

**To Members of the Council**

Cllr. Roy Denney (Chairman)  
Cllr. Janet Forey (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr. Shabbir Aslam  
Cllr. Royston Bayliss  
Cllr. Dr John Bloxham  
Cllr. Lee Breckon JP  
Cllr. Nick Brown  
Cllr. Nick Chapman  
Cllr. Adrian Clifford  
Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore  
Cllr. Stuart Coar  
Cllr. Luke Cousin  
Cllr. Tony Deakin  
Cllr. Alex DeWinter


Cllr. Susan Findlay  
Cllr. Helen Gambardella  
Cllr. Hannah Gill  
Cllr. Nigel Grundy  
Cllr. Paul Hartshorn  
Cllr. Richard Holdridge  
Cllr. Mark Jackson  
Cllr. Becca Lunn  
Cllr. Antony Moseley  
Cllr. Les Phillimore  
Cllr. Terry Richardson  
Cllr. Ande Savage

Cllr. Tracey Shepherd  
Cllr. Dillan Shikotra  
Cllr. Mike Shirley  
Cllr. Roger Stead  
Cllr. Ben Taylor  
Cllr. Matt Tomeo  
Cllr. Bob Waterton  
Cllr. Jane Wolfe  
Cllr. Maggie Wright  
Cllr. Neil Wright

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held in the Council Chamber - Council Offices, Narborough on **TUESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2025** at **5.30 p.m.** for the transaction of the following business and your attendance is requested.

Yours faithfully



**Gemma Dennis**  
**Corporate Services Group Manager and Monitoring Officer**

## **AGENDA**

### **SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION**

To receive apologies for absence, disclosures of interest from Councillors, and Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

1. Apologies for absence
2. Disclosures of Interests from Members

To receive disclosures of interests from Members (i.e. the existence and the nature of those interests in respect of items on this agenda).

3. Minutes (Pages 5 - 28)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held 20 May 2025 and 8 July 2025 (enclosed).

### **SECTION 2 - STANDARD COUNCIL BUSINESS**

To receive announcements from the Chairman and the statement of the Leader of the Council.

Any reports for consideration listed under this section will be moved in one block without discussion, unless any Member present requests otherwise.

4. Chairman's Announcements
5. Leader's Statement (To Follow)

### **SECTION 3 - PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL**

To consider any presentations from Council Officer's or an external body/partner agency.

### **SECTION 4 - QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC & PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS**

To receive questions to Councillors submitted by members of the public and to receive any petitions submitted in accordance with the Council's petitions scheme.

6. Public Speaking Protocol

Requests received by the Protocol deadline to be reported by the Monitoring Officer with details of the Agenda Item to which they relate. (Such persons entitled to use the Protocol attend for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business of the meeting and the time allocated to each person is a maximum of three minutes unless extended at the discretion of the Chairman).

## **SECTION 5 - MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

To receive any questions submitted by Councillors.

### **7. Questions from Members**

Any Members wishing to submit questions must do so to the Monitoring Officer no later than 5 working days before the meeting.

The Monitoring Officer will report if any questions have been submitted.

## **SECTION 6 - REPORTS FOR DECISIONS**

To consider any reports submitted for consideration by Council.

### **8. Quarter 1 Capital Programme Review 2025/26 (Pages 29 - 38)**

To consider the report of the Accountancy Services Manager (enclosed).

### **9. Depot Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (Pages 39 - 44)**

To consider the report of the Neighbourhood Services Group Manager (enclosed).

### **10. Public Spaces Protection Order - Dogs Renewal (Pages 45 - 52)**

To consider the report of the Licensing Team Leader (enclosed).

## **SECTION 7 - MOTIONS/ DEBATES/CONSULTATIONS & MEMBERS' FEEDBACK**

To consider Motions submitted by Councillors, take part in a debate or receive Member feedback from attendance at national briefings, key training initiatives or work on any Outside Bodies.

## **SECTION 8 - EXEMPT REPORTS**

To receive any reports submitted which require consideration under exempt status.

### **11. Exclusion of Press and Public**

To consider passing the following resolution:

“That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that the item involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

#### **Exemption Category: 3**

**Reason for Exemption:** The minutes contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

**Public Interest Test:** The public interest test has been considered and, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption is considered to outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information.”

12. Approval of Restricted Minutes - Council Meeting 20 May 2025 (Pages 53 - 56)

## **COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Narborough

**TUESDAY, 20 MAY 2025**

### **Present:-**

Cllr. Nick Chapman (Chairman)  
Cllr. Janet Forey (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr. Shabbir Aslam	Cllr. Alex DeWinter	Cllr. Terry Richardson
Cllr. Royston Bayliss	Cllr. Susan Findlay	Cllr. Ande Savage
Cllr. Dr John Bloxham	Cllr. Helen Gambardella	Cllr. Tracey Shepherd
Cllr. Lee Breckon JP	Cllr. Hannah Gill	Cllr. Dillan Shikotra
Cllr. Nick Brown	Cllr. Nigel Grundy	Cllr. Mike Shirley
Cllr. Adrian Clifford	Cllr. Paul Hartshorn	Cllr. Roger Stead
Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore	Cllr. Richard Holdridge	Cllr. Ben Taylor
Cllr. Stuart Coar	Cllr. Mark Jackson	Cllr. Matt Tomeo
Cllr. Luke Cousin	Cllr. Becca Lunn	Cllr. Bob Waterton
Cllr. Tony Deakin	Cllr. Antony Moseley	Cllr. Maggie Wright
Cllr. Roy Denney	Cllr. Les Phillimore	Cllr. Neil Wright

### **Officers present:-**

Julia Smith	- Chief Executive
Sarah Pennelli	- Executive Director - S.151 Officer
Marc Greenwood	- Executive Director - Place
Louisa Horton	- Executive Director - Communities
Gemma Dennis	- Corporate Services Group Manager
Katie Brooman	- Elections and Governance Manager
Sandeep Tiensa	- Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer
Avisa Birchenough	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer
Nicole Cramp	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer

### **Honorary Alderman in attendance:-**

Iain Hewson

### **Apologies:-**

Cllr. Jane Wolfe

**309. MINUTES SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF DARREN HILL**

The Chair, Cllr. Nick Chapman invited Members and Officers to hold a minute silence for Darren Hill.

Darren Hill, a former cherished Member of the Refuse & Recycling service, who served the Council with dedication for 20 years, sadly passed away on 17 May 2025.

**310. WELCOME TO COUNCILLOR. DR. JOHN BLOXHAM**

The Chair, Cllr. Nick Chapman welcomed Councillor Dr. John Bloxham to his first Council meeting since being elected to the Glen Parva Ward at the by-election held on 1 May 2025.

**311. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS**

No disclosures were received.

**312. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on 8 April 2024, as circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

**313. PUBLIC SPEAKING PROTOCOL**

No requests were received.

**314. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

No questions were received.

**315. PRESENTATION: UK SPF 2022-2025 ACHIEVEMENTS AND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS**

Members received a presentation from the Executive Director – Place.

The presentation covered the following points:

- A breakdown of the 40 projects delivered successfully
- How residents will benefit from projects
- Net Zero achievements
- Blaby District Council “in house” temporary accommodation provision
- Next steps

**316. PLANNING SERVICE SPECIAL MEASURES RISK NOTIFICATION**

Considered - Report of the Executive Director - Place, presented by Cllr. Ben Taylor – Planning, Transformation and ICT Portfolio Holder.

**DECISION**

That the report be noted.

Reason:

No decisions are required.

**317. TRANSFER OF NARBOROUGH PARK**

Considered - Report of the Executive Director - Place, presented by Cllr. Nigel Grundy– Neighbourhood Services & Assets Portfolio Holder.

*Cllr. Royston Bayliss arrived at the meeting during consideration of this item.*

*Cllr. Stuart Coar left the meeting during consideration of this item.*

**DECISIONS**

1. That the disposal of Narborough Park to Narborough Parish Council be approved.
2. That delegated authority be given to the Executive Director (S151) in consultation with the Neighbourhood Services and Assets Portfolio holder and Finance, People and Performance Portfolio holder to agree terms and finalise the disposals of the land assets detailed in 2.1 of the report.

Reasons:

1. Transfer of land is a recommendation within the Parks & Open Spaces Strategy 2024-2034.
2. The recommendation seeks to transfer open space to the Parish Council where there is no potential for development of the land and in so doing reduce maintenance costs and liability to the Council.

**318. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS 2025-2029**

Considered - Report of the Elections & Governance Manager, presented by

Cllr. Terry Richardson – Leader of the Council.

*Cllr. Stuart Coar returned to the meeting before this item was considered.*

#### **DECISION**

That the Independent Persons be appointed for a term of office of four years until Annual Council in May 2029 to perform the roles set out in section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011.

Reason:

Section 7 of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to appoint at least one Independent Person to assist in maintaining and promoting the high standards of conduct amongst elected and co-opted members.

### **319. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Considered – A proposed resolution to exclude the public from the meeting.

Following consideration of this item the Chair, Cllr. Nick Chapman announced that the livestream would pause to allow the exempt items to be considered in closed session.

#### **DECISION**

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that the item involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

**Agenda Item 11: Proposal for the Council to Invest in additional Housing to Provide Temporary Accommodation and Increase our Affordable Housing Provision.**

Exemption Category: 3

Reason for Exemption:

The report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Public Interest Test: The public interest test has been considered and, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption is considered to outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information.



**320. PROPOSAL FOR THE COUNCIL TO INVEST IN ADDITIONAL HOUSING TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION AND INCREASE OUR AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROVISION**

Considered - Report of the Executive Director (Section 151 Officer)  
presented by Cllr. Terry Richardson – Leader of the Council.

The Decision is Restricted in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6.08 P.M.**

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## **COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Narborough

**TUESDAY, 20 MAY 2025**

### **Present:-**

Cllr. Nick Chapman (Chairman)  
Cllr. Janet Forey (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr. Shabbir Aslam	Cllr. Alex DeWinter	Cllr. Terry Richardson
Cllr. Royston Bayliss	Cllr. Susan Findlay	Cllr. Ande Savage
Cllr. Dr John Bloxham	Cllr. Helen Gambardella	Cllr. Tracey Shepherd
Cllr. Lee Breckon JP	Cllr. Hannah Gill	Cllr. Dillan Shikotra
Cllr. Nick Brown	Cllr. Nigel Grundy	Cllr. Mike Shirley
Cllr. Adrian Clifford	Cllr. Paul Hartshorn	Cllr. Roger Stead
Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore	Cllr. Richard Holdridge	Cllr. Ben Taylor
Cllr. Stuart Coar	Cllr. Mark Jackson	Cllr. Matt Tomeo
Cllr. Luke Cousin	Cllr. Becca Lunn	Cllr. Bob Waterton
Cllr. Tony Deakin	Cllr. Antony Moseley	Cllr. Maggie Wright
Cllr. Roy Denney	Cllr. Les Phillimore	Cllr. Neil Wright

### **Officers present:-**

Julia Smith	- Chief Executive
Sarah Pennelli	- Executive Director - S.151 Officer
Marc Greenwood	- Executive Director - Place
Louisa Horton	- Executive Director - Communities
Gemma Dennis	- Corporate Services Group Manager
Katie Brooman	- Elections and Governance Manager
Sandeep Tiensa	- Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer
Nicole Cramp	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer
Avisa Birchenough	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer

### **Honorary Alderman in attendance:-**

Iain Hewson

### **Apologies:-**

Cllr. Jane Wolfe

**1. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS**

No disclosures were received.

**2. LEADERS ANNUAL STATEMENT 2024-2025**

Cllr. Terry Richardson, Leader of the Council, presented his Statement.

The Leader, Cllr. Terry Richardson talked about his service to Blaby District Council and what a privilege it has been to be Leader. Some of his memorable events including the success of the Community Awards and what a humbling and unique experience it was being Leader during the Covid period. The Leader thanked the Chief Executive and Officers he has worked with over the years, and the unwavering support from his wife, Louise. The Leader went on to thank Cllr. Maggie Wright, who had served as Deputy Leader from 2015 – 2025, acknowledging their shared journey serving the community together.

Honorary Alderman Iain Hewson thanked Cllr. Richardson for all the support given over the years.

The Chief Executive, Julia Smith thanked the Leader on behalf of Officers and acknowledged his service to the Community and looks forward to working with Cllr. Richardson in his role of Councillor. The Chief Executive also thanked Cllr. Maggie Wright for her work as Portfolio Holder and Deputy Leader and her support towards Officers.

Cllr. Nick Brown expressed appreciation of the work the Leader has carried out for the Council and Community. Cllr. Luke Cousin echoed Cllr. Brown's sentiments. Cllr. Tony Deakin expressed his appreciation for the leadership Cllr. Terry Richardson has provided.

Cllr. Maggie Wright spoke about her memories and achievements, starting with Cllr. Richardson's first Leaders Statement from 2016 and how proud she was working as Deputy Leader with Cllr. Richardson. Cllr. Maggie Wright also thanked all Members, Senior Leadership Team, and Officers for support provided. Cllr. Maggie Wright thanked the Executive Director (S151) for her patience, guidance and partnership over the years.

Cllr. Tracey Shepherd thanked the Leader and Deputy Leader for being able to "agree to disagree" whilst working with them both and the kindness both have expressed towards her.

The Leader thanked everyone for their kind words.

**3. SCRUTINY STATEMENT TO ANNUAL COUNCIL 2024-25**

The Scrutiny Commission Chairman, Cllr. Nick Brown presented the Scrutiny Statement.

The Scrutiny Commission Chairman thanked all Members and Officers for their work producing the reports for Cabinet and Council.

*Cllr. Stuart Coar left the meeting and returned during consideration of the item.*

**4. AUDIT & CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25**

The Audit & Corporate Governance Committee Chairman, Cllr. Mike Shirley presented the Annual Report.

Cllr. Shirley thanked the previous and current Finance Group Mangers for a smooth transition, the Independent Member and Officers for work at Committee, and Cllr. Mark Jackson the previous Committee Chairman.

**5. ELECTION OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

*Cllr. Shabbir Aslam left the meeting after casting his vote, and returned before the next item on the agenda.*

A request for a recorded vote by Cllr. Maggie Wright was made and supported by the required number of Members in accordance with Part 4, Section 1, Paragraph 17.5 of the Councils Constitution. Voting on the report was taken as follows:

For	Against	Abstain
Cllr. Shabbir Aslam		
	Cllr. Royston Bayliss	
Cllr. Lee Breckon		
	Cllr. Dr John Bloxham	
Cllr. Nick Brown		
Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore		
Cllr. Nick Chapman		
Cllr. Adrian Clifford		
Cllr. Stuart Coar		
	Cllr. Luke Cousin	
Cllr. Tony Deakin		
Cllr. Roy Denney		
		Cllr. Alex DeWinter

Cllr. Susan Findlay		
Cllr. Janet Forey		
	Cllr. Helen Gambardella	
	Cllr. Hannah Gill	
Cllr. Nigel Grundy		
	Cllr. Paul Hartshorn	
	Cllr. Richard Holdridge	
Cllr. Mark Jackson		
		Cllr. Rebecca Lunn
	Cllr. Anthony Moseley	
Cllr. Les Phillimore		
Cllr. Terry Richardson		
	Cllr. Ande Savage	
	Cllr. Tracey Shepherd	
Cllr. Dillan Shikotra		
Cllr. Mike Shirley		
Cllr. Roger Stead		
Cllr. Ben Taylor		
Cllr. Matt Tomeo		
	Cllr. Bob Waterton	
Cllr. Neil Wright		
	Cllr. Maggie Wright	

The Chairman, Cllr. Nick Chapman declared that Cllr. Ben Taylor was elected.

### **DECISION**

That Cllr. Ben Taylor be elected Leader of the Council until the first Annual Council Meeting following the 2027 District Election.

Reason:

It is a Constitutional requirement to elect the position of the Leader.

## **6. OUTGOING CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman, Cllr. Nick Chapman made announcements in respect of several memorable recent events:

- 12<sup>th</sup> April attended a Charnwood Borough Council Civic event raising funds for the Great Central Railway in Loughborough.
- 25<sup>th</sup> April Charity Night at the Royal British Legion in Oadby, raising funds for the Wishes for Kids Charity.

- 7<sup>th</sup> May, a true highlight and honour of attending the King's Garden Party and managed to catch a glimpse of His Majesty the King, Queen, the Princess Royal and the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh.
- 8<sup>th</sup> May taking part in a moving Remembrance Service at Leicester Cathedral for 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day, and that evening joining the community in Glenfield for the lighting of their beacon and light of peace in addition to the privilege of reading the official tribute and joining in the hymn "I vowed to thee my country".
- 10<sup>th</sup> May, returned to Glenfield for their VE Day Big Lunch, attended by over 600 people. I was honoured to open the occasion with Lieutenant Colonel Sir Charles Richards, the Deputy Lieutenant of Leicestershire.
- 17<sup>th</sup> May was my last event as Chairman. This was with the Girl Guides at the Outdoor Pursuit Centre. The highlight of that day was a civic archery competition which I am proud to say was won by Blaby.

The Chairman thanked everyone who has supported him in raising £2300 for the Air Ambulance Service.

Cllr. Ben Taylor thanked the outgoing Chairman for his work towards the fundraising of the charity and district.

## 7. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The outgoing Chairman Nick Chapman invited nominations for the election of Chairman of Blaby District Council for the ensuing year.

As 2 nominations were received, the Chairman took the vote by a show of hands.

Cllr. Roy Denney was duly elected.

*Cllr. Stuart Coar left the meeting and returned during consideration of the item.*

### **DECISION**

That Cllr. Roy Denney be elected Chairman of Blaby District Council, until the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held in 2026.

## 8. **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Cllr. Roy Denney read out the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked Members for the privilege and honour of being elected Chairman.

Members congratulated Cllr. Roy Denney on being elected Chairman of the Council.

**9. INVESTITURE OF CHAIRMAN WITH CHAIN OF OFFICE**

Cllr. Roy Denney was invested with the Chain of Office for the Chairman of the Council.

**10. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The new Chairman thanked all Members for electing him.

The new Chairman announced that his nominated Charity would be LOROS, and that his consort would be his wife, Doreen Denney.

**11. PRESENTATION OF PAST CHAIRMAN'S BADGE TO OUTGOING CHAIRMAN**

Cllr. Roy Denney presented Cllr. Nick Chapman with the Past Chairman's Badge and on behalf of the Council thanked him for his successful years in Office.

Cllr. Nick Chapman thanked his consort Bev for being by his side, and a special acknowledgment for Nicky Brown (Senior PA) for organising his diary and keeping a track of engagements and supporting him over the past 12 months.

**12. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

The Chair of the Council invited nominations for the Vice- Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

Cllr. Janet Forey was duly nominated.

**DECISION**

That Cllr. Janet Forey be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Council for the 2025 - 2026 Municipal Year.

**13. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Cllr. Janet Forey read out the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and thanked Members for being re-elected as Vice-Chairman of the Council.



*Cllr. Stuart Coar left the meeting during consideration of this item and did not return.*

**14. CHANGE IN ORDER OF AGENDA ITEM**

Under Part 4, Section 1, Paragraph 13 of the Council's Constitution, the Chairman, Cllr. Roy Denney, moved that Agenda Item 14, Appointments of Chairman and Vice – Chairman be considered before Item 13.

**15. APPOINTMENTS OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN TO COMMITTEES 2025-26**

Considered – Report of the Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer.

As 2 nominations had been received for the role of Chairman of Scrutiny Commission, the Chairman took the vote by a show of hands.

Cllr. Nick Brown was duly elected.

As 3 nominations had been received for the role of Vice-Chairman of Scrutiny Commission, the Chairman took the vote by a show of hands.

Cllr. Neil Wright was duly elected.

**DECISIONS**

1. That Council appoint the Chair and Vice-Chair of Committees for the municipal year 2025/2026 as detailed at Appendix A of the report.
2. That Cllr. Nick Brown be elected as Chairman of Scrutiny Commission for the municipal year 2025/26.
3. That Cllr. Neil Wright be elected as Vice-Chairman of Scrutiny Commission for the municipal year 2025/26.

Reason:

It is appropriate to give effect to the wishes of the political groups.

**16. DELEGATION SCHEME OF CABINET EXECUTIVE 2025-26**

Considered – Report of the Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer.

The Chairman proposed the remaining reports listed under Section 2 of the agenda, including the supplemental reports received, to be moved without

debate unless any Members requested otherwise.

Cllr. Luke Cousin requested all remaining items be voted upon individually.  
The Chairman accepted the request.

#### **DECISIONS**

1. That the report of the Leader of the Council be accepted.
2. That the Constitution be amended accordingly with the updated roles and responsibilities of Cabinet Executive Members and Senior Leadership Team.

Reason:

It is appropriate to receive the report of the Leader of the Council and the appointment of Members to the Cabinet Executive.

#### **17. APPOINTMENTS OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2025-26**

Considered – Report of the Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer.

#### **DECISIONS**

1. That the preferences and changes to appointments to Outside Bodies be approved.
2. That unless otherwise stated all appointments continue until the Annual Council Meeting in 2026.
3. That all appointments be endorsed as approved duties for the payment of expenses.
4. That the Constitution be updated accordingly.

Reason:

It is appropriate to give effect to the wishes of the political groups.

#### **18. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES 2025-26**

Considered – Report of the Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer.

### **DECISION**

1. That effect be given to the wishes of the political groups as to the allocation of seats
2. That the distribution of seats as set out at Appendix 2 of the report be endorsed with immediate effect for all Committees

Reason:

It is appropriate to give effect to the wishes of the political groups and ensure compliance with the Local Government & Housing Act 1989, Section 15 – 17 inclusive.

### **19. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2025-26**

Considered – Report of the Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer.

### **DECISION**

That the Schedule of Meetings for 2025-2026 be approved.

Reason:

It is a Constitutional requirement for Council to approve the Schedule of Meetings.

### **20. PUBLIC SPEAKING PROTOCOL**

No requests were received.

### **21. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

No questions were received.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 7.42 P.M.**

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## **COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Narborough

**TUESDAY, 8 JULY 2025**

### **Present:-**

Cllr. Roy Denney (Chairman)  
Cllr. Janet Forey (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr. Shabbir Aslam	Cllr. Susan Findlay	Cllr. Ande Savage
Cllr. Lee Breckon JP	Cllr. Helen Gambardella	Cllr. Tracey Shepherd
Cllr. Nick Brown	Cllr. Nigel Grundy	Cllr. Dillan Shikotra
Cllr. Nick Chapman	Cllr. Paul Hartshorn	Cllr. Mike Shirley
Cllr. Adrian Clifford	Cllr. Richard Holdridge	Cllr. Roger Stead
Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore	Cllr. Mark Jackson	Cllr. Ben Taylor
Cllr. Luke Cousin	Cllr. Becca Lunn	Cllr. Jane Wolfe
Cllr. Tony Deakin	Cllr. Les Phillimore	Cllr. Maggie Wright
Cllr. Alex DeWinter	Cllr. Terry Richardson	Cllr. Neil Wright

### **Officers present:-**

Julia Smith	- Chief Executive
Sarah Pennelli	- Executive Director - S.151 Officer
Marc Greenwood	- Executive Director - Place
Katie Hollis	- Finance Group Manager
Gemma Dennis	- Corporate Services Group Manager
Ian Jones	- Housing Services Manager
John Crane	- Housing Strategy Team Leader
Sandeep Tiensa	- Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer
Nicole Cramp	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer
Avisa Birchenough	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer

### **Apologies:-**

Cllr. Royston Bayliss, Cllr. Dr John Bloxham, Cllr. Stuart Coar, Cllr. Hannah Gill,  
Cllr. Antony Moseley, Cllr. Matt Tomeo and Cllr. Bob Waterton

### **51. MINUTES SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF TREVOR MATTHEWS**

The Chair, Cllr. Roy Denney invited Members and Officers to hold a minute silence for Trevor Matthews.

Trevor Matthews, a former Conservative District Councillor, who served the Narborough and Littlethorpe Ward from 2015 – 2023 sadly passed away on 29 June 2025.

**52. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS**

No disclosures were received.

**53. MINUTES**

The Chairman announced that the minutes from the meetings held on 20 May 2025 will be considered at the next Council meeting.

**54. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair, Cllr. Roy Denney made announcements in respect of the following events he attended:

- Fundraising concert at De Montfort Hall in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund.
- Meet and Greet event alongside the Chairman of Leicestershire County Council and Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire
- Blaby Tourism Summit at Stanton Lakes
- Armed Forces Coffee Morning with local Veterans at the Blaby District Council Offices
- Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Nature Recovery Strategy meeting
- Retirement presentation of Ian Davies, Development Services Team Leader

The Chairman invited Members to the following upcoming events:

- VJ Day Event being held at Blaby District Council Offices on 15 August 2025
- Chairman at Home Event, featuring a Jazz Band to raise funds for LOROS on 19 September 2025
- Civic Carol Service being held at St Peters Church in Glenfield on 11 December 2025

**55. LEADER'S STATEMENT**

The Leader, Cllr. Ben Taylor presented his statement in respect of the following:

- Local Government Reorganisation
- Tourism takes centre stage for student placements
- Job and Skills Fair
- Send off for Daz
- Members Advisory Group
- Air Quality Improves
- Flag raising ceremony
- In-house ICT transition
- A Place to Grow open day

**56. PUBLIC SPEAKING PROTOCOL**

No requests were received.

**57. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

**58. QUESTION UNDER COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE**

Question to Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore (Finance, People & Transformation Portfolio Holder and Deputy Leader) from Cllr. Paul Hartshorn.

“Can the relevant Portfolio Holder confirm whether Blaby District Council is actively exploring the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve service delivery, efficiency or internal operations, and if so, what areas are currently being considered or trialled?”

Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore responded:

“The Council is exploring the use of AI to improve our internal operations and service delivery. AI presents a significant opportunity to improve efficiency and modernise operations. When used responsibly, AI can help us reduce costs, and deliver more responsive, accessible and consistent services. Before introducing AI, it is vital that we use it responsibly and that appropriate governance is in place. Currently our Officers are drafting an AI Policy and Procedure.”

**59. QUESTION UNDER COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE**

Question to Cllr. Mike Shirley – Planning, Transformation and ICT Portfolio Holder, from Cllr. Maggie Wright.

“I was pleased to read an article in the July 2025 addition of the Local Government Association magazine, “first” that the Government will impose powers on developers to reclaim sites if they are not built and delivered within specific timeframes. The article goes on to say that Housebuilders will have to commit to delivery timeframes before they get planning permission and must submit annual reports to councils showing their progress, this is under new rules to ensure homes with planning permission are built out.

As a Ward Councillor I am concerned that because Blaby District Council no longer has a five-year land supply and the “Tilted Balance” is being applied when determining planning applications. Developers are taking advantage of this situation leading to excessive growth numbers sitting in the planning system and continually being added to. The cumulative impact of adding the housing numbers from the new Local Plan could potentially mean our villages and district will be saturated by development because of these legacy numbers. Houses are not being built but applications are still being approved.

My question(s) to the portfolio holder is how many houses have been approved within the last 3 years and are sitting in the system but not built?”

Cllr. Mike Shirley responded:

“I thank Cllr Wright for her question, and I can advise that the number of dwellings that Blaby District Council have permitted on sites over ten dwellings (large sites) between April 2021-March 2024 is 828. During this same period 1061 houses were completed. This includes planning permissions granted before 2021. April 2024 to March 2025 figures will be available in the coming weeks. For context these are the dwellings which have received either a Full planning permission or a Reserved Matters approval and therefore can legally commence on site.”

Cllr. Maggie Wright asked the following question:

“The average build time for a typical house in Blaby is between 8-12 months and this follows the England average. As Cllr Wright will appreciate there is a period of time from receiving planning permission to a developer starting on site. Will these be added to the number expected to be delivered by the Local Plan or will they be accounted for?”

Cllr. Mike Shirley responded:



“These dwellings will count towards the relevant time period in the emerging Local Plan and are therefore already be accounted for.”

Cllr. Maggie Wright asked the following question:

“What is your strategy to deal with this situation?”

Cllr. Mike Shirley responded:

“There are several factors that contribute to the length of time sites take to be delivered. These include whether sites are developed by a land agent, or an actual house builder, as well considerations regarding preparatory work a developer needs to undertake ahead of commencement on site.

At present the Council, like all Local Planning Authorities, has limited power to ensure that developers commence or complete a development site. The exception being where we instruct a shortening of the development commencement period. This is an action we have taken on several sites such as Foston Road, Countesthorpe, and will continue to do so where we believe it necessary.

However as Cllr Wright has observed in her question, the Government has proposals included in the forthcoming Planning and Infrastructure Bill which will provide Local Planning Authorities with additional powers to influence developers to build, once permission is granted.”

## **60. MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT 2026**

Considered - Report of the Customer Insight, Experience and Engagement Service Manager, presented by Cllr. Ben Taylor – Leader of the Council.

### **DECISION**

That the Modern Slavery Statement set out at Appendix A of the report be adopted by Blaby District Council.

Reasons:

1. It is a requirement of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 that organisations with a turnover of £36m or more publish a statement on their approach to ensuring that there is no modern slavery in their own business and their supply chains. Although Blaby District Council is under no legal obligation to publish a statement, the Local Government Association is encouraging all local authorities to produce an annual statement ensuring transparency in their approach to modern slavery and human trafficking.

2. The Modern Slavery Act also includes a number of provisions for local authorities. Section 52 of the Act places a duty to identify and report potential victims through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). Depending on the age and needs of victims of modern slavery, councils may also have statutory responsibilities to provide support to them.
3. Relevant policies should reflect the councils agreed approach to tackling modern slavery and human trafficking to ensure that this statement is successfully delivered.

**61. TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2024/25**

Considered - Report of the Finance Group Manager, presented by Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore – Finance, People and Performance Portfolio Holder and Deputy Leader.

**DECISIONS**

1. That the treasury management activities for 2024/2025 be approved.
2. That the prudential and treasury indicators for 2024/25 be approved.

Reasons:

1. The regulatory framework governing treasury management activities includes a requirement that the Council should produce an annual review of treasury activities undertaken in the preceding financial year. It must also report the performance against the approved prudential indicators for the year.
2. This report fulfils the requirement above and incorporates the needs of the Prudential Code to ensure adequate monitoring of capital expenditure plans and the Council's prudential indicators. The treasury strategy and prudential indicators for 2024/25 were contained in the report approved by Council on 27th February 2024.

**62. AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONTRIBUTIONS**

Considered - Report of the Housing Services Manager, presented by Cllr. Les Phillimore – Housing, Community Safety and Environmental Services Portfolio Holder.

**DECISION**

That an allocation of £148,381 towards a proposed 21 unit all affordable housing scheme be approved.

Reasons:

1. To ensure that funds previously allocated for affordable housing and commuted sums paid in lieu of affordable housing are utilised in the most appropriate and efficient way.
2. To ensure that the above funds are used to enable the delivery of affordable housing.

**63. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Chairman withdrew this item to allow the restricted minutes to be considered at the next meeting.

**64. APPROVAL OF RESTRICTED MINUTES - 20 MAY 2025**

The Chairman announced that the restricted minutes from the meetings held on 20 May 2025 will be considered at the next Council meeting.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6.25 P.M.**

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## Blaby District Council Council

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	16 September 2025
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Recommendations of the Cabinet Executive - Quarter 1 Capital Programme Review 2025/26</b> This is not a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan
<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore – Finance, People &amp; Performance</b>
<b>Report Author</b>	Accountancy Services Manager
<b>Strategic Themes</b>	All Themes: Enabling communities and supporting vulnerable residents; Enhancing and maintaining our natural and built environment; Growing and supporting our economy; Keeping you safe and healthy; Ambitious and well managed Council, valuing our people

### 1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 This report provides Members an update on expenditure against the Capital Programme for the first quarter of 2025/26.

### 2. Recommendation(s) to Council

- 2.1 That the report is accepted.
- 2.2 That the latest Capital Programme for 2025/26, totalling £7,438,038, is accepted.

### 3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 To ensure that the Council has adequate resources in place to meet its capital expenditure commitments.
- 3.2 To reflect additions or other changes to the Capital Programme since it was approved by Council on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025, including the carry forward of unspent budget from 2024/25.

#### 4. Matters to consider

##### 4.1 Background

The original Capital Programme for 2025/26 was approved by Council on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and totalled £1,422,512, including a borrowing requirement of £680,012.

After allowing for unspent budget carried forward from 2024/25 and other movements, the Capital Programme now stands at £7,438,038. The movements between the original value and the latest value are shown in the following table, Appendix A gives a scheme-by-scheme breakdown of the planned expenditure for 2025/26.

	£
Original Capital Programme – approved February 2025	1,422,512
<u>New Additions</u>	
1. Incomplete schemes brought forward from 2024/25	5,884,382
2. ICT Infrastructure Improvements	75,000
3. Installation of PV Panels at Enderby Leisure Centre	70,000
4. Affordable Housing - Grove Rd	57,835
5. Open Space at rear of Huncote Leisure Centre	50,000
6. Food Waste Vehicles and Receptacles	30,000
7. ICT: Development and Refresh	25,000
8. Section 106 backed schemes	9,098
9. Capital Grants Programme	616
<u>Reductions</u>	
10. Replacement CRM/Granicus solutions	(186,405)
<b>Revised Capital Programme 2025/26</b>	<b>7,438,038</b>

The reasons behind the additions and reductions highlighted in the table above are as follows:

##### New Additions

1. Reflects schemes that were not finalised at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. Budget provision, along with associated resources, was carried over into the new financial year to allow for the projects be completed. This includes:
  - £970k for the purchase of new food waste vehicles and caddies in preparation for the rollout of weekly food waste collections from March 2026.
  - £805k for the Council's fleet vehicle replacement programme. Orders have been placed for three new refuse collection vehicles and are due to be delivered in 25/26.

- £683k for strategic property investment which is subject to the identification of appropriate opportunities.
  - £591k provision for the installation of electric vehicle infrastructure at the Council Depot, with works due to commence when plans are finalised.
2. ICT Infrastructure Improvements – This is part of the Council’s ongoing commitment to transitioning IT services in-house. The 2025/26 additional budget was approved by Council on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024.
  3. Installation of PV Panels at Enderby Leisure Centre – In the 2024/25 Q2 Capital Programme Review presented to Council on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024 the report detailed the external grant funding being removed due to unfavourable grant conditions. In the 2024/25 Q3 Capital Programme Review presented to Council on 25<sup>th</sup> February highlighted that UKSPF funds were used towards the project in 2024/25. To successfully meet the original scope of the project an additional £70k is being added back to the project which is to be financed by the Council.
  4. Affordable Housing - Grove Rd – This decision was approved by Council on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024 to support the Norton Housing Mental Health scheme in Blaby.
  5. Open Space at rear of Huncote Leisure Centre – Repurposing of land at the former Huncote BMX track as public open space funded by general reserves. This decision was approved by Council on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024.
  6. Food Waste Vehicles and Receptacles – Increase parking capacity at Whetstone Depot to accommodate the new food waste vehicles. This budget addition is to be funded by prudential borrowing.
  7. ICT: Development and Refresh – see note 2.
  8. Section 106 – Monies received are only released and added to the Capital Programme as and when suitable schemes are identified by the Planning Obligations Monitoring Group, following receipt of bids from Parish Councils or other community groups.
  9. Capital Grants Programme – Repayment of unused grant that has been returned by the grant recipient.
  10. Replacement CRM/Granicus solutions – Due to the proposed local government reorganisation it been decided that a new CRM would not be required at this time.
- 4.2 At the end of June 2025, the Council had spent £385,182 against its planned Capital Programme.

The reasons behind the main variances are as follows:

- Fleet Vehicle Replacement Programme - £1,109,047 planned spend not yet utilised. The majority of budget is allocated for three new waste collection vehicles. One of the vehicles was delivered in July 2025 and the other two are due to be delivered later in the year.
- Food Waste Vehicles and Receptacles - £1,000,000 planned spend not yet utilised: The vehicles, which will use Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) have been ordered, of which two are the being delivered imminently while the remaining vehicles will be delivered in 2026 due to high demand. Vehicles not received by March 2026 will be leased in the short-term to meet service needs. This report seeks to approve additional capital budget for the new layout of the depot to accommodate the food waste vehicles.
- Disabled Facilities Grants - £895,327 planned spend not yet utilised: DFG allocation has been increased by central government over recent years. Lightbulb have seen a permanent rise in the complexity of cases coming through due to an increase in residents' health complications. We have also experienced an increase in child cases where the needs can be complex resulting in cases taking longer to complete. Lightbulb is currently going through a service review and streamlining ways of working which will increase the number of DFG's completed throughout the year.
- Strategic Regeneration Property Investment - £682,056 planned spend not yet utilised: Due to the high demand of homelessness accommodation in the District the Council is investigating a larger portfolio of property purchases in which unspent budget on this project will contribute towards.
- Net Zero at the Depot - £591,000 planned spend not yet utilised: The project is progressing after a pause while the installation of solar panels at the depot was being completed. We are awaiting designs and tendered costs from the consultants/specialists for the electric vehicle infrastructure at the depot. Any difference in costs will be taken to Council in a separate report. Once this is complete a timeframe can be determined.
- Strategic Review: Land Rear Of Enderby Leisure Centre - £364,398 planned spend not yet utilised: Consultants are engaging with the Council's Local Plan team; providing information for the site to be assessed for inclusion in the new Local Plan.
- IT Infrastructure Improvements - £323,927 planned spend not yet utilised: The majority of capital spend has been expedited leading up to the launch of in-house IT services on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025. There will be additional expenditure on IT infrastructure in the next few months.



- Section 106-backed Schemes - £268,975 planned spend not yet utilised: The Planning Obligation Monitoring Group approved a large S106 project at Trinity Road Park and Warwick Road Recreation Ground (Whetstone) in March 2025 which is currently being undertaken.
- Strategic Asset Review - £223,858 planned spend not yet utilised: Following the Local Government Reorganisation planned, priorities have been reviewed and work on this project has been paused.
- Income Management System – £163,211 planned spend not yet utilised: The new system is live; we are awaiting final billing for the completed project. Once final costs have been determined it is thought there will be a saving on budget to be returned to the Council.
- EV Charging Hub at Enderby Leisure Centre - £147,200 planned spend not yet utilised: The tender process for 12 electric vehicle charging points has completed and contract awarded. The installer has carried out the first site visit and final drawings and designs are being produced. It is anticipated that works will complete by the end of the year.
- Walk & Ride, Blaby - £140,000 planned spend not yet utilised: The new walk and cycle route in the district will be complete by March 2026. Leicester City Council are leading this project along with Leicestershire County Council. The budget allocated in the capital programme is contingency for any unforeseen costs to Blaby District Council. Once the project is complete any savings will be determined and returned to the Council.
- Finance System Upgrade - £127,320 planned spend not yet utilised: The project will commence later in the year when it's anticipated that resources will be available.
- Replacement of gym equipment at Enderby Leisure Centre - £125,292 planned spend not yet utilised: The condition of existing gym equipment is being evaluated and suitable replacements sourced. It's forecast that the new gym equipment will be purchased by the end of October 2025.
- End User Device Replacement - £110,648 planned spend not yet utilised: Phase one of IT devices rollout has been completed with phase two to be rolled out during 2025/26.
- Installation of PV Panels at Enderby Leisure Centre – £109,260 planned spend not yet utilised: Installation is on track for completion by September 2025. Grid connection will be finalised following the National Grid inspection. The energy generated will be sold to the leisure centre's operator (SLM), creating a revenue stream for the council alongside significant carbon savings.

#### 4.3 Significant Issues

In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities and there are no areas of concern.

#### 5. Environmental impact

5.1 In preparing this report the author has considered the impact on the environment and there are no areas of concern.

#### 6. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

6.1 Details are set out in the preceding paragraphs.

#### 7. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

7.1

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
Net expenditure may exceed the approved budget due to a shortfall in income or overspending.	Ongoing budget monitoring to highlight variances at an early stage.
Rising inflation costs may cause project costs to exceed the approved budgets.	Regular monitoring of the project costs by the project managers together with support from Finance to address any concerns at an early stage. Any price rise that cannot be accommodated within normal tolerances will be reported back to Council before proceeding with the planned works. The overall affordability of the Capital Programme will be considered in terms of its impact on the Revenue Budget and projects will be deferred or removed from the programme as necessary

#### 8. Other options considered

8.1 None.

**9. Appendix**

9.1 Appendix A – Capital Monitoring Statement to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**10. Background paper(s)**

10.1 None.

**11. Report author's contact details**

Jo Davis

Accountancy Services Manager

Joanne.davis@blaby.gov.uk

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	Approved Capital Programme 2025/26 £	Budgets Brought Forward from 2024/25 £	Virements / Additions etc within the year £	Project completed Saving realised £	Latest Capital Programme 2025/26 £	Capital Expenditure to 30th June 2025 £	Variance as at 30th June 2025 £
<b><u>Invest to Save Schemes</u></b>							
Regeneration Property	0	682,056	0	0	682,056	0	682,056
Strategic Asset Review	0	223,858	0	0	223,858	0	223,858
Strategic Review : Land Rear Of Enderby Leisure Centre	0	372,721	0	0	372,721	8,323	364,398
Car Park LED Replacements	15,000	0	0	0	15,000	0	15,000
Revenues & Benefits - Document Management & MyView	0	3,478	0	0	3,478	0	3,478
Replacement CRM/Granicus solutions	0	186,405	0	(186,405)	0	0	0
	15,000	1,468,518	0	(186,405)	1,297,113	8,323	1,288,790
<b><u>Essential/Contractual Schemes</u></b>							
Affordable Housing - Grove Rd	0	0	57,835	0	57,835	0	57,835
Net Zero at the Depot	0	591,000	0	0	591,000	0	591,000
Walk & Ride Blaby	0	140,000	0	0	140,000	0	140,000
Finance System Upgrade	45,000	82,320	0	0	127,320	0	127,320
Replacement of gym equipment at Enderby Leisure Centre	125,292	0	0	0	125,292	0	125,292
Replacement of gym equipment at Huncote Leisure Centre	50,000	0	0	0	50,000	0	50,000
Installation of PV Panels at Enderby Leisure Centre	0	39,260	70,000	0	109,260	0	109,260
Installation of PV Panels at Holt Way	0	450	0	0	450	0	450
CCTV Upgrade at Council Offices	0	29,033	0	0	29,033	26,488	2,545
Capital Grants Programme	54,500	24,386	616	0	79,502	9,876	69,626
Works to Landfill Gas Monitoring System, Huncote	0	36,944	0	0	36,944	0	36,944
Replacement of Air Quality Analysers	0	2,958	0	0	2,958	1,580	1,378
Contaminated Land Strategy	15,000	0	0	0	15,000	0	15,000
Huncote Leisure Centre Gas Mitigation Equipment	28,000	0	0	0	28,000	0	28,000
Dogs Public Space Protection Order	18,720	0	0	0	18,720	0	18,720
Income Management System	0	163,211	0	0	163,211	0	163,211
HR & Payroll System	0	90,661	0	0	90,661	4,987	85,674
Replacement Audio/Visual System for Council Chamber	0	95,000	0	0	95,000	0	95,000
End User Device Replacement	107,000	27,323	0	0	134,323	23,675	110,648
ICT Infrastructure Improvements	0	307,914	75,000	0	382,914	58,987	323,927
ICT: Development and Refresh	0	25,000	25,000	0	50,000	19,666	30,334
Fleet Vehicle Replacement Programme	304,000	805,047	0	0	1,109,047	0	1,109,047
Vehicle CCTV & Tracking Upgrade	0	5,850	0	0	5,850	0	5,850
Open Space at rear of Huncote Leisure Centre	0	0	50,000	0	50,000	17,142	32,858
Mobile Working Software	0	50,412	0	0	50,412	0	50,412
	747,512	2,516,769	278,451	0	3,542,732	162,401	3,380,331
<b><u>Externally Funded Schemes</u></b>							
Disabled Facilities Grants	630,000	443,761	0	0	1,073,761	178,434	895,327
Housing Support Grants	30,000	14,266	0	0	44,266	2,593	41,673
Air Quality Particulates Matter	0	30,810	0	0	30,810	250	30,560
EV Charging Hub at Enderby Leisure Centre	0	147,200	0	0	147,200	0	147,200
Food Waste Vehicles and Receptacles	0	970,000	30,000	0	1,000,000	0	1,000,000
Section 106-backed Schemes	0	293,058	9,098	0	302,156	33,181	268,975
	660,000	1,899,095	39,098	0	2,598,193	214,458	2,383,735
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24</b>	<b>1,422,512</b>	<b>5,884,382</b>	<b>317,549</b>	<b>(186,405)</b>	<b>7,438,038</b>	<b>385,182</b>	<b>7,052,856</b>

	Approved Capital Programme 2025/26 £	Budgets Brought Forward from 2024/25 £	Virements / Additions etc within the year £	Project completed Saving realised £	Latest Capital Programme 2025/26 £	Capital Expenditure to 30th June 2025 £	Variance as at 30th June 2025 £
<b><u>FINANCED BY:</u></b>							
<b><u>Internally Resources</u></b>							
Prudential Borrowing	680,012	2,557,941	189,712	(186,405)	3,241,261	116,303	3,124,958
Usable Capital Receipts	28,000	987,390	9,749	0	1,025,138	39,799	985,340
Blaby District Council Plan Priorities Reserve	54,500	8,206	1,155	0	63,861	9,876	53,985
IT Reserve	0	7,528	0	0	7,528	4,747	2,781
IT Systems Replacement Reserve	0	39,815	0	0	39,815	0	39,815
Revenue Funded Capital Expenditure	0	100,000	50,000	0	150,000	0	150,000
<b><u>External Resources</u></b>							
Disabled Facilities Grant	660,000	458,027	0	0	1,118,027	181,027	937,000
Defra	0	952,822	0	0	952,822	250	952,572
La Housing Fund Round 2	0	332,395	0	0	332,395	0	332,395
S106 Contributions - Various	0	293,058	66,933	0	359,991	33,181	326,810
Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure	0	147,200	0	0	147,200	0	147,200
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>1,422,512</b>	<b>5,884,382</b>	<b>317,549</b>	<b>(186,405)</b>	<b>7,438,038</b>	<b>385,182</b>	<b>7,052,856</b>

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## Blaby District Council Council

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	16 September 2025
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Depot Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure</b> This is a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan
<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Cllr. Nigel Grundy - Neighbourhood Services &amp; Assets</b>
<b>Report Author</b>	Neighbourhood Services Group Manager
<b>Strategic Themes</b>	All Themes: Enabling communities and supporting vulnerable residents; Enhancing and maintaining our natural and built environment; Growing and supporting our economy; Keeping you safe and healthy; Ambitious and well managed Council, valuing our people

### 1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 This report seeks Council approval to increase the budget authorised in the capital programme to proceed with the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) project at the Council depot which is an action within the Blaby Plan. The report also details an opportunity to apply for funding from the government's Depot Charging Fund to contribute to the total cost of the capital expenditure.
- 1.2 The project will provide the infrastructure required to support the incremental electrification of the Council's fleet, enabling full utilisation of current government funding opportunities, future proofing the depot site for electrification and avoiding future cost escalation.

### 2. Recommendation(s) to Council

- 2.1 That Council approve the additional capital expenditure of £379,000 to fund the shortfall in project costs and update the capital programme accordingly.
- 2.2 That delegated authority is given to the Executive Director (S151) in consultation with the Neighbourhood Services & Assets Portfolio holder to make the final decision to progress with the project in full or a reduced specification within the authorised programme costs.
- 2.3 That Council note that the project is designed to align with the latest fleet replacement programme and will future-proof the depot for the transition to electric refuse collection vehicles (RCVs) and other electric fleet assets at the appropriate time.

### 3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 Approval will allow the project to progress and give opportunity for the Council to meet the timescales within the grant terms.
- 3.2 Delegation will allow an assessment to be made to take advantage of funding available or consider progressing the project at a reduced specification within the authorised project costs.
- 3.3 Having an electrification-ready depot supports existing electric fleet assets and ensures the Council is positioned to respond to Government plans to phase out diesel and petrol HGV production in the 2035.

### 4. Matters to consider

#### 4.1 Background

The Council's use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) is a pragmatic interim measure to reduce fleet emissions. While it delivers substantial carbon savings its long-term sustainability is uncertain. Transitioning to electric vehicles, supported by renewable infrastructure, offers a more resilient and future-proof approach aligned with the Council's strategic theme to enhance and maintain our natural and built environments.

- In September 2023, Council approved the installation of Solar PV panels and EVCI at the depot.
- The solar PV project is now complete, delivering 23.11 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> reduction annually and estimated electricity savings of £32,890/year.
- The EVCI element was separated to allow further design development; design is now complete for up to 17 chargers (10 × 22–50 kW rapid/semi-rapid, 7 × 7 kW fast).
- The scheme supports the Council's current electric fleet (1 electric RCV, 1 mini sweeper, 1 van) and enables further electrification in line with the fleet replacement programme.
- **The 'Council net zero by 2030' workstream agreed in the Corporate Action Plan 2025–26**, supports adaptations to the council depot to contribute towards our ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030. This will include installation of phase 1 electric vehicle charging infrastructure to facilitate the gradual evolution towards an electric fleet
- The proposed phasing aligns with the Council's annually reviewed vehicle replacement programme, ensuring electric alternatives are considered as viable replacements for existing HVO-powered vehicles as they reach end of life.
- **The intention stated by UK Government is to end the sale of new non-zero emission HGVs under 26 tonnes by 2035**, as part of its national decarbonisation strategy. The Council's project supports



early alignment with these commitments, enabling a planned and proactive transition to electric vehicles.

- **HVO is currently a cleaner alternative to diesel, reducing lifecycle CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by up to 90%** - However, as global demand increases, the risk of supply from less sustainable or poorly regulated sources grows — potentially undermining its environmental benefits.
- **Getting ready for LGR** - Preparing the depot for electric vehicles not only aligns with national decarbonisation policy but also strengthens the Council's strategic position ahead of anticipated local government reform. Early investment in scalable infrastructure enables shared fleet operations across merged authorities, improves funding readiness, supporting efficient service delivery and long-term resilience.

#### 4.2 Proposal(s)

The proposal is to increase the capital investment for the EVCI as follows:

- Total project cost: £970,000 – this is based on updated cost estimated which are expected to be closely aligned with actual tendered costs
- Capital allocation already approved: £591,000
- Additional capital expenditure requirement: £379,000

##### Opportunity to apply for grant funding:

Funding for EV charging infrastructure has become available in the form of the governments 'Depot Charging Scheme'. This provides funding for certain costs associated with hardware, civils, installation of charging points.

The Council is required to contribute 25% of the eligible costs with 75% of those costs provided through the grant.

Officers are in the process of applying for this grant which requires the works to be completed by 31 March 2026. This aligns with our Blaby Plan timescales and the design of the programme.

The closing date for applications is 28 November 2025 however we would expect to receive confirmation of the outcome of our application prior to that date.

- Eligible grant costs: £590,000 (covering civils, electrical installation, chargers)
- Potential grant funding: £442,000 (75% of eligible costs)
- All works must be completed by 31 March 2026. While the risk of not completing the full energisation of the system by this date exists, the majority of eligible costs (up to 90%) relate to hardware and installation, which can be completed and claimed even if final energisation is delayed.
- If the grant is secured the additional funding requested in this report will not be required to be provided through Council funds.

It is recognised that Council may have to commit to expenditure on this project prior to having confirmation of the grant application being successful. For this reason, it is proposed to request delegated authority to be given to

the Executive Director, in consultation with the Neighbourhood Services & Assets Portfolio holder, to make the final decision to progress with the project in full or a reduced specification within the authorised programme costs.

#### 4.3 Relevant Consultations

Net Zero Project Delivery Officer  
Senior Leadership Team  
Cllr Lee Breckon (Net Zero Lead)

#### 4.4 Significant Issues

No significant issues in respect of Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, or Public Health Inequalities.

#### 4.5 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities and there are no areas of concern.

### 5. Environmental impact

A Net Zero and Climate Impact Assessment (NZCIA) has been carried out and no adverse impacts identified.

- 5.1
- Future-proofs depot for transition to electric fleet, reducing long-term emissions.
  - Complements existing CO<sub>2</sub> reductions from Solar PV.
  - Supports Council's Climate Change Strategy 2020.

### 6. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

- 6.1 An additional £379,000 is requested to be added to the capital programme 2025/26 in addition to the £591,000 already approved by Council.

	2025/26
Revenue	n/a
Capital	£379,000

## **7. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?**

### **7.1**

<b>Current Risk</b>	<b>Actions to reduce the risks</b>
We may have a need to electrify fleet and will not be ready for it	By future proofing infrastructure facilitates the Council being able to make the switch to electric vehicles when appropriate.
Grant funding not secured	Council approves the revised investment in the capital programme
Missed grant deadline	Approve now to enable completion by 31 March 2026
Infrastructure underused initially	Align with fleet replacement plan; utilise for current EV assets
Cost inflation	Lock in prices via early contracting

## **8. Other options considered**

- 8.1
1. Do nothing – Rejected: would lose the opportunity of £442,000 grant, potentially face higher future costs, delay electrification readiness, and would require the writing off of abortive costs of the project.
    - Delay until EV fleet transition is confirmed – Rejected: time taken to prepare and mobilise for charging infrastructure may prevent electrification of fleet when opportunities arise and risks losing opportunity of grant funding.

## **9. Appendix**

None

## **10. Background paper(s)**

- 10.1 Depot Site Solar Panels and Electric Vehicle Charging – Council Report, 26 September 2023.

## **11. Report author's contact details**

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## Blaby District Council Council

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	16 September 2025
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Public Spaces Protection Order – Dogs Renewal</b> This is not a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan
<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Cllr. Les Phillimore - Housing, Community Safety and Environmental Services</b>
<b>Report Author</b>	Environmental Health Manager
<b>Strategic Themes</b>	Enhancing and maintaining our natural and built environment

### 1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 To seek approval to renew the Public Spaces Protection Order for dogs as the current Order expires in November 2025.

### 2. Recommendation(s) to Council

- 2.1 To approve The Public Spaces Protection Order - (Blaby District Council) 2025 – (Appendix A).
- 2.2 To determine that the Public Spaces Protection Order - (Blaby District Council) 2025 will come into force on 21 November 2025
- 2.3 To delegate authority to the Environmental Services Group Manager in consultation with the portfolio holder to make future minor amendments to the PSPO.

### 3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 To renew the current Public Space Protection Order to allow continued enforcement of dog related offences across the district.
- 3.2 To allow minor amendments to be made to the Public Space Protection Order without need for Cabinet approval.

#### **4. Matters to consider**

##### **4.1 Background**

Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) were introduced as part of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and came into force in 2016. They allow Local Authorities to impose rules to tackle anti-social behaviour that could impact the quality of life of a community.

The Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in relation to dog control covers three areas, dog fouling, use of leads and areas where dogs are excluded. The aim is to ensure owners are mindful of their responsibilities to ensure a clean, safe and pleasant environment for everyone to enjoy. Breaches of the Order can lead to Fixed Penalty Notices being served for fines of up to £100.

The PSPO in relation to dogs was introduced in May 2016. The PSPO is valid for 3 years and is reviewed close to its expiry to ensure it is compliant and still relevant. The PSPO was varied in November 2016, November 2019 and November 2022.

Since the introduction of the PSPO in 2019 the Senior Animal Services Officer has worked to deliver campaigns with regard to dog fouling. This has focussed on education, empowered local councils and focussed on delivery of anti fouling messages including signage and stencil provision.

An Order once made lasts for 3 years, the last Order that the Council made was in November 2022 as such it is appropriate to consult and determine if a renewal is appropriate.

##### **4.2 Proposal(s)**

The proposal is to renew controls within the PSPO for a further 3 years in line with legislative requirements.

##### **4.3 Relevant Consultations**

The proposed renewal was subject to a consultation process involving an online survey for the public. The majority of the consultation responses supported the renewal of the PSPO in its current form, on that basis the proposal is to renew the Order in the same form with no amendments. Whilst some feedback was received regarding increasing the amount of the Fixed Penalty Notice, the current amount is considered to be an appropriate level in terms of deterrent and penalty and is appropriate in terms of recovery.

The consultation was available via the Councils website for 6 weeks and was circulated to Parish Councils.

##### **Significant Issues**

There are no significant issues.

## **5. Environmental impact**

- 5.1 If the PSPO is approved there will be an improved environmental impact as a reduction in dog fouling may be achieved.

## **6. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?**

- 6.1 Any additional cost can be met within existing budgets.

## **7. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?**

7.1

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
Lack of effective enforcement if PSPO is allowed to lapse	Renew current PSPO for a further 3 years in line with legislation
Overzealous or unreasonable enforcement of the PSPO	Implementation of a training programme for officers and partner agencies to ensure that enforcement is reasonable and proportionate.
PSPO lapses after 3 years	A review process should be timetabled to ensure that the PSPO is assessed and amended as necessary towards the end of the life of the PSPO.

## **8. Other options considered**

- 8.1 Not renewing PSPO in line with legislation would remove all enforcement for dog control across the district in respect of fouling and nuisance dogs.

## **9. Appendix**

- 9.1 Appendix A – The Public Spaces Protection Order (Blaby District Council) 2025

**10. Background paper(s)**

- 10.1. Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 -  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/12/contents/enacted>
- 10.2 Cabinet Executive Report (Public Space Protection Order – Dogs)  
21<sup>st</sup> March 2016
- 10.3 Cabinet Executive Report (Public Space Protection Order Variation – Dogs)  
7<sup>th</sup> November 2016
- 10.4 Council Report (Public Spaces Protection Order – Dogs)  
19 November 2019
- 10.5 Council Report (Public Spaces Protection Order Renewal – Dogs)  
20 September 2022

## 11. Report author's contact details

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## **The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014**

### **The Public Spaces Protection Order - (Blaby District Council) 2025**

Blaby District Council (in this order called “the Authority”) hereby makes the following Public Space Protection Order under section 59 of the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (“the Act”).

This Order comes into force on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2025 for a period of 3 years.

#### **Offences**

##### **1. Dog Fouling**

1.1 If within the administrative area of the Authority a dog defecates at any time on land to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission and a person who is in charge of the dog at the time fails to remove the faeces from the land forthwith, that person shall be guilty of an offence unless -

- (a) they have reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
- (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to them failing to do so.

1.2 If a person who is in charge of a dog does not have or produce when requested by an authorised officer of the Authority, a receptacle for picking up dog faeces, that person shall be guilty of an offence.

1.3 A receptacle is defined as any object capable of holding faeces for disposal.

1.4 Placing the faeces in a receptacle on the land which is provided for the purpose, or for the disposal of waste, shall be sufficient removal from the land.

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

##### **2. Leads by order**

2.1 A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time, within the administrative area of the Authority he does not comply with a direction given to them by an authorised officer of the authority to put and keep the dog on a lead unless -

- (a) they have reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
- (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to them failing to do so.

2.2 An authorised officer may only give a direction under this order if such restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent a nuisance or behaviour by the dog that is likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to any other person, or to a bird or another animal.

### **3. Dogs on Leads**

3.1 This order applies to the land specified in Schedule 1 to this order.

3.2 A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time, on any land to which this order applies, does not keep the dog on a lead unless –

- (a) they have reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
- (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to them failing to do so.

### **4. Dog Exclusion**

4.1 This order applies to the land specified in Schedule 2 to this order.

4.2 A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time, takes the dog onto, or permits the dog to enter or to remain on, any land to which this order applies unless –

- (a) they have reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
- (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to them failing to do so.

### **5. General**

5.1 A lead should be of such construction and strength to restrain the dog and be no longer than two (2) metres in length. A retractable lead that is longer than 2 metres can be used where its maximum length is limited to 2 metres while the direction applies.

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

5.3 “an authorised officer of the Authority” means an employee, partnership agency or contractor of Blaby District Council who is authorised in writing by Blaby District Council for the purposes of giving directions under the Order.

### **6. Exemptions**

6.1 Nothing in this order shall apply to a person who –

- (a) is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or
- (b) is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity number 293358) and upon which he relies for assistance; or
- (c) has a disability which affects his mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity and upon which he relies for assistance.

6.2 For the purpose of this order –

Each of the following is a "prescribed charity" -

- Dogs for the Disabled (registered charity number 700454)
- Support Dogs Limited (registered charity number 1088281)
- Canine Partners for Independence (registered charity number 803680)

## 7. Penalty

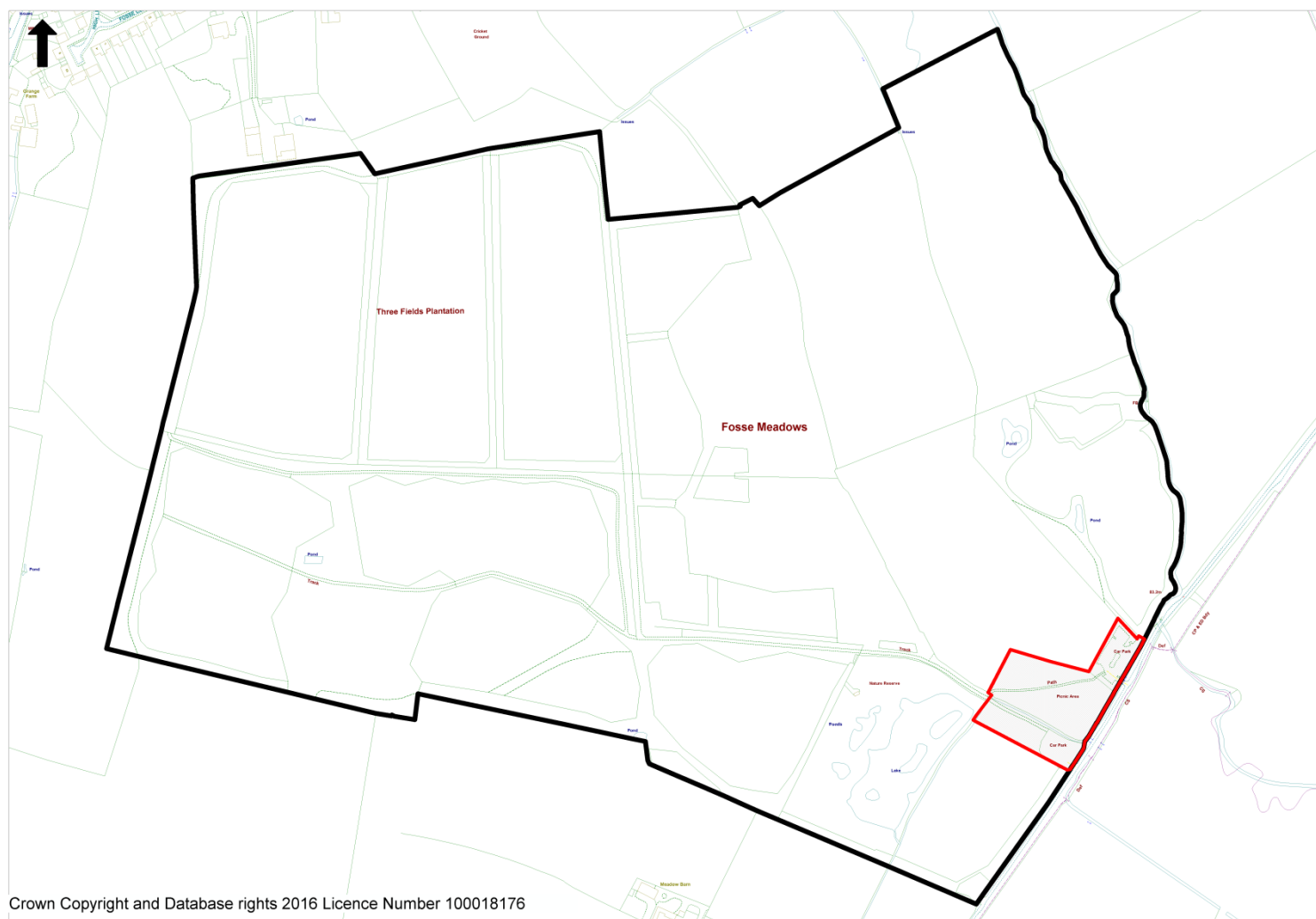
7.1 A person who is guilty of an offence under this order shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

7.2 A Fixed Penalty Notice of £100.00 will be issued to offenders to be paid within 14 days which would discharge any liability to conviction for an offence under Section 67(1) of the Act.

### **Schedule 1 – Land where dogs must be on a lead**

The land referred to in Article 3 above (land where dogs must be kept on a lead) is –

- 1) All land within the Council's administrative area comprising any fenced (and/or hedged and/or walled) cemetery, graveyard, churchyard or burial ground, signed at its entrance(s) as a "dog on lead" area (whether the sign uses those particular words or words and/or symbols having like effect).
- 2) The car parks and picnic area at Fosse Meadows Nature Reserve area as defined on the map below.



## **Schedule 2 – Land where dogs are excluded**

The land referred to in Article 4 above (land where dogs are excluded) is –

All land within the Council's administrative area comprising any fenced (and/or hedged and/or walled) children's play area, signed at its entrance(s) as a "dog exclusion area" (whether the sign uses those particular words or words and/or symbols having like effect).

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Exempt

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