

Agenda

Cabinet

Date: **Thursday 6 July 2023**

Time: **2.00 pm**

Place: **Council Chamber**

For any further information please contact:

Democratic Services

committees@gedling.gov.uk

0115 901 3906

Cabinet

Membership

Chair Councillor John Clarke

Vice-Chair Councillor Michael Payne

Councillor David Ellis
Councillor Kathryn Fox
Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth
Councillor Viv McCrossen
Councillor Marje Paling
Councillor Lynda Pearson
Councillor Henry Wheeler

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AGENDA

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MINUTES CABINET

Thursday 8 June 2023

Councillor John Clarke (Chair)

Councillor David Ellis	Councillor Marje Paling
Councillor Kathryn Fox	Councillor Lynda Pearson
Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth	Councillor Henry Wheeler
Councillor Viv McCrossen	

Absent: Councillor Michael Payne

Officers in Attendance: M Hill, F Whyley and C McCleary

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Michael Payne.

2 TO APPROVE, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 MARCH 2023

RESOLVED:

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

3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

4 FORWARD PLAN

Consideration was given to a report of the Democratic Services Manager, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, detailing the Executive's draft Forward Plan for the next six month period.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

5 APPROVAL TO INTRODUCE A PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER IN PARTS OF NETHERFIELD/ COLWICK AND GEDLING ACCESS ROAD

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Environment, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, seeking approval to introduce a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in parts of

Netherfield/Colwick and to fix the financial level of fixed penalties issued by the Council for failing to comply with the PSPO.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) Approve the introduction of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), as shown at Appendix 1 to the report, lasting for 3 years, to prevent a wide variety of problems and community safety issues caused by car cruising in the Netherfield and Colwick areas as shown on the map at Appendix 2 to the report, effective from 23 June 2023; and
- 2) Approve the fixing of the financial level of Fixed Penalties issued by the Council for failing to comply with Public Space Protection Orders at £100, payable within 14 days of service of the fixed penalty notice, with no option for reduced rate for early repayment.

6 ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

None.

The meeting finished at 2.11 pm

Signed by Chair:
Date:



Report to Cabinet

Subject: Forward Plan

Date: 6 July 2023

Author: Democratic Services Manager

Wards Affected

All

Purpose

To present the Executive's draft Forward Plan for the next six month period.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

Cabinet notes the contents of the draft Forward Plan making comments where appropriate.

1 Background

- 1.1 The Council is required by law to give to give notice of key decisions that are scheduled to be taken by the Executive.
- 1.2 A key decision is one which is financially significant, in terms of spending or savings, for the service or function concerned (more than £500,000), or which will have a significant impact on communities, in two or more wards in the Borough.
- 1.3 In the interests of effective coordination and public transparency, the plan includes any item that is likely to require an Executive decision of the Council, Cabinet or Cabinet Member (whether a key decision or not). The Forward Plan covers the following six months and must be

updated on a rolling monthly basis. All items have been discussed and approved by the Senior Leadership Team.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 The Forward Plan is ultimately the responsibility of the Leader and Cabinet as it contains Executive business due for decision. The Plan is therefore presented at this meeting to give Cabinet the opportunity to discuss, amend or delete any item that is listed.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 Cabinet could decide not agree with any of the items are suggested for inclusion in the plan. This would then be referred back to the Senior Leadership Team.
- 3.2 Cabinet could decide to move the date for consideration of any item.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

6 Equalities Implications

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

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

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

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Forward Plan

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 None identified

10 Reasons for Recommendations

- 10.1 To promote the items that are due for decision by Gedling Borough Council's Executive over the following six month period.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:

Chief Financial Officer

Date:

31/8/2020 (report content)

Approved by:

Monitoring Officer

31/8/2020 (report content)

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Gedling Borough Council

FORWARD PLAN

FOR THE PERIOD 8 JUNE 2023 TO 29 DECEMBER 2023

This forward plan sets out the details of the key and non-key decisions which the executive cabinet expect to take during the next six months.

The current members of the Executive Cabinet are:

Councillor John Clarke – Leader of the Council

Councillor Michael Payne – Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance

Councillor David Ellis – Portfolio Holder for Public Protection

Councillor Kathryn Fox - Portfolio Holder for Life Chances and Vulnerability

Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth – Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Growth and Economy

Councillor Marje Paling – Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services (Operations)

Councillor Lynda Pearson – Portfolio Holder for Communities and Place

Councillor Viv McCrossen – Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Natural Habitat

Councillor Henry Wheeler – Portfolio Holder for Lifestyles, 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?
Annual Treasury activity Report 2022/23 To Inform Members of the outturn position in respect of the 2022/23 Prudential Code Indicators and to advise Members of the outturn on treasury activity as required by the Council's Treasury management Strategy.	6 Jul 2023 Cabinet 12 Jul 2023 Council	Tina Adams, Financial Services Manager	Officer Report	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance	Open Yes
Budget Outturn and Budget Carry Forwards 2022/23 Report to present the Budget Outturn position for 2022/23 and Carry Forwards.	6 Jul 2023 Cabinet 12 Jul 2023 Council	Tina Adams, Financial Services Manager	Officer Report	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance	Open Yes
Gedling Plan Q4 and year end performance report To inform Cabinet in summary of the position against improvement actions and performance indicators in the 2022/23 Gedling Plan at the end of quarter 4 and year end.	6 Jul 2023 Cabinet	Alan Green, Performance and Project Officer	Officer Report	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance	Open Yes
Annual Report 2022-23 To seek Cabinet agreement to the wide publication of the proposed Annual Report for 2022-23.	6 Jul 2023 Cabinet	Alan Green, Performance and Project Officer	Officer Report	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance	Open Yes
Strategic review - Community facilities To inform members of the outcome of the strategic review of community facilities and proposed strategy moving forward	10 Aug 2023 Cabinet	Lance Juby, Head of Communities and Leisure	Officer Report	Portfolio Holder for Lifestyles, Health and Wellbeing	Open Yes
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Non- Parish Funding – Consultation Response and Funding Decision	10 Aug 2023 Cabinet	Lewis Widdowson, Planning Officer	Officer Report	Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Growth and Economy	Open Yes



Report to Cabinet

Subject: Sewerage Review working group recommendations

Date: 6 July 2023

Author: Democratic Services Manager

Wards Affected

All

Purpose

To present the report and recommendations of the working group that considered the issues surrounding sewerage and waterways across the borough.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision

Recommendation(s)

To:

- 1) Consider the report and recommendations of the working group making comments where appropriate; and
- 2) Provide a written response to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee within 28 days of receipt of the report

1 Background

Members are reminded that part of the remit of Scrutiny is to deal with wider service or policy issues through the establishment of working groups, which take an in depth view of Council policies and plans as directed by the Overview Scrutiny Committee, and make recommendations to Cabinet accordingly. In accordance with the Scrutiny Improvement Plan 2010, a review is commissioned when:

- There is added value that this work will bring to the core priorities of the Council

- It is likely to make a difference if a working group undertake this work
- It is likely to lead to improved performance
- It is likely that the working group's recommendations will improve the lives of the residents of Gedling Borough
- It will increase Member awareness of important issues.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 Members of the Cabinet are asked to consider the report, attached at Appendix 1, and make any comments where appropriate
- 2.2 After the meeting, the relevant Portfolio Holder will be asked to provide a written response to the recommendations within 28 days. The response will be reported to a future Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

3 Alternative Options

Under Executive governance arrangements the Cabinet is required to consider reports from the Scrutiny Committee so there are no alternative options.

4 Financial Implications

No direct financial implications have been identified in the report

5 Legal Implications

No direct legal implications have been identified in the report.

6 Equalities Implications

No specific equalities implications have been identified in the report, although in the case of this particular of scrutiny review the recommendations may contribute towards addressing inequalities.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

No direct Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications have been identified in the report.

8 Appendices

Appendix 1 - Final report and recommendations of the sewerage review working group

9 Background Papers

None identified

10 Reasons for Recommendations

To comply with Executive governance arrangements and fulfil the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Final report and recommendations of the sewerage review working group

Date: 23 March 2023

Author: Democratic Services Manager

Working group members: Councillors Clunie, Adams, Boyle, Bosworth, Brooks, Creamer, Dunkin, Rachael Ellis, Hollingsworth, Paling, Pearson, M Smith and S Smith

Purpose of the report

To present the final report and recommendations of the sewerage review working group.

Background

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee established a working group to examine the impact of the sewerage discharge into the rivers and waterways in the area and to review options and make recommendations to better the situation. The working group was a result of a cross party motion regarding members concerns around sewerage that was brought to Council on 17 November 2021.

The specifics of the review focused on several items including:

- Discharge of sewerage
- Workings of the catchment area
- Measures to slow down the overflow into waterways. (Drainage ponds etc.)
- Recommendations for additional planning measures
- Potential use of education/resources to raise awareness and promotion of sewerage issues
- Reviewing of the local plan and current guidance to see what the Council already does so recommendations can be made as needed

Information

As highlighted by the variation of the specifics of this review, the issue of sewerage is very broad and runs across several disciplines and areas, all of which fall under the responsibility of several stakeholders. The working group convened for five meetings and were fortunate to hear from all of the key groups responsible for the management, regulation and protection of the waterways. These stakeholders were

invited to ensure the working group had a wide range of knowledge and insight into how the issues were affecting different types of organisations to try and get a well balanced view. The group heard from charities, government agencies, staff from the borough council, staff from the county council and the water company in charge of the wastewater management across Nottinghamshire.

The following stakeholders attended the meetings:

- Mike Avery, Head of Development and Place at Gedling Borough Council
- Kevin Nealon, Community Protection Manager at Gedling Borough Council
- Trent River Trust
- Environment Agency
- Severn Trent
- Wildlife Trust
- Sim Duhra, Climate Change Officer at Gedling Borough Council
- County Council officers

At each meeting, members heard how the sewerage issues affected each stakeholder differently, what measures they currently had in place to combat the issues and what they would recommend to be done to further aid these issues in the future.

Scott McKenzie - Trent Rivers Trust

At the first meeting of the group, members heard from Scott McKenzie, a representative from the Trent Rivers Trust (TRT). The TRT are a registered charity made up of conservation experts with a wealth of data and expertise who work with member trusts to make their shared vision a reality: wild, healthy, natural rivers, valued by all. They use their expertise, reach and member trusts' local knowledge to work with farmers, residents and organisations to provide advice and resources for communities. It was noted that their mission was:

- To help wildlife thrive in and around our rivers, streams and wetlands
- To reduce pollution entering our rivers and streams
- To help people and communities connect and value their river and floodplain
- To restore rivers streams and wetlands improving resilience to climate change

Scott highlighted that the project work TRT undertake fell into four main categories; river restoration, working with nature, land use and water and connecting people and the river. He gave some helpful insight into the issues with our waterways and noted that the majority of residents have very limited knowledge of the waterways and how their actions directly affect the current issues we are facing. He suggested that the Council could do more to encourage and educate residents on the issues.

Sim Duhra – Climate Change Officer at Gedling Borough Council

The second meeting of the group heard from Sim Duhra, Climate Change Officer at Gedling Borough Council. Sim gave an overview of the effects of climate change on

sewerage, noting the limitations the Council had in mitigating these. She advised that the Environment Agency (EA) were the environmental regulator of the water and sewerage sector in England and investigated and dealt with environmental pollution incidents.

It was noted that the Council had limited control over the majority of the sewerage issues across the borough, but could help to reduce some of the linked activities affecting it in a climate change regard by ensuring the carbon management strategy and action plan were being adhered to.

Mike Avery - Head of Development and Place and Kevin Nealon - Community Protection Manager, both at Gedling Borough Council

At the third meeting, members heard from two senior officers from the Council, Mike Avery, Head of Development and Place and Kevin Nealon, Community Protection Manager.

Mike gave an overview of planning policy and procedures, noting that planning permissions for new homes and commercial developments include drainage conditions which need to be discharged by the Council, before development may commence. It was explained that for any application, a Council planning officer works closely with Severn Trent and our Building Control team to ensure the drainage proposals are satisfactory. Developers require a separate consent from Severn Trent to connect any foul or surface water into their network Building Control officers can only issue a completion notice when they are satisfied that appropriate means of drainage for foul and surface water have been provided.

It was advised that the EA were the regulator of Severn Trent and the main role of the Council was to ensure that developments achieve appropriate foul water connection and a sustainable solution for surface water in accordance with planning policies and advice from the EA, Lead Local Flood Authority (NCC), Severn Trent and the Council's Building Control Team.

It was highlighted that more sustainable drainage methods and supporting policy would be the direction of travel for all local authorities, given the severe climate issues being faced which have included recent water shortages in some areas. Mike confirmed that emerging council policy would be mirroring this change and would welcome implementation of promotion of techniques and devices that would help protect waterways overflowing, such as water butts with developers and our residents.

It was noted that there was potential for the Council to use Soakaways on its own buildings and to harvest rainfall for other uses to reduce the amount of water going back into the system. It was agreed that these potential initiatives and the promotion of the benefits of rainwater harvesting across the Borough, would be reviewed as part of the recommendation review process.

Kevin then gave members an overview of how the Public Protection team helped to regulate the issues and confirmed their current enforcement powers. It was noted that Public Protection were no longer responsible for enforcement where drainage issues arose and that this role was now the responsibility of Severn Trent. He confirmed that the council still investigated misconnections and defective drainage in the borough, where needed.

It was explained that if drainage from one property was affecting another property, then the Public Protection team would investigate. It was noted that the council also probe food businesses to disclose their drainage processes to ensure fats and oils are disposed of correctly and that this was a factor when deciding the hygiene rating of each business, helping mitigate public health issues.

In order for members to get a greater understanding of how the treatment of sewerage worked across the borough, they visited the Stoke Bardolph sewerage treatment plant. Members toured the facility and saw first-hand how the sewerage was treated and how different things affected it. It was noted that they learned of the difficulties the facility faced with regards to flushing practices – one example being wet wipes, which do not always dissolve and can cause blockages when filtering the water. It was discussed that an education awareness campaign, led by the council, which confirmed what can and can't be flushed or drained would be beneficial.

Ben Driver and John Rattray - Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

The fourth meeting of the group heard from Ben Driver and John Rattray of the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, the leading wildlife conservation charity working to protect and enhance the wildlife and habitats of Nottinghamshire. The charity care for dozens of nature reserves across the county, including a mixture of valuable wildlife habitats ranging from wildflower meadows to ancient woodlands. They engage the local community through events, education and volunteering opportunities and seek to ensure the county is a healthy and wildlife rich place to live.

It was explained that the trust covers many different areas across the country, each of which is their own individual charity under the Wildlife Trust. Although the charities were separated across the different areas, they also collaborated on projects as well. They confirmed there are two Wildlife Trust teams in the Nottingham area (north and south).

Ben confirmed that the trust employed officers that work closely with the local water providers, such as Severn Trent, to improve sewerage works. They collaborate with farmers to mitigate pollution entering the waterways and they also work to identify suitable locations for soak-away ponds or areas with poor embankments that require attention. The Wildlife Trust also offers their advice on planning matters for local authorities such as how a development might impact the local wildlife, suitable locations for water suds and more.

Suggestions for actions by the council were given by the Ben and John, as follows:

- Educate and raise awareness of pollution issues and plan health initiatives throughout Gedling;
- Education on permeable driveways;
- Education on what is flushable/drainable and what is not;
- Sewerage Tanks can be filtered back into bed systems, reducing pollution to clean up the water quality; and
- Water suds are a missed opportunity and help a great deal. More priority could be given to suds where planning developments go ahead.

At the last meeting of the working group, members heard from Richard Hardy (Senior Environment Officer Water Quality at the Environment agency), Ian Smith and Matt Lewis (Managers at Severn Trent) and Joshua Wells (Flood Risk Management Team at Nottinghamshire County Council). It was noted that these last three stakeholders held the majority of responsibility when it came to the management, regulation and protection of the waterways.

Richard Hardy - Senior Environment Officer Water Quality at the Environment agency

Richard gave a presentation to members first, which provided an overview on functions of the Environment Agency (EA), including staffing data.

The presentation provided insight into which facilities in the local area discharged, noting that the main sewage discharges in the borough were Stoke Bardolph, Calverton and Burton Joyce SPS.

It was confirmed that the EA collected lots of data and evidence about sewage discharges and pollution incidents, which included:

- Event duration monitoring data - Storm sewage spill data from water company storm overflows;
- Operator self-monitoring data – Analysis results of water quality monitoring carried out by water companies of effluents discharges to the environment'
- Flow monitoring data about the quantity of effluents that is treated and discharged at water company sewage treatment works;
- The EA have an annual programme of inspections at permitted water discharge sites, this includes Sewage Treatment Works, Sewage Pumping Stations, Combined Sewer Overflows and Water Treatment Works;
- The EA also respond to investigate pollution incidents and collects water samples and evidence of any offences being committed and take enforcement action (Prosecution, enforcement undertakings, notices and warnings);
- There can be many reasons for pollution incidents occurring, for example for water company pollution incidents, the main source is from foul sewers that become blocked.

Richard then broke down the processes of the sewerage system and the difference between separate and combined sewerage and the issues that can arise from them. He confirmed that new systems had separate pipes for foul and surface water and that separate systems reduced the risk of overflowing, however further downstream, it is possible that this new system runs into an older, combined system.

The group heard that some sewage treatment works had storm tanks that provided storage when the incoming flow was greater than capacity to treat. It was noted that if the storm tanks were full and this occurs, the treatment works are allowed to spill to stop the works being flooded and foul water backing up the system and flooding properties. Richard confirmed that all spills were monitored as required by the Government and are controlled through environment permits (discharge permits).

Richard confirmed that the EA administer and regulate discharge permits under the Environmental Permitting Regulations. These permits have various different water quality parameters to adhere to dependent on what is being discharged. It was confirmed that there is no limit to how often a storm overflow operates, providing it is compliant with their permit. If information suggested an overflow was operating when it should not be, such as during dry weather, this was considered non-compliant and the EA would investigate.

Members were then introduced to the environment performance assessments, undertaken by the EA, which were the formal assessment by officers of water providers. It was noted that Gedling's provider, Severn Trent Water, received 4 out of 4 stars – the highest rating.

Finally, members were provided with information on Ranil Jayawardina, the new Environment Secretary, which highlighted the changes his position had introduced. Some of the changes were:

- Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan (August 2022)
- Policy that confirms water companies will only be permitted to discharge from a storm overflow where they can demonstrate that there is no local adverse ecological impact.
- Policy that confirms storm overflows will not be permitted to discharge above an average of 10 rainfall events per year by 2050

Suggestions for actions by the council were given by Richard, as below:

- Blockage mitigation/education on flushable items; and
- More sustainable urban drainage on developments such as soakaways and suds

Ian Smith and Matt Lewis - Severn Trent

Ian and Matt gave members a presentation offering an overview of Severn Trent's ongoing programmes and statistics which included the following:

- Severn Trent provide 8m people across the region with water and wastewater services. Employ over 7,000 people and are supported by an extensive supply chain of around 2,800 direct suppliers;
- They maintain over 49,000km of clean water and 92,000km of sewer pipes;
- They have been awarded the top 4* rating by the Environment Agency for their environmental performance;
- They have launched their river pledges initiative which includes 5 pledges:
 - Ensure storm overflows and sewage treatment works do not harm rivers
 - Create more opportunities for everyone to enjoy the region's rivers
 - Support others to improve and care for rivers
 - Enhance their rivers and create new habitats so wildlife can thrive
 - Be open and transparent about their performance and plans
- They have invested £1.5bn on environmental initiatives including the Great Big Nature Boost. This plans to restore peatland, revive 12,000 acres of land, plant 1.3m trees, and restore 2,000km of rivers by 2030;
- They have a Triple Carbon Pledge 2030: 100% Electric Fleet, 100% Renewable Energy, Net Zero Carbon Emissions;
- They have supported 500 Kick-start placements for 16- to 24-year-olds – many have joined them permanently; and
- They are supporting the post-Covid economy with £566m green recovery investment.

Ian assured members that Severn Trent were very keen to do right by the environment, highlighting their collaborations with other water companies to try and reduce their overall impact on the environment. He then provided information on the main causes for discharges, such as overflows where surface water from heavy rainfall reaches the foul water system, becoming overloaded.

Matt informed members of Severn Trent's Green Structure plans, such as bathing rivers to allow for outdoor water sports and activities, without the concerns of whether discharges have happened. He confirmed this was expected to be an £80 – £90 million investment. It was also noted that as part of their Carbon Neutral Strategy, Severn Trent have been planting trees and introducing wildlife where possible in an effort to reach goals set by the strategy.

It was highlighted that research had shown that water companies on average contribute 23% of harm to local rivers and waterways nationwide, with Severn Trent currently at 17% and expected to fall to 15%. Severn Trent noted they have been

working closely with the agriculture sector, who also contribute towards this, in an effort to reduce their impact on the environment.

Severn Trent currently invest £100 million a year in the sewer network and also continue to identify areas where improvements can be made. A local example of this is the Richard Herrod Centre's car park, which has been identified as somewhere where a tank to store rainwater could be placed, preventing the rainwater from reaching the foul water system.

Suggestions for actions by the council were given by Ian and Matt, as below:

- Where new developments are concerned, it would be ideal if developers could introduce separate systems, preventing surface/rain water from draining into the sewer system. This will relieve the system, reducing the need for discharges in the borough;
- Severn Trent are consulted too late in the development process to offer alternatives or advice on how best to plan for the drainage of new builds. It would be ideal if communication channels could be improved to allow for consultation on drainage matters. Planning forums to liaise with Severn Trent could be of use here as misconnections typically occur when changes are made to existing properties; and
- Educate the public on customer misuse, such as flushing baby wipes

Joshua Wells - Flood Risk Management Team at Nottinghamshire County Council

Finally Joshua informed members of the County Councils responsibilities with regards to local drainage regulations. He noted they ensure new developments respect the drainage hierarchy and liaise with developers to reduce the run off rates via on site rain water storage. As part of this, he noted that it was expected that the use of water suds will increase and that this should help with supporting local wildlife as well.

Suggestions for actions by the council were given by Joshua, as below:

- Improve communication channels, particularly where planning is concerned. He highlighted that building rapport between organisations can encourage innovations, reducing the impact we have on our local environments.

Analysis (member written)

Most of the information gathered during the review has concluded that the most effective things the council can do are:

- help reduce the amount of water going into the sewerage system; and
- educate residents to reduce the disposal of damaging products into the sewerage system

It is helpful to know that there are actions that the council can do in relation to planning new developments which can help in this area. It would be ideal if the council followed the recommendations and established the planning forum so that new developments had the input from all stakeholders at the heart of the initial plans. This could be further aided by other initiatives such as well-placed suds, the use of water butts and rainwater harvesting.

Members are pleased to have had the opportunity to review the sewerage process and to make recommendations and would recommend that the council keeps an eye on discharges into the local waterways, to continue to protect the people of the Borough of Gedling.

Conclusions

It is clear that there are several components that have an impact on the sewerage issues across the borough and that a coordinated approach is needed by several stakeholders. Although the council have no direct control of the management and regulation of the waterways, there are actions that can be taken than can help aid the protection of them.

The council are responsible for getting key messages out to its residents and as such education is at the heart of the actions the council take to aid the situation. The council have a strong communications team who, with the help of relevant departments and external stakeholders, could ensure that key messages can be shared with all residents in the borough in the most appropriate and efficient ways.

Actions by the planning team are also key in ensuring that the council are using their resources and relationships to their full potential to influence drainage requirements. The planning team have the ability to create an open channel of communication between themselves, developers and Severn Trent to ensure collaboration on necessary projects/decisions.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommends that the Council:

- 1) Raises general awareness of pollution issues;
- 2) Promotes permeable driveways and surfaces;
- 3) Raises awareness on what the public can flush, endorsing existing relevant campaigns;
- 4) Ensuring that, where feasible, new developments utilise sustained urban drainage systems;
- 5) Consults Severn Trent on all major developments in the borough, to ensure they can give information on best placed drainage sites based on current systems in place;
- 6) Actively engages with Severn Trent through the established Gedling developers forum; and
- 7) Educates residents on money saving ideas regarding the installation of water flow and drainage devices

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Report to Cabinet

Subject: Annual Report 2022/23
Date: 6 July 2023
Author: Senior Leadership Team

Wards Affected

Borough wide

Purpose

To seek Cabinet agreement to the wide publication of the Annual Report for 2022/23.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

Recommendation

THAT:

It is recommended that Cabinet approve the Annual Report 2022/23 for wide publication internally and externally as described within the report.

1 Background

- 1.1 This is the fourth occasion on which an Annual Report has been produced. The document is designed to be a summary of the work that has been undertaken over the last year and a celebration of what has been achieved.
- 1.2 This report is an opportunity not just to give feedback on data and outputs but a real chance to celebrate what has been possible in terms of outcomes. As a proud local Council we have worked hard to create opportunities to work even more closely with our residents and businesses to build very positive and sometimes, longer-term relationships. Examples of this are shown in the Annual Report.

- 1.3 Once agreed the report will be published on the Council Website, in our Contacts magazine, through social media and, as importantly, we will communicate the contents to our own staff, many of whom have again by choice worked well beyond what is expected of them.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that following approval by Cabinet that the Annual Report 2022/23 (Appendix 1) is publicised as described above.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 To not publish the Annual Report. To take this option would be a lost opportunity to recognise the excellent service that the Council has provided through the hard work of its staff and Members.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. Inclusion in the next Contacts magazine will be part of the normal delivery cycle and contained within existing budgets.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising out of this report.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications arising out of this report.

7 Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 There are no carbon reduction/sustainability implications arising out of this report.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Annual Report 2022/23

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 None identified.

10 Reasons for Recommendations

- 10.1 To invite Members to authorise the publication of the Annual Report in order to properly reflect to residents, businesses and service users, the valuable services that the Council provides and to raise awareness amongst staff of what they and their colleagues have achieved over the year.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved By:
Date:

Deputy Chief Financial Officer
21 June 2023

Approved By:
Date:

Monitoring Officer
21 June 2023

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GEDLING PLAN 2022/23

ANNUAL REPORT

Serving people **Improving Lives**



Gedling Borough Council

Introduction

This year in particular it is a poignant moment to look back at what the Council has achieved. Not only is it the end of another year but it is also the end of our previous Gedling Plan that took us from 2020 through to 2023 which also spanned one of the most challenging and difficult periods in history on the local, national and world stages.

Over these recent years the Council has achieved some incredible things in the face of real adversity as we worked to support our local communities through the global pandemic; projects such as the acquisition and development of the Arnold Market Place and the tireless work on the part of Members and Officers to finally see the opening of the Gedling Access Road, now known as Colliery Way to reflect the roots of the area. But it's not all about the multi-million pound projects. So many other things have changed for the better in ways that will positively affect our communities now and in generations to come. I'm thinking particularly about our work to improve the natural environment through the planting of trees and the practical measures that we have taken to try to increase our bee population. In the last year alone we have planted 2,387 trees including native tree species such as hawthorn, hazel, field maple, hornbeam, cherry, mountain ash, silver birch, oak, Scots pine and yew, many of which are in our five "Green Flag" awarded parks. Projects such as these help to contribute to our Carbon Management Strategy that was newly-introduced this year.

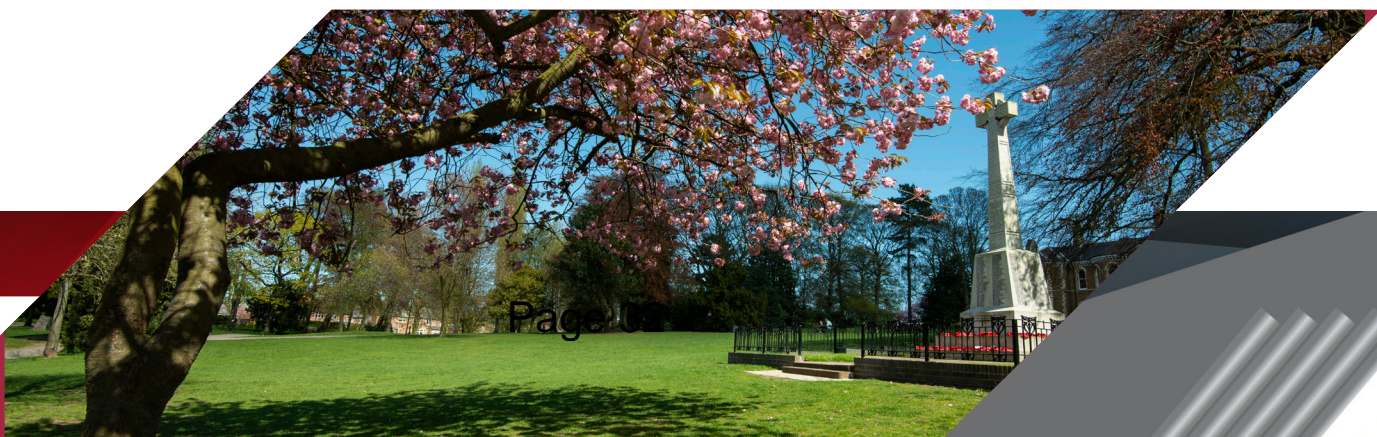
We have listened to the voices of local residents who took part in our surveys that covered the whole of the borough. Tackling crime and antisocial behaviour is something that is very important to people, as is keeping the place clean. We are proud to have responded to these priorities and our positive work includes, just as examples, the investment this year in new and improved CCTV cameras in targeted areas around the borough to help improve security and safety, and the post-Christmas free bulky waste collection service that was extended into its seventh year both as a service to residents and to help to reduce fly tipping.

House building throughout the borough was really healthy over the last year. In the first three quarters of the year 570 new homes were completed including 93 affordable homes. The last quarter saw 234 homes being built which is the fastest rate of completions in Gedling Borough for around 50 years. I see this as a reflection of just how desirable a place to live our borough really is.

Looking to the future, the Council has now approved a new four-year Gedling Plan that is designed to take us forwards with energy, optimism and ambition to again make real changes to the lives of our residents, visitors and businesses. We will again, both Councillors and Officers, strive to fulfil our promise that we will be; "serving people, improving lives".

Councillor John Clarke
Leader of the Council

Arnot Hill Park



OUR PRIORITIES AND WHAT WE DELIVERED

HIGH PERFORMING COUNCIL

To be a high performing, efficient and effective council

Our key achievements



Customer Services outreach work continued with regular sessions at Carlton Community Hub and Calverton Core Centre, as well as one-off sessions at Netherfield and Killisick and cost of living events at Newstead and Carlton designed to help residents with services such as housing, council tax, benefit claims and services from our partners.



The Council has brought in changes to our pay line to help our lowest-paid employees and the lowest pay points have now been removed.



Following a borough-wide survey consulting with residents, businesses and services users, our new Gedling Plan for 2023-27 was finalised and adopted. This will define how we work towards our stated priorities over the coming years.



We introduced our first Fostering-friendly Policy. This supports employees who are foster carers through the award of additional leave at critical times during the adoption process. We were one of the first district Councils in the county to have such a policy and the proposals have been supported by Members, unions and our employees.



We implemented an on-line, bespoke Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training programme. This programme is being rolled out across the Council and adapted for those employees who don't have ready access to a computer at work. Feedback suggests that the material is well-regarded and informative.



We approved a new efficiency programme and achieved a balanced Medium Term Financial Plan.



Our financial services team led the processing of energy support grants totalling in excess of £5.9m.



A new Customer Promise was approved, which sets out clearly to our customers how they can expect to be treated by the organisation. Also a new unacceptable customer behaviour policy was adopted which sets out for staff and customers how the Council will deal with unacceptable behaviour from customers.

Our key performance measures



96% of invoices were paid within 30 days.

Almost 900 of you responded to our borough-wide priorities survey.



We have 50,000 'Keep Me Posted' email newsletter subscribers.



98% of Council Tax was collected.

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95% of calls to the contact centre were answered (or call back made).



OUR PRIORITIES AND WHAT WE DELIVERED

COHESIVE, DIVERSE AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

To promote strong, resilient communities and reduce hardship and inequality

Our key achievements



We have continued to invest in both new and upgraded CCTV cameras across the borough. New cameras on Rolleston Drive, Gedling Country Park car park, Conway Road Recreation Ground, Carlton Square and Killisick Recreation Ground and upgraded CCTV monitor wall and software in the control room. We are working on installing new cameras at Muirfield Road Recreation Ground, Burton Joyce Village, and Calverton, as well as two cameras funded under the Safer Streets Fund on Colwick Loop Road.



We extended the Selective Licensing Scheme to parts of Colwick, Carlton Hill, Daybrook and Newstead Village. The scheme makes privately rented homes safer for people to live in, and makes it mandatory for landlords to have licences for each of their private rented properties.



The Operation Reacher Team, our neighbourhood policing model, 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 interventions. The team is based in the Partnership Hub at Jubilee House and works jointly with existing police and Council staff.



Over £1.45 million was spent on disabled adaptations to enable residents with disabilities to remain living independently in their own homes across 97 disabled facilities grants and the installation of 15 level access shower wet rooms via the 'bathout' project



We created a new Council Cabinet role to focus on supporting refugees, championing women and people with a disability as well as raising awareness of support for victims of domestic violence, abuse and hate crime.



Homes for Ukraine – we launched the Homes for Ukraine scheme, working with homeowners and landlords who want to help by offering a place for refugees to live. To date, 106 matched sponsors have come forward within the borough, we have undertaken 102 first property checks, 87 second welfare checks and 35 third welfare checks. These checks are to ensure properties are not overcrowded, are safe to occupy and to safeguard the guests.

28 fixed penalty notices were served for litter and dog fouling.



Our Bonington theatre saw over 40,000 visits.



Average time to process new Housing Benefits claims (in calendar days) was 13.8 days against a target of 15 days.



94.5% of fly tipping incidents were removed within 4 working days.



OUR PRIORITIES AND WHAT WE DELIVERED

VIBRANT ECONOMY

To promote and drive sustainable growth across the borough to meet current and future needs

Our key achievements



House building throughout the Borough progressed at pace with a number of volume house builders active in the Borough. In the first three quarters of the year, 570 new homes were completed, including 93 affordable homes. In the last complete quarter of this financial year, incredibly, 234 properties were completed – this is the fastest rate of completions in Gedling Borough since the late 1970's.



We worked with local schools and partners to deliver a programme of events that included career and interview skills training, a Business Advisory Surgery and our most successful Apprenticeship and Jobs Fair at the Civic Centre to date.



We completed the successful regeneration and development of Arnold town centre and market, including our new iconic AMP building and public realm. We have now successfully let all but one of the ground floor business units at the AMP, helping to contribute to the vibrant new space.



An Interim Planning Policy Statement on First Homes was published in October to set out the Council's approach to delivering First Homes within Gedling Borough.

Our key performance measures

We hosted 16 school-age work experience placements over the year.



126 long term (over 6 months) empty homes were returned to use as a result of our intervention.



100 % of major planning applications were progressed within 13 weeks against the target of 90%.



OUR PRIORITIES AND WHAT WE DELIVERED

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

To promote a sustainable environment

Our key achievements



Investment in parks and open spaces, play areas, and planting of native trees continued. This year we have planted 2,387 new trees including Digby Park where 560 trees were planted as part of a new arboretum and tree trail. The targets set for tree planting have been met and exceeded.



Further improvements to our flagship Gedling County Park included a new Holocaust Memorial Garden and a brand new website to further boost visitors and highlight our great facilities.



Our Great British Spring Clean was once again a success with many volunteers taking part, and the 'Big Clean' Community Steering Group was created with a number of community groups as members.



Our fifth Green Flag Award, the international quality award for parks and green spaces, was awarded to Breck Hill Park.

Our key performance measures

We currently have over 19,400 garden waste customers.



98% of streets surveyed had acceptable levels of litter.



OUR PRIORITIES AND WHAT WE DELIVERED

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

To promote the health and wellbeing of our residents

Our key achievements



The Strategic Review of Community Facilities commenced in August and has made good progress. This has included extensive stakeholder engagement with key partners and a resident survey that attracted 600 responses. Data and insight on physical activity behaviour and health inequalities and national and local strategic priorities has also been gathered for further analysis to inform the final Strategy.



A new Armed Forces Breakfast Club aimed at bringing members of the Armed Forces together launched at the Richard Herrod Centre. The club is open to any active or ex-members of the forces, including veterans and any family members connected to the forces.



The leisure centres successfully moved over to a new leisure management system with improved customer functionality which will help transform how customers engage with the leisure centres. Online joining was also launched for Gedling Leisure Cards and DNA memberships.



The number of swimmers on our Learn to Swim scheme hit new highs this year, with over 3,800 swimmers using our scheme. More importantly there were 580 children who achieved their 25m badge during 22/23 compared to 303 in 21/22, which is the main indicator used in the industry to help reduce the risk of drowning.



Following a successful funding application for £100k for the refurbishment of Colwick Rectory Recreation Ground, refurbishment works were completed to improve the site and add new and inclusive facilities, including a wheelchair accessible roundabout, zip wire, trampoline and a multi play unit with 17 different features.

Our key performance measures

There are now 410 registered Gedling residents with access to the Armed Forces Leisure Card scheme.



We distributed 11 quarterly community newsletters to approximately 7,000 community contacts over the year.



96% of food premises scored 4 or 5 in the national food hygiene rating scheme.



There were over 1,000,000 visits to our Leisure Centres.





gedlingborough



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Report to Cabinet

Subject: Gedling Plan Quarter 4 and Year End Performance Report

Date: 6 July 2023

Author: Senior Leadership Team

Wards Affected

Borough wide

Purpose

To inform Cabinet in summary of the position against Improvement Actions and Performance Indicators in the 2022/23 Gedling Plan at the end of quarter 4 and year end.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

Recommendation

THAT:

The progress against Improvement Actions and Performance Indicators for quarter 4 and the full year of 2022/23 Gedling Plan be noted.

1 Background

- 1.1 The Council has made a commitment to closely align budget and performance management. This is in line with accepted good practice.
- 1.2 To deliver this commitment, systems to monitor performance against revenue and capital budgets, improvement activity and performance indicators have all been brought together and are now embedded in the way the Council works. Whilst the budget and performance information are presented in two separate reports, they are and will be reported to Cabinet together and will appear on the same agenda.
- 1.3 In addition, performance reports now focus more directly on the Council's priorities and offer an "early warning" system of instances where targets may not be secured.

- 1.4 As usual, comprehensive details about current performance against the Gedling Plan can be accessed through the following link on the Council's website:-

<http://www.gedling.gov.uk/council/aboutus/prioritiesplansandperformance/howweredoing/>

Members are recommended to view this document which provides valuable background detail to this summary paper. It provides a more in-depth review of indicators, actions and outcomes for quarter 4/year end.

- 1.5 The assessment criteria used for actions and indicators is based on red, amber and green traffic light symbols. To be assessed as green, performance indicators must be in line with their expected performance at that stage of the year, whilst actions must be on target against the "completed" or "in progress" milestones determined within the performance management system, Pentana.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that Cabinet note the current Performance Information for the Gedling Plan 2022/23 for quarter 4 and the year end as set out below.

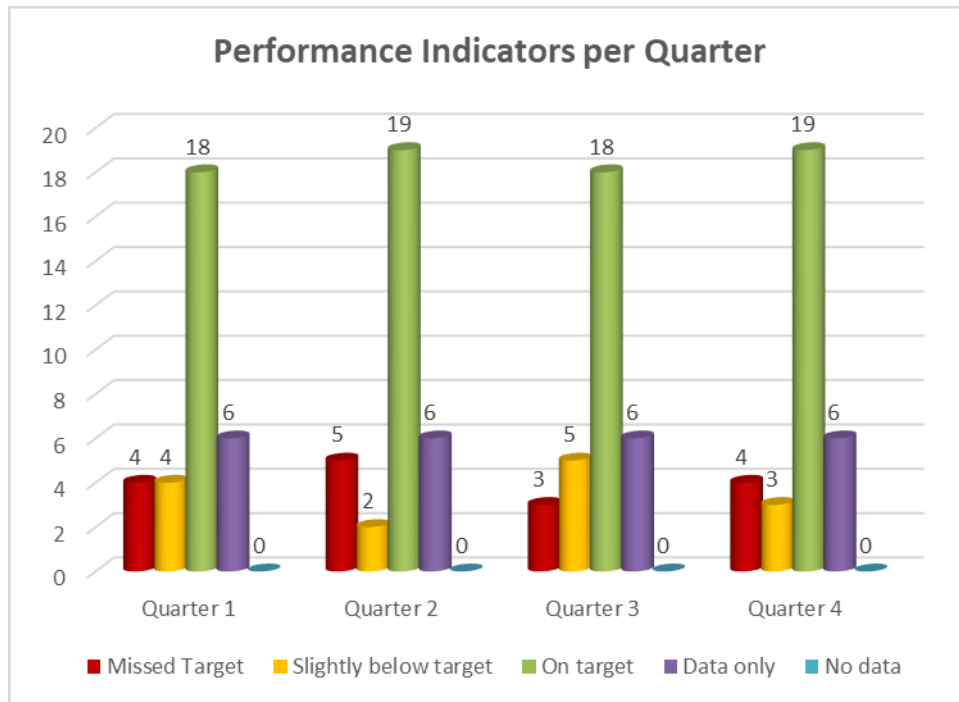
2.2 Actions

Of the 90 actions included in the Gedling Plan 2020-23 which were due for completion in 2022/23, all are complete or incorporated into the 2023-27 Gedling Plan.

2.3 Indicators

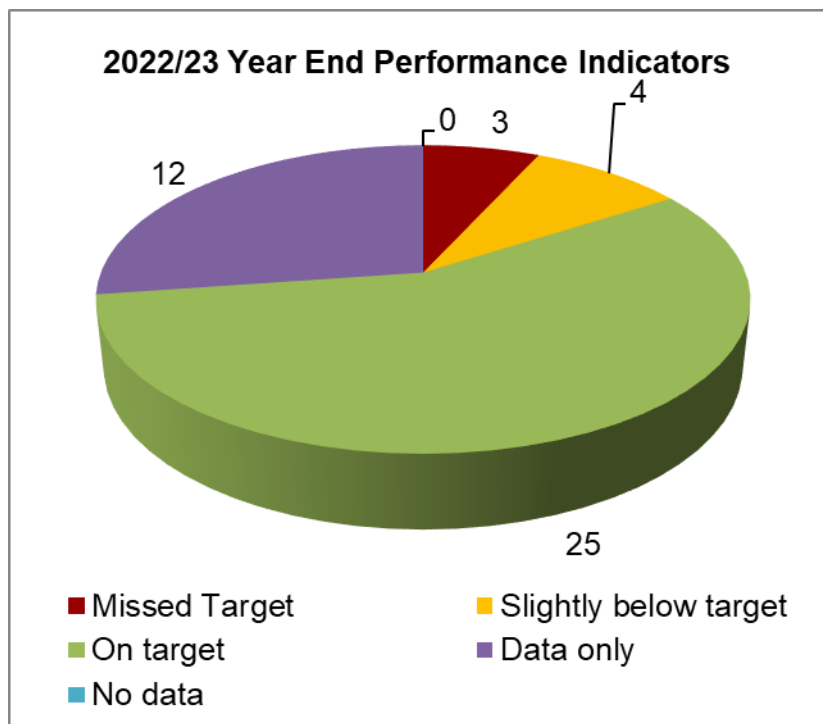
Quarter 4

The following table shows the status of performance indicators appropriate for quarterly monitoring for each quarter throughout the year. During quarter 4, 19 of the 32 performance indicators that are appropriate for quarterly monitoring met or exceeded target and 3 were slightly below target. 4 indicators missed their target. 6 were tracking only indicators.



Year end

In addition to the 32 performance indicators which are monitored on a quarterly basis, there are 12 indicators which are reported on an annual basis. The diagram below shows the performance position at the end of the year in respect of all 44 indicators included in the Gedling Plan. Overall performance is good with 25 of the indicators either meeting or exceeding target. 4 were slightly below target and only 3 indicators missed their target. 12 were tracking only indicators.



2.4 Examples of particularly positive performance over the year include:

Performance Indicator	Figure reported	Target
Number of attendances - Bonington Theatre	40,187	40,000
Average time to process new Housing Benefit claims (in calendar days)	13.8 days	15 days
LI086 Average length of time spent in temporary accommodation (in weeks)	19.1 weeks	22 weeks
Percentage of calls to the contact centre answered (or call back made) - 12 month rolling total	94.0%	94%
Number of Keep Me Posted email newsletter subscribers	50,000	42,000
Working Days Lost Due to Sickness Absence (rolling 12 month total)	8.3 days	9.0 days
Net additional homes provided	650	497
Number of long term empty homes in the Borough returned to use as a result of Gedling Borough Council intervention	126	40
Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)	124	20
Percentage of Major planning applications processed within 13 weeks	100%	90%
Percentage of Minor planning applications processed within 8 weeks	88.8%	86.0%
Percentage of other planning applications processed within 8 weeks	85.2%	80.0%
Average number of Swim School Members (12 month rolling period)	3,805	3,600

2.5 The following performance indicators missed their target at the end of the year.

Average time to process Housing Benefit change in circumstances (in calendar days) – Performance: 7.4 days against an annual target of 5 days.

In Q2 and Q3 the target was narrowly missed but due to several spikes throughout the year especially after Xmas and towards year end, this has meant the overall annual average has exceeded the 5 day target. There has also been a drive to ensure new claims are prioritised (which as reported in the table above has exceeded the target) over changes in circumstances.

Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting – Performance: 33.9% against an annual target of 36% and **Residual household waste per household in Kg** – Performance: 603kg against an annual target of 560kg.

The reasons for both of these relate to the current PFI contract between Veolia and the County Council (as lead waste authority) which does not include certain plastic films, carrier bags, plastic trays, fruit juice cartons and foils. This leads to these waste streams going into the residual bin. Equally, the current increased figure is also due to vehicle loads rejected due to contamination of recycling bins by nappies, food, textiles and glass. The garden waste service is currently being promoted for the new growing season so hopefully this will reduce the amount of garden waste (currently estimated to be 15%) being put in the black residual waste bin. As regards contamination of recycling bins, the Council does regularly promote waste campaigns to educate residents, but we do understand that in practice, the guidance is complex for residents to understand as required under the Veolia contract.

2.6 Compliments and Complaints

The compliments and complaints for 2022/23 show the following:

- In 2022/23 the council received 211 compliments, which is about 10% fewer compliments received than in the previous year.
- 90% of the complaints received in 2022/23 were processed in time, which is 1% higher rate of complaints processed in time than in the previous year.
- 201 MP letters were received in 2022/23 which is 14% higher rate than in the previous year.
- 396 complaints were received in 2022/23, which is 22% fewer complaints received than in the previous year.
- 33% of all complaints received in 2021/22 were classified as justified.

2.7 Achievements - Q4

A separate report has been produced highlighting additional key achievements delivered during quarter 4, focusing on areas where the Council has made a real difference to people's lives. This is shown in Appendix 1 and is available on the Council's website. The following achievements are identified for particular attention:

Social Mobility Commission – we announced our new Social Mobility Commission to improve life chances and opportunities for young people in the borough. Research done so far will be reviewed at the Commission's first meeting and its purpose, role and responsibilities will be agreed. Any recommendation or actions agreed at this inaugural meeting will inform the Social Mobility Action Plan for Gedling.

The Gedling Plan - The Council has now adopted its new business plan: The Gedling Plan 2023-27. This lays out the Council's vision and ambitions for the next four years.

Holocaust Memorial Garden opened - A new £45,000 Holocaust memorial garden has been officially opened at Gedling Country Park. The Memorial Garden will commemorate the millions of people who lost their lives in the Holocaust and other genocide atrocities that followed across the world.

Free Bulky Waste Collections – we once again offered residents across the borough the opportunity to dispose of large waste items for free, for a limited period in January and February.

The Big Spring Clean week – This year's Big Spring Clean, our annual community event aimed at improving the cleanliness and appearance of our towns and villages, was held in March. This year, the Council asked for help from residents to make it the most successful yet, and by taking part in one of our litter picks and bulb planting events, local residents made a real difference for the community.

Learn to Swim - During quarter 4 the number of children learning to swim at Gedling increased again to a new high of 3,833. More importantly there were 580 children who achieved their 25m badge during 2022/23 compared to 303 in 2021/22, which is the main indicator used in the industry to help reduce the risk of drowning.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 Not to present an update on quarterly performance, in which case the Cabinet will not be aware of performance against the current Gedling Plan.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising out of this report.

6 Equalities Implications

6.1 There are no equalities implications arising out of this report.

7 Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications

7.1 There are no carbon reduction/sustainability implications arising out of this report.

8 Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1 – Examples of Outcomes achieved during Quarter 4 2022/23.

9 Background Papers

9.1 None identified.

10 Reasons for Recommendations

10.1 To ensure Members are informed of the performance against the 2020-23 Gedling Plan.

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GEDLING

PLAN

2020-2023

**Examples of Achievements and
Activities**

During

Quarter 4 - 2022/23

Cohesive, Diverse and Safe COMMUNITIES

Promote and encourage pride, good citizenship and participation

Love? Film Screening/International Women's Day - The Council partnered with We R Here, a local charity that supports survivors of domestic abuse and their families, to hold a film screening at the Bonington Theatre as part of the celebration of International Women's Day. Love? is written by, directed, produced by and starring Samantha Beckinsale and is a powerful and inspiring portrayal of women's struggles and triumphs dealing with domestic abuse. The film aims to highlight the issue of coercive control in relationships and will be used by the Council and We R Here for further screenings and events.

Chinese Lanterns and Dragons - The Council worked with Gedling Play Forum and Arnold Methodist Church to deliver a Chinese New Year inspired creative play event for families. The event aimed to raise awareness of Chinese culture with traditional music, crafts and a lion dance which took place outside the Civic Centre. Over 120 children and their families for around the borough took part.

Reduce poverty and inequality and provide support to the most vulnerable

Communications - A press release promoting the successful prosecution of a taxi driver for refusing to take a blind couple and their guide dog in his car was the main lead story on all local news outlets. It was the front page feature on the Nottingham Post newspaper and the lead story in BBC East Midlands Today, BBC Radio Nottingham, ITV Central and Notts TV. The communications team worked with the victims to organise photo opportunities and interviews along with the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection to create maximum publicity.

EBSS-AF and AFP-AF payments commenced - The Revenues Service team has implemented the Government's Energy Bills Support Scheme – Alternative Fund and the Alternative Fuel Payment – Alternative Fund with the first payments having been made.

Cost of Living Events – A cost of living event took place at the Calverton Core Centre. There were 8 stall holders including Shareware, NCC Benefits Team, Severn Trent Water, Health and Wellbeing Hub, Nottingham Energy Partnership. The stallholders provided advice and support to local residents on practical ways they could save money and access the relevant benefits. A similar event will also take place at Arnold Methodist Church in April.

Household Support Scheme - Our Customer Services team continued to support residents in need of financial help, using their knowledge and understanding to assess the individual cases of residents, checking eligibility and making requests for financial support on behalf of the residents to Nottinghamshire County Council. During quarter 4, they referred 250 households (399 residents) for £90 per resident to help with food and energy bills. They also helped 12 households obtain white goods under the scheme.

Temporary Accommodation - Following a review of the current demand for temporary accommodation within the Borough, a decision was agreed at Cabinet in March 2023 permitting the Housing and Welfare Service Department to secure a further 7 properties on the open market during 2023/24.

Improve social mobility and life chances

Social Mobility Commission – we announced our new Social Mobility Commission to improve life chances and opportunities for your people in the borough. Research done so far will be reviewed at the Commission’s first meeting and its purpose, role and responsibilities will be agreed. Any recommendation or actions agreed at this inaugural meeting will inform the Social Mobility Action Plan for Gedling.

Reduce anti-social behaviour, crime and the fear of crime

CCTV Updates - Through the Safer Streets funding, two CCTV cameras have been installed in Colwick - the first on the Colwick Loop Road and the second at Balmoral Road. The new CCTV camera at the Killisick Recreation Ground is now working.

Shop watch radio scheme - The Shop watch radio scheme has been relaunched in the Victoria retail park with new radios being purchased and the scheme being funded for the next financial year by Safer Streets 4. The Safer Streets wardens are supporting the retailers in using their shop watch radios and tackling retail crime.

Car Park Improvements - Safer streets 4 funding has been used to improve the three GBC carparks located on Arthur Street. The brick planters and overgrown shrubbery have been removed, so the car parks have a clearer view from the residents. The Cinder path has also had environmental improvements to make the area feel safer. The street lighting is also being improved on the Cinder path and in these car parks.

Selective Licensing Scheme - The council successfully investigated a landlord and managing agent who failed to apply for a licence through the council’s selective licensing scheme in Netherfield. A civil penalty notice was served as an alternative to prosecution and both parties accepted the charge and paid in full a total fine of £2,350. A licence application has now been received by the council.

Also, an officer from the selective licensing team recently inspected a flat above a shop in Netherfield which had inadequate means of escape from the 3rd floor bedroom if there was a fire in the property. In order to protect the health and safety of the tenant a prohibition order was served to prevent the occupant sleeping in the 3rd floor bedroom until works were carried out to reduce the risks. The landlord is currently working with the council to put in place a safe means of escape to protect the tenant and enable the prohibition order to be removed.

High Performing COUNCIL

Improve the customer experience of engaging with the Council

Electronic billing for council tax and business rates - Alongside the annual council tax bills being sent, the Revenues Services team launched the ability for customers to receive their bills electronically. Take up has been good so far and is encouraged by entry into a prize draw to win a £500 shopping voucher. Reducing the number of bills sent by post will significantly reduce the Council’s postage costs as well as reducing the Council’s carbon footprint.

Outreach Services – our Customer Services team extended the outreach sessions at Calverton Core to weekly instead of monthly, due to high demand in the area, particularly within Welfare and Housing.

Customer Promise - The new refreshed customer promise was launched as well as the unacceptable behaviour policy. We believe that all residents have the right to be listened to, understood and respected. These are a set of two way standards of behaviours for staff and residents. In addition to this there is a video to support unacceptable behaviour which we have shared on social media.

Provide efficient and effective services

Our **Communications and Web Officer** was featured in the MJ Magazine under the Starlight feature on the rising stars in the Communications world.

Planning - A local requirements list for planning applications was adopted in February. The list seeks to ensure that the Council has enough information at the outset to effectively engage with key stakeholders, and make timely planning decisions.

Annual billing - All households and businesses in the Borough have been issued with their council tax and business rates bills. The bills included information marketing the prize draw to incentivise take up of electronic billing, information relating to the armed forces covenant, advertisements for the Council's leisure services, advertisement of the Council's garden waste service and information for voters relating to the new requirement for photo ID for in person voting.

The Gedling Plan - The Council has now adopted its new business plan; The Gedling Plan. This lays out the Council's vision and ambitions for the next four years.

Maintain a positive and supportive working environment and strong employee morale

Gender Pay Gap - At year end the national analysis of Gender Pay Gap information shows that Gedling BC is the eighth best performing public sector body in the country with a mean gap of 3.79%. The measure is reported nationally and shows the proportionate difference between pay for men and women.

Employee Engagement - A number of employee engagement actions have been delivered over the last quarter including PDR training for managers and supervisors and the production of a new Benefits Statement that sets out the benefits of working for the Council in addition to pay.

Staff Health Fair – The staff health fair took place on 22nd March. Employees were able to book appointments for Boditrax (body scans), prostate tests, bone density tests. Drop in stands were available from ABL, the Health and Wellbeing Hub, Moballise physiotherapists and the Green Rewards scheme. All appointments apart from two prostate tests were booked, most going within two days of being published on the intranet.

Staff Dementia Friends Training – Two Dementia Friends training sessions for staff took place during March (one virtual and one face to face). The sessions were delivered by the Alzheimer's Society and provided staff with a basic understanding of Dementia and some useful advice around supporting individuals living with Dementia.

Improve use of digital technologies

ICT Projects and Upgrades - A number of projects and upgrades have been completed in this quarter, including:

- Plan for replacement of Member devices, including making Modern.Gov server more secure and implementing logon from iPads
- Assisted with Bin Lorry CCTV Cloud Hosting
- Advised on Design Code Pathfinder Project (Planning Policy)
- Network Edge Switch Replacement Pilot, updated network technology for faster speeds and better security in preparation for wider roll out
- Upgraded telephone call logging system (Tiger) due to end of support
- Completed upgrading 14 Servers to new Operating system due to Server 2012 end of support - continues into next year.

Vibrant ECONOMY

Provide more homes

Affordable Homes - Cabinet approved last month that a Registered Housing Provider be sought through a tender exercise to deliver affordable homes at Burton Road and Station Road and the tender is currently being prepared.

Drive business growth, workforce development and job opportunities

Supported internship programme - The Council's first supported intern is currently working in the Revenues Services team. The team is able to offer support to the intern to better her future chances of employment and the intern provides administrative support to the team. Feedback is very positive and the intern is showing clear development and acquisition of key skills as well as growing in confidence.

An **Apprenticeship and Jobs Fair** was held at the Civic Centre in February with over a hundred delegates attending, this being the best attended event for apprenticeship held at the Civic Centre. Next event being planned for May 2023.

A **Business Advisory Surgery** in conjunction with the Growth Hub was held at the Civic Centre in February. The majority of the attendees were start-up businesses that are receiving on-going support since the surgery.

Business Support - Gedling Borough Council has been an active participant in the joint commissioning with the County Council and District Councils to secure providers to deliver business support specifically relating to decarbonisation.

Create thriving and vibrant town and local centres

A **Town Centre Management Officer Group** was established to coordinate UK SPF Town Centre spend with a focus on public realm and encouraging footfall into local centres.

Sustainable ENVIRONMENT

Provide an attractive and sustainable local environment that local people can enjoy

Colwick Rectory Play Area reopened following six weeks of refurbishment works to improve the site and add new and inclusive facilities. The refurbishment includes a wheelchair accessible roundabout, zip wire, trampoline, a multi play unit with 17 different features, new swings and more. Funding for the facilities are thanks to FCC Communities Foundation, a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community, conservation and heritage projects from funds donated by waste and resource management company FCC Environment through the Landfill Communities Fund. In total, FCC Communities Foundation provided a grant of £99,466 for the development.

Conserve, enhance, promote and celebrate our heritage

Holocaust Memorial Garden opened - A new £45,000 Holocaust memorial garden has been officially opened at Gedling Country Park. The memorial garden commemorates the millions of people who lost their lives in the Holocaust and other genocide atrocities that followed across the world.

'Loco Remembered' event - the event to celebrate Netherfield's rich railway history was held at the Crossing Social Club on Station Road, Netherfield in March. Railway enthusiasts from the Nottingham Model Railway School recreated a scale model of the Colwick Locomotive depot, known as the Loco, the railway yard where the locomotives were kept as part of an event to celebrate the heritage of Netherfield. This free event was organised by the Nottingham Model Railway Society in partnership with Gedling Borough Council and remembered through the media of models, photos and memorabilia, the Colwick railway sidings and sheds that closed over 50 years ago, showing how Netherfield as a community was shaped by the railway.

Promote and protect the environment by minimising pollution and waste and becoming carbon neutral

Free Bulky Waste Collections – we once again offered residents across the borough the opportunity to dispose of large waste items for free, for a limited period in January and February.

Carbon Literacy Training – Senior Leadership Team, Council Cabinet Members and Managers across the council attended Carbon Literacy Training in January to raise awareness and understanding of the challenges presented by climate change and to pledge to take action to protect the environment. Further carbon literacy training is to be rolled out later in the year.

Climate Change Champions – Changes to PDRs. As part of the council's commitment to become net zero carbon by 2030, we introduced some plans to help bring staff with us on this journey and to help start a conversation about how we, as individuals and as an employer, can play our part in helping the environment by making small pledges.

A new section was added to all of our Performance Development Reviews (PDR) that includes a new 'Climate Change Champion' section. The aim of the section is to create a conversation and to have an opportunity to make a climate change pledge that can be reviewed year on year

Some examples of pledges include:

- Sign up to the Green Rewards app – www.notts.greenrewards.co.uk
- Commute by bus, tram or car sharing whenever you can
- Switch off electrical equipment when not in use
- Reduce your meat intake; go meat-free one day a week
- Improve your home's energy efficiency (insulation, LED lights etc.)
- Recycle waste correctly at home and work
- Try the WWF carbon footprint calculator to see how 'green' you are
- Commit to your own pledge

The Big Spring Clean week – This year's Big Spring Clean, our annual community event aimed at improving the cleanliness and appearance of our towns and villages, was held in March. This year, the council is asked for help from residents to make it the most successful yet. By taking part in one of our litter picks and bulb planting events, residents can make a real difference to the environment and show pride in their local community.

Our annual community event aimed at improving the cleanliness and appearance of our towns and villages took place at various locations throughout the borough during March, with each event lasting around 2 hours. This year, the council asked for help from residents to make it the most successful yet. By taking part in one of our litter picks and bulb planting events, residents can make a real difference to the environment and show pride in their local community.

The council provided all the equipment, including gloves, litter pickers, and bags. Our Climate Change Officer organised a series of litter picking events with local schools and community groups as part of her work to raise awareness of Climate Change. As part of this, a competition was launched to all schools in the Borough to design a poster to promote a 'Cleaner Greener Gedling'. The winning designs will be made into aluminium street sign and placed outside the school/ local area.

Climate Change Lesson - Ernehale Junior School were the first school in the Borough to request a 'climate change lesson', due to the positive publicity of this, the Climate Change Officer has received further requests from schools within the Borough.

Recycling Scheme at Leisure Centres - an innovative recycling scheme is now available at the Arnold, Calverton and Carlton Forum leisure centres. The Leisure Loop Recycling Scheme makes it easier for swimmers to recycle many common items at their local centres such as goggles, swim caps, and floats. Each recycling point holds up to 20kg, or 100 litres, of items which will be taken away to be processed where the items are separated and sorted. The materials are then shredded, cleaned and turned into small pieces of a new version of raw material which can be used to produce new products in the UK.

HEALTHY lifestyles

Improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities

Children's Centre Food Clubs move into the Community – With the closure of the Food clubs in the Netherfield and Killisick Children's centre, there is a significant need to continue with an affordable weekly food offer in the local community. Two new Food clubs will be set up from the end of April in Carlton (Carlton Community Hub) and Netherfield (Netherfield Bethesda Church), families will be able to access a box of food on a weekly basis for £3.50 per week. Conversations are continuing with community partners regarding a potential solution for the Killisick/Arnold area.

Killisick NHSEi Health Inequalities project – The final Community Engagement Report was presented at the March South Notts Place Based Partnership Board Meeting. The report summarises the community conversations with Killisick residents and stakeholders. The report was well received by the Board members.

Skin Piercing Byelaws - The council submitted an application to the Secretary of State to adopt the skin piercing byelaws. The application was approved on 20th February 2023 and the byelaws come into force from 1st April 2023. These byelaws require premises and individuals carrying out skin piercing activities such as body piercing or semi- permanent make-up to register with the council. Premises are then inspected to ensure compliance with a set of conditions to ensure minimum hygienic standards are in place to protect the health and safety of customers.

Tell Me a Story - we assisted Handmade Theatre in successful funding applications to Arts Council England and the National Lottery. Tell Me a Story is a brand-new show which explores childhood stories and memories and is inspired by creative work in care homes for those with dementia. The process of creating this work will enable work across intergenerational groups, exploring experiences of childhood and unlocking the similarities and differences we all share. The show will tour locally and nationally at events and festivals and a smaller compact version suitable for intimate events and spaces will be performed at schools and care homes in the borough.

Doctors surgery visits – Our fitness promotions officer and health activator officer visited 12 GP surgeries and associated pharmacies throughout Gedling Borough this year to promote the activity sessions Gedling Borough and partners provide for local community residents who have long term health conditions. A full brochure of activities was produced that GPs could pass on to suitable patients and update their referral systems.

Support physically active lifestyles

Increase recreational activities

Member referral option launched on leisure bookings app - Utilising new features on the leisure app, DNA members can now refer friends and family to the DNA health and fitness membership scheme, and receive a £10 reduction in their next monthly direct debit payment.

The new member also receives a £10 reduction in their first direct debit scheme, making it a great initiative to get the community active. Since its launch in February there have been 18 referrals through this pathway.

ClassPass - From April the Gedling leisure centres will be partnering with ClassPass to help market and sell gym sessions to the wider community, in particular through corporate marketing. Partnering with large national companies help increase the awareness of the Gedling leisure Centres and their memberships, helping people to become more active in their local communities.

Learn to Swim - During quarter 4 the number of children learning to swim at Gedling increased again to a new high of 3,833. More importantly there were 580 children who achieved their 25m badge during 22/23 compared to 303 in 21/22, which is the main indicator used in the industry to help reduce the risk of drowning.

Reduce levels of loneliness and isolation

Member's grants awarded – in the region of £18,660 has been awarded during quarter 4 to various community groups for example St. Albans Community Kitchen, The Gedling Artist, The Good Shepherd Church, The Ark, Hope Nottingham, Stoke Bardolph Parish Council, Age Concern Carlton & District, Friends of Onchan Park, Calverton Scout & Guides Supporters Association, Gedling Indoor Bowls Club, Friends of Arnot Hill Park, Netherfield & Colwick Senior Citizens Club, 1st Netherfield Rainbows, Brownies & Guides, Paviers Rugby Club, We R Here, St. Mary's Community Kitchen, Friends of Gedling Country Park.

Community E Newsletters – Three Community E-Newsletters were circulated to 7k community contacts between January and March. Articles included winter essentials at St. Pauls Church, The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan, the Armed Forces Breakfast Club, Nottingham Festival of Science and Curiosity, Daybrook Men in Sheds, The Big Conversation and Young Carers Action Day.

Blue to Green - The Council part funded the delivery of Blue to Green, a joint arts and social prescribing programme supporting local people most impacted by Covid-19 and addressing isolation, wellbeing and inactivity delivered by City Arts.

City Arts worked with Jigsaw Housing, Carlton Community Hub, Netherfield Memory Café, and an array of artists to deliver 48 sessions in Gedling. Activities devised in collaboration with participants included face-to-face sessions, outdoor arts activities, and production of creative outcomes. Content included creative exploration, conversations and learning about the natural environment through art.

The programme included:

- Weekly social and creative sessions, indoors and outdoors
- One off arts workshops inspired by nature
- A series of workshops inspired by the outdoors
- A celebration event at the end of the project.

The aim was to improve quality of life and wellbeing of participants.