those who are subjected to hate crime or wish to report a hate incident.

Radicalisation

Under the Prevent Duty, community safety partners are required to undertake certain actions to ensure that those who are at risk of radicalisation are identified and supported. Whilst responsibility for coordinating the Prevent Duty is the responsibility of Nottinghamshire County Council, in Ashfield partners are required to ensure that frontline practitioners are adequately trained to identify radicalisation and understand how to refer someone deemed to be at risk for assessment. Should the person being referred be deemed vulnerable to radicalisation, they may be supported through the multi-agency Channel Panel via Nottinghamshire County Council.

Existing services within the partnership are responsible for undertaking these functions and the CSP will actively support this delivery and have been successful in securing external funding from the Home Office to provide additional interventions to promote responsible citizenship under the Prevent Duty.

Modern Slavery

Modern slavery is the use of violence, threats or coercion to transport, recruit or harbour people in order to exploit them for purposes such as forced prostitution, labour, criminality, marriage or organ removal. Nationally, it is expected that the number of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT) and organised immigration crime occurrences will rise over the next year.

- April 2021 – March 2022: There were 89 MSHT offences investigated in Nottinghamshire.
- A lot of victims don't want police intervention.
- Most occurrences relate to criminal exploitation (drugs as the major crime type).
- The youngest victim in Nottinghamshire is 12 years old.
- Sexual exploitation primarily occurs in the south of the city.
- Figures from Nottinghamshire's National Referral Mechanism reflect national patterns.
- Very little information regarding perpetrators is given in the National Referral Mechanism referrals as the focus is on victims.

10 modern slavery offences were recorded in 2021/2022 against 6 in 2020/2021. Cases have been primarily related to drug supply and cannabis cultivation.

Whilst initial reports maybe considered lower than other offences, modern slavery often results in significant exploitation and nationally seen as underreported; Therefore, the CSP has contributed to supporting the development of a county wide modern slavery team to help improve detection of offences, support those at risk and take enforcement action against those who are found to have committed modern slavery related offences.

Substance Misuse

Local synthetic estimates suggest that there could be in the region of at least 175,600 individuals in Nottinghamshire who use substances frequently and could benefit from a substance misuse intervention, with 12,800 who are dependent on substances.

Nottinghamshire has a greater unmet need for alcohol compared to drugs. About one in ten of the years lost to death or disability in Nottinghamshire are attributable to drug or alcohol misuse (Global Burden of Disease 2019) and substance misuse represents a significant burden on the Nottinghamshire health and social care system.

For example, for hospitals:

- Alcohol-specific hospital admission rates are lower than the England average, but

rates are higher than the England average in Mansfield and Ashfield.

- Adult alcohol-related hospital admission episodes are higher than the national average across all districts except Bassetlaw.
- Adult alcohol-related hospital admission episodes are higher than the England average for both males and females and across all age groups. There are more admission episodes overall in ages 40-64. The most female admission episodes are ages 40-64 and males over 65.
- Nottinghamshire is significantly worse than England and comparator areas for alcohol-related hospital admissions due to unintentional injuries.

In terms of substance misuse-related mortality:

- The rate of alcohol-specific mortality in Nottinghamshire is similar to the England rate although Mansfield's rate is higher.
- Nottinghamshire has slightly lower rates of alcohol-related mortality compared to the England rate, although Bassetlaw has a higher rate.
- Nottinghamshire and England deaths from drug misuse are rising. Nottinghamshire is lower than England, but Mansfield is higher.

The public consultation confirmed that the public would like us to focus on substance misuse therefore through active forums within the partnership such as the Vulnerable Adult Support Scheme and the Complex Case Panel; those identified at risk are able to seek support as well as the partnership taking robust enforcement action to tackle drug offences, and serious and organised crime through various intervention types i.e drug warrants, seizing illegal substance and closure orders. We also continue to work closely with Change Grow Live (CGL) which is a commissioned health service that specialises in supporting reduction of substance misuse via health support and wellbeing interventions.

Addressing Serious Violence, Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women and Girls

In Nottinghamshire, Serious Violence is defined as “all incidents (including domestic violence) that cause serious harm. It also focuses on other offending that drives violence, so currently includes organised criminality and child exploitation”. 23% of all serious violence offences recorded in Nottinghamshire took place in Ashfield – Nottingham City is the only area in the police force area with a higher rate (41%). Sutton in Ashfield (alongside Newark) is seen as a secondary concentration of serious violence, with Nottingham City Centre and Mansfield Town Centre as the two primary hotspots in the force area.

Sutton in Ashfield had the second highest number of Violence with Injury offences (98) in 2022, after Nottingham City Centre (281); Sutton in Ashfield also had the highest volume of domestic flagged offences and the highest volume of non-fatal strangulation offences, twice as many as any other ward in the force area. Sutton in Ashfield is the third-highest ward in the force area for knife-enabled serious violence, after Nottingham City and Arboretum.

The table below illustrates the breakdown of deaths from violence by local authority district. A larger time period than normal (April 2007–March 2022) is used due to small numbers in some areas for confidentiality.

	Number of deaths from violence	
Ashfield	22	10.5%
Bassetlaw	19	9.1%
Broxtowe	11	5.2%
Gedling	13	6.3%
Mansfield	29	13.8%
Newark and Sherwood	20	9.5%
Rushcliffe	11	5.2%
Nottingham City	85	40.4%
Nottinghamshire County	125	59.6%

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

The assessment confirmed that domestic abuse and sexual offences are high which is a major factor for why this is a priority for the partnership. In the 12 months to the beginning of September 2022, Nottinghamshire police recorded a total of 21252 crime and non-crime domestic abuse occurrences. Of this figure, 15870 were classified as Domestic

Abuse offences. This was an increase of 1756 crimes over the previous 12 months.

The positive outcome rate for the Domestic Abuse crime occurrences is 11.33% over the same period. Ashfield continues to be the area with the highest calls for service in relation to Domestic Abuse with nearly 14% of all Nottinghamshire force demand coming from the area. Taking this into consideration in tandem to the high harm impact for survivors of domestic abuse, this will remain a priority for the partnership.

23% of rape offences in Nottinghamshire were in Mansfield and Ashfield, the second highest after Nottingham City, and Sutton in Ashfield is the ward with the highest number of rape offences in the county (62).

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Tackling Neighbourhood Crimes

Between 1st October 2021 and 30th September 2022, total recorded crime in the Ashfield District was 10,860 offences, which was a rise of 10.18% (1,105 offences) on the previous year. Four key crime types showed a reduction: anti-social behaviour (24%), burglary (1.2%), knife crime (22%) and drug offences (43%). The number of robberies was the same as the previous year.

Many crime types saw reductions in October 2020 to September 2021 compared to the previous year, but may have been influenced by the Covid-19 virus and associated restrictions and lockdown measures that were imposed.

There has been decreases in crime types that the public consultation identified as being important, most significantly anti-social behaviour and drugs.

	Oct 2021 to Sept 2022	Oct 2020 to Sept 2021	Oct 2019 to Sept 2020	% change for past year
All Crime	10,860	9,755	10,318	+11.33%
Drugs	273	390	376	-30%
Possession of Weapons	108	94	127	+14.9%
Theft from a Person	65	45	60	+31%
Other Crime	451	330	357	+27%
Robbery	86	86	96	No change
Public order	883	873	779	+2%
Shoplifting	1270	1012	1004	+20%
Other Theft	746	618	721	+17%
Criminal Damage	1234	1171	1335	+5%
Bicycle Theft	129	60	87	+53%
Burglary	515	521	762	-1.2%
Anti-Social Behaviour	3575	4439	4318	-24%
Vehicle Crime	593	445	631	+25%
Violence against the Person	4138	3768	3670	+9%
Knife Crime	68	83	62	-22%
Hate Crime	150	138	103	+8%

6. Safer Streets for Ashfield

The CSP has been successful in securing over £1.8 million of external funding to support community safety projects in Ashfield between 2019-2023. The funding has and is being used to address longstanding community concerns relating to feelings of safety, violence against women and girls, domestic abuse, neighbourhood crimes and anti-social behaviour in public places, as well as individual support

We recognise that these matters are of significance, and whilst agencies within the CSP will continue to take positive action through existing processes and frameworks, we are and will continue to actively apply local problem initiatives to safeguard those at risk, take enforcement action against preparators and provide educational awareness to drive behaviour change.

This will include delivering the serious violence duty, undertaking various interventions to address domestic abuse and VAWG, and remain actively involved in applying for funding opportunities to improve feelings of safety for women and girls, and explore options to prevent and detect sexual offences, anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood crime.

As this is major area of focus for the CSP, major investment has been proportioned to address these matters having successfully secured external funding over recent years and this will continue to be closely monitored over the duration of this plan. Recent funding has enabled the partnership to undertake a number of initiatives, including:

- Installation of Safepoint Refuge Cameras
- Increased installation of CCTV and active monitoring
- Safe Space Accreditation Scheme rolled out in all town centres
- Healthy Relationship Programme delivered in primary schools
- Environmental measures including Increased Street Lighting in target areas
- Gating and restricting public access of alleyways in prominent areas

7. Delivering our Priorities

Delivering our priorities requires significant investment from all partners within the Community Safety Partnership, and a firm commitment to working together and dedicated resources to deliver a safer and stronger District.

An action plan will be developed by the partnership to sit alongside this plan. This will outline the specific projects and activities which partners will undertake individually and collaboratively to deliver the commitments made in this plan.

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Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

We will work with communities and our partners to understand why people feel unsafe and take steps to improve feelings of safety.

Our aims are:

- Increased identification and active targeting of offenders
- Provide provision to support victims and witnesses of ASB.
- Provide diversionary activity for those involved in or at risk of becoming involved in ASB
- Tackle issues relating to nuisance vehicle
- Provide hi-visibility patrols to promote feelings of safety and tackle ASB across target locations.

Protecting Vulnerable People

We will work in partnership with key local stakeholders to support vulnerable victims of crime and anti-social behaviour. We will protect our most vulnerable residents by identifying vulnerabilities and safeguarding those at risk of abuse and/or harm. We will provide support for high-risk survivors of domestic abuse and high harm offences through bespoke interventions and support plans. We will hold perpetrators to account and reduce the opportunities for them to continue to cause harm.

Our aims are:

- Create a network of safe places through target hardening approaches
- Enhanced awareness of safeguarding, including but not limited to: extremism and radicalisation, hate crime, modern slavery, substance misuse, child sexual exploitation and mental health.
- Support and develop key initiatives and drivers that improve the lives of vulnerable residents.
- Actively promote community cohesion and health and wellbeing agendas.

Addressing Serious Violence, Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women and Girls

We will work collaboratively to reduce gender-based violence, domestic abuse and serious violence. Our aims are:

- Upgrade and Introduce new CCTV and safe point devices for effective monitoring and to enhance feelings of safety for women and girls.
- Educate young people about healthy relationships
- Increase awareness of work being done to reduce opportunities for violence and abuse, and support local delivery and national strategies
- Develop Safe Space Accreditation schemes
- Work in partnership with commissioned domestic abuse services to support survivors of domestic abuse and take action against perpetrators.

Tackling Neighbourhood Crimes

We will work with partners to tackle and reduce levels of crime and ASB. Our aims include:

- Develop resident participation initiatives to empower residents within their communities.
- Install/review fixed ANPR and CCTV cameras to help identify suspects, disrupt serious and organised crime, gather intelligence, and investigate crimes.
- Target harden residential properties and public spaces prone to crime and disorder.
- Make environmental improvements and explore regeneration opportunities in estates, neighbourhoods and town centres across the district.

8. Our Outcomes

In order to understand the impact of our actions on crime and disorder, we will hold ourselves accountable through the monitoring of set of Key Performance Indicators.

Priority 1

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

What does success look like?

Residents will feel safer and more positive about Ashfield. Reports of ASB and secondary fires will fall. If people experience ASB, more victims will feel satisfied about the service they received. There will be fewer repeat victims of ASB.

Page 89

Measure	Source
Concern about crime and ASB	Nottinghamshire Police Crime Survey
Volume of ASB reported to ADC	ADC
Volume of ASB reported to the police	Nottinghamshire Police
Experience of ASB	Notts PCC
Number of repeat victims of ASB	ADC/Nottinghamshire Police
Satisfaction with response to reported ASB	ADC/Nottinghamshire Police
Volume of secondary fires	Notts FRS

Priority 2

Protecting Vulnerable People

What does success look like?

People who are at risk will be identified and referred into the correct support. Their risk will be managed and reduced. We will bring a higher percentage of hate crime offenders to justice, and victims will be more satisfied with outcomes and the service they received. Prolific offenders will commit fewer crimes.

Page 90

Measure	Source
Level of risk for individuals referred to the complex case panel	ADC
Reduction in risk of those referred to the MASH	Nottinghamshire County Council
Number of referrals to Prevent which result in adoption by Channel	Nottinghamshire County Council
Increase in hate crime convictions	Nottinghamshire Police
Increase in victim satisfaction	Nottinghamshire PCC
Reduction in reoffending by most prolific cohort	HMPPS

Priority 3

Addressing Serious violence, domestic abuse & Violence against women and girls.

What does success look like?

Victims of domestic abuse will receive the necessary support, and there will be fewer repeat victims. More victims will access the safe accommodation they require. There will be reductions in knife-enabled crime and hospital admissions for those suffering a violent injury with a sharp object. There will be fewer incidents of the most serious violent and sexual crimes.

	Measure	Source
Page 91	Number of repeat victims of domestic abuse	Nottinghamshire Police
	Volume of MARAC referrals	Nottinghamshire County Council
	% accessing safe accommodation	Nottinghamshire County Council
	Incidents of Violence with injury	Nottinghamshire Police
	Incidents of Rape and Serious Sexual Offences	Nottinghamshire Police
	Hospital admissions for those suffering violent injury with a sharp object	ICB
	Homicide	Nottinghamshire Police
	Knife crime	Nottinghamshire Police

Priority 4

Tackling Neighbourhood Crimes

What does success look like?

There will be fewer incidents of neighbourhood crime. Businesses will report fewer incidents of retail crime. Residents, workers and visitors will feel safer.

Measure	Source
Reduction in neighbourhood crime (burglary, robbery, theft)	Nottinghamshire Police
Reduction in commercial crime (non-domestic burglary, shoplifting)	Nottinghamshire Police
Increase in feelings of safety	Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner

9. Further information and useful contacts

CSP – Community Safety Hub

To contact us about community safety and anti-social behaviour

Tel: 01623 450000

Email: asbduty@ashfield.gov.uk

Ashfield District Council

Tel: 01623 450000

Email: info@ashfield.gov.uk

Nottinghamshire Police

Non-Emergency Tel: 101

Emergency Tel: 999 www.nottinghamshire.police.uk

Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service

Non-Emergency Tel: 0300 330 1000

Emergency Tel: 999 www.nottinghamshirefire.gov.uk

Nottinghamshire County Council

Tel: 0300 111 8000

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Nottinghamshire Tel: 01785 232385

Email: pcc@nottinghamshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

www.nottinghamshire-pcc.gov.uk

Crimestoppers

Confidential anonymous reporting of crime Tel: 0800 555 111

National Domestic Abuse Helpline Assistance for victims of domestic abuse Tel: 0808 2000 247 (24 hour freephone helpline)

Nottinghamshire Victim Care

A free and confidential service that provides information, advice, or practical and emotional support to all victims of crime in Nottinghamshire, even if it has not been reported to the police

Tel: 0800 304 7575

admin@nottsvictimcare.org.uk

Citizens Advice Ashfield

Citizens Advice Ashfield

Ashfield Health and Wellbeing Centre Portland Street

Kirkby-in-Ashfield Nottinghamshire NG17 7AE

Debt Advice

Tel: 01623 784385

Email: debt@ashfieldca.org.uk Tel: 03444 111 444

Cost of living support

Hub with key information and links to help to support you or your business during the cost-of-living issues.

<https://www.ashfield.gov.uk/environment-health/cost-of-living-support>

Report To:	CABINET
Date:	29TH JANUARY 2024
Heading:	2023/24 FORECAST OUTTURN FOR GENERAL FUND, HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME AS AT OCTOBER 2023
Executive Lead Member:	EXECUTIVE LEAD FOR FINANCE, REVENUES AND BENEFITS – CLLR RACHEL MADDEN
Ward/s:	ALL
Key Decision:	YES
Subject to Call-In:	YES

Purpose of Report

To summarise the Council’s forecast financial outturn position to 31 March 2024 compared to the latest approved budgets for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and the Capital Programme. The forecast financial outturn is based on the actual financial activity to 31 October 2023 and forecast costs and income from 1 November 2023 to 31 March 2024.

Recommendation(s)

Cabinet is requested:

- (1) To note the current forecast outturn for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Capital Programme for 2023/24.
- (2) To approve the budget adjustments outlined in section 3.1, Table 3 and the reserve movements outlined in section 3.2 Table 4.
- (3) To recommend to Council the amendments and the addition of new schemes to the Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2027/28 and the funding of the Capital Programme as set out in Section 7 and Appendix 3 of the report.
- (4) To note the monitoring of Prudential and Treasury Management indicators for 2023/24 detailed in Appendix 4.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

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

Alternative Options Considered

The financial position has to be reported to those charged with governance. Therefore, there are no other options.

Detailed Information

Budget Monitoring April 2023 to October 2023 (General Fund and HRA)

1. Summary Budget for General Fund

- 1.1 Table 1 below sets out the 2023/24 net revenue forecast outturn position based on actual income and expenditure to October 2023 and forecast income and expenditure from November 2023 to March 2024, compared to the current revised budget (based on original budget approved by Council on 2nd March 2023 and Council approved budget adjustments to 31st October 2023).
- 1.2 The current General Fund forecast is a £1,129k underspend compared to the revised budget; a decrease of £380k from the underspend of £1,547k reported for July.

Table 1 - Net General Fund Revenue Forecast to 31 March 2024 by Directorate

General Fund	Revised Budget	Forecast	Current Forecast Variance	Previous Forecast Variance	Change
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Directorate					
Chief Executive Officer	727	727	0	0	0
Governance	2,758	2,804	46	0	46
Transformation	418	843	425	231	194
Place	4,924	5,011	87	(169)	256
Operations	7,361	7,150	(211)	(114)	(97)
Total Net Directorate Expenditure	16,188	16,535	347	(52)	399
Net Recharges	(3,365)	(3,337)	28	0	28
Capital Financing	3,730	2,085	(1,645)	(1,645)	0
Net Interest Payable /(Receivable)	31	227	196	196	0
Net Revenue Expenditure	16,584	15,510	(1,074)	(1,501)	427
Funding	(16,134)	(16,134)	0	0	0
Net Revenue Expenditure before transfer to(from) earmarked reserve	450	(624)	(1,074)	(1,501)	427

Transfer to/(from) earmarked reserve	186	93	(93)	(46)	(47)
Net Revenue Expenditure after transfer to/(from) earmarked reserve	636	(531)	(1,167)	(1,547)	380

- 1.3 Appendix 1 provides details of the variances for each Directorate, Corporate Costs and Funding.
- 1.4 Appendix 2 provides details of the approved and forecast earmarked reserves movements as at 31 October 2023.
- 1.5 The projected overspend in the Governance Directorate is mainly due to legal costs from the Voluntary Registration of Title project. This will be funded from the Corporate Transformation Reserve. In addition, 56 DSE chairs are to be purchased. This increase in spending will be funded from the Asset Repair and Replacement Reserve.
- 1.6 The projected overspend in the Transformation Directorate arises mainly from loss of income from two investment properties (Charlecote Hotel and the Callflex building in Rotherham) combined with unexpected security costs for the Callflex investment property. The projected overspend has increased since July as the Council is now liable for Business Rates on the Callflex premises. Subject to final outturn and if required, these costs will be funded from the Investment Property Reserve.
- 1.7 The projected underspend reported for July in the Place Directorate of £169k is now an overspend of £86k. The projected increase in costs of £255k is mainly due to £43k cost of covering the Executive Director of Place vacancy/ conclude project work, increased costs of CCTV of £31k and lower than anticipated Planning Fee income of £187k due to reduced demand.
- 1.8 The projected underspend in the Operations Directorate reported in July of £114k has increased by £98k to £212k. The main reasons for this are increased fuel cost savings of £99k in Neighbourhood Services and Waste, a net decrease in staffing costs in Neighbourhood Services of £70k and £50k in Garage Workshop, predominantly due to vacancies. These were offset by increased costs of £93k in Waste Services due to the pay award exceeding the budgeted level, the cost of Agency workers and a reduction of income of £25k from bulky waste collections.
- 1.9 The variances in Capital Financing Costs and Net Interest are mainly due to higher than expected interest payable and receivable on borrowing and investment. This, combined with slippage in the planned capital programme give a projected net underspend of £1,449k.

2. General Fund Savings/Efficiencies Monitoring 2023/24

- 2.1 The 2023/24 budget included the proposed savings and efficiencies as detailed in Table 2 below. The forecast achievement of these savings is identified, on the following basis:
- saving has been achieved (green),
 - saving forecast to be achieved but actions are still required to secure the saving (amber),
 - saving will not be achieved (red).

Table 2 - General Fund Savings/Efficiencies Monitoring 2023/24

Saving / Efficiency	Detail	Budgeted Saving	Forecast Achieved Saving	Forecast Saving Shortfall
		£'000	£'000	£'000
Planning Fee Income	Additional income based on up to date demand levels for planning applications	100	100	0
Customer Services	Savings generated from the review of the Service during 2022/23	51	51	0
Leisure	Additional income from Photovoltaic Panels on Leisure Centres not included in the Leisure Operating Contract	60	60	0
	Total	211	211	0

2.2 The position outlined above shows all of the £211k savings are forecast to be achieved. £60k (categorised amber) of the £211k forecast savings are anticipated to be achieved, with actions currently being reviewed to ensure they are fully achieved.

3. General Fund Budget Adjustments and Reserve Movements

3.1 There are no General Fund budget adjustments to report.

3.2 Cabinet approval is requested for the following movement of reserves and corresponding budget adjustments.

Table 3 – Reserves Movements 2023/24

Budget Contributed to:	Reserve movement from:	£'000
Legal	Corporate Transformation Reserve	39
Corporate Health and Safety	Asset Repair and Replacement	8

3.3 The £39k withdrawal from the Corporate Transformation Reserve is to part fund the Voluntary Registration of Title legal project. This work will address an outstanding recommendation from the Council's External Auditors. The £8k withdrawal from the Asset Repair and Replacement Reserve is to fund the purchase of Office Chairs, ensuring workstations are Display Screen Equipment (DSE) compliant.

4. Summary for Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

4.1 Table 4 below sets out the 2023/24 HRA forecast outturn position based on actual income and expenditure to 31 October 2023 and forecast income and expenditure from November 2023 to March 2024, compared to the revised budget.

- 4.2 Details of any significant variances incorporated within the forecast Outturn are detailed in the commentaries below the table.

Table 4 – Housing Revenue Account Forecast to 31 March 2024

Description	2023/24 Revised Budget £'000	2023/24 Forecast Outturn £'000	Current Forecast Variance £'000	Previous Forecast Variance £'000	Change £'000
Income					
Rents, Charges and Contributions	(28,221)	(28,222)	(1)	12	(13)
Interest and investment income	(700)	(1,600)	(900)	(800)	(100)
Total Income	(28,921)	(29,822)	(901)	(788)	(113)
Expenditure					
Repairs and Maintenance	8,797	8,938	141	17	124
Supervision and Management	5,505	5,371	(134)	(123)	(11)
Interest payable and similar charges	3,548	3,548	0	0	0
Rents, Rates, Taxes and other charges	161	169	8	3	5
Depreciation and impairments of fixed assets	4,173	4,173	0	0	0
Debt Management Costs	44	44	0	0	0
Contribution to the Bad Debt Provision	200	200	0	0	0
Transfer to Major Repairs Reserve	2,188	1,101	(1,087)	0	(1,087)
Capital expenditure funded by the HRA	6,839	7,732	893	0	893
Total Expenditure	31,455	31,276	(179)	(103)	(76)
Net Cost of HRA Services	2,534	1,454	(1,080)	(891)	(189)

4.3 Interest and Investment Income

Increased Interest rates in the banking sector will increase the average annual interest rate on the HRA balances. Currently forecasting an increase of £900k but this is open to fluctuation dependant on the economy.

4.4 Repairs and Maintenance

Increase in costs due to pay award higher than budget £45k, void property clearances £65k, price increases of materials £14k and hire of vehicles £25k due to delays in acquiring new vehicles and other minor variances of £2k. Partly offset from a reduction in fuel costs of £10k.

4.5 Supervision and Management

Forecasting an underspend due to expected gas price decreases for the annual contract from October of £132k, Ombudsman fees increased by £9k, less other small variances totalling £7k.

4.6 Rents, Rates, Taxes and other charges

Increases in Insurance premiums compared to the budget.

4.7 Transfer to the Major Repairs Reserve (MRR)

The current forecast outturn shows the reduced level of financing required from the HRA for the major repair element of the capital programme for 2023/24. The main reason for the forecast position is the Major Works Contract partner going into administration in July. This has caused a programme of works to fall into future financial years, while the Council tenders for a new partner for the housing major works schemes.

4.8 Capital Expenditure Funded by the HRA

Capital expenditure funded by the HRA is forecast higher than budget due to approval for further new build developments and further property purchases.

5 HRA Savings/Efficiencies 2023/24

5.1.1 The 2023/24 HRA budget included no proposed savings and efficiencies.

6. Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2027/28

6.1 The proposed Capital Programme and funding is summarised in Table 12 below. Appendix 3 shows a detailed breakdown of all the schemes below.

6.2 The three areas of the Capital Programme (Area Schemes, General Fund and HRA) are discussed in more detail below.

Table 5 – Capital Programme (2023/24 to 2027/28)

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	Total £'000
Capital Expenditure						
Area Schemes	425	413	0	0	0	838
General Fund	32,084	52,614	19,819	5,860	6,110	116,487
Housing Revenue Account	16,492	25,030	18,342	18,474	15,968	94,306
Grand Total	49,001	78,057	38,161	24,334	22,078	211,631
Capital Financing						
Developers Contributions - Area Schemes	251	403	0	0	0	654
Borrowing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Receipts	64	0	0	0	0	64
Other Capital Grants and Contributions - Area Schemes	110	10	0	0	0	120
Sub Total - Area Schemes	425	413	0	0	0	838
Prudential Borrowing - General Fund	10,360	17,496	14,851	4,750	5,000	52,457
Direct Revenue Financing - General Fund	829	229	0	0	0	1,058
Developers Contributions - General Fund	634	0	0	0	0	634
Capital Receipts	1,608	0	0	0	0	1,608
Other Capital Grants and Contributions - General Fund	18,653	34,889	4,968	1,110	1,110	60,730
Sub Total - General Fund	32,084	52,614	19,819	5,860	6,110	116,487
Funded from HRA Reserves	13,507	20,203	16,862	16,994	14,488	82,054
Homes England	790	1,918	0	0	0	2,708
Green Homes Grants	21	0	0	0	0	21
Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund 2	49	945	0	0	0	994
Local Authority Housing Fund - second funding round	545	0	0	0	0	545
Nottingham City Council Retrofit	100	484	0	0	0	584
Future 1-4-1 Capital Receipts						
Funding Recently Built and New Schemes	600	600	600	600	600	3,000
Non 1-4-1 Capital Receipts	880	880	880	880	880	4,400
Sub Total - HRA	16,492	25,030	18,342	18,474	15,968	94,306
Grand Total	49,001	78,057	38,161	24,334	22,078	211,631

Area Capital Programme

6.3 These consist of mainly self-financed schemes that enhance the local environment. Developers' contributions (known as Section 106 funding) make up the largest funding source. Additional grant funding is sought wherever possible to maximise the benefit to local communities. Area schemes are included in Table 13.

Table 6 – Area Schemes (2023/24 to 2027/28)

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	Total £'000
Area						
Hucknall Area	20	16	0	0	0	36
Kirkby Area	61	189	0	0	0	250
Sutton Area	224	208	0	0	0	432
Rural Area	120	0	0	0	0	120
Total	425	413	0	0	0	838
Funded by						
Capital Receipts	64	0	0	0	0	64
Lawn Tennis Association	52	0	0	0	0	52
Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC)	10	10	0	0	0	20
Reserves	9	0	0	0	0	9
Section 106	237	403	0	0	0	640
Taylor Wimpey	39	0	0	0	0	39
Sustainable Transport S106	14	0	0	0	0	14
Total	425	413	0	0	0	838

6.4 Table 7 below shows where changes to capital schemes by Area are proposed due to project delays (slippage) or changes in project spend.

Table 7 – Area Schemes (changes in proposed expenditure)

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	Total £'000
Approved Area Schemes	713	0	0	0	0	713
Changes to Hucknall Area Schemes	-17	16	0	0	0	-1
Changes to Sutton Area Schemes	48	208	0	0	0	256
Changes to Kirkby Area Schemes	-318	189	0	0	0	-129
Changes to Rural Area Schemes	-1	0	0	0	0	-1
Proposed Area Schemes to be Approved	425	413	0	0	0	838

Table 8 – Area Schemes (changes to budget – by scheme)

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	Total £'000
Hucknall Area						
Play Areas	-1	0	0	0	0	-1
Titchfield Park Brook	-10	10	0	0	0	0
Washdyke Recreation Ground	-6	6	0	0	0	0
Sub Total	-17	16	0	0	0	-1
Sutton Area						
Ashfield Estate Footpaths	-5	0	0	0	0	-5
Kingsmill Reservoir footpath links	-1	0	0	0	0	-1
Play Areas	-6	0	0	0	0	-6
Riley Recreation Ground	-1	0	0	0	0	-1
Sutton Lawn management Plan	8	0	0	0	0	8
Sutton Town Centre Improvements	1	0	0	0	0	1
Sub Total	-4	0	0	0	0	-4
Kirkby Area						
Annesley Public Open Space	-106	0	0	0	0	-106
Footpath Improvements Across the Larwood and Greenwood & Summit Wards	-15	0	0	0	0	-15
Forest Road Nature Area	-5	5	0	0	0	0
Kingsway Park: implementation of management plan	-184	184	0	0	0	0
Kirkby footpaths/cycle ways	-1	0	0	0	0	-1
Lindleys Lane Play/Youth Area	-6	0	0	0	0	-6
West Park	-1	0	0	0	0	-1
Sub Total	-318	189	0	0	0	-129
Rural Area						
Jacksdale Car Park	-1	0	0	0	0	-1
Grand Total	-340	205	0	0	0	-135

6.5 Changes to Existing Area Projects

Table 7 above shows only one proposed change to budget. The Annesley Public Open Space scheme has now been removed, Kingsway Park: Implementation of management is now not expected to be completed to 2024/25 and other smaller schemes have either been removed as they have been completed or have had their completion date moved to 2024/25. The actual allocation for each project is shown at Appendix 3.

Table 8 – Area Schemes (New schemes)

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	Total £'000
Sutton Area						
Huthwaite Welfare Park	52	208	0	0	0	260
Grand Total	52	208	0	0	0	260

6.6 Huthwaite Welfare Park has been added to the capital programme which will form part of the wider Huthwaite Welfare Park Management Plan.

Table 9 - Area Schemes Summary Reconciliation of Current Capital Programme to Proposed September 2023 Capital Programme

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	Total £'000
September 2023 Capital Programme	713	0	0	0	0	713
Changes to Current Projects	-340	205	0	0	0	-135
New Schemes	52	208	0	0	0	260
Proposed November 2023 Capital Programme	425	413	0	0	0	838

Table 10 – General Fund Projects (changes in budget – by scheme)

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	Total £'000
Changes to Current Projects						
Cemeteries	-2	0	0	0	0	-2
Demolition of Hucknall Toilets	-1	0	0	0	0	-1
External health and safety works required for the Urban Road office	-14	0	0	0	0	-14
Green Homes Grant (GF) (2)	27	0	0	0	0	27
Improvement Grants 1996 Act Disabled Facility Grant	0	102	0	0	0	102
Office Accommodation Works to Accommodate Police at Central Offices	-5	0	0	0	0	-5
Piggins Croft Car Park	-1	0	0	0	0	-1
Purchase of Vehicles	-66	66	0	0	0	0
Hucknall Leisure Centre (PSDS3)	-229	229	0	0	0	0
Solar Panels - Northern Depot	-2	0	0	0	0	-2
Towns Fund Projects	7,154	41,315	14,149	0	0	62,618
Tree Planting and Habitat Improvements, Ashfield-Wide	10	0	0	0	0	10
Urban Road Offices (PSDS3)	-207	207	0	0	0	0
Future High Street Funding Schemes						
Sutton Academy Community Theatre/Cinema	-2,100	2,100	0	0	0	0
Sutton Maker Space and Business Hub	484	0	0	0	0	484
Low Street vacant units	-1,229	0	0	0	0	-1,229
Fox Street pop-up food court and car park	-1	0	0	0	0	-1
Grand Total	3,818	44,019	14,149	0	0	61,986

6.7 Table 10 above shows the proposed changes to budget on a scheme by scheme basis.

Key changes to Existing General Fund Projects.

- **Improvement Grants 1996 Act Disabled Facility Grant** – Additional Grant Funding of £102k has been received during the year. It is not expected that this will be spent until 2024/25.
- **Purchase of Vehicles** – Vehicle purchases expected to occur in 2023/24 are now expected to be delayed until 2024/25.
- **Towns Fund** – The capital programme has now been updated to include the total cost of schemes expected to be rolled out.
- **Urban Road Offices (PSDS 3)** – This scheme is now not expected to be completed until 2024/25.
- **Sutton Academy Community Theatre / Cinema** – This scheme is now not expected to be completed until 2024/25.
- **Sutton Maker Space and Business Hub** – The cost of scheme was previously understated, and the revised scheme cost has now been updated.

- **Low Street Vacant Units** – Original scheme included a proposal to develop three sites only two sites are now being developed.

The actual allocation for each project is shown at Appendix 3.

Table 11 – New General Fund Schemes

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	Total £'000
New Projects						
Ashfield Innovation and Technology Park	0	4,500	0	0	0	4,500
Grand Total	0	4,500	0	0	0	4,500

6.8 New technology park proposed for Lowmoor Road, Sutton in Ashfield.

Table 12 - General Fund Schemes Summary Reconciliation of Current Capital Programme to Proposed September 2023 Capital Programme

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	Total £'000
Current September 2023 Capital Programme	28,266	4,095	5,670	5,860	6,110	50,001
Changes to Current Projects	3,818	44,019	14,149	0	0	61,986
New Projects	0	4,500	0	0	0	4,500
Proposed November 2023 Capital Programme	32,084	52,614	19,819	5,860	6,110	116,487

Table 13 – General Fund – Financing of the Capital Programme

6.9 The table below show the changes in financing required to move from the existing Capital Programme to the proposed 2023/24 – 2027/28 Capital Programme.

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	Total £'000
September 2023 Capital Programme	28,266	4,095	5,670	5,860	6,110	50,001
Capital Grants	13,091	32,354	3,858	0	0	49,303
Capital Receipts	0	0	0	0	0	0
Direct Revenue Financing - General Fund	-229	229	0	0	0	0
Prudential Borrowing	-9,553	15,936	10,291	0	0	16,674
Developers Contributions - General Fund	509	0	0	0	0	509
Proposed November 2023 Capital Programme	32,084	52,614	19,819	5,860	6,110	116,487

6.10 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme

Key changes to existing schemes are as follows:

- **Decent Homes Schemes** – There have been changes to the profiling and mix of these schemes, however, overall expenditure remains unchanged.
- **Davies Avenue Housing Project – Frogghopper Lane** – No further cost expected for this project.
- **Development of Unviable Garage Sites in Kirkby-in-Ashfield and Hucknall** – The cost of the scheme has increased as additional requirements have been identified.
- **Green Homes Grant (1) & (2)**- Reduction in total expenditure required for these schemes.
- **Major Repairs Temporary Accommodation** – Changes to the profiling of this scheme. Overall expenditure remains unchanged.
- **Maun View Sutton-in-Ashfield** - The cost of the scheme has increased as additional requirements have been identified.
- **Retrofit Infill Properties** – This scheme is dependent on the Council receiving the Retrofit grant to make improvements to Infill Properties.

Full details of the HRA Capital Programme are shown in Appendix 3.

Table 14 – Housing Revenue Account (changes to budget)

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	Total £'000
Expenditure Approved	16,997	25,121	17,721	17,914	15,914	93,667
Changes to Current Projects						
Decent Home Schemes						
Catch up and Major Repairs	-513	-627	600	540	0	0
Service Improvements	16	-5	-5	-6	0	0
Exceptional Extensive Works	-40	0	20	20	0	0
Surveys	-50	50	0	0	0	0
Sub Total	-587	-582	615	554	0	0
Other Housing Revenue						
Account Schemes						
Davies Avenue Housing Project - Frog Hopper Lane	-4	0	0	0	0	-4
Development of Unviable Garage Sites in Kirkby-in-Ashfield and Hucknall	74	0	0	0	0	74
Green Homes Grant (HRA) (1)	-39	0	0	0	0	-39
Green Homes Grant (HRA) (2)	-6	0	0	0	0	-6
Major Repairs Temporary Accommodation	-73	7	6	6	54	0
Maun View Sutton-in-Ashfield	30	0	0	0	0	30
Retrofit Infill Properties	100	484	0	0	0	584
Sub Total	82	491	6	6	54	639
Grand Total	16,492	25,030	18,342	18,474	15,968	94,306
Capital Funding						
Funded from HRA Reserves	13,507	20,203	16,862	16,994	14,488	82,054
Homes England	790	1,918	0	0	0	2,708
Green Homes Grants	21	0	0	0	0	21
Local Authority Housing Fund - second funding round	545	0	0	0	0	545
Nottingham City Council Retrofit	100	484	0	0	0	584
Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund 2	49	945	0	0	0	994
Future 1-4-1 Capital Receipts Funding Recently Built and New Schemes	600	600	600	600	600	3,000
Non 1-4-1 Capital Receipts	880	880	880	880	880	4,400
Total Capital Funding	16,492	25,030	18,342	18,474	15,968	94,306

Table 15 – Housing Revenue Account (changes to budget)

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	Total £'000
Expenditure Approved	27,439	15,889	15,288	14,925	0	73,541
Changes to Current Projects						
Decent Home Schemes						
Management Fee	0	0	0	0	660	660
Catch up and Major Repairs	-4,800	646	434	427	9,727	6,434
Service Improvements	-3,630	1,475	762	578	2,772	1,957
Contingent Major Repairs	-52	20	15	-27	140	97
Exceptional Extensive Works	19	-1,134	234	950	20	89
Surveys	350	120	0	0	0	470
Disabled Adaptations	0	0	0	0	450	450
Sub Total	-8,113	1,127	1,445	1,928	13,769	10,157
Other Housing Revenue Account Schemes						
Affordable Housing developments - Sutton-in-Ashfield	-13	0	0	0	0	-13
Development of Unviable Garage Sites in Kirkby-in-Ashfield and Hucknall	-176	-25	0	0	0	-201
Housing Vehicles	-21	331	487	560	644	2,001
Hucknall Infill Sites	-10	0	0	0	0	-10
Investment in New or Existing Dwellings	0	445	501	501	1,501	2,948
Maun View Sutton-in-Ashfield	17	53	0	0	0	70
Northern View, Sutton-in-Ashfield	-3,583	3,583	0	0	0	0
Warwick Close, Kirkby-in-Ashfield	-91	91	0	0	0	0
Sub Total	-3,877	4,478	988	1,061	2,145	4,795
Grand Total	15,450	21,494	17,721	17,914	15,914	88,493
Capital Funding						
Funded from HRA Reserves	13,201	18,069	16,241	16,434	14,434	78,379
Homes England	650	1,000	0	0	0	1,650
Green Homes Grants	70	0	0	0	0	70
Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund 2	49	945	0	0	0	994
Future 1-4-1 Capital Receipts Funding Recently Built and New Schemes	600	600	600	600	600	3,000
Non 1-4-1 Capital Receipts	880	880	880	880	880	4,400
Total Capital Funding	15,450	21,494	17,721	17,914	15,914	88,493

7. Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators

7.1 The 2021 Prudential Code and Treasury Management Code introduced a new requirement that monitoring of the treasury management indicators should be reported quarterly (along with the other prudential indicators) as part of the Authority's general revenue and capital monitoring. To comply with this, the Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators are included in this report.

7.2 Detailed information on the indicators including original and revised indicators for 2023/24 is shown at Appendix 4.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

The Revenue and Capital Budgets and Outturn position reflect delivery of the priorities in the Corporate Plan.

Legal:

This report ensures compliance with the Council's approved Financial Regulations. [RLD]

Finance: [PH].

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	As set out in the body of this report and the appendices.
General Fund – Capital Programme	As set out in the body of this report and the appendices.
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	As set out in the body of this report and the appendices.
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	As set out in the body of this report and the appendices.

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
Failure to spend within approved budgets could impact the financial sustainability of the Council.	Regular financial monitoring reports to SLT and Cabinet. Financial Regulations. Finance training for Budget Managers and Budget Holders

Human Resources:

No HR implications []

Environmental/Sustainability

No implications

Equalities:

No implications

Background Papers

Annual Budget and Council Tax 2023/24 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy Update to Council
2nd March 2023;

Draft Outturn Report 2022/23 to Cabinet 31st July 2023;

2023/24 Forecast Outturn for General Fund, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Capital
Programme as at July 2023

Report Author and Contact Officer

Clive Howey

Interim Chief Accountant

Email: clive.howey@ashfield.gov.uk

Tel: 01623 457458

Sponsoring Executive Director

Craig Bonar

Executive Director - Transformation

Email: Craig.Bonar@ashfield.gov.uk

Tel: 01623 457203

Directorate:		Chief Executive Officer	
Forecast as at:		31/10/2023	
Service Area	Forecast Underspend OR Income over-recovery (-) £'000	Forecast Overspend OR Income under-recovery (+) £'000	Key reasons for forecast variance
No forecast variances			
Total	0	0	
Net Forecast Under/Overspend	0		

Directorate:	Governance		
Forecast as at:	31/10/2023		
Service Area	Forecast Underspend OR Income over-recovery (-) £'000	Forecast Overspend OR Income under-recovery (+) £'000	Key reasons for forecast variance
Director		5	Vacancy factor not achievable
Legal		3	Thomson Reuters contract higher than expected after end of Legal Shared Service
		39	Voluntary Registration of Title project - funded from Transformation Reserve
CMAP		6	Annual charge higher than budget
Corporate Health & Safety		8	ODR to purchase 56 DSE chairs. Funded from Asset Repair & Replacement Reserve - first batch
Corporate Health & Safety	-28		Vacant post Risk Management Officer (NB offset by reduced Primary Recharge to HRA)
Elections	0		Vacant post Service Manager - offset by agency
Democratic Services		5	Vacancy factor not achievable
		4	Honorarium for extra duties pending review
		4	Independent Remuneration Panel Chair
Total	-28	74	
Net Forecast -Under/+Overspend	46		

Directorate:	Transformation		
Forecast as at:	31/10/2023		
	Forecast Underspend OR Income over-recovery (-)	Forecast Overspend OR Income under-recovery (+)	Key reasons for forecast variance
Service Area	£'000	£'000	
Digital Services		10	Additional Consultancy Services in respect of Iken legal case management system.
IT Services		7	Increased cost of software licences
GIS	-24		Higher income from Street Naming and Numbering
Investment Properties		146	Lower rental income from Hotel Investment Property
		70	Security costs at vacant Investment Property
		162	Reduced rental income from vacant Investment Property
		38	NNDR costs at vacant Investment Property
		8	Professional & Consultancy costs at vacant Investment Property
Financial Management		8	Increased staff costs due to overtime payments in respect of supporting new Financial Management System - funded from reserve approved as part of business case
Total	-24	449	
Net Forecast Under/Overspend	425		

Directorate:	Place		
Forecast as at:	31/10/2023		
Service Area	Forecast Underspend OR Income over-recovery (-) £'000	Forecast Overspend OR Income under-recovery (+) £'000	Key reasons for forecast variance
Executive Director		43	Additional costs for Interim Director to conclude projects work.
Community Safety	-164	19 31 6	Net saving from staff costs as a result of vacancies. Additional legal costs. Increased costs of CCTV Costs incurred in connection with Community Safety Strategy
Health & Wellbeing	-17		Net saving from staff costs as a result of vacancies
Leisure Centres		5 5 5	Consultancy Support and advice on energy costs incurred through the Leisure Operating Contract Ashfield Leisure Transformation Programme, Rural Leisure Review Security costs at Kirkby Leisure Centre
Licensing		12	Increased staff costs as a result of additional post (Licensing Technical Compliance Officer). Any overspend will be met from the Licensing reserve.
Regeneration	-66	10	Net saving from staff costs as a result of vacancies Adverts in respect of Parking Order
Planning	-6	187	Net saving from staff costs as a result of vacancies Lower Planning Fees, as a result of reduced applications
Environmental Health		16	Increased staff costs, vacancies offset by Agency costs and Market Supplements
Total	-253	339	
Net Forecast Under/Overspend	86		

Directorate:	Operations		
Forecast as at:	31/10/2023		
Service Area	Forecast Underspend OR Income over-recovery (-) £'000	Forecast Overspend OR Income under-recovery (+) £'000	Key reasons for forecast variance
Neighbourhood Services	-21		Premises Expenses - Estimated reduction in unit cost of gas and electricity from October.
	-65		Fuel Costs - prices fallen during the financial year.
		20	Developer Contributions realigned in 2022-23 reducing amount in 2023-24.
	-95		Vacancy savings less agency costs, pay award, sickness cover and vacancy provision.
	-10		Increase to amount paid for the NCC grass cutting contract
		10	Early release of selston parish council contract
		9	Hire of Vehicles
		3	Pest control traps require replacing when they come to the end of their life span - usually once every 2 - 3 years.
Garage Workshop			7 Unexpected cost for repair and maintenance of the electric road sweepers.
	-50		Vacancy savings less agency costs, pay award and vacancy provision.
		4	Tool purchases
Waste Services	-100		Fuel Costs - prices fallen during financial year.
		45	Pay Award higher than budget
		48	Additional cost of Agency workers due to long term sickness cover, strike action at waste collection sites and flood damage clearance less vacant posts.
		25	reduction in income for paid bulky waste collections, impacted by us offering free bulky waste collections all year.
		5	Increased Insurance costs
		10	Net effect of increased costs of waste disposal against income in trade waste collections
	-40		Increase in prices for glass collection
		25	Hire of waste vehicles during the recycling centre strikes
Northern Depot	-32		Premises Expenses - Estimated reduction in unit cost of gas and electricity from October.
		5	Equipment
		2	Pay Award higher than budget
Asset Management	-50		Premises Expenses - Estimated reduction in unit cost of gas and electricity from October.
		17	Car Parks - Loss of income. Free Parking in December. Backdated NNDR charge for Kings Mill car park.
		10	Vacancy Factor not achieved plus pay award higher than budgeted.
Call Monitoring			6 Service closing with some costs incurred
Total	-463	251	
Net Under/Overspend	-212		

Corporate Costs		Corporate Costs		
Forecast as at:		31/10/2023		
	Forecast Underspend OR Income over-recovery (-) £'000	Forecast Overspend OR Income under- recovery (+) £'000	Key reasons for forecast variance	
Loan Interest Payable	-612		It was assumed loans would be refinanced in 2023/24 and additional borrowing required. It is now clear this is not required.	
Minimum Revenue Provision	-1,079		As borrowing is not required, MRP is reduced. It has also reduced due to switch funding and programme slippage.	
Direct Revenue Financing		46	£43k Windmill Scheme and £3k Shop Fronts. All funded from reserves.	
Net Interest Payable/Receivable		196	This is a net gain to the HRA, representing additional interest earned due to higher rates (internal borrowing).	
	-1,691	242		
Net Forecast Under/Overspend	-1,449			

Funding

Forecast as at:

31/10/2023

Service Area

No forecast variances

Forecast
Underspend
OR Income
over-recovery (-
)

£'000

Forecast
Overspend OR
Income under-
recovery (+)

£'000

Key reasons for forecast variance

0 0

Net Forecast Under/Overspend

0

Statement of Movement on General Fund Reserves							
Service Earmarked Reserve	Opening Balance at 1st April 2023	Approved	Approved	Approved Balance as at 31 October 2023	Requiring Approval	Requiring Approval	Forecast Closing Balance as at 31 March 2024
		Contributions	Withdrawals		Contributions	Withdrawals	
	£	£	£	£			£
Earmarked Reserves							
Elections	(151,858)	(84,000)	197,000	(38,858)	0	0	(38,858)
Insurance Related Funds (Inc Risk Mngt)	(339,533)	(75,000)	0	(414,533)	0	0	(414,533)
Revenue Grant Reserve	(3,363,794)	0	335,000	(3,028,794)	0	0	(3,028,794)
District Planning Enquiry Fund	(201,140)	0	0	(201,140)	0	0	(201,140)
Asset Renewal	(640,476)	43,000	0	(597,476)	0	8,000	(589,476)
Leisure Maintenance Reserve	(1,141,678)	(290,000)	0	(1,431,678)	0	0	(1,431,678)
NNDR Equalisation Reserve	(5,982,109)	0	82,000	(5,900,109)	0	0	(5,900,109)
Supported Housing Trading Fund	(53,376)	0	0	(53,376)	0	0	(53,376)
Corporate Transformation Reserve	(847,789)	(150,000)	0	(997,789)	0	39,000	(958,789)
Commercial Property Investment Reserve	(4,200,000)	(200,000)	0	(4,400,000)	0	0	(4,400,000)
Economic Development and Place Reserve	(251,759)	0	0	(251,759)	0	0	(251,759)
Joint Crematorium Reserve	(635,035)	0	0	(635,035)	0	0	(635,035)
Selective Licencing	(73,044)	0	0	(73,044)	0	0	(73,044)
Licensing Reserve	(247,845)	0	37,000	(210,845)	0	0	(210,845)
Covid-19 Grant Reserve	(381,237)	0	0	(381,237)	0	0	(381,237)
Legal Reserve	(25,000)	(10,000)	0	(35,000)	0	0	(35,000)
Winter Maintenance Reserve	(15,000)	(5,000)	0	(20,000)	0	0	(20,000)
Commercial Property Dilapidations Reserve	(30,000)	(10,000)	0	(40,000)	0	0	(40,000)
IT Reserve	(15,000)	(10,000)	0	(25,000)	0	0	(25,000)
Total Earmarked Reserves	(18,595,673)	(791,000)	651,000	(18,710,673)	0	47,000	(18,688,673)
NNDR/Ctax S31 & Compensation Reserve	(320,473)	0	232,334	(88,139)	0	0	(88,139)
General Reserve	-9,234,870		386,000	-8,848,870			-8,848,870

Statement of Movement on HRA Reserves

Service Earmarked Reserve	Opening Balance 1 April 2023 £	Approved		Balance as at 31 October 2023 £	Forecast as at 31 October 2023		Forecast Closing Balance as at 31 March 2024 £	Forecast Comments
		Contributions £	Withdrawals £		Contributions £	Withdrawals £		
HRA Revenue Grants Reserve	-44,772	0	19,642	-25,130	0	0	-25,130	
HRA Eco Funding Reserve	-243,430	0	0	-243,430	0	0	-243,430	
HRA Insurance Reserve	-124,237	-30,000	30,000	-124,237	0	0	-124,237	
HRA Technology Investment	-25,566	0	0	-25,566	0	0	-25,566	
HRA Welfare Reform Reserve	-140,399	0	50,000	-90,399	0	0	-90,399	
Total HRA Earmarked Reserves	-578,404	-30,000	99,642	-508,762	0	0	-508,762	

Appendix 3 - Capital Programme

General Fund Capital Schemes

	Lead Officer	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total	Funding						
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	Loan	Section 106	Grant	Grant Funder	Capital Receipt	Reserves	Total
								£'000	£'000	£'000	e.g. Lottery	£'000	£'000	£'000
General Fund														
Ashfield Innovation and Technology Park	John Bennett	0	4,500	0	0	0	4,500	4,500	0	0		0	0	4,500
Comm Facilities Investment - Selston Country Park	John Bennett	9	0	0	0	0	9	9	0	0		0	0	9
Depot Roof	Paul Parkinson	646	0	0	0	0	646	0	0	0		646	0	646
External health and safety works required for the Urban Road office	Paul Parkinson	20	0	0	0	0	20	20	0	0		0	0	20
Firewalls	Craig Bonar	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0		0	0	2
Flood Support Schemes	Craig Bonar	49	0	0	0	0	49	0	0	49	CLG	0	0	49
Green Space Improvements	John Bennett	8	0	0	0	0	8	0	8	0		0	0	8
Green Homes Grant (GF) (2)	Paul Parkinson	44	0	0	0	0	44	0	0	44	Green Homes Grant	0	0	44
Hucknall Car Park - Titchfield Street	John Bennett	115	0	0	0	0	115	22	93	0		0	0	115
Hucknall Leisure Centre Car Park Extension	John Bennett	750	0	0	0	0	750	350	0	0		400	0	750
Hucknall Leisure Centre - Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment	John Bennett	489	0	0	0	0	489	489	0	0		0	0	489
Hucknall Leisure Centre - New Pool	John Bennett	419	0	0	0	0	419	419	0	0		0	0	419
Hucknall Leisure Centre (PSDS3)	John Bennett	1,584	229	0	0	0	1,813	0	0	1,301	PSDS3	0	512	1,813
In District Regeneration	John Bennett	3,000	0	0	0	0	3,000	2,500	0	0		0	500	3,000
New Kirkby Leisure Centre - Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment	John Bennett	349	0	0	0	0	349	349	0	0		0	0	349
Idlewells Market Hall	John Bennett	9	0	0	0	0	9	9	0	0		0	0	9
Improvement Grants 1996 Act Disabled Facility Grant	Paul Parkinson	1,110	1,212	1,110	1,110	1,110	5,652	0	0	5,652	BCF	0	0	5,652
IT Wiring Infrastructure	Craig Bonar	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0		0	0	1
Kings Mill Reservoir (The King and Miller to Kingfisher)	John Bennett	170	0	0	0	0	170	18	0	152	NCC £105k, MDC £27k, Development (HLF) £12k, NCC ROW £3k & Donations £5k	0	0	170
Kirkby Leisure Centre	John Bennett	1,320	0	0	0	0	1,320	1,275	0	45	Sport England £45k	0	0	1,320

Lindley's Windmill Roof	John Bennett	49	0	0	0	0	49	0	6	0	0	0	43	49
Market Stalls	John Bennett	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Members' IT	Craig Bonar	37	0	0	0	0	37	37	0	0	0	0	0	37
New Cross Support Scheme	John Bennett	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	RHB	0	0	1
New Servers	Craig Bonar	43	20	20	0	0	83	83	0	0	0	0	0	83
Northern Depot Office Rationalisation and Wireless CCTV Infrastructure	John Bennett	11	0	0	0	0	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	11
Officers' IT for Agile Working (General Fund)	Craig Bonar	56	40	40	0	0	136	136	0	0	0	0	0	136
Public Space Protection Order and other UKSPF funded schemes	John Bennett	329	0	0	0	0	329	0	0	319	£25k Safer Streets, £289k UKSPF and £5k PCC	10	0	329
Purchase of Vehicles	John Bennett	1,384	1,566	4,500	4,750	5,000	17,200	17,200	0	0	0	0	0	17,200
Rapid Deployable CCTV Cameras and Installation	John Bennett	30	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	30	PCC	0	0	30
Retail Improvement Scheme	John Bennett	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	£106 Revenue	0	3	3
SAN Hardware	Craig Bonar	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Safer Streets	John Bennett	31	0	0	0	0	31	0	0	31	Notts PCC	0	0	31
Safer Streets for Kirkby	John Bennett	81	0	0	0	0	81	0	0	81	Notts PCC	0	0	81
Discovery Centre and Planetarium	John Bennett	1,625	1,425	0	0	0	3,050	0	0	3,050	DLUHC	0	0	3,050
Switch Network Hardware	Craig Bonar	13	0	0	0	0	13	13	0	0	0	0	0	13
Towns Fund Projects	John Bennett	13,408	41,315	14,149	0	0	68,872	19,454	424	48,994	DLUHC £46,628k, LTA £108k, HLF £45k, Football Foundation £1,950k and ATTFE Sutton Academy Trust £264k	0	0	68,872
Towns Fund Accelerated Funding Projects	John Bennett	184	0	0	0	0	184	184	0	0	0	0	0	184
Tree Planting and Habitat Improvements, Ashfield-Wide	John Bennett	42	0	0	0	0	42	0	32	10	EMG Homes £4k, J Tomlinson £2k and £4k Trees for Cities	0	0	42
Urban Road Offices (PSDS3)	Paul Parkinson	1,328	207	0	0	0	1,535	317	0	666	PSDS3	552	0	1,535
Vehicle Tracking Scheme	John Bennett	5	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Future High Street Funding Schemes														
Sutton Academy Community Theatre/Cinema	John Bennett	155	2,100	0	0	0	2,255	2,155	0	100	ATTFE Sutton Academy Trust £100k	0	0	2,255
Sutton Maker Space and Business Hub	John Bennett	1,452	0	0	0	0	1,452	1,452	0	0	0	0	0	1,452
Low Street vacant units	John Bennett	1,230	0	0	0	0	1,230	1,230	0	0	0	0	0	1,230
Fox Street pop-up food court and car park	John Bennett	490	0	0	0	0	490	214	71	205	DLUHC £205k	0	0	490
Total General Fund		32,084	52,614	19,819	5,860	6,110	116,487	52,457	634	60,730		1,608	1,058	116,487

Appendix 3 - Capital Programme

Housing Revenue Account Capital Schemes

Housing Revenue Account

	Lead Officer	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT							
Decent Homes Schemes							
Management Fee	Paul Parkinson	672	660	660	660	660	3,312
Catch up and Major Repairs	Paul Parkinson	2,708	10,005	10,972	11,195	9,727	44,607
Service Improvements	Paul Parkinson	1,177	3,780	2,900	2,963	2,772	13,592
Contingent Major Repairs	Paul Parkinson	105	105	105	102	140	557
Exceptional Extensive Works	Paul Parkinson	956	70	1,254	990	20	3,290
Surveys	Paul Parkinson	300	170	0	0	0	470
Disabled Adaptations	Paul Parkinson	786	360	410	450	450	2,456
Grand Total		6,704	15,150	16,301	16,360	13,769	68,284
Other Housing Revenue Account Schemes							
Afghan Resettlement Scheme	Paul Parkinson	1,024	0	0	0	0	1,024
Retrofit Infill Properties	Paul Parkinson	100	484	0	0	0	584
Community Centres New Housing Scheme	Paul Parkinson	423	422	0	0	0	845
Central Avenue New Housing Scheme	Paul Parkinson	100	3,205	0	0	0	3,305
Investment in New or Existing Dwellings	Paul Parkinson	1,501	1,501	1,501	1,501	1,501	7,505
Davies Avenue Housing Project - Frog Hopper Lane	Paul Parkinson	40	0	0	0	0	40
Development of Unviable Garage Sites in Kirkby-in-Ashfield and Hucknall (Darley Avenue and Spruce Grove New Builds)	Paul Parkinson	514	25	0	0	0	539
Firewalls	Paul Parkinson	1	0	0	0	0	1
Green Homes Grant (HRA) (1)	Paul Parkinson	4	0	0	0	0	4
Green Homes Grant (HRA) (2)	Paul Parkinson	21	0	0	0	0	21
Housing Vehicles	John Bennett	368	423	487	560	644	2,482
Major Repairs Temporary Accommodation	Paul Parkinson	40	53	53	53	54	253
Maun View Sutton-in-Ashfield	Paul Parkinson	942	53	0	0	0	995
Northern View, Sutton-in-Ashfield	Paul Parkinson	0	3,583	0	0	0	3,583
SAN Hardwear	Paul Parkinson	1	0	0	0	0	1
Switch Network Hardware	Paul Parkinson	4	0	0	0	0	4
Officers' IT for Agile Working (HRA)	Paul Parkinson	73	40	0	0	0	113
Vehicle Tracking Scheme	John Bennett	4	0	0	0	0	4
Warwick Close, Kirkby-in-Ashfield	Paul Parkinson	4,628	91	0	0	0	4,719
Grand Total		9,788	9,880	2,041	2,114	2,199	26,022
Total Housing Revenue Account		16,492	25,030	18,342	18,474	15,968	94,306

Appendix 3 - Capital Programme

Area Capital Schemes

	Lead Officer	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total	Funding						
								Loan	Section 106	Grant	Grant Funder	Capital Receipts	Reserves	Total Funding
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	e.g. Lottery	£'000	£'000	£'000
Hucknall Area														
Titchfield Park Brook	John Bennett	10	10	0	0	0	20	0	0	20	NCC	0	0	20
Washdyke Recreation Ground	John Bennett	10	6	0	0	0	16	0	16	0		0	0	16
Total Hucknall Area		20	16	0	0	0	36	0	16	20		0	0	36
Sutton Area														
Football Changing Rooms	John Bennett	15	0	0	0	0	15	0	15	0		0	0	15
Kingsmill Reservoir management plan: Implementation Works	John Bennett	6	0	0	0	0	6	0	6	0		0	0	6
Roundhill Recreation Ground	John Bennett	9	0	0	0	0	9	0	5	0		4	0	9
Sudbury Drive Play Area	John Bennett	39	0	0	0	0	39	0	0	39	Taylor Wimpey	0	0	39
Sutton Lawn management Plan	John Bennett	22	0	0	0	0	22	0	14	0		0	8	22
Sutton Town Centre Improvements	John Bennett	71	0	0	0	0	71	0	70	0		0	1	71
Taylor Crescent Recreation Ground	John Bennett	10	0	0	0	0	10	0	10	0		0	0	10
Huthwaite Welfare Park	John Bennett	52	208	0	0	0	260	0	208	Lawn Tennis Association	52	0	0	260
Total Sutton Area		224	208	0	0	0	432	0	328	39		4	0	432

Appendix 3 - Capital Programme

Area Capital Schemes

	Lead Officer	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total	Loan	Section 106	Grant	Grant Funder	Capital Receipts	Reserves	Total Funding	
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	e.g. Lottery	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Kirkby Area															
Annesley Art Project	John Bennett	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0		0	0	2	
Forest Road Nature Area	John Bennett	0	5	0	0	0	5	0	5	0		0	0	5	
Kingsway Park: implementation of management plan	John Bennett	20	184	0	0	0	204	0	204	0		0	0	204	
Sports pavilion, Titchfield Park	John Bennett	39	0	0	0	0	39	0	39	0		0	0	39	
Total Kirkby Area		61	189	0	0	0	250	0	250	0		0	0	250	

	Lead Officer	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total	Loan	Section 106	Grant	Grant Funder	Capital Receipts	Reserves	Total Funding	
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	e.g. Lottery	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Rural Area															
Rurals and Open Space	John Bennett	120	0	0	0	0	120	0	60	0		60	0	120	
Total Rural Area		120	0	0	0	0	120	0	60	0	0	60	0	120	
Total Area		425	413	0	0	0	838	0	654	59		64	0	838	

Prudential Indicators of Affordability

The Prudential Indicators for 2023-24 were agreed at the Council meeting on 2nd March 2023. The Prudential Indicators for affordability are as follows:

- a) Estimate of the ratio of financing costs to the net revenue stream split between the Housing Revenue Account and the General Fund

For the HRA this is calculated by dividing the HRA capital financing costs by the total estimated Council Dwelling Income. For the General Fund this is calculated by dividing the General Fund capital financing costs by the estimated Council Tax Receipt plus Central Government Grants.

Table 1 – Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream for the Housing Revenue Account and General Fund.

	2022/23 Revised	2022/23 Outturn	2023/2024 Original %	2023/24 Revised %
Housing Revenue Account	11.87	10.44	10.57	7.34
General Fund	21.05	15.32	30.08	27.33

The General Fund indicator is lower than forecast due to slippage and switch funding of borrowing in 2022/23 reducing the amount of Minimum Revenue Provision in 2023/24 the HRA indicator has reduced due to interest receivable amounts on HRA balances being higher than previously anticipated and higher than expected rental income.

Table 2 – Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream for the General Fund including Investment Property income.

	2022/23 Revised	2022/23 Outturn	2023/2024 Original %	2023/24 Revised %
General Fund	-9.30	-11.17	-1.38	-3.46

The reason the above figures are negative is due to the Item 8 credit and investment property income being greater than the other financing costs e.g. Minimum Revenue Provision and interest payable. The General Fund indicator is lower than forecast due to slippage and switch funding of borrowing in 2022/23 reducing the amount of Minimum Revenue Provision in 2023/24.

- b) Estimate of the incremental impact of capital investment decisions on the Council Tax and Rent Levels

These indicators have been prepared using the revised Capital Programme, on the same agenda as this report.

The revised indicator for 2023-24 can be found on Table 3 below.

Table 3 - Incremental Impact of capital investment decisions on Council Tax and Rent Levels

	2022/23 Revised	2022/23 Outturn	2023/2024 Original %	2023/24 Revised %
General Fund (Band D)	19.88	24.31	34.79	17.94
HRA (52 weeks)	0	0	0	0

The table is calculated by dividing the estimated finance costs of the in year capital expenditure by; the estimated number of Council Tax Band D equivalents for the General Fund and the number of Council Dwellings for the HRA. As there has not been any new HRA borrowing in the two years above the indicator is showing a zero. The reason for the difference on the General Fund is due to slippage and switch funding from the 2022/23 Capital Programme.

c) Net borrowing and the Capital Financing Requirement split between the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account

In order to ensure that in the medium term borrowing is only undertaken for capital purposes, local authorities are required to ensure that external borrowing does not exceed, except in the short term, the total of their capital financing requirement over the planning period. In broad terms the capital financing requirement reflects an authority's need to borrow for capital purposes and is a measure of the assets contained on the balance sheet which have as yet not been fully financed, i.e. there is still some indebtedness outstanding.

The latest 2023/24 estimate of the Capital Financing Requirement is shown in Table 4 below.

Table 4 – Estimates of Capital Financing Requirement.

	31st March 2023 Revised	31st March 2023 Outturn	31st March 2024 Original	31st March 2024 Revised
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Housing Revenue Account	80.061	80.061	80.061	80.061
General Fund	106.473	86.287	104.706	94.209
Total	186.534	166.348	184.767	174.270

As mentioned in b) above there is not expected to be any new HRA borrowing and unlike the General Fund there is not a requirement to charge Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for the HRA. The decrease in General Fund is due to higher than expected MRP payments and a small decrease in the expected borrowing requirement.

d) Capital Expenditure

Estimates of capital expenditure for 2023/24 years split between the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account

The estimated total capital expenditure for 2023/24 as detailed in the Capital Programme, is shown below in Table 5:

Table 5 – Housing Revenue Account and General Fund Capital Expenditure estimates.

Capital Expenditure £m	2022/23 Revised	2022/23 Outturn	2023/24 Original	2023/24 Revised
General Fund	34.111	15.358	6.826	32.509
HRA	20.006	17.350	24.785	16.492
Total	54.117	32.708	31.611	49.001

The increase in General Fund is due to slippage on Towns Fund schemes, Future High Street Fund Scheme, In District Regeneration and vehicle purchases in 2022/23. The decrease for the HRA is largely due to the main contractor for the decent homes work going into administration.

e) Capital Programme Funding

Table 6 shows how the expenditure in Table 5 is to be funded.

Table 6 - Capital Expenditure Funding

Financing of Capital Programme £m	2022/23 Revised	2022/23 Outturn	2023/24 Original	2023/24 Revised
Capital Receipts	3.540	2.630	2.113	3.252
Capital Grants	14.623	17.049	6.053	21.053
Capital Reserves	0.640	0.094	0.000	0.000
Direct Revenue Financing	13.138	10.944	21.695	14.336
Borrowing Requirement	22.176	1.991	1.750	10.360
Total	54.117	32.708	31.611	49.001

The increased borrowing requirement is mainly due to slippage and switch funding from 2022/23. The increase in capital grants is largely due to additional DLUHC Levelling Up Fund 2 funding for the Science Discovery Centre and Planetarium and the decrease in direct revenue financing is largely due to the reduction in Decent Homes Expenditure as a result of the main contractor going into administration.

f) Balance Sheet Summary and Forecast

The Council has an increasing CFR until the end of 2023/24 due to switch funding being used to finance many unfunded schemes in 2022/23. This position is continually reviewed due to the level of reserves and working capital having many variables and due to slippage in delivery of the capital programme making forecasting with certainty difficult.

Table 7 shows the original and revised balance sheet summary for 2023-24.

Table 7 - Balance Sheet Summary

31st March:	2023 Revised	2023 Outturn	2024 Original	2024 Revised
Capital Financing Requirement	186.5	166.3	184.8	183.3
Less: External Borrowing	-90.5	-90.5	-86.3	-86.3
Under(Over) Borrowing	96.0	75.8	98.5	97.0
Less: Usable Reserves plus working Capital	-81.6	-79.4	-78.1	-92.1
Investments / (New Borrowing)	-14.4	3.6	-20.4	-4.9

See c) above for explanation of the change in the Capital Financing Requirement. The Usable Reserves is higher than previously expected as a result of HRA reserves being higher than anticipated caused by a decrease in 2023/24 capital expenditure as a result of the main contractor going into administration.

External Debt

g) Authorised Limit

This is calculated by taking into account current external debt, new borrowing for loans which mature or for capital purposes and the need to borrow on a short term basis to cover for temporary shortfalls in revenue income and expenditure.

A comparison with the authorised limit to the actual external debt is shown in Table 8 below.

Table 8 – Authorised Limit

	2022/23 Original	2022/23 Outturn	2023/2024 Original	31st October 2023 Actual External Debt
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Borrowing	217	91	215	90

The Authority's debt is currently significantly below the Authorised Limit.

h) Operational Boundary

As well as an authorised limit the local authority must also set an operational boundary for its external debt for the next three years. The operational boundary is based on the most likely or prudent but not worst case scenario in relation to cash flow.

The future Operational Boundary comparison to actual external debt as at 30th June 2023 is shown in Table 9.

Table 9 – Operational Boundary for External Debt

	2022/23 Original	2022/23 Outturn	2023/2024 Original	31st October 2023 Actual External Debt
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Borrowing	188	91	187	90

The Authority is currently significantly below the Operational Boundary.

Treasury Management

i) Interest rate exposure

These indicators relate to both fixed and variable rate interest and are net of any investments.

Depending on the level of interest rates and their expected movement in the year, the Council may accept all of its new borrowings in the form of either fixed or variable rate debt. The figures in Table 10 give the following maximum levels, when compared to the authorised limit of exposure to fixed and variable interest rates, which are prudent limits for the forthcoming years:

Table 10 - Interest Rate Exposure

Principal Outstanding	2022/23 Original	2022/23 Outturn	2023/24 Original	31st October 2023 Actual
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Fixed Rates	217.0	72.5	215.0	72.5
Variable Rates (No more than 40% of the operational boundary).	86.8	18.0	86.0	17.0

The Council is significantly within the boundaries previously set.

j) Maturity Structure of borrowing

This indicator relates only to fixed rate debt and is therefore a measure of the longer-term exposure to interest rate risk.

Table 11 shows the proposed lower and upper limits, given the current structure of the Council's debt portfolio:

Table 11 - Maturity Structure of Debt

Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing	Actual Amount 31/03/2023 £m	Forecast Position for 31/03/2023	Actual Amount 30/06/2023 £m	Forecast Position for 30/06/2023	Lower Limit %	Upper Limit %
Under 12 Months	4,227	4.67%	3,227	3.60%	0.00%	10.00%
Under 24 Months	5,454	6.02%	4,454	4.97%	0.00%	12.50%
Under 5 years	8,541	9.43%	7,541	8.42%	0.00%	20.00%
Under 10 years	20,236	22.35%	19,236	21.48%	0.00%	25.00%
Under 20 years	30,236	33.40%	29,236	32.65%	0.00%	40.00%
Under 30 years	35,236	38.92%	34,236	38.24%	0.00%	50.00%
Under 40 years	68,236	75.37%	67,236	75.09%	0.00%	80.00%
Under 50 years	90,536	100.00%	89,536	100.00%	0.00%	100.00%
50 Years and Above	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

All the Council debt maturities are within the targets set.

k) Principal sums invested for more than 364 days

Maximum investments over £5m as at 30th June 2023 £0 and as at 31st March 2023 £0.

Report To:	COUNCIL
Date:	12 FEBRUARY 2024
Heading:	MINUTES OF CABINET AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Executive Lead Member:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
Ward/s:	N/A
Key Decision:	N/A
Subject to Call-In:	N/A

Purpose of Report

To present a list of minutes of Cabinet and Committee meetings which have been published since the last ordinary meeting of the Council and for Members to consider whether they wish to give notice of their intention to ask a question of the relevant Chairman under Council Procedure Rule 13.2. Questions are limited to a maximum of two per Member.

MINUTES PUBLISHED SINCE 27 NOVEMBER 2023.

The minutes are accessible via the Council's website:

<https://democracy.ashfield.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bcr=1>

Committee Meeting:	Date of Meeting:
Outward Focus Committee	24 October 2023
Planning Committee	1 November 2023 6 December 2023
Principal Select Committee	15 November 2023
Audit Committee	23 November 2023
Inward Focus Select Committee	7 December 2023

Report Author and Contact Officer

Ruth Dennis

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND MONITORING OFFICER

ruth.dennis@ashfield.gov.uk 01623 457009

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