

Agenda

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Monday 18 November 2024**

Time: **5.30 pm**

Place: **Council Chamber**

For any further information please contact:

Democratic Services

committees@gedling.gov.uk

0115 901 3844

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Membership

Chair Councillor Catherine Pope

Vice-Chair Councillor David Brocklebank

Councillor Roy Allan
Councillor Lorraine Brown
Councillor Jim Creamer
Councillor Andrew Dunkin
Councillor Rachael Ellis
Councillor Roxanne Ellis
Councillor Darren Maltby
Councillor Grahame Pope
Councillor Kyle Robinson-Payne
Councillor Sam Smith
Councillor Russell Whiting

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Role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- a) Hold the Executive to account
 - Review the performance and decisions of the Executive
 - Review the Council's progress in achieving policy aims and performance targets
 - Review the performance of individual services
- b) Develop and review policy
 - Help the Council and the Executive develop policy by studying issues in detail
 - Carry out research and consultation on policy
- c) Call-in Executive decisions
 - Exercise the right to call in decisions made by the Executive, but not yet implemented, if there is a need for the decision to be reviewed

d) Hold others to account

- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee can hold other public service providers to account for their activities and performance
- Undertake an annual review of the work of the Local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships

AGENDA

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- 1 **Apologies for Absence and Substitutions.**
- 2 **To approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2024.** 5 - 10
- 3 **Declaration of Interests.**
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- 8 **Any other item which the Chair considers urgent.**

MINUTES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday 30 September 2024

Councillor Roy Allan	Councillor Ruth Strong
Councillor Andrew Dunkin	Councillor Russell Whiting
Councillor Rachael Ellis	

Apologies for absence: Councillor Roxanne Ellis, Councillor Grahame Pope, Councillor Martin Smith and Councillor Sam Smith

Officers in Attendance: M Hill, C Goodall and L Juby

Guests in Attendance: Councillor Clarke

63 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roxanne Ellis, Pope, Robinson-Payne, Martin Smith and Sam Smith. Councillor Strong attended as substitute.

64 TO APPROVE, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 JULY 2024

RESOLVED:

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

65 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

66 PARTNERSHIP REVIEW - SOUTH NOTTS PLACE BASED PARTNERSHIP

The Chair Welcomed Paddy Tipping from South Notts Placed Based Partnership (PBP) to the meeting as part of the Council's partnership review programme.

Paddy and his team delivered a presentation on the key areas of their work at South Notts PBP, highlights of which were as follows:

It was noted that there were six Primary Care Networks (PCN) in the South Nottinghamshire area which included 15 GP practices working in

partnership. It was also noted that the PBP had 33 partner organisations in total.

Members noted South Nottinghamshire's 'building blocks of health' which included stable jobs, good pay, quality housing and education. It was highlighted that socioeconomic factors, physical environment, health behaviours and access to health care also contributed towards their 'building blocks of health'.

It was noted that there were pockets of deprivation with an urgent need to tackle health inequalities such as mental health, alcohol and smoking, cancers, and respiratory diseases. Members noted that the areas identified with the highest level of health inequalities were Eastwood Town, Hucknall Town, Arnold Town and Cotgrave.

It was highlighted that Gedling Borough Council (GBC) had received funding from the Integrated Care System (ICS) in 2019 to resource a South Notts community development worker supporting NHS social prescribing. GBC expanded the team to two workers in 2021 before being expanded and hosted by voluntary sector organisations in 2024. It was noted that their grant pot had reached £16K per year for local groups.

Members noted that GBC leisure centres had been working in partnership with Highcroft and Stenhouse surgeries, having received funding from the ICS with their priority focus being cardiovascular disease. It was noted that surgeries had been identifying patients at risk and would then signpost the patient to the leisure centres, introducing them to a leisure centre environment. The funding received would allow the system to provide the patients with three months free membership and improve their overall health.

The Chair gave members the opportunity to ask questions of the South Notts PBP.

Members asked whether the Council could do anything more to help those signposted that were on lower incomes, maintain their memberships after the three-month free membership had passed.

It was noted that the Council offered concessionary memberships for those claiming benefits.

Members asked how much money the preventative measures detailed above had saved the NHS. Member of the South Notts PBP explained that the data would be monitored to see where the preventative measures were showing new trends such as lower numbers of patients attending the emergency departments or being admitted to hospitals.

Leisure referrals and the leisure management system had also allowed for more accurate monitoring of some of the data.

RESOLVED:

To thank the South Notts Placed Based Partnership for attending the meeting and the information provided.

67

PROGRAMME OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER ATTENDANCE

Members welcomed Councillor John Clarke, Leader of the Council, to the meeting to examine his portfolio. Councillor Clarke gave an update to members on some key happenings within his portfolio.

No questions were received from Members in advance of the meeting, so Councillor Clarke delivered an update on the various areas of responsibility within his portfolio. He gave the following updates:

It was noted that the year-end performance for 23/24 had been reported to Cabinet on 17 July. It showed that 61 Gedling Plan actions were completed out of 69, and the remaining 8 had been carried forward for delivery during 24/25. Members also noted that out of the 28 performance indicators with set targets, 86% of these had either met or exceeded targets.

It was noted that Cabinet Members were expected to provide regular feedback on activity within their portfolio to Councillor Clarke as Leader. It was noted that the current focus had been on larger strategic projects and programmes of work, such as the Greater Carlton Towns Board, Ambition Arnold, strategic leisure review, and the wholesale digital transformation programme.

It was noted that the Council had engaged with partners such as local universities to discuss ways to improve learning and develop job opportunities for residents of the borough. Engagement had also taken place to develop a local skills strategy, which looked at ways to create a local college through the Greater Carlton Towns Funding. Members also noted the partnership work with South Notts PBP, as detailed earlier in the meeting.

It was noted that Councillor Clarke represented Gedling at all Mayoral Devolution meetings, working to lobby the East Midlands County Mayor on key issues such as transport, housing, skills and adult education, net zero, economic development and the visitor economy. Councillor Clarke also represented Gedling on the Economic Prosperity Committee alongside other Council Leaders as well as being the nominated District Council representative for Nottinghamshire on the EMMCA Investment Committee.

It was noted that the Internal Audit Annual Report for 23/24 had been presented to the Audit Committee in July. The report showed that auditors had reached a positive level of assurance which demonstrated

that the work undertaken by the Council had strengthened its internal control environment. It was also noted that a new Risk Management Strategy and Framework had been presented to the Audit committee, further strengthening the Council's internal control environment.

The Chair then gave Members the opportunity to ask questions of Councillor Clarke's portfolio.

Members asked how Councillors could offer feedback or influence topics of discussion at the Greater Carlton Town Board and whether the meetings were broadcasted to the public.

Councillor Clarke explained that the applications had been considered and shortlisted and would be available for Members to make comment via the appropriate channels. Members also noted that the meetings were not broadcasted however minutes were published on Gedling Borough Council's website.

Members asked whether the applications for the Greater Carlton Towns Board were still being received and if the consultation considered whether the costs of those applications were realistic. The Chief Executive confirmed that the consultation period had closed, and that the consideration was the responsibility of the Greater Carlton Towns Board.

Members queried whether the Council had given any additional consideration towards emergency flooding plans, considering the increase of rainfall in recent years. Councillor Clarke agreed that the Council needed to continue monitoring flooding through impact assessments and continue to improve flood prevention measures in conjunction with the County Council.

Members asked whether the Council had received any indication as to whether the new government would increase the Council's funding going forward. Councillor Clarke explained that no indication of this had been received however he would continue to lobby the new MP for better outcomes for the Council.

Members asked whether the Council's Cabinet functions had been impacted following Councillor Payne's new appointment as MP for Gedling whilst also holding the position of Deputy Leader. Councillor Clarke explained that the Cabinet positions would be carefully considered and expected that changes would be made going forward.

RESOLVED:

To thank Councillor Clarke for the information provided.

The Chief Executive introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, updating members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the current position of risk management reporting.

RESOLVED:

To note the current position with risk management reporting and associated actions.

69 CONTACTS MAGAZINE UPDATE

The Communications and Marketing Manager introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, providing an update on the production and distribution of the Council's magazine, Contacts.

Members asked whether the timeline could be condensed to ensure that the articles were current news.

The Communications and Marketing Manager explained that the deadlines were in place to ensure that staff were able to prepare and had sufficient time to consider their articles. It was noted that although the deadlines were in place, the articles could be updated or removed to reflect new information before they went to print.

Members queried how the Council monitored instances of reported failures of the Royal Mail's delivery of the Contacts magazines and whether there were any hotspots of delivery failures.

The Communications and Marketing Manager confirmed that reports of undelivered mail could be requested from the Royal Mail to confirm what may have occurred to prevent delivery however it was noted that it was not a perfect system.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

70 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Democratic Services Manager, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, presenting the Overview and Scrutiny annual report to the committee.

RESOLVED to:

Agree the report's submission to Council.

71 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report of the Democratic Services Manager, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, providing an update on the scrutiny work programme.

Members expressed an interest in receiving regular updates from the Carlton Towns Board at future meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Members also expressed an interest in receiving updates from the Council's Leader Councillor Clarke, concerning the current priorities and work of the East Midlands Combined Mayoral Authority. Members also suggested inviting the regional Mayor to a future meeting, having allowed enough time for them to settle in to their new position.

RESOLVED to:

Note the report.

72 ANY OTHER ITEM WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

None.

The meeting finished at 7.20 pm

Signed by Chair:
Date:



Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Partnership review – Gedling Play Forum

Date: 18 November 2024

Author: Democratic Services Manager

Purpose

To consider the work of the Gedling Play Forum, as part of the programme of reviewing the council's partners.

Recommendation(s)

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- 1) considers, asks questions and makes comment on the information provided

1 Background

At the 25 April 2022 Overview and Scrutiny Committee, members agreed to roll out a programme of attendance by external partners at committee. A few partners were identified that would be invited to future meetings, including health and housing providers across the borough.

Invited questions from members will be put to the partner at each meeting, along with 'Ad hoc' questions at the meeting itself.

2. 2024/2025 programme of partnership attendance

Members of the Gedling Play Forum will be attending the committee, providing members with an overview of the work of their organisation.

Ad hoc questions can be asked at the meeting.

3 Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4 Legal implications

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5 Equalities implications

There are no equalities implications arising from this report

6 Carbon reduction/sustainability implications

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

7 Appendices

None



Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: The current homelessness situation in the Borough and the impact of Section 21 eviction notices.

Date: 7 November 2024

Author: Housing and Welfare Manager

Purpose

An overview of the current homelessness situation in the Borough and the impact of Section 21 notices.

1 Background

- 1.1 A Section 21 notice is the legal pathway a private landlord can pursue to evict a tenant who has an assured shorthold tenancy. Essentially a Section 21 Notice is a way of asking a tenant to vacate the property after the end of their fixed term, while providing them a period of notice.
- 1.2 A landlord also does not need to give a reason or grounds for seeking possession but where a fixed term tenancy has been granted the landlord cannot start possession proceedings until that tenancy term has ended.
- 1.3 A landlord must use a prescribed form to serve the notice. This is a mandatory requirement since 1 October 2018. A landlord is not required to serve a section 21 notice to the tenant in any specific way but if the tenant does not acknowledge service, a landlord must prove that the notice was served.
- 1.4 The standard notice period for a Section 21 notice is currently two months
- 1.5 A Section 21 notice cannot be issued where: -
 - it's less than 4 months since the tenancy started, or the fixed term has not ended, unless there's a clause in the contract which allows the landlord to do this
 - the property is categorised as a [house in multiple occupation](#) (HMO) and does not have a HMO licence from the council
 - the tenancy started after April 2007 and the landlord put the tenants' deposit in a [deposit protection scheme](#)

- the council has served an improvement notice on the property in the last 6 months
- the council has served a notice in the last 6 months that says it will do emergency works on the property
- The landlord has not repaid any unlawful fees or deposits that they charged the tenant - [Tenant Fees Act 2019](#)

A landlord cannot use a Section 21 notice if they have not given the tenants copies of:

- the property's [Energy Performance Certificate](#)
- the government's ['How to rent' guide](#)
- a current [gas safety certificate](#) for the property, if gas is installed

The landlord must have given their tenants the gas safety certificate and the 'How to rent' guide before they moved in.

The landlord must have given their tenants a copy of the property's Energy Performance Certificate before they rented the property.

- 1.6 Under the Homeless Reduction Act 2017 anyone who is threatened with homelessness may approach their local council for support. The Council will work closely with the tenant and landlord to establish why a notice has been served and if possible, try and find a resolution which would result in the tenancy being saved and stop the eviction from occurring.
- 1.7 The tenant can make a homeless application to their local Council for assistance. The Housing Options Team will need to determine whether a valid notice has been served and work with the tenant directly to provide guidance and advice. Additionally, a bespoke personal housing plan will be created setting out the Councils and tenants plan of action with the aim of preventing the household from becoming homeless.
- 1.8 A tenant can choose to stay in their current accommodation until the eviction is processed through the courts however the Council cannot insist they do this, and should they choose to leave, temporary accommodation may need to be provided to priority need groups such as families and people with medical needs. The Council owns and leases several properties in the Borough that are used for temporary accommodation. The Council also uses bed and breakfast and other nightly charged accommodation for placements.
- 1.9 The number of homeless applications the Council receives each year is increasing. Households are becoming homeless for many different reasons with Section 21 notices being the second most common occurrence in the Borough.

Renters Rights Bill

Once enacted, the Renters Rights Bill will seek to reform the regulation of the private rented sector and is intended to “give greater rights and protections to people renting their homes, including by abolishing section 21 'no fault' evictions. The bill clarifies and expands grounds for possession, while ensuring tenants are protected from arbitrary eviction and given enough time to find a new home.

The bill introduces new protections for tenants who temporarily fall into rent arrears, increasing the mandatory threshold for eviction from 2 to 3 months' arrears and increase the notice period from 2 weeks to 4. This will allow tenants more time to repay arrears and remain in their homes, while ensuring landlords do not face unsustainable costs.

Last year alone, nearly 26,000 households faced homelessness because of Section 21 eviction resulting in them having to visit their local council for support. The Bill seeks to give 11 million private renters immediate security and assurance so they can stay in their homes for longer and build lives in their communities.

In Gedling, landlords issuing a Section 21 notice is the second highest cause of homelessness, so locally the introduction of the Bill could reduce the numbers of homeless presenting to the Council. In the last 12 months the Council has received 152 homeless enquiries specifically citing that the assured shorthold tenancies were being ended by their landlord.

The main changes include: -

- **Abolish section 21 evictions** and move to a simpler tenancy structure where all assured tenancies are periodic, providing more security for tenants and empowering them to challenge poor practice and unfair rent increases without fear of eviction.
- **Ensure possession grounds are fair to both parties**, giving tenants more security, while ensuring landlords can recover their property when reasonable. The bill introduces new safeguards for tenants, giving them more time to find a home if landlords evict to move in or sell, and ensuring unscrupulous landlords cannot misuse grounds.
- **Provide stronger protections against backdoor eviction** by ensuring tenants are able to appeal excessive above-market rents which are purely designed to force them out. As now, landlords will still be able to increase rents once a year to market price for their properties and an independent tribunal will make a judgement on this, if needed.

- **Introduce a new Private Rented Sector Landlord Ombudsman** that will provide quick, fair, impartial and binding resolution for tenants' complaints about their landlord. This will bring tenant-landlord complaint resolution on par with established redress practices for tenants in social housing and consumers of property agent services
- **Create a Private Rented Sector Database** to help landlords understand their legal obligations and demonstrate compliance (giving good landlords confidence in their position), alongside providing better information to tenants to make informed decisions when entering into a tenancy agreement. It will also support local councils, helping them target enforcement activity where it is needed most. Landlords will need to be registered on the database in order to use certain possession grounds.
- **Give tenants strengthened rights to request a pet in the property**, which the landlord must consider and cannot unreasonably refuse. To support this, landlords will be able to require pet insurance to cover any damage to their property
- **Apply the Decent Homes Standard to the private rented sector** to give renters safer, better value homes and remove the blight of poor-quality homes in local communities.
- **Apply 'Awaab's Law' to the sector**, setting clear legal expectations about the timeframes within which landlords in the private rented sector must take action to make homes safe where they contain serious hazards.
- **Make it illegal for landlords and agents to discriminate against prospective tenants in receipt of benefits or with children**, helping to ensure everyone is treated fairly when looking for a place to live.
- **End the practice of rental bidding by prohibiting landlords and agents from asking for or accepting offers above the advertised rent.** Landlords and agents will be required to publish an asking rent for their property, and it will be illegal to accept an offer made above this rate.
- **Strengthen local authority enforcement** by expanding civil penalties, introducing a package of investigatory powers and bringing in a new requirement for local authorities to report on enforcement activity.
- **Strengthen rent repayment orders** by extending them to superior landlords, doubling the maximum penalty and ensuring repeat offenders have to repay the maximum amount.

The Renters Right Bill was introduced into the House of Commons on the 11 September 2024.

On the 9 October 2024 Members of Parliament (MPs) debated the Bill during its second reading. The Bill will now go through to committee stage.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 None. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has requested an update on the impact of Section 21 notices and homelessness within the Borough.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 None. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has requested an update on the impact of Section 21 notices and homelessness within the Borough.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 None. The update will be delivered using existing resources.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 None direct.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 None direct.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 None direct.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – The Impact of Section 21 eviction notices presentation.

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 None.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Monitoring Officer

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The impact of Section 21 eviction notices

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**Paul Whitworth
Housing & Welfare Manager**

Section 21 of the Housing Act 1988

- A section 21 notice starts the legal process to end an assured shorthold tenancy (AST).
- A landlord or agent can serve a section 21 notice to their tenant after a fixed term tenancy ends - if there's a written contract.
- A reason for serving the notice is not required
- The notice gives a date for the tenant to leave their home. The date must be at least 2 months after the landlord serves the notice and served on a prescribed form.
- A tenancy continues if the tenants stay past the date on the notice and a rental liability continues.
- The landlord then must apply to court for a warrant if they still want their tenant/s to leave.



Homelessness

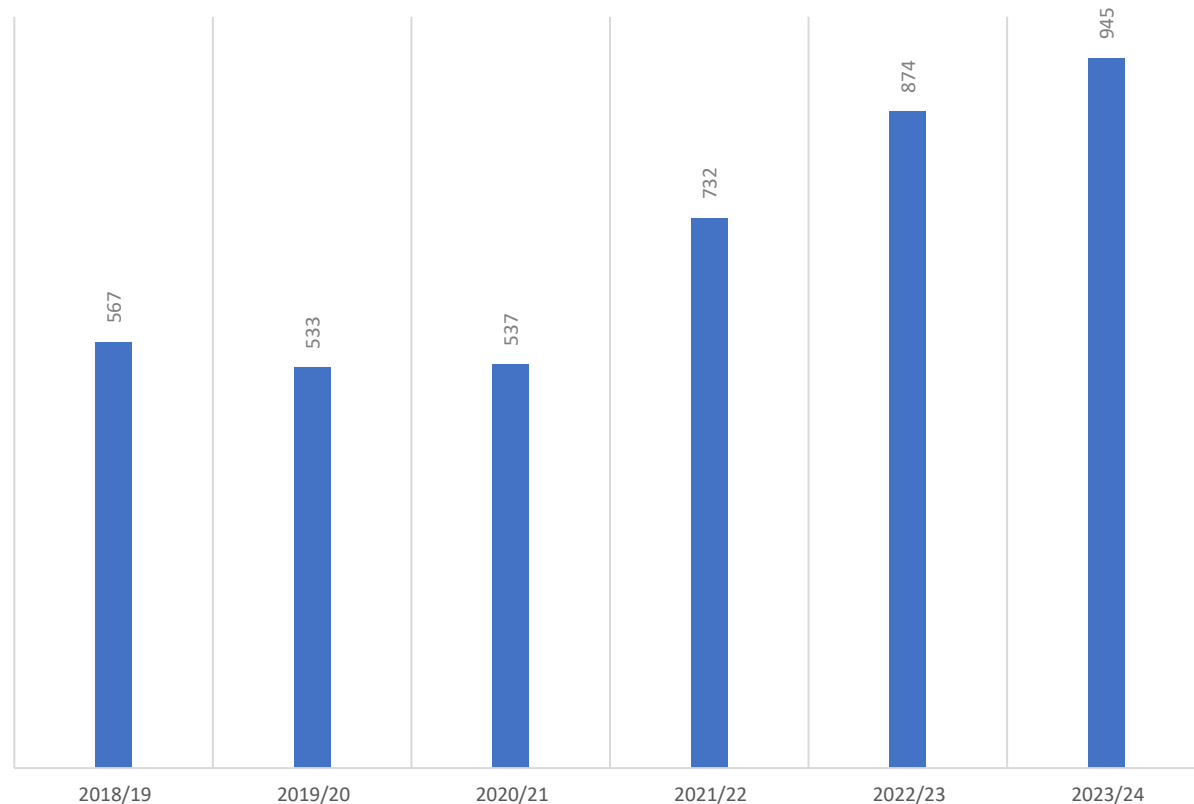
- Under the Homeless Reduction Act 2017 anyone who is threatened with homelessness within 56 days may be owed the Prevention Duty by their local authority.
- At the end of the 56 days, if homelessness hasn't been prevented, the Relief Duty is owed. The Main Duty is owed after a further 56 days if homelessness is not relieved in this time.
- The Council will continually try to negotiate with a landlord and offer incentives to save the tenancy and avoid an eviction.
- Following the acceptance of a homeless application, the Housing Option Team will work with the tenant directly to provide guidance and advice and set a plan of action with the aim of preventing a household from becoming homeless.



Homeless Applications

- This table highlights the number of Homeless applications received by the Council since the introduction of the Homeless Reduction Act 2017. Over a 5-year period, the total number of applications has nearly doubled.
- The Council has received 553 Homeless applications as of the 31st October 2024

NUMBER OF HOMELESS APPLICATIONS



Reasons for Homelessness presentations in the Borough

1. Family/Friends no longer willing to accommodate
2. Loss of private rented tenancy
3. Domestic Abuse
4. Relationship Breakdown
5. No Fixed Abode
6. Rent arrears
7. Eviction from Supported Housing
8. Loss of Social Housing tenancy
9. Leaving Institution (Prison/Hospital)
10. Emergency (Fire/Flood)

Temporary Accommodation (TA)

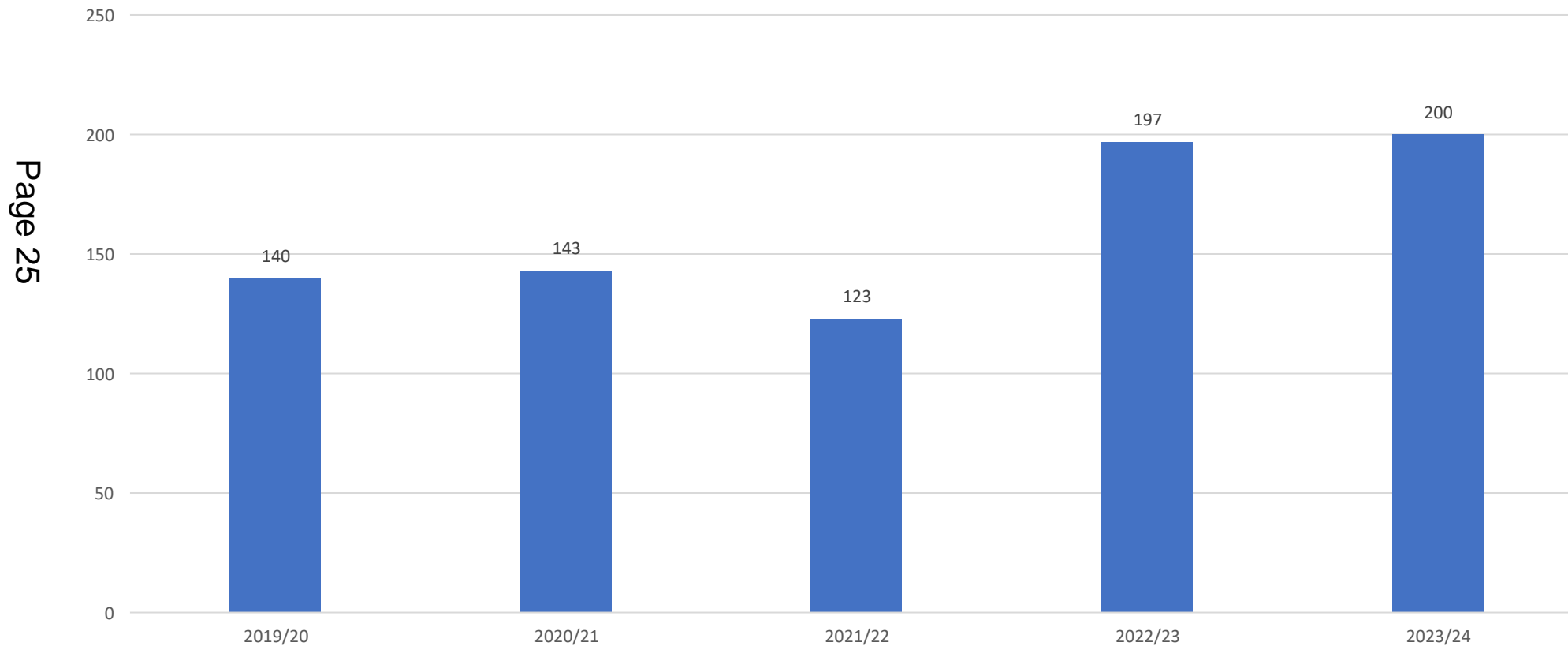
- A tenant can choose to stay in their current property until the eviction through the court is processed, however the Council can't insist on this and temporary accommodation may be required.
- TA is only awarded to a household where a priority need has been established. Examples of priority need households include those with children, those fleeing domestic violence or those that have a member of their household with mental or physical conditions.
- The Council uses B&B and hotel accommodation for emergencies with a view to moving families into Council owned or leased TA until a permanent housing offer can be made into either the private or social rented sector.



Temporary Accommodation placements

The graph below shows that the total number of household placed in TA has increased since 2019.

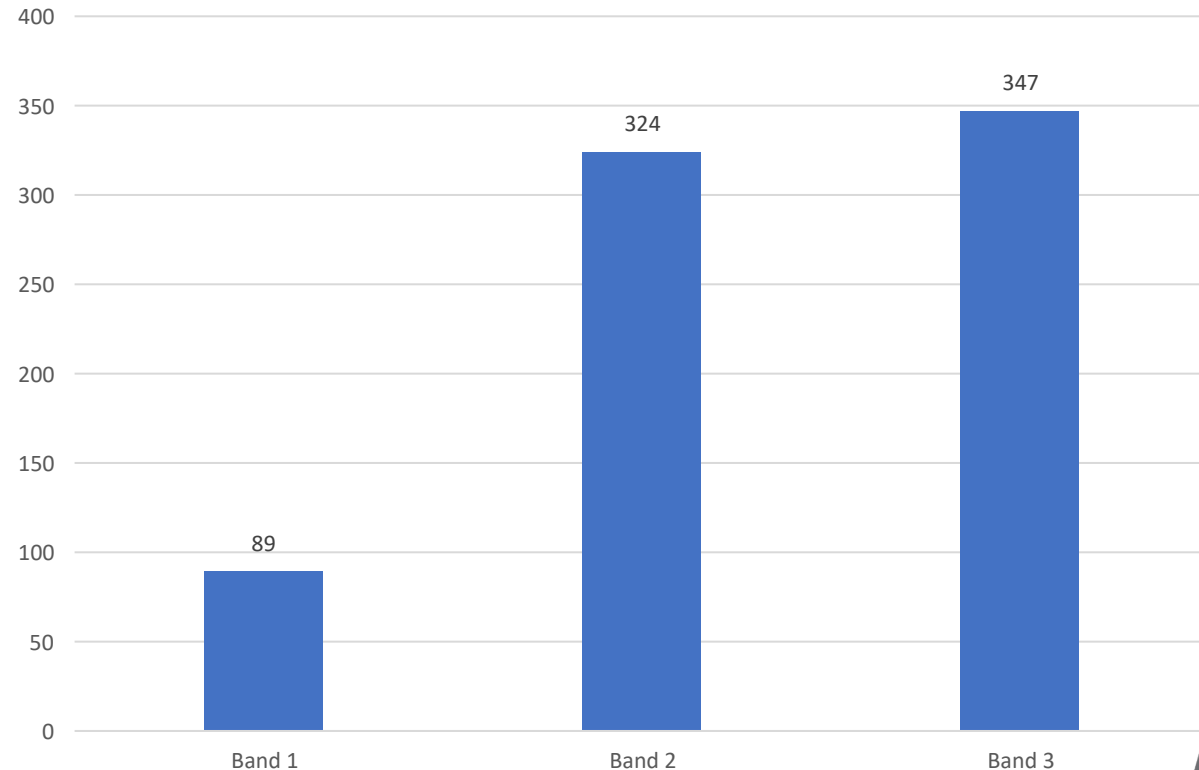
Total in TA



Homesearch waiting list

- The Council operates a choice based letting scheme which allocates social housing through its “Homeseach” system.
- The demand for social housing is growing, which has resulted in an increase in the number of households on the “Homesearch” system.
- In October 2021, the total number of households on “Homeseach” system was 543. By October 2022 it had increased to 565 and then rose to 649 by October 2023. In October 2024, the total had increased to 768.

Total number of households by band



Current pressures on the Council

- The Country is in the middle of a housing crisis.
- The Council doesn't own its own housing stock.
- The Council only has 70% nomination rights from our major registered provider Jigsaw Homes Midlands.
- The demand for affordable housing is increasing
- An increasing number of homeless applications are being received each year.
- Bed and Breakfast costs.
- Demand for TA is increasing.
- Private rented sector is expensive.
- Tenants need large deposits and/or rent in advance payments to secure tenancies.
- The number of cases on the "Homesearch" waiting list is increasing each month.
- Low turnover of existing social housing stock.
- An increased demand for larger homes.
- An increased demand for adapted homes.
- An increase in the number of domestic violence and refugee cases.
- Customers' expectations are high.

How are Gedling Borough Council addressing the current situation?

- Drafting a new 5-year Housing Strategy.
- Looking at new ways to deliver emergency and temporary accommodation.
- Additional staff resources, including specialist Refugee Officer.
- Reviewing the Council's Allocations Policy.
- Commissioning services such as Call Before You Serve and delivering talks to teenagers at their school about the impacts of homelessness.
- Considering how best to accommodate rough sleepers in cold weather.
- Negotiating larger and adaptable homes on new housing sites.
- Undertaking DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance) accreditation to help women experiencing domestic abuse stay in their own homes.
- Operating a Sanctuary scheme to enable households at risk of violence to remain safely in their own homes.

Potential impact of abolition of Section 21 eviction notices

- The Government is planning on implementing the Renters Rights Act next summer which aims to abolish Section 21 notices
- Tenants would have more security of tenure making renting privately more attractive.
- It would mean fewer homelessness presentations to the Council.
- It would introduce a new private rented sector landlord Ombudsman.
- Landlords would still be able to gain possession if selling or wanting to move into the home.
- Landlords can increase rents once a year in line with current market prices.
- It could lead to fewer landlords choosing to rent or more leaving the market.
- It would strengthen tenants' rights to request a pet in the property.

Thank you

Any questions?



Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Review of the implementation of the sewerage review working group recommendations

Date: 18 November 2024

Author: Democratic Services Manager

Purpose

To review the implementation of the sewerage review working group recommendations and make comments as necessary.

Recommendation(s)

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- 1) Notes the report and makes comment on the information provided, as necessary.

1 Background

At the 23 March 2023 Overview and Scrutiny Committee, members considered and agreed the final report and recommendations from the domestic abuse working group. The report and recommendations were presented to Cabinet on 6 July 2023 with a response being received and given at the 4 September 2023 Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

As part of the scrutiny review process, this committee is now receiving an update on the implementation of these recommendations. The implementation report can be found at appendix 1.

3 Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4 Legal implications

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5 Equalities implications

There are no equalities implications arising from this report

6 Carbon reduction/sustainability implications

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

7 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Implementation report on sewerage review working group recommendations

Title of the review: Sewerage review working group

Date review completed: 23 March 2023

Date presented to Cabinet: 6 July 2023

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Viv McCrossen

Chair of the review group: Councillor Liz Clunie

Officer supporting the review: Emma McGinlay

Response received by the Overview Committee (28 days): 4 September 2023

Recommendation 1

The Council raises general awareness of pollution issues

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted Partly accepted Do not accept

Cabinet response:

Pollution is an issue at the forefront of all of our and our resident's minds and we are aware that it needs consistent efforts to try to keep up awareness of it.

We welcome this recommendation and will work with the relevant teams to implement it as best we can.

Implementation comment:

The carbon management action plan, which is due for a refresh imminently, houses actions for the council to reach its carbon goals. There will be a period of public consultation that will help inform the updates - communications around pollution issues will be considered.

Recommendation 2

The Council promotes permeable driveways and surfaces.

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted Partly Accepted Do not accept

Cabinet response:

We understand that permeable driveways and surfaces support great drainage systems and helps to alleviate flooding.

We welcome this recommendation and will implement it as best as we can.

Implementation comment:

Non permeable driveways need planning permission, which is something the council would not usually support.

Information and encouragement to use permeable driveways is included on the planning portal and is also provided by the planning department through the Pre-Application Advice Service.

Recommendation 3

The Council raises awareness on what the public can flush, endorsing existing relevant campaigns

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted Partly Accepted Do not accept

Cabinet response:

With the current climate crisis and pollution issues, we are aware that any tips we can provide to residents about what they can/cannot flush will be useful. We welcome this recommendation and will work with the relevant teams to implement it as best we can.

Implementation comment:

This has not yet been implemented but we plan to endorse existing campaigns as part of the council's communication plan.

Recommendation 4

The council ensures that, where feasible, new developments utilise sustained urban drainage systems

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted Partly Accepted Do not accept

Cabinet response:

Through our current planning policy, we can specify certain conditions for developers when they create new developments – specific types of drainage do not form part of this. We can, however, use our position to influence developers to ensure they utilise sustained urban drainage systems.

We welcome this recommendation and will implement it as best as we can.

Implementation comment:

Decisions on planning applications ensures this is the case for all new major housing and commercial developments. There is full consultation with the Environment Agency, Seven Trent Water, and the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA).

Recommendation 5

The Council 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

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted Partly Accepted Do not accept

Cabinet response:

We currently engage with Severn Trent but welcome the opportunity to better this relationship to ensure that they can provide their expert guidance on drainage sites and issues affecting our new developments.

We welcome this recommendation and look forward to working with Severn Trent.

Implementation comment:

We consult Seven Trent Water on all new major residential and commercial developments. This consultation allows them to influence new development by recommending technical drainage requirements which must be complied with by developers.

Recommendation 6

The Council actively engages with Severn Tent through the established Gedling developers' forum

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted Partly Accepted Do not accept

Cabinet response:

We currently engage with Severn Trent on several issues but welcome the opportunity to better this relationship to ensure that they are kept up to date with developments in the area.

We welcome this recommendation and look forward to working more collaboratively with Severn Trent via the developers' forum.

Implementation comment:

We regularly engage with Severn Trent on major planning decisions and look forward to continuing this relationship to increase collaboration.

Recommendation 7

The Council educates residents on money saving ideas regarding the installation of water flow and drainage devices

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted Partly Accepted Do not accept

Cabinet comment:

With the current cost of living crisis, we are aware that any tips we can provide to residents about money saving will be useful.

We welcome this recommendation and will work with the relevant teams to implement it as best we can.

Implementation comment:

Cabinet have recently (7 November 2024) adopted a supplementary planning document called the "Gedling Borough Council Design Code Framework which requires rainwater harvesting measures for all new residential developments.

We are hopeful this will educate and assists with money saving idea in relation to water flow and draining devices.



Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Scrutiny work programme

Date: 18 November 2024

Author: Democratic Services Manager

Purpose of the Report

To provide an update on the scrutiny work programme.

Recommendation(s)

That the overview and scrutiny committee:

- 1) Discusses the draft work programme and identifies any further areas for examination for the 2024/25 year.

1 Work programme

A draft programme was discussed at the last committee and an updated version has been attached as appendix 1.

As discussed at previous meetings, there will be future examination of the following areas which has been added into the programme:

- partner performance
- update on complaints
- Gedling Plan, performance priorities and projects

The programme of portfolio holder attendance will continue, as will other standing items such as performance, and members are invited to put forward any additional ideas for inclusion in the work programme.

2 Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

3 Legal implications

There are no legal implication arising from this report.

4 Equalities implications

There are no equality implications arising from this report.

5 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability implications

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

6 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft work programme for 24/25 year

Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme 2024/25 - DRAFT

	Programme of portfolio holding to account	Performance review	Reports/items at committee	Current reviews/responses	Suggestions for partner performance reviews
18 Nov 24	None		Section 21 notice update	Update on sewerage review recommendations	Gedling Play Forum (Confirmed)
13 Jan 25	Councillor Kathryn Fox (confirmed)	Risk Management update Q2 24/25	Complaints	Review of fly tipping and litter management across the borough	Jigsaw Homes (Confirmed)
10 Mar 25	Councillor Viv McCrossen (confirmed)	Risk Management update Q3 24/25		Review of public parks	Nottingham City Homes (TBC)
July 2025	Cllr Hollingsworth (Confirmed)				
Rolling Issues			Procurement policy Rural area links – public transport offerings	Review of Gedling Plan and performance priorities/projects Review of effectiveness of hybrid working	

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