



Civic Centre,
Arnot Hill Park,
Arnold,
Nottinghamshire,
NG5 6LU

Agenda

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Monday 9 November 2020**

Time: **5.30 pm**

Place: **Virtual Meeting**

For any further information please contact:

Helen Lee

Democratic Services Officer

0115 901 3894

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Membership

Chair Councillor Liz Clunie

Vice-Chair Councillor Paul Feeney

Councillor Sandra Barnes
Councillor Michael Boyle
Councillor Jim Creamer
Councillor Rachael Ellis
Councillor Andrew Ellwood
Councillor Jennifer Hemingway
Councillor Mike Hope
Councillor Simon Murray
Councillor Marje Paling
Councillor Martin Smith
Councillor Sam Smith

WEBCASTING NOTICE

As a result of legislation passed to enable remote meetings to take place during the COVID-19 emergency, this local authority meeting is being held remotely using conferencing software. This approach allows participants to not physically gather in a meeting room. In order to keep meetings open to the public, the live audio will be streamed at www.gedling.gov.uk and the video will be published after the meeting.

Please note: this meeting will be audio and video recorded for live and subsequent broadcast via the Council's website (www.gedling.gov.uk) - at the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being recorded.

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AGENDA

Page

- 1 **Apologies for Absence and Substitutions.**

- 2 **To approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2020.** 5 - 8

- 3 **Declaration of Interests.**

- 4 **Programme of Portfolio Holder Attendance** 9 - 28
Report of the Democratic Services Officer.

- 5 **Temporary Accommodation** 29 - 44
Report of the Democratic Services Officer.

- 6 **Scrutiny Work Programme** 45 - 53
Report of the Democratic Services Officer.

- 7 **Reports and Notices received by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee as required under the Constitution or Law.** 55 - 56
Report of the Democratic Services Officer.

- 8 **Any other item which the Chair considers urgent.**

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MINUTES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday 7 September 2020

Councillor Liz Clunie (Chair)

Councillor Paul Feeney	Councillor Mike Hope
Councillor Sandra Barnes	Councillor Simon Murray
Councillor Michael Boyle	Councillor Marje Paling
Councillor Jim Creamer	Councillor Sam Smith
Councillor Rachael Ellis	Councillor Jennifer Thomas
Councillor Andrew Ellwood	

Apologies for absence: Councillor Martin Smith

Officers in Attendance: M Hill and H Lee

Guests in Attendance Councillors J Clarke and M Payne

10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Smith.

11 TO APPROVE, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 JULY 2020

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the above meeting, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record.

12 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

None.

13 PROGRAMME OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE

The committee welcomed Councillors Clarke and Payne who attended to discuss a range of issues relating to their areas of responsibility. The Chief Executive, Mike Hill, also attended the meeting.

Both Councillors Clarke and Payne addressed a number of questions that had been sent to them in advance of the meeting and the following issues were discussed.

The financial position of the council was outlined and how the impact of Covid 19 on the resources available for the continued delivery of the Gedling Plan were being reviewed. It was explained how the loss of income from leisure and car parking was being addressed and what measures were being put in place to safely open, and encourage visits to, leisure centres and the Bonington Theatre.

Issues relating to procurement , contract management and the benefits of utilising expertise provided by Bolsover District Council Procurement Team were explained.

The Councils agile and flexible working policies were described and the measures introduced to maintain social distancing for staff members returning to work in the Civic Centre were highlighted.

The development of an Executive Scrutiny Protocol was welcomed and Councillor Payne welcomed closer working on policy development with the committee.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) Thank Councillor Clark and Councillor Payne for their attendance;
and
- 2) Note the information.

14 GEDLING PLAN QUARTER 1

The Chief Executive introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting summarising performance at the end of Quarter 1.

The report informed members about the status of indicators and actions at the end of Quarter 1, it was explained that 8 actions were on target, 12 had missed target with a further 6 slightly below target. Of the 96 actions included in the Gedling Plan one was complete and the remained were progressing or assigned to an officer. Some of the actions have been delayed because of Covid-19 but would be completed at a later date.

Example of particularly positive performance were highlighted and indicators affected by compliance with Covid-19 restrictions were discussed.

RESOLVED to:

Note the progress against Actions and Performance indicators for Quarter 1 in the Gedling Plan 2020/21.

15 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

Members considered the Scrutiny Annual Report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, which discussed the work of the committee and its working groups during the preceding year.

RESOLVED:

That the report should be submitted to Council.

16

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

2019/20 Scrutiny Work Programme

Members discussed the responses to the scrutiny reports

- **Economic Development Working Group, The Opportunity to Intervene - for economic and social reasons.**

Members acknowledged the positive response to this report but were aware that due to the effects of Covid-19 that currently there would probably be little scope for property investment.

- **Executive-Scrutiny Protocol**

This had earlier been discussed by Councillor Payne who saw the protocol as a positive way to improve how the Committee and Cabinet worked together, he also welcomed the committees' greater involvement in policy development.

Housing Allocations Consultation

Members were informed that information regarding the results of the consultation would be available at the next committee.

Information updates from previous items at committee

A full update regarding the use and availability of temporary accommodation will be available at the next committee.

2020/2021 Scrutiny Work Programme

- **Planning Policy**

A working group was established to enable the committee to contribute to the consultation White Paper - Planning for the Future.

- **Scrutiny Working Groups**

Members discussed prioritising the review which would be considering flooding in the borough, the review which would be examining housing would commence once the Planning Policy working group has completed its work.

Scrutiny in Committee

Members noted the information.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) Note the responses to the scrutiny working group reports;
- 2) Establish a working group to consider the White Paper – Planning
for the Future; and
- 3) Prioritise the review of flooding in the Borough.

**17 REPORTS AND NOTICES RECEIVED BY THE CHAIR OF
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AS REQUIRED UNDER
THE CONSTITUTION OR LAW.**

Members considered a report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting which included information on items referred to the chair as required by the constitution.

18 ANY OTHER ITEM WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT.

None.

The meeting finished at 7.15 pm

Signed by Chair:
Date:



Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Programme of Portfolio Holder Attendance

Date: 9 November 2020

Author: Democratic Services Officer

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- I. To consider the areas of responsibility of Councillor David Ellis, Portfolio Holder for Public Protection as part of the programme of holding the Executive to account.
- II. To discuss areas for examination in the Housing, Health and Wellbeing and the Young Peoples and Equalities Portfolios in preparation for the January meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- consider, ask questions and comment on the information provided
- thank Councillor Ellis and other guests for their attendance
- discuss and consider areas for examination in Councillor Wheeler's and V McCrossen's and portfolios.

2. BACKGROUND

At the 6th July 2020 Overview and Scrutiny Committee, members agreed to continue with a programme of attendance by Portfolio Holders, and relevant officers, at committee. Areas of performance, within each portfolio for examination, would be

identified, and questions for the Portfolio Holder submitted in advance of each meeting. 'Ad hoc' questions could also be put forward at the meeting itself. Non-executive members are also invited to submit questions for the Portfolio Holder.

3. 2020/2021 PROGRAMME OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE

3.1 Councillor David Ellis, Portfolio Holder for Public Protection is attending the committee to give members the opportunity to examine areas of responsibility in his Portfolio which includes:

- Crime Reduction and Community Safety
- Public Protection
- CCTV and RIPA
- Safeguarding
- Environmental Health
- Empty Properties.

3.2 Councillor Ellis is also attending to assist members to identify areas for examination as part of the mandatory requirement for the committee to undertake an annual review of the work of the Local Crime and Disorder Partnership (CRDP).

3.3 Councillor Ellis will be discussing crime figures and the effect of Covid-19, selective licensing phase 2 and domestic violence. A presentation is attached at **Appendix 1**.

3.4 Questions were also invited from committee members and those below were received in advance of the meeting.

- COVID Marshals - what impact they are having and what reception are they getting?
- Are there any measure of the impact of CCTV cameras?
- How are the crime figures generally in the Borough - perhaps compared to other Boroughs in the county?

A customised report detailing performance outcomes for Q1 is attached at **Appendix 2** to assist Members' identify areas for consideration.

4. FUTURE PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE

4.1 Councillors Wheeler, Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health and Wellbeing and V McCrossen, Portfolio Holder for Young People will be attending the next meeting of the committee to give Members the opportunity to examine areas within their Portfolios.

4.2 Areas of responsibility in the Housing, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio include:

Leisure Centres and Sports Development, including lead for sport and physical activity

Health promotion and development

Bonington Theatre

Homelessness and Housing Needs

Council housing development

Housing and Council Tax Benefits

Liaison with Public Health and Clinical Commissioning Group.

4.3 Areas of responsibility in the Young People and Equalities Portfolio include:

- Play and events for young people
- Equalities
- Youth Council and Youth Mayor
- Engagement and Consultation with young people
- Liaison with various bodies and agencies in relation to mental health
- Support the Deputy Leader in the development of a Social Mobility Commission and delivery of agreed key actions
- Work with the Portfolio holder for Growth and Regeneration in reducing levels of youth employment
- Work with the Portfolio holder for Public Protection to reduce risk and fear of crime for young people.

4.4 Members' are invited to suggest areas for consideration. To be able to effectively examine issues in these two portfolios members may want to consider themes that are crosscutting for example the impact of coronavirus on the mental health of young people. The Portfolio Holders will not be giving an overview of all areas of work and have requested that members identify areas for questioning in advance of the meeting. This does not mean that ad hoc questions cannot be asked at the committee. A customised report detailing performance outcomes for Q2 for the above portfolios will be circulated, in advance of the next committee.

APPENDICIES

Appendix 1: Public Protection Portfolio presentation.

Appendix 2: Q1 Public Protection

Gedling
Borough Council

Public Protection Portfolio
(Including Scrutiny of South Nottinghamshire Community Safety Partnership)

November 2020

Portfolio

- Crime Reduction and Community Safety
- Private Sector Housing
- Environmental Health
- Food Safety and Standards
- Licensing
- Emergency Planning
- Safeguarding



Gedling
Borough Council

Agenda

- Crime/ASB, effect of Covid 19
- Domestic Abuse
- Selective Licensing
- Other issues raised by members

Gedling
Borough Council

What's happening to Crime and ASB: Nottinghamshire 2019/20

- All Crime down 0.5%
- Non Domestic Crime down 14.6%
- Theft down 11.2%
- Hate Incidents (Non-Crime) down 8.8%
- Vehicle Crime down 4.6%
- Burglary down 3%
- Robbery down 2.9%
- Sexual Offences down 2.8%
- Arson and Criminal Damage down 2%



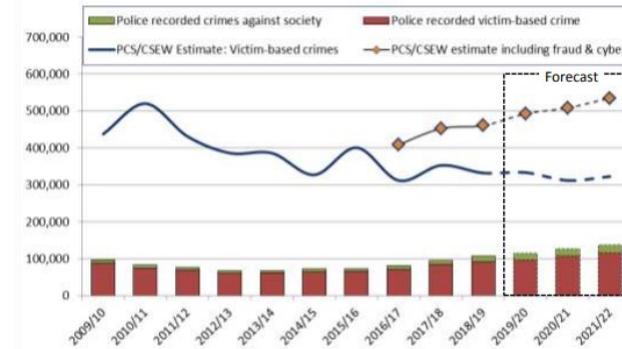
Gedling
Borough Council

Proactive Policing 2019/20

- Stop and search + 78.7% (+2,417)
- Drug offences +21.6%
- Possession of Weapons +12.4%
- Public order offences +4.5%



Crime trends in Nottinghamshire



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Recorded Crime in Gedling 6 months to September 2020 compared to March 2020

Offence type	Current	Previous	Change	% Change
All Crime	2996	3198	-202	-6.32
Victim-based crime	2442	2762	-320	-11.59
VAP	1122	1164	-42	-3.61
Violence with injury	360	375	-15	-4.00
Violence without injury	375	382	-7	-1.83
Stalking and harassment	387	406	-19	-4.68
Burglary	144	241	-97	-40.26
Theft				
Shoplifting	181	267	-86	-32.21
Vehicle Offences	141	220	-79	-35.91
Theft from Motor Vehicle	67	125	-58	-46.4
Theft of Motor Vehicle	54	66	-8	-12.12
Drug Offences	155	105	50	+47.62
YTD 2019	1941	1115	+826	+74.1
ASB	82	73	+9	+12.3
Hate Occurrences	859	775	+84	+10.8
Domestic Occs				



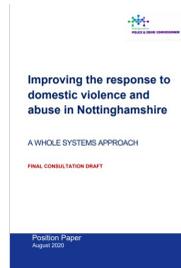
Local Policing Priorities

- Speeding,
- Residential Burglary
- Drug Supply



Domestic Violence and Abuse

- Changing nature of domestic abuse
- Is the iceberg growing?
- Partnership priority
- Concerns over lockdown
- Consultation Paper
- Domestic Violence Bill



Improving the response to Domestic Violence

- Prevalence and severity declining
- Recognition improving, specialist investigators
- Prosecution rates still problematic
- Advice and support services maintained but question of refuge places
- Gaps in dealing with perpetrators
- Prevention services, role of VRU

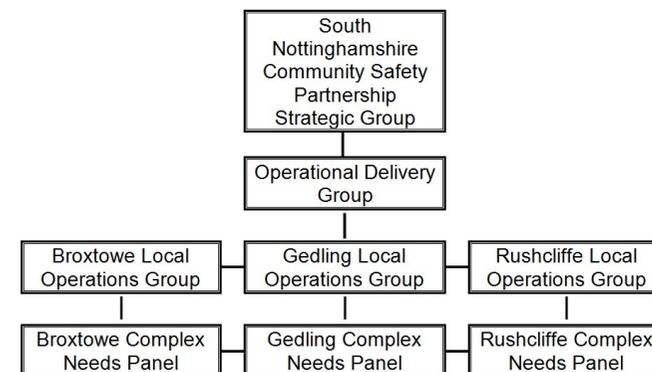


Selective Licensing Phase 2 Consultation

- Extending scheme started in Netherfield in October 2018 to
- Carlton Hill
- Colwick
- Daybrook
- Newstead Village



South Nottinghamshire CSP Structure



SNCSPP Priorities and Achievements

- Keeps partners involved
- Share lessons and understanding
- Mutual support and assistance

Questions, Comments



Links

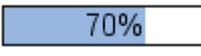
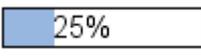
- PCC annual report www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Document-Library/Public-Information/Annual-Reports/2019-2020/Annual-Report-2019-20.pdf
- PCC Crime needs assessment www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Document-Library/Public-Information/Newsletters-and-Publications/Publications/PCNA/Nottinghamshire-Police-and-Crime-Needs-Assessment-2019.pdf
- Domestic Violence Consultation Draft www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Document-Library/Get-Involved/Response-to-DV-and-DA/2020-Improving-the-Response-to-Domestic-Violence-and-Abuse-In-Nottinghamshire-FINAL-CONSULTATION-DRAFT.pdf
- Selective licensing report to Cabinet www.democracy.gedling.gov.uk/documents/s25077/Appendix%201%20Proposal%20to%20Declare%20a%20Selective%20Licensing%20Designation%20with%20the%20Private%20Rented%20Sector%20-%20Ph.pdf

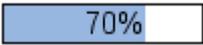
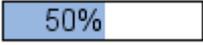
Quarter 1 Performance Report

PI Status		Action Status		Trends	
	Missed target		Cancelled		Improving
	Slightly below target		Overdue		No Change
	On or about target		Check Progress		Getting Worse
	Unknown		Not Started; In Progress		
	Data Only		Completed		

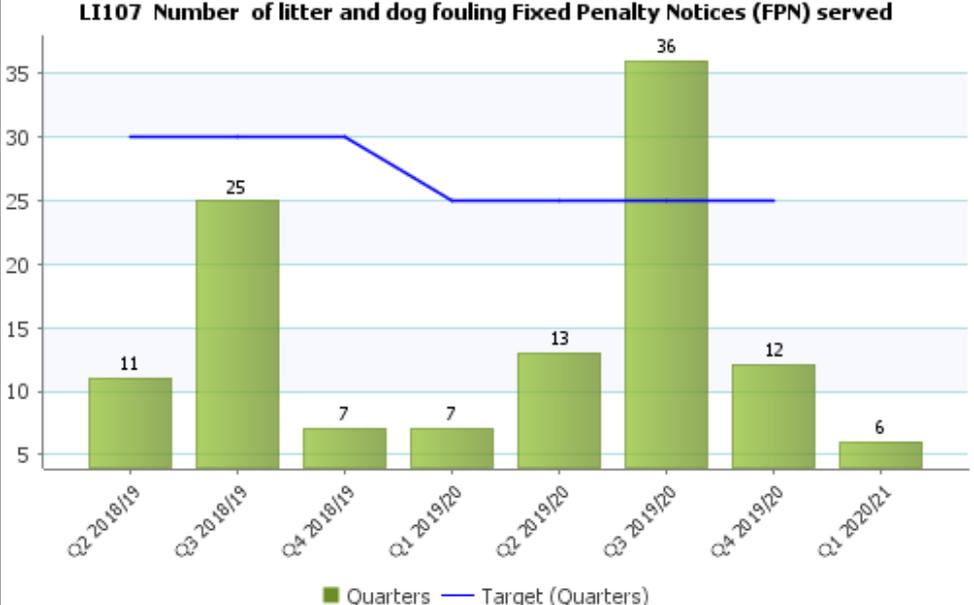
Portfolio Owners Public Protection Portfolio

Title	Service Area	Status	Completion Date	Progress Bar	Notes
Work with partners to use innovative approaches to bring about a reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour	Public Protection		31-Mar-2021	<div style="width: 25%;"><div style="width: 25%;"></div></div> 25%	Whilst there has been an increase in ASB during the Covid 19 Pandemic, NW and the Councils ASB team have been working in partnership to develop plans and look for public opportunity to raise the profile of the problem, especially on parks and open spaces such as Burntstump and Standhill Road.
Seek successful prosecutions and enforcement action for dog fouling, anti-social behaviour and against those that fly-tip waste	Public Protection		31-Mar-2021	<div style="width: 20%;"><div style="width: 20%;"></div></div> 20%	Now that the Covid 19 Pandemic has lifted the Neighbourhood Wardens are carrying out more investigations into fly tipping and it is hoped this will lead to more prosecutions. Specific actions plans have been developed for the Stoke Lane area of Burton Joyce and members have been involved. When the new Senior Neighbourhood Warden is back in post

					it is hoped that the use of covert CCTV cameras can be utilised more effectively.
Invest in new and existing CCTV in priority hot spots	Public Protection		31-Mar-2021		A new camera has been installed on the Gedling Country Park and it is planned to install one on the Conway Road Recreation Ground to protect the new playground assets. The four cameras located on the Mapperley shopping area are to be upgraded at a cost of £17,240 this Autumn.
Work with the Police and Crime Commissioner to establish an additional Neighbourhood Policing Team	Public Protection		31-Mar-2021		The Operation Reacher Team was established ahead of target and is operational in the community to proactively address crime and disorder. The team has already delivered a number of successful operations and inventions. The team is based in the Partnership Hub at Jubilee House and works jointly with existing police and council staff.
Develop the Council's approach to licensing regulation and enforcement	Public Protection		31-Mar-2021		Whilst Licensing enforcement has been at a reduced level during the Covid 19 Pandemic with some officers being in isolation and others working from home, some good licensing enforcement has continued. Cases continue to be presented to Legal

					heard through the councils Complaints and Review Panel (CARP) and adjustments have been made to the way cases are investigated and dialog has been increased with the trade in particular with traffic conduct on the Front Street rank.
Work with partners to promote and develop support for Neighbourhood Watch	Public Protection		31-Mar-2021		The councils ASB co-ordinator is attending Neighbourhood Watch meetings to offer support and raise awareness of council and police action to address crime and ASB. The Police and Council will be reaching out to all Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators in the borough to arrange a meeting to seek views on how to improve the service in conjunction with the council and Police.
Review the pilot Selective Licensing Scheme and investigate new schemes in the borough	Public Protection		31-Mar-2021		Netherfield scheme has been successful in addressing housing conditions and administering licence applications. The majority of licences (620) will be issued by end of quarter 2. Review into a phase 2 scheme is being developed ready for consideration by relevant council departments and leadership to consider whether to hold a public consultation.

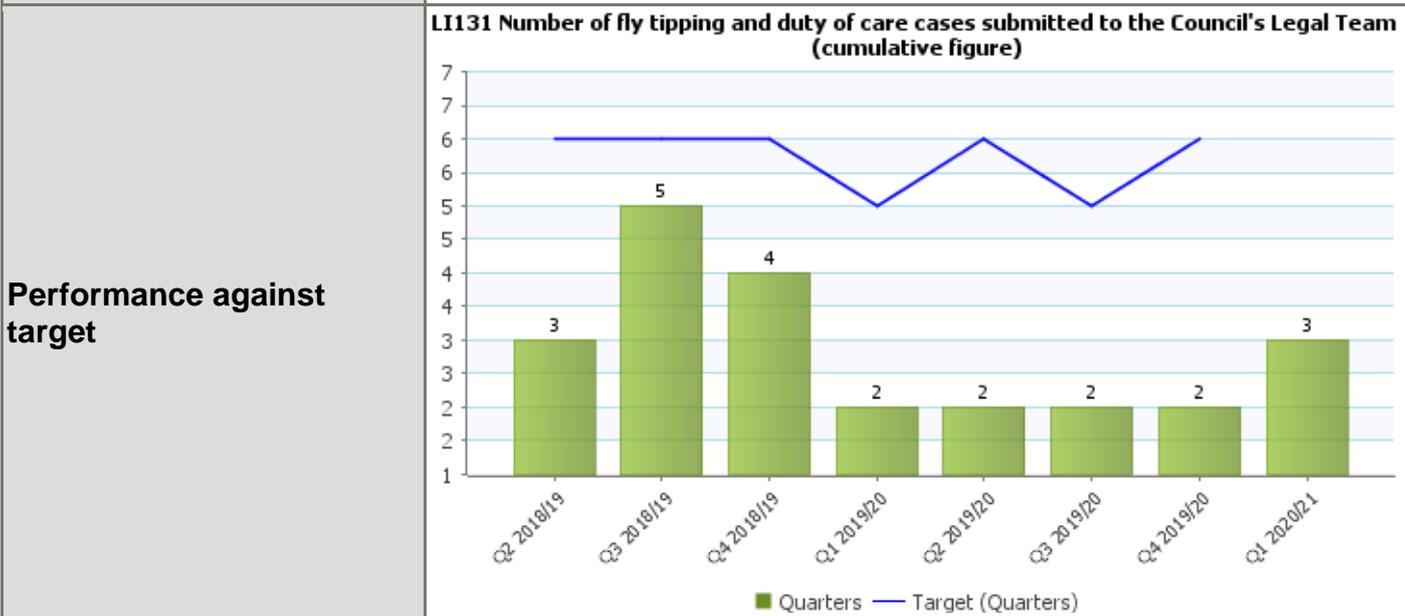
Develop and roll out a 'Quality Scheme' for safe places, health and food outlets	Community Development		31-Mar-2021	0%	No progress made. Opportunity to re-visit from September led by the Community Wellbeing Officer.
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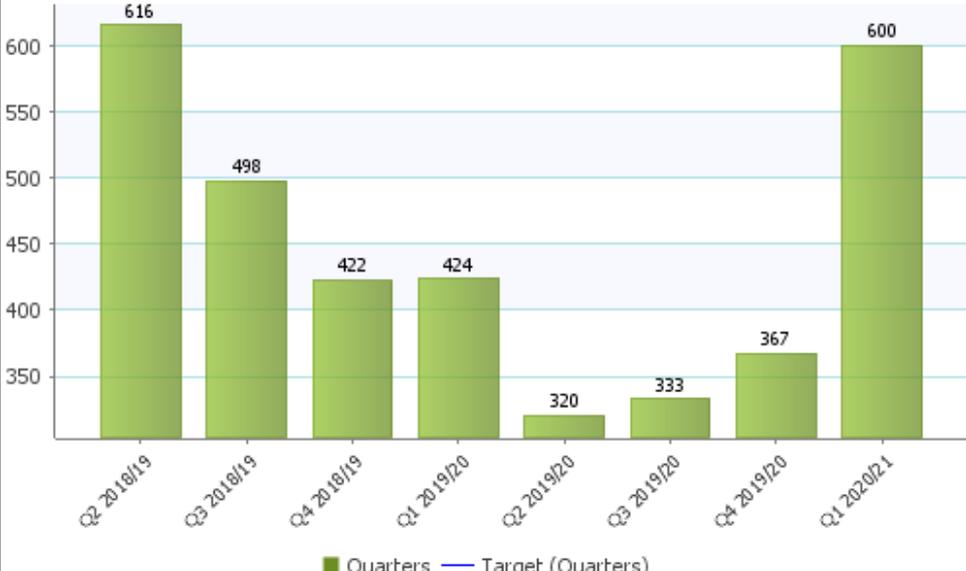
LI107 Number of litter and dog fouling Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) served																														
Service Area	Public Protection	Status																												
Current Value	Current Target	Trend Compared to Last Period	Trend Compared to Average of Previous 4 Quarters																											
6	Tracking Indicator	↓	↓																											
Latest Note																														
Performance against target	<p align="center">LI107 Number of litter and dog fouling Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) served</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Quarterly FPN Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Actual FPN</th> <th>Target (Quarters)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q2 2018/19</td> <td>11</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2018/19</td> <td>25</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2018/19</td> <td>7</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2019/20</td> <td>7</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2019/20</td> <td>13</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2019/20</td> <td>36</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2019/20</td> <td>12</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2020/21</td> <td>6</td> <td>25</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Quarter	Actual FPN	Target (Quarters)	Q2 2018/19	11	30	Q3 2018/19	25	30	Q4 2018/19	7	30	Q1 2019/20	7	25	Q2 2019/20	13	25	Q3 2019/20	36	25	Q4 2019/20	12	25	Q1 2020/21	6	25
	Quarter	Actual FPN	Target (Quarters)																											
Q2 2018/19	11	30																												
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Q2 2019/20	13	25																												
Q3 2019/20	36	25																												
Q4 2019/20	12	25																												
Q1 2020/21	6	25																												

LI131 Number of fly tipping and duty of care cases submitted to the Council's Legal Team (cumulative figure)

Service Area	Public Protection	Status	
Current Value	Current Target	Trend Compared to Last Period	Trend Compared to Average of Previous 4 Quarters
3	Tracking Indicator		

Latest Note



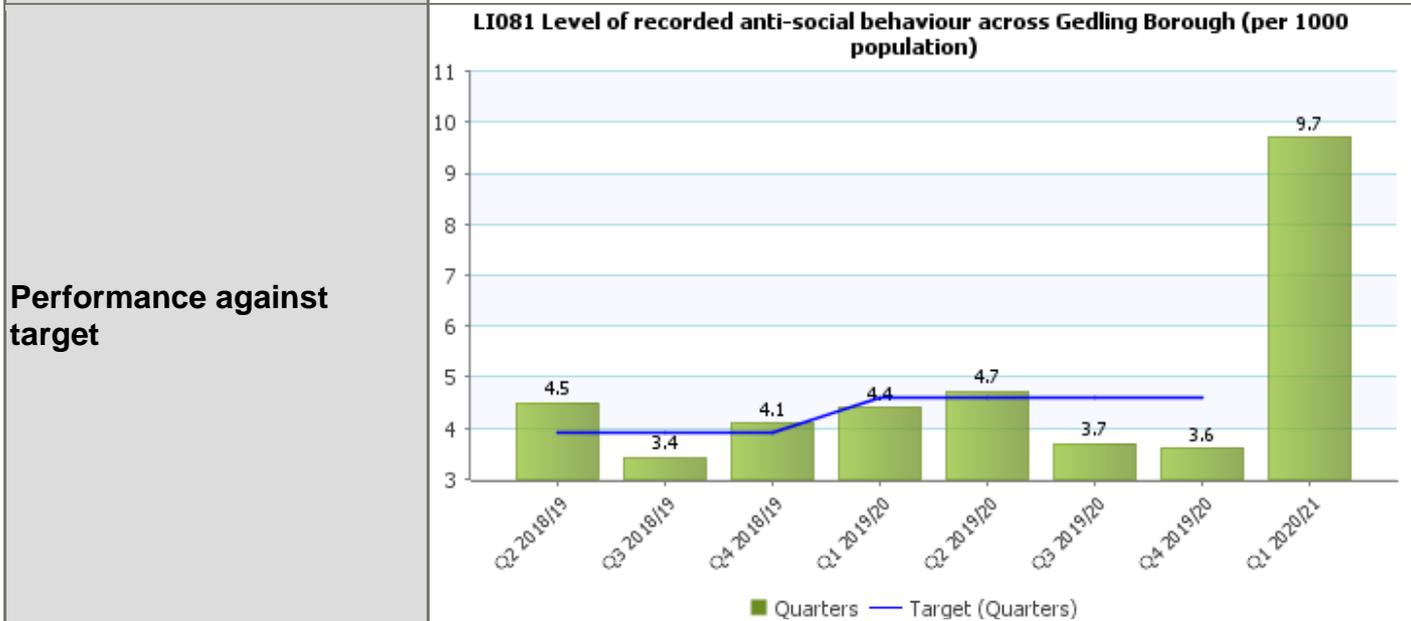
LI133 Number of fly tipping incidents reported to Gedling Borough Council																					
Service Area	Public Protection	Status																			
Current Value	Current Target	Trend Compared to Last Period	Trend Compared to Average of Previous 4 Quarters																		
600	Tracking Indicator																				
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Performance against target	<p>LI133 Number of fly tipping incidents reported to Gedling Borough Council</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>LI133 Number of fly tipping incidents reported to Gedling Borough Council</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Incidents</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q2 2018/19</td> <td>616</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2018/19</td> <td>498</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2018/19</td> <td>422</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2019/20</td> <td>424</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2019/20</td> <td>320</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2019/20</td> <td>333</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2019/20</td> <td>367</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2020/21</td> <td>600</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Quarter	Incidents	Q2 2018/19	616	Q3 2018/19	498	Q4 2018/19	422	Q1 2019/20	424	Q2 2019/20	320	Q3 2019/20	333	Q4 2019/20	367	Q1 2020/21	600
	Quarter	Incidents																			
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Q1 2020/21	600																				

LI076 Level of All Crime across Gedling Borough rate per 1000 population																					
Service Area	Public Protection	Status																			
Current Value	Current Target	Trend Compared to Last Period	Trend Compared to Average of Previous 4 Quarters																		
12.2	Tracking Indicator																				
Latest Note	All recorded crime for Qtr 1 has shown a significant decrease of 19.8% with 359 less offences compared to the same period the previous year. This figure covers the Covid 19 Lockdown period and this is reflected in decreases in burglary and vehicle crime. The 12 month rolling figure shows a 5% reduction in all crime with 6217 offences being recorded in the past 12 months.																				
Performance against target	<p>LI076 Level of All Crime across Gedling Borough rate per 1000 population</p> <table border="1"> <caption>LI076 Level of All Crime across Gedling Borough rate per 1000 population</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Rate per 1000 population</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q2 2018/19</td> <td>13.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2018/19</td> <td>15.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2018/19</td> <td>14.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2019/20</td> <td>14.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2019/20</td> <td>15.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2019/20</td> <td>13.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2019/20</td> <td>11.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2020/21</td> <td>12.2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Quarter	Rate per 1000 population	Q2 2018/19	13.5	Q3 2018/19	15.3	Q4 2018/19	14.8	Q1 2019/20	14.6	Q2 2019/20	15.5	Q3 2019/20	13.9	Q4 2019/20	11.5	Q1 2020/21	12.2
Quarter	Rate per 1000 population																				
Q2 2018/19	13.5																				
Q3 2018/19	15.3																				
Q4 2018/19	14.8																				
Q1 2019/20	14.6																				
Q2 2019/20	15.5																				
Q3 2019/20	13.9																				
Q4 2019/20	11.5																				
Q1 2020/21	12.2																				

LI081 Level of recorded anti-social behaviour across Gedling Borough (per 1000 population)

Service Area	Public Protection	Status	
Current Value	Current Target	Trend Compared to Last Period	Trend Compared to Average of Previous 4 Quarters
9.7	Tracking Indicator	↓	↓

Latest Note
 Recorded anti-social behaviour has seen a significant increase in Qtr 1. A total of 1155 incidents were recorded compared to 566 for the same period the previous year. This equates to a 104% increase in ASB. Much of this reporting is linked to Covid 19 Lockdown and reports of breaching of social distancing, noise and bonfires.

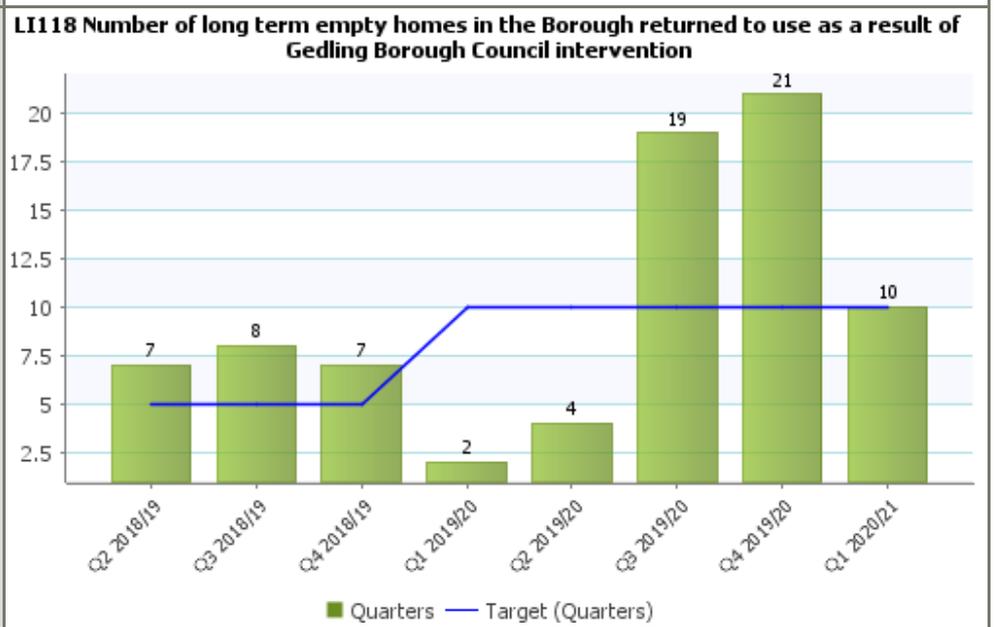


LI118 Number of long term empty homes in the Borough returned to use as a result of Gedling Borough Council intervention

Service Area	Public Protection	Status	
Current Value	Current Target	Trend Compared to Last Period	Trend Compared to Average of Previous 4 Quarters
10	10		

Latest Note

Performance against target



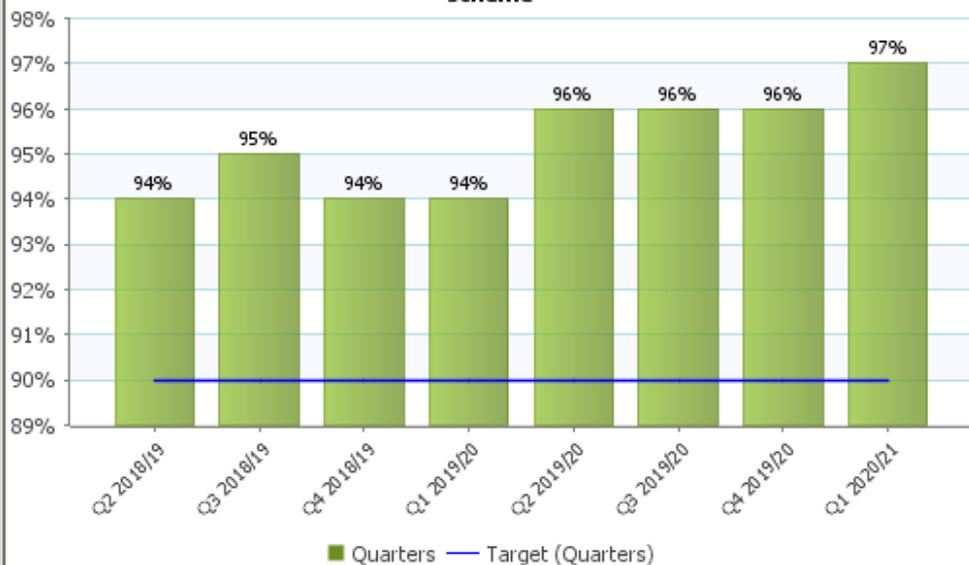
LI276 Percentage of food premises scoring 4 or 5 in the national food hygiene rating scheme

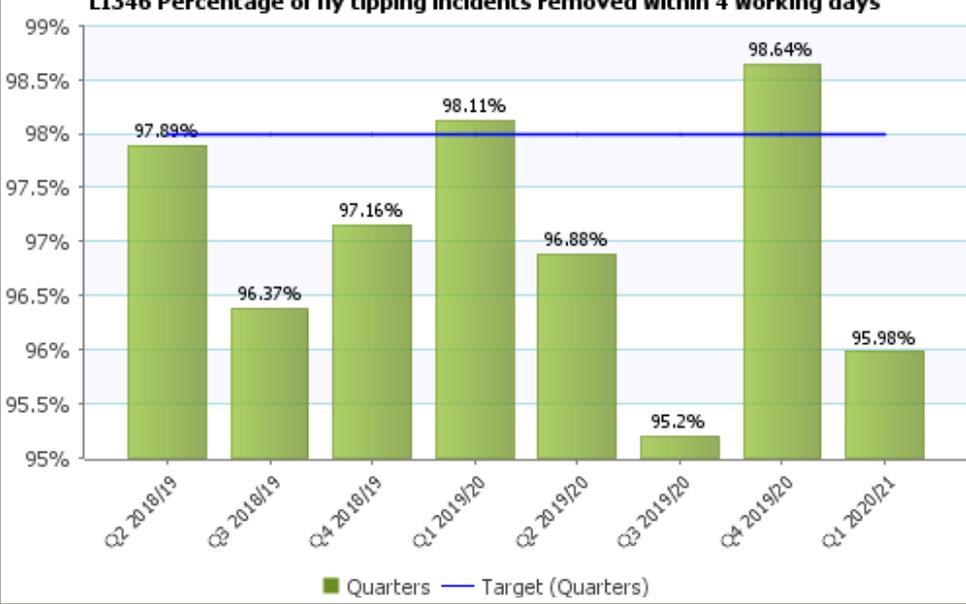
Service Area	Public Protection	Status	
Current Value	Current Target	Trend Compared to Last Period	Trend Compared to Average of Previous 4 Quarters
97%	90%		

Latest Note

Performance against target

LI276 Percentage of food premises scoring 4 or 5 in the national food hygiene rating scheme



LI346 Percentage of fly tipping incidents removed within 4 working days																					
Service Area	Public Protection	Status																			
Current Value	Current Target	Trend Compared to Last Period	Trend Compared to Average of Previous 4 Quarters																		
95.98%	98%																				
Latest Note	While target has just been missed, overall the performance has remained high especially given an increase in the number of reported incidents during lockdown as result of the closure of Household recycling Centres.																				
Performance against target	<p style="text-align: center;">LI346 Percentage of fly tipping incidents removed within 4 working days</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Performance against target data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q2 2018/19</td> <td>97.89%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2018/19</td> <td>96.37%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2018/19</td> <td>97.16%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2019/20</td> <td>98.11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2019/20</td> <td>96.88%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2019/20</td> <td>95.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2019/20</td> <td>98.64%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2020/21</td> <td>95.98%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Quarter	Percentage	Q2 2018/19	97.89%	Q3 2018/19	96.37%	Q4 2018/19	97.16%	Q1 2019/20	98.11%	Q2 2019/20	96.88%	Q3 2019/20	95.2%	Q4 2019/20	98.64%	Q1 2020/21	95.98%
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Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Temporary Accommodation

Date: 9 November 2020

Author: Democratic Services Officer

Purpose

To introduce a report, by the Service Manager Economic Growth and Regeneration, which was presented to Cabinet on the 8th October in respect of work undertaken to improve performance against the approved indicator relating to the average length of time spent in temporary accommodation.

Recommendation(s)

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- 1) Consider, ask questions and comment on the information provided**
- 2) Identify any areas that require additional information**

1 Background

- 1.1 During the July discussion of the Quarter 4 and the year-end performance report members asked for additional information relating to the provision, cost and time spent in temporary accommodation. Particular concern was expressed regarding the average length of time spent in temporary accommodation (in weeks) at 23.7 against a target of 8 weeks. (The target for this indicator has since been increased to 15 weeks)
- 1.2 Members were informed that the lack of affordable property had a direct impact on the overall length of stay in temporary accommodation and that changes resulting from the findings of the consultation on housing allocations policy may help to address this issue. The report to Cabinet includes information about work to improve the supply of temporary accommodation and increase the supply of permanent accommodation is

attached at **Appendix 1**.

- 1.3 Joelle Davies (Service Manager for Economic Growth and Regeneration) and Paul Whitworth (Housing and Welfare Support Manager) will attend the meeting to assist members discuss this issue.

2 Financial Implications

- 2.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

3 Legal Implications

- 3.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

4 Equalities Implications

- 4.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

5 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 5.1 There are no carbon reduction implications arising from this report.

6 Appendices

- 6.1 Cabinet Report, Temporary Accommodation.

Report to Cabinet

Subject: Temporary Accommodation

Date: 8 October 2020

Authors: Service Manager Economic Growth and Regeneration
Housing and Welfare Support Manager

Wards Affected: All wards

Purpose:

To provide Cabinet with a progress update in respect of the work being undertaken to improve performance against the approved indicator (the average length of time spent in temporary accommodation), the submission of an application for external funding, to note the next steps for the Temporary Accommodation Officer Working group and obtain approval for the submission of an application to Homes England to obtain Investment Partner status.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

Recommendation(s)

THAT Cabinet:

- 1) **Notes the work which is being undertaken by the Temporary Accommodation Officer Working Group to improve performance of the average length of time spent in temporary accommodation performance indicator as set out in this report.**
- 2) **Notes the need for Gedling Borough Council to increase our access to temporary accommodation provision (as an alternative to B&B provision) within the Borough and the work being undertaken to identify the preferred option(s) to secure additional temporary accommodation.**
- 3) **Notes that an application has been made to Homes England for funding from the Next Steps Accommodation Programme.**
- 4) **Authorises an application to be made to Homes England for the Council to obtain 'Investment Partner' status.**

1 Background

Context

- 1.1 At its meeting on 2 July 2020, Cabinet considered the Gedling Plan Quarter 4 and Year End Performance Report which included a summary of noteworthy performance indicators that had missed their target at the end of year. At that meeting Cabinet resolved to request a further report to Cabinet setting out progress made in relation to the underachieved performance targets. One of those performance indicators, in respect of Housing Needs, is *the average length of time spent in temporary accommodation (in weeks)*, which for 2019/20 was reported as 23.7 weeks against a target of 8 weeks (at that time). This reports provides the requested progress update in respect of this indicator.
- 1.2 During the 2020/21 quarter 1 performance monitoring it was discovered that the method previously used to calculate the performance indicator was incorrect, being based only on households leaving temporary accommodation during the quarter. This has now been rectified to include all households currently being accommodated in temporary accommodation and the quarter one figure reported to Cabinet was 17.9 weeks. This presents an improved position but is still in excess of the (revised) target of 15 weeks and performance still needs to improve. The target was amended to be more realistic in the current situation.
- 1.3 The Council has statutory duties to assist and, in specified circumstances, accommodate eligible individuals/ households who are homeless or threatened with homelessness under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996. This includes a duty to provide interim accommodation whilst the Council is making enquiries as to whether a full housing duty is owed. In other words, the Council must find them temporary accommodation. Wherever the Council accommodates an applicant, it must ensure that the accommodation secured is suitable for the applicant and their household.
- 1.4 The Council currently have access to various properties, which it uses as temporary accommodation. This is a mixture of council-owned properties, and leased properties, providing 13 units of accommodation. Where these temporary accommodation options are fully occupied, the Council also utilises accommodation that is available on a nightly basis, primarily Bed and Breakfast (B&B) which are often outside of the Borough. This use of this type of accommodation has been increasing year on year since 2016/17. There are two main concerns linked this increase:
- **Health and well-being implications** – the facilities at a B&B mean that cooking healthy meals in the accommodation is not possible and therefore adds to the costs of living as cooking facilities are not provided. Living in

temporary accommodation can also affect mental health and well-being. Furthermore, the Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities states that housing authorities should use B&B accommodation for applicants with family commitments only as a last resort and then only for a maximum of 6 weeks.

- **Significant cost implications** – nightly accommodation is often more expensive than other options (more details provided in section 2.3).

1.5 During 2019/20 the number of households accepted as homeless and placed in temporary accommodation was 141 an increase of 37 households compared to 2018/19. Between the 1st April and 15th September 2020, we have already placed 88 households in temporary accommodation. It is therefore projected that the total number of households requiring temporary accommodation in 2020/21 will again increase from the previous year figure of 141.

1.6 The average length of stay of in temporary accommodation during 2019/20 was 117 days (16.7 weeks), an increase of 34 days (4.9 weeks) from the previous year. Of the 141 cases eligible for temporary accommodation, 118 of these households were placed in nightly accommodation, including B&B, whilst either alternative more suitable temporary accommodation was secured or permanent accommodation was found. In total these 118 households were placed in B&B style accommodation at a net cost of £220,000

1.7 There are a variety of reasons why the use of temporary accommodation has increased in recent years:

- **Loss of affordable accommodation** - annually the Council is able to access around 200 social tenancies (for general needs and sheltered accommodation), however the majority of those properties are specifically for older persons, whereas the majority of homeless applicants (who the Council would be required to provide temporary accommodation for) are either singles or couples with families. The number of available general needs accommodation fell from 172 in 2018 to 131 in 2019 (and the number of sheltered properties stayed similar at around 85);
- **Reduced access to private sector** - previously the Council was also able to access affordable accommodation in the private rented sector, but as competition for private rented properties increases, landlords are charging higher rents which are no longer affordable for people in receipt of benefits;
- **Multiple and Complex needs** - more cases where people are presenting with multiple and complex needs, and without comprehensive support packages in place due to diminishing resources, landlords/housing providers are reluctant to offer tenancies;
- **Debt and anti-social behaviour** - If applicants, have significant rent/mortgage arrears, or have been prosecuted for anti-social behaviour, landlords are very reluctant to offer tenancies;

- **Homelessness Reduction Act 2018** - This piece of legislation extended the level of support which LA's had to provide to people who are at risk of homelessness, and also reduced the impact of intentionality, making more people eligible for assistance; and
- **Welfare Reforms** - the impacts of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 were wide ranging, particularly with reference to the under occupancy tax, which caused many families financial hardships, and are still in place today. This impacted on Councils, as not only did they see an increase in the number of people presenting as homeless, but also families presenting at an earlier stage with the need to move from a 3 bed to a 2 bed roomed property in response to the reform.

1.8 Due to the increasing number of households being accepted as being owed a housing duty by the Council and placed in temporary accommodation for longer periods, and the consequent increased use of B&B accommodation, a corporate officer group was established ("Temporary Accommodation Officer Working group") in April 2019. This group comprises Officers from Strategic Housing and the Housing Needs teams with support from both finance and legal services, to review the Council's provision of temporary accommodation and other matters linked to temporary accommodation. The scope of the group includes:

- the implementation of homelessness prevention measures to reduce the number of households needing temporary accommodation;
- the supply of affordable housing to reduce the length of stay in temporary accommodation; and
- the options for the future provision of temporary accommodation in terms of suitability and cost effectiveness and based on an assessment of potential future demand.

2 **Proposal**

2.1 Current work programme

The Council has adopted the South Nottinghamshire Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy. This set the strategic direction for homeless prevention across Gedling, Broxtowe and Rushcliffe and outlines the key homelessness issues in South Nottinghamshire and sets our priorities for action. The strategy and action plan takes into account recent changes in guidance relating to homelessness and builds upon recent evidence of issues and good practice which have become available since the publication of the joint homelessness strategy in 2017. This provides the strategic steer.

2.2 In response to the Council's usage of temporary accommodation the Temporary Accommodation Officer Working group currently has two main streams of work:

- **Reducing time spent in temporary accommodation** – these are measures to improve the supply of, and access to, permanent

accommodation and the prevention of homelessness thus reducing the need for temporary accommodation; and

- **Improving the provision of suitable temporary accommodation** – these are measures to improve the quality and the cost effectiveness of temporary accommodation.

2.3 Reducing the Time Spent in Temporary Accommodation

Improve the supply of permanent accommodation

2.3.1 As detailed in paragraph 1.7, one of the main factors that impacts on the need to use temporary accommodation, is the amount of affordable properties available for people to move into. As part of the planning process and with the delivery of key housing sites, we are expecting an increase in the amount of affordable housing being provided as part of the private developments (secured through planning obligations given by the owner to the Council). This could have a significant impact on the Council's housing waiting list and should help to reduce the need for temporary accommodation. However, many of these developments have yet to start or have planning permission issued and therefore these are not guaranteed to be delivered. The level of delivery is uncertain and will have to be monitored carefully as this may impact on the need for temporary accommodation.

2.3.2 The Council is currently developing financial appraisals for the development of two sites owned by the Council at Burton Road and Station Road which could deliver around 17 dwellings (10 on Station Road site and 7 on Burton Road site). Options are being considered for these sites to deliver affordable housing with some units retained for use as temporary accommodation. A detailed business case is being prepared. These two capital projects will be subject to subsequent Cabinet consideration and approval.

Improve access to permanent accommodation

2.3.3 Following legislative changes, the Council's Housing Allocation's Policy has been reviewed and revisions to the policy have been consulted on. A second round of public consultation is currently underway. The proposed changes are designed to ensure that people at risk of homelessness are given priority on the Council's waiting list. This should help to reduce the need for temporary accommodation, as a secure tenancy in permanent accommodation will be found more quickly. Any final changes are subject to a separate Cabinet approval.

Homelessness Prevention

2.3.4 One of the main streams of work Officers are undertaking is linked to trying to prevent the threat of homelessness and the number of people presenting as

homeless. This includes various initiatives:

- **Call Before You Serve** – this is a specialist support service for private landlords who are considering evicting a tenant, seeking possession or needing advice on tenancy support. This initiative is designed to provide independent advice and support to the landlord with the objective of preventing evictions. This service is funded across Nottinghamshire by the Rough Sleeping Initiative (<https://www.gedling.gov.uk/call-before-you-serve/>)
- **Advertising the housing needs service** – this is focused on ensuring local residents are aware of the help that the Council can provide, if they are at risk of being evicted or made homeless. Early intervention enables the best outcomes and is viewed as good practice by MHCLG We ran a 6 week bus campaign last year and have a targeted google search advert campaign ongoing (directing people specific to the Council's call before you serve website).
- **Youth/school engagement** - Broxtowe Youth Homeless have been commissioned to undertake a series of sessions with schools to help educate children about their housing options. This ran throughout the last school year across all the schools in the Borough (Covid19 permitting).
- **CAB in GP surgeries** – trial for the CAB to be located in one doctor's surgery and provide housing and debt advice to people who are also visiting the doctor with health problems.
- **Housing prevention officers** – the Council employs two housing prevention officers. Their role is to work with people to prevent them from becoming homeless, by offering advice and guidance. This can also mean working with the landlords or family members.

2.3.5 Although these measures are highly difficult to quantify in terms of how many cases of homelessness they have prevented (i.e. it is very difficult to show something that doesn't happen), there are signs that these measures are being successful. For example, the CAB pilot in a GP surgery has helped 27 different clients with a range of issues including benefits/universal credit and housing related matters. The Call Before You Serve advertisement campaign has been running since the 13th of January and has been clicked on 512 times, the webpage has had 300 views and there have been at least 22 phone calls generated from the adverts.

2.4 Improving the Provision of Suitable Temporary Accommodation

Current Provision of Temporary Accommodation

2.4.1 The Council currently have access to various properties, which it uses as temporary accommodation. This is a mixture of council-owned properties, and leased properties. Currently used are 7 two bedroom Council owned flats and a further 4 three bedroom houses and 2 two bedroom flats leased from 2 separate registered social landlords making a total of 13 units. Where these temporary

accommodation options are fully occupied, the Council also utilises accommodation that is available on a nightly basis, primarily Bed and Breakfast (B&B). The Council can also refer cases to a neighbouring authority who run a hostel, which is located outside of the borough.

Table 1: Usage of temporary accommodation by type per month since April 2019

	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Average
Council owned flats	6	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Leased Apartment	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Hound Lodge (hostel)	5	4	4	6	5	4	5	5	4	6	6	0	0	0	2	4
B&B	7	8	5	11	17	15	14	12	8	9	14	9	15	20	17	12
Housing Network	-	-	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	2	2	2	1	3	3
Serviced Apartment	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	11	2	0	0	3
Night shelter (SWEPE)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	0	-	-	-	1
Total	24	25	25	33	38	35	36	34	31	34	38	35	32	34	35	35

2.4.2 As detailed in paragraph 1.5 to 1.7, the demand for temporary accommodation is increasing. There is an expectation that will be further increased demand for temporary accommodation, in light of Covid19, but to what extent is not known. This includes the potential increase in domestic violence cases where one party is fleeing and requires temporary housing (nationally there has been a 50% increase in these cases), early release of prisoners (a government initiative muted) and increase in private sector evictions (when the government's protection ends).

Current Usage of B&B and nightly accommodation

2.4.3 The Council transferred its housing stock to a registered provider of social housing in 2008. Gedling is one of only two Councils in Nottinghamshire (along with Rushcliffe) that has transferred its housing stock to a Housing Association and therefore is not able utilise and access a supply of council-owned housing stock with which to flexibly support the changing demands for temporary accommodation. As demonstrated in Table 1, the use of B&B accommodation

has increased significantly since 2017/18 and it is therefore essential to secure alternative provision which is less costly and provides improved standards.

2.4.4 Data from the Housing Needs Team (August 2020) shows that the average length of stay in B&B and nightly accommodation was 55 days (7.9 weeks). The net cost of which is projected to be over £200,000 again this financial year which has been exacerbated due to the additional demands arising from Covid19 e.g. the requirement for self-contained accommodation and the requirement to house rough sleepers/people at threat of being homeless under the “Everyone In” initiative.

Table 2: Use of B&B/Nightly accommodation since 2013/14

Financial year	Number of TA cases	Number of days in TA	Net Expenditure		Total Amount spent on Nightly accommodation
			Bed & Breakfast £	Other Nightly Accommodation £	
2013/14	34	1560	12,400	0.00	12,400
2014/15	41	1683	25,300	0.00	25,300
2015/16	55	2142	30,900	0.00	30,900
2016/17	50	2478	24,000	0.00	24,000
2017/18	64	3668	60,500	0.00	60,500
2018/19	98	2585	74,100	0.00	74,100
2019/20	123	6770	185,000	35,100	220,100
2020/21 21 as of 18 th September	76	3758	107,400	13,300	120,700

2.4.5 B&B and nightly accommodation is used when the Council does not have an available temporary accommodation property that it leasing/owns. Officers are currently working to explore the current level of the under-provision of temporary accommodation and the size of the properties that may be required. The number of the households placed in B&B and nightly accommodation over the last 15 months has been on average around 20 each month (including approx. 5 in Hound lodge and the SWEP night shelter). This data will inform the business case and option appraisal currently being undertaken as detailed at paragraph 2.3.7 below.

Initiatives to Improve the Provision of Temporary Accommodation

2.4.6 Officers have been seeking improvements to the quality and quantity of temporary accommodation available to the Council. This includes a variety of projects:

- **Securing additional properties for temporary accommodation** – an options appraisal is being prepared to consider the provision of additional properties as an alternative to B&B – for example by

purchase, leasing or the development of new units by the Council. The conclusion of the option appraisal will be presented to a future meeting of Cabinet for consideration.

- **Securing external funding to increase provision** – A funding application was submitted to the MHCLG/Homes England Next Steps Accommodation Funding Programme fund. Further details are provided below.
- **Improvements to provision through Covid19** – under the Government’s “Everyone In” initiative and the need to ensure people in temporary accommodation could isolate, Officers sourced appropriate self-contained accommodation and moved people swiftly.
- **Development of a procurement framework** for B&B accommodation and nightly accommodation – this will ensure that any accommodation we use meets a certain standard and that the value for money is secured through a tendering process. This is currently being prepared.
- **Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP)** – the provision is for rough sleepers or people at risk of being homeless to provide them with a place to stay in adverse weather conditions, and linking them with support services to address their housing situation.

Conclusion

2.4.7 Overall, the only way to reduce the need for temporary accommodation is to be able to access permanent affordable accommodation and become more effective at preventing homelessness in the first place. However, the Council has a statutory duty to accommodate eligible individuals and their households who are homeless, and, based on the current usage, it is essential to identify options to initially reduce the use of B&B accommodation in the short term to ensure individuals/households are accommodated in accommodation suitable for them and reduce the costs incurred by the Council. There is a need to therefore identify options to reduce and improve the quality of other temporary accommodation in both the short and medium to long term.

2.4.8 Therefore, Cabinet is being asked to note the work that the Temporary Accommodation Officer Working Group is doing. As detailed above, the work programme has two main strands of work: to reduce the time spent in temporary accommodation and improving the provision of suitable temporary accommodation. This, in turn, will assist with the work which is being undertaken to improve performance of the average length of time spent in temporary accommodation performance indicator.

2.4.8 Furthermore, Officers are working up an options appraisal in order to establish the preferred method of meeting the current need for temporary accommodation, improving the quality of the accommodation and reducing the cost to the Council. In order to do this, the Council will need to intervene and

either build, purchase and/or lease some additional properties. Cabinet are therefore asked to note the need to increase our access to temporary accommodation provision (as an alternative to B&B provision) within the Borough and the work being undertaken to identify the preferred option(s) to secure additional temporary accommodation for a subsequent Cabinet approval.

2.5 Next Steps Accommodation Funding (NSAP)

2.5.1 The need to redress the issue of rough sleeping and the threat of homelessness has been an enduring Government commitment. The Council has been able to access additional funding, in partnership with the neighbouring 6 local authorities via both the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) and the Rapid Rehousing Pathway (RRP) since 2019, to deliver a comprehensive range of services tasked at reducing rough sleeping in the county. Although rough sleeping has not been a significant issue in Gedling, with the onset of the Covid19 pandemic, the "Everyone In" initiative placed the requirement on councils to urgently house all rough sleepers. There is an ongoing expectation that those who have been housed under this initiative, do not return to the streets/become homeless.

2.5.2 The NSAP has been set up by MHCLG to engage with and provide financial resources to local authorities, registered providers and local partners in the Government's next stage of their Covid19 pandemic rough sleeping/homelessness response. The NSAP includes two funding streams which are aimed at reducing rough sleeping and preventing those brought into temporary accommodation returning to the sleeping rough/becoming homeless:

- £161m (£130m capital and £31m revenue) - Longer-term Move on Accommodation
- £105m (revenue only) - Shorter-term/interim accommodation and immediate support

2.5.3 Officers have submitted a funding application, as part of a partnership bid with both Broxtowe, Rushcliffe and Framework Housing Association (Framework), though there are links to the wider county. The bid submitted was based on a two phased approach:

- **Phase 1:** short term measures to ensure self-contained affordable housing can be accessed and to deliver the Sever Weather Emergency Protocol obligation through adverse weather conditions. This fully funded revenue bid of £79k which covers the anticipated costs of B&B accommodation, £24k to refurbish 3 units at Elizabeth House and £105k pro rata for dedicated navigators (support workers), plus an enhanced offer to incentivise Private landlords to work with local councils.

- **Phase 2:** long term permanent measures, which includes the purchase of up to 5 properties in the Gedling area for temporary accommodation (this was felt the appropriate level of “ask” based on advice from MCHLG and would go part way to reducing the overall need for B&B accommodation). This is a partly funded capital bid of £635,000 (£444,500 as match from GBC and 30% from MHCLG at £190k).

- 2.5.4 As part of the partnership bid, there were a number of other matters included:
- **Three Dedicated Navigator support workers** - this fully funded revenue bid of £105k pro rata to cover two posts, one for the three boroughs, and one for the Framework properties
 - **Enhanced offer for the Private Rented Sector** - this fully funded revenue bid of £140k.
 - **Framework – this includes** 8 units to be delivered in 2020/21 with a further 7 units 2021/22). These 15 units would be a shared resource with the other 2LA’s, similar to the arrangement for Elizabeth House. This would require £22k match funding from Gedling, and would mean we have nomination rights.

2.5.5 Officers are expecting a decision in late September on this funding submission. Initial feedback suggests that the scheme was massively oversubscribed and that partnership working and the Framework proposals were given higher priority due to their perceived deliverability. Our bid has been initially awarded £42,500 for phase 1 and the details of how will be allocated is currently being explored. Further details of the phase 2 submission are to follow.

2.5.6 If successful, Officers will need to progress fully to procure the phase 1 accommodation and to block book some accommodation swiftly. Furthermore Officers will be preparing for the delivery of the second phase. This will include working up the detailed business case for the proposed purchased of 5 properties for use as temporary accommodation in order to secure the necessary approvals for the capital budget (this will also feed into the wider work being undertaken to review the Council’s access to temporary accommodation (through an options appraisal as detailed in para 2.3.8) This will be subject to a subsequent report to Cabinet. Members are asked at this stage to note that an application for external funding to support the initiatives outlined above has been made.

Investment Partner status

2.5.7 In order to qualify for NSAP funding, the Council would have to hold Investment Partner (IP) status. This would also allow the Council to apply for other funding from Homes England to deliver other affordable housing schemes. The Council does not currently have this status and would need to formally apply to Homes England to be awarded IP status. The assessment of

applications for IP Status by Homes England verifies the identity of the applicant and includes financial due diligence which considers an applicant's financial and technical capacity to undertake an agreed programme of new supply of housing and the organisation's good financial standing. IP status is required before Homes England would make payment under a completed funding contract and is reviewed and renewed annually.

2.5.8 Officers are therefore seeking authorisation to apply to Homes England for Investment Partner status which is required to receive payment of funding should the Council's application for NSAP funding be successful and to enable it to apply for other types of Homes England funding which may support delivery of temporary accommodation and/or affordable housing in the future.

3 Alternative Options

3.1 There are a variety of options available to intervene and to ensure secure more access to temporary accommodation. These will be explored in more detailed as part of the options appraisal/business cases which will be subject to subsequent cabinet approvals.

3.2 Do nothing, and allow the anticipated increase in expenditure and usage of temporary accommodation to continue.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 Table 1 in Section 2.3.4 sets out the net costs of nightly accommodation over a period of time. The table demonstrates significantly rising costs which are directly associated with the increased demand for temporary accommodation within the Borough.

4.2 Housing Needs has a Temporary Accommodation budget allocation each year, the expenditure is partially offset with income received from Housing Benefit payments, in 2019/20 this net original budget was £22,000. Outturn reported the actual net costs of temporary accommodation in 2019/20 at £220,000 (a variance of £198,000); this represents an increase of almost 200% from the previous year. The increase in cost was funded by utilising contributions from grants and reserves as set out in Table 4 below:

Additional Funding of Temporary Accommodation in 2019/20	
Funding:	£
Flexible Homeless Support Grant	40,000
Homelessness Reduction Reserve (B/F Grant)	72,000
Housing & Housing Benefits Reserve	86,000
Total	198,000

- 4.3 The Flexible Homelessness Support Grant is currently used to fund two temporary housing support officers and expenditure relating to homelessness prevention, in 2019/20 the remaining grant was used to fund the increase in expenditure on temporary accommodation. However, as there was insufficient to fund the whole amount the balance of the Homelessness Reduction Reserve was used, in addition the shortfall of £86,000 was funded by a contribution from the Housing & Housing Benefit Reserve. Whilst we were able to cover the additional costs by utilising reserves, it is not sustainable to continue to fund these escalating costs in this way.
- 4.4 As stated in this report the officer-working group are currently investigating more cost effective alternative temporary accommodation provision from a range of different options. These options include additional provision through purchase, construction and/or lease and will be presented for approval on completion of an options appraisal and full business case at a later date
- 4.5 Paragraph 2.4.6 above states that The Council will need to make a match funding provision of £22,000 as a one off payment to access nomination rights of additional accommodation (in perpetuity) as part of the funding submission to NSAP, this will be funded by a contribution from earmarked reserves.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Council owes statutory duties to eligible individuals / households who are either homeless or threatened with homelessness under the Part VII of the Housing Act 1996. This can include a duty to provide interim accommodation or a full housing duty. The Council are therefore statutorily required to provide some households with temporary accommodation and must have means of accommodating these households. Furthermore the Council has duties to prevent or deal with homelessness at an early stage under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and thus must engage in homelessness prevention measures and initiatives to discharge its duties under this Act.
- 5.2 There is not a decision at this stage for the Council to acquire properties or develop land for temporary accommodation. The legalities of acquisition of properties or development of council-owned land would need to be considered fully before any commitments are made. Any decision on such matters, including the expenditure of the NSAP funding if the funding bid is successful, would be brought back to Cabinet for consideration.
- 5.3 The submission of an application to become an Investment Partner does not have any legal implications for the Council. If the Council obtains Investment Partner status it will be able to bid for funding from Homes England to secure more temporary accommodation and potentially support delivery of more affordable housing in the borough.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required for this report. Any detailed proposals for securing the provision of additional temporary accommodation (which will be subject to subsequent Cabinet consideration) will be reviewed and an EIA prepared accordingly.
- 6.2 The Council has a duty to provide suitable accommodation which includes taking account of any equality issues. This includes assessing the household specific needs, such as access arrangements, size and nature of the temporary accommodation (wherever possible).

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 These are considered throughout the work programme, but there is no specific implications at this point. Further work will be done on this going forward.

8 Appendices

None

9 Background Papers

None

10 Reasons for Recommendations

- 10.1 To update Members with the work undertaken so far to improve the performance of the temporary accommodation performance indicator.
- 10.2 To ensure Members are aware of the need to increase our provision of suitable temporary accommodation to ensure compliance with the Council's homelessness duties and thus reduce the need for the Council to use B&B accommodation. The report also details the work being undertaken to identify the preferred route of achieving this.
- 10.3 To inform Members that a funding submission has been made to Homes England as part of the Next Steps Accommodation Programme.
- 10.4 To enable the Council to apply to Homes England for "Investment Partner" status.



Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Scrutiny Work Programme

Date: 9 November 2020

Author: Democratic Services Officer

Purpose

To provide an update on the current scrutiny work programme.

Recommendation(s)

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- 1) Note the update on scrutiny working groups**
- 2) Consider and discuss the scrutiny work programme; and**
- 3) Consider if there are any issues in the Forward Plan which require additional information.**

1 2020/2021 Scrutiny Work Programme

1.1 Scrutiny Working Groups

Planning Policy White Paper 'Planning for the Future' Consultation

The working group that considered proposals for reform of the planning system, met twice and discussed a number of questions which were embedded in the document. Their response to the consultation has been forwarded to the Planning Policy Officer prior to the consultation deadline.

1.2 Flooding

Working group members: Councillors Boyle, Clunie, Greensmith, Paling, M Smith and M Smith

At the first meeting of the working group the focus for the review was, discussed, this will include assessing the current risks and causes of surface water flooding, reviewing the effectiveness of mitigation measures and examining how this authority prepares, assists and supports residents during surface water flooding incidents. How relevant agencies coordinate their activities and what lessons can be learnt from the flooding events during 2019 will also be considered. At the recent second meeting members discussed a range of related issues with officers from Gedling Borough.

- 1.3** Members may now want to consider commencing the housing review agreed at the July committee. The suggested areas for consideration included housing development and the provision of social and affordable housing. The key questions and focus for the review will be developed at the first meeting. Members who previously indicated they would like to be included in this review were Councillors Boyle, Clunie, Gibbons, Greensmith, Hope, Paling and Ellis. Additional members would be welcome.

Before starting this review Members may want to discuss if there are any other issues they would like to prioritise for examination.

2 Scrutiny in Committee

- 2.1** At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20th July 2020, members agreed to continue with a programme of attendance by Portfolio Holders and relevant officers at committee. Areas of performance within each Portfolio for examination would be identified, and questions for Portfolio Holders submitted in advance of each meeting, however 'ad hoc' questions could be put forward at the meeting itself. Non-executive members will also be invited to submit questions for the Portfolio Holder.

- 2.2** The programme for 2020/21 is below

9 th November	Councillor David Ellis. Public Protection The annual review of Crime and Disorder Partnerships
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18 th January	Councillor Viv McCrossen Young People and Equalities Councillor Henry Wheeler Health, Housing and Wellbeing
8 th March	To be confirmed
22 nd April	To be confirmed.

The scrutiny work programme is attached at **Appendix 1**. The work programme is to assist the management of the committee agenda, the scheduling of the committee business and forward planning. The work programme will be updated and reviewed as required. Committee members can suggest issues for possible inclusion.

- 5.3 A copy of the Forward Plan which sets out details of key and non-key decisions which the Cabinet, individual portfolio holders or officers expect to take during the next four months period is attached at **Appendix 2**. A key decision is one that has financial implication over £500,000 or one that affects two or more wards. This is included to make members aware of planned decisions and to assist them to consider if there are any decisions about which they may want further information.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7 Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implication arising from this report.

8 Equalities Implications

- 8.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

9 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 9.1 There are no carbon reduction/environmental sustainability implications arising from this report.

10 Appendices

Appendix 1. Committee 2020/21 Work Programme

Appendix 2. Forward Plan October 2020-January 2021.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme 2020/21					
	Programme of Portfolio Holding to account	Performance review	Reports/items at committee	Current reviews	Responses to scrutiny reviews
6th July		Quarter4 Performance Risk Register	Covid 19 Response	Planning policy	
7th September	Cllr Clarke and Payne	Quarter 1 Performance	Annual Report Update Housing Allocations	Planning Policy Consultation Flooding	Executive Scrutiny Protocol Econ Development
9th November	Councillor Ellis Public Protection		C&D Scrutiny Homelessness and housing allocations	Flooding Housing?	Planning Policy Consultation comments forwarded to Planning Policy Officer.
18th January	Cllr McCrossen. Young People and Equalities Cllr Wheeler, Housing, Health and Wellbeing Mental health of young people?	Quarter 2 Performance Risk Register	Complaints		
8th March					
22th April		Quarter 3 Performance Risk Register			
Rolling issues			Procurement Policy		

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Gedling Borough Council

FORWARD PLAN

FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 NOVEMBER 2020 TO 28 FEBRUARY 2021

This Forward Plan sets out the details of the key and non-key decisions which the Executive Cabinet, individual Executive Members or Officers expect to take during the next four month period.

The current members of the Executive Cabinet are:

Councillor John Clarke – Leader of the Council

Councillor Michael Payne – Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Resources and Reputation

Councillor Peter Barnes – Portfolio Holder for Environment

Councillor David Ellis – Portfolio Holder for Public Protection

159951 Councillor Gary Gregory – Portfolio Holder for Community Development

Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth – Portfolio Holder for Growth and Regeneration

Councillor Viv McCrossen – Portfolio Holder for Young People and Equalities

Councillor Henry Wheeler – Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing.

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the matters listed below may do so by contacting the relevant officer listed against each key decision, within the time period indicated.

Description of the decision	Date decision is expected to be taken and who will take the decision?	Responsible Officer	Documents to be considered by the decision maker	Cabinet Portfolio	Open / Exempt (and reason if the decision is to be taken in private) Is this a Key Decision?
Public Space Protection Order on Dog Fouling To implement the creation of a new order following public consultation authorised by Cabinet..	Before 20 Oct 2020 Director of Health and Community Wellbeing	David Wakelin, Director of Health and Community Wellbeing	Officer Report	Portfolio Holder for Public Protection	Open Yes
Equalities Update To seek approval for a revised Equalities Policy and improvement action plan	12 Nov 2020 Cabinet	Rosie Caddy, Service Manager Customer Services and Communications	Officer Report	Portfolio Holder for Young People and Equalities	Open Yes
Budget Monitoring (Q2) and Virement Report To update members on financial performance information for the 2nd quarter of the 2020/21 year	12 Nov 2020 Cabinet	Tina Adams, Principal Finance Business Partner	Officer Report	Portfolio Holder for Resources and Reputation	Open Yes
Gedling Plan Quarter 2 Performance report To inform Cabinet in summary of the position against Improvement Actions and Performance Indicators in the 2020/2021 Gedling Plan for the most recent quarter.	12 Nov 2020 Cabinet	Helen Barrington, Director of Organisational Development and Democratic Services	Officer Report	Leader of the Council	Open Yes
Station Road and Burton Road Regeneration Sites Approval is being sought to progress with the next steps for the Station Road and Burton Road regeneration sites	10 Dec 2020 Cabinet	Joelle Davies, Service Manager Economic Growth and Regeneration	Officer Report	Portfolio Holder for Growth and Regeneration	Open Yes
Housing Allocation Policy Approval to agree the final changes to the Housing Allocation Policy, following public consultation.	10 Dec 2020 Cabinet	Joelle Davies, Service Manager Economic Growth and Regeneration	Officer Report	Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health and Wellbeing	Open Yes

Description of the decision	Date decision is expected to be taken and who will take the decision?	Responsible Officer	Documents to be considered by the decision maker	Cabinet Portfolio	Public / Exempt (and reason if the decision is to be taken in private) Is this a key decision?
Development of Calverton Business Units Agreement to pursue development of additional Calverton Business Units and required permissions	10 Dec 2020 Cabinet	Jeffery Kenyon, Economic Growth Manager	Officer Report	Portfolio Holder for Growth and Regeneration	Part exempt This report will contain financial information relating to the cost and operation of the new units as well as the sources of funding that will be used. Yes
Budget Monitoring (Q3) and Virement Report To update members on financial performance information for the 3rd quarter of the 2020/21 year.	28 Jan 2021 Cabinet	Tina Adams, Principal Finance Business Partner	Officer Report	Portfolio Holder for Resources and Reputation	Open Yes
Gedling Plan Quarter 3 Performance Report To inform Cabinet in summary of the position against Improvement Actions and Performance Indicators in the 2020/2021 Gedling Plan for the most recent quarter	28 Jan 2021 Cabinet	Helen Barrington, Director of Organisational Development and Democratic Services	Officer Report	Leader of the Council	Open Yes

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Reports and Notices received by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee as required under the Constitution or Law.

1. Items referred to the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee under Contract Standing orders and Standing orders for dealing with Land

Notifications received where it has not been possible to obtain 3 quotations for a contract estimated to be between £10,000 and £50,000.

- Contract for Consultants Study to Assess Employment Land Needs for the Nottingham Core and Outer Housing Market Areas. The study will form an important part of the evidence base for the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan now in preparation and other local plans to be prepared within the two housing market areas. The study is commissioned by the eight councils covering the Nottingham Core and Nottingham Outer Housing Market Areas, with Gedling Borough leading on its procurement. The total cost of the commission is to be split equally amongst the eight councils. The Council is looking to appoint a consultant to prepare a study of the employment land needs for both the Nottingham Core and Nottingham Outer Housing Market Areas. This study will form an important part of the evidence base for the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan now in preparation and other local plans to be prepared within the two housing market areas. The study is commissioned by the eight councils covering the Nottingham Core and Nottingham Outer Housing Market Areas, with Gedling Borough leading on its procurement. The total cost of the commission is to be split equally amongst the eight councils. The Council undertook an open procurement process and a request for quotations was published by the Council on 10th August 2020 in accordance with the Council's Contract Standing Orders and Procurement Policy. Only two quotations were received. Both bids have been evaluated and the Assistant Director proposes to enter into a contract with Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners Ltd (trading as Lichfields) for the provision of an employment land needs study to assess future employment floorspace need in the study area in accordance with the quotation received.
- Contract for Building Survey and Compliance Work. Michael Page Property & Construction – are a company who have been supplying building survey and compliance management services to the Council. The value of this work was initially valued under £10,000 and as such, no quotes were required for the works and no written contract was completed. The amount of work required to complete the project however has been underestimated and further work is now required in respect of understanding and managing the maintenance of Council buildings. It is intended that for the sake of continuity and consistency in reporting the relative condition of buildings in the portfolio that the council continues to use Michael Page Property & Construction. Continued use will not only ensure consistency it will also save time and costs in respect of not having to repeat on site inductions and training on the council's systems and report formats and procedures. It is therefore intended that this work is continued by the same supplier for a

further year at the approximate cost of £10,000 which would bring the total amount spent with this supplier over the past 3 years to £20,000. Although it would be possible to obtain 3 quotes it is proposed to enter into a contract to continue with this work.

- Contract with Unit 4, a one-year extension to the support and maintenance contract for the core financial management system. The Council's core financial management system, known as Unit4 Agresso, was originally implemented in 2006 and has been upgraded twice since its implementation, in 2010 and 2015. The system comprises the Council's general ledger, budget setting and monitoring, purchase to pay and treasury management modules. The current version of the software being used is known as Milestone 5, which is no longer supported for development by the software provider, Unit4. In April 2019 it was determined that the system should be upgraded to a version that had full support and, at that time, the version available to upgrade to was already 12 months old and a new version was set to be released in June 2019. It was therefore decided to purchase a one-year support and maintenance package for the current version of the software being used and upgrade to the latest version due to be released in June 2019 with an estimated implementation date of June 2020. The upgrade was due to commence in March 2020 to enable completion by the expected implementation date of June 2020, however the Covid19 pandemic has resulted in a delay of the commencement of the project. The project is now expected to commence in September 2020 with a revised implementation date of February 2021. The current support and maintenance package expires at the end of August 2020. The risk of having the Council's core financial system unsupported is too great, support is essential in order to ensure the stability of the system and the financial data. It is therefore proposed to enter into a contract with Unit4 for a term of 12 months for the provision of support and maintenance to continue whilst the upgrade is being implemented.