



Rushcliffe  
Borough Council

**MINUTES**  
OF THE MEETING OF THE  
**WEST BRIDGFORD SPECIAL EXPENSES AND COMMUNITY  
INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY ADVISORY GROUP**  
**WEDNESDAY, 14 JANUARY 2026**

Held at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber Area B, Rushcliffe Arena, Rugby Road,  
West Bridgford

**PRESENT:**

Councillors D Virdi (Chair), S Calvert, J Chaplain, S Dellar, R Mallender,  
H Om, H Parekh, J Wheeler and G Wheeler as a substitute

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

S Whittaker	Assistant Director of Finance
J Bate	Team Manager - Planning, Monitoring and Implementation
M Sawyer	Planning Contributions Officer
T Coop	Democratic Services Officer

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillors P Matthews

**6      Declarations of Interest**

Councillor R Mallender declared a non-pecuniary interest and informed the Group he was a member of Friends of the Hook and WEBCAN.

**7      Minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 October were approved.

**8      Budget Update**

The Assistant Director for Finance delivered a presentation to update the Group on the West Bridgford Special Expenses Budget previously discussed at the meeting in October 2025. The Group were informed of changes to the annuity charges resulting in an increase to the special expenses tax of £2.56 or 3.95% (a 93p increase since the group met in October) on a Band D Council Tax charge.

The Assistant Director for Finance explained the increase in annuity costs were due mainly to the repayment of the capital works at Sir Julien Cahn and Gamston Community Hall. However, this had been offset by savings from West Park and a transfer from the notional capital surplus of 78k, thus decreasing the notional deficit repayment to £90k to clear the balance by 2028/29 by three annual payments of £30k. The Group were advised that the overall trajectory shows costs are rising.

It was agreed that the Group would meet again in September 2026 (TBC) to discuss the Special Expenses budget for 2027/28 and for the Group to consider and suggest ideas for savings going forward.

The Group commented on the notional deficit and capital transfer and how this was repaid. It was suggested that officers provide a summary to explain how the notional capital surplus has arisen within the special expenses budget.

The Chair highlighted the delivery of events provided for in West Bridgford and asked whether this could be translated to attendance per head for future budget reporting.

## **9 Expressions of Interest for the Group to Consider**

The Group were asked to consider 14 Expressions of Interest for community projects which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Team Manager – Monitoring and Implementation advised that 4 of the projects had some potential issues around the criteria for funding and these were discussed as follows:

- Abbey Park Community Association**

### **First Aid Training for 3-4 Persons plus First Aid Equipment - £600**

It was agreed that funding for the training did meet the criteria. However, the first aid equipment element was questionable as this is often consumable and date limited and if the project was to be supported it would need to be made clear that replacing used or out of date first aid equipment cannot be funded through future CIL.

The Group questioned whether this could be funded through the Councillor Community Grant Scheme.

The project was approved in principle to go forward for consultation, but more detail was required and for the project to be potentially funded in full by the Councillor Community Grant Scheme.

- St Pauls Community Wellbeing Hub**

### **Resources to support existing projects – Youth Space, Craft Club and 'Relax, Refresh, Restore' - £1180**

It was noted that ongoing running costs cannot usually be met through CIL funding. However, developments nearby are resulting in increased demand and material costs to run the events and given the modest request and the justification around increased demand, it may be reasonable to fund these projects on the understanding that it is a temporary measure and should not be relied upon for future CIL funding.

The Group questioned whether this could be funded through the Councillor Community Grant Scheme with Councillor Parekh, Councillor Wheeler and Councillor Dellar all offering to provide support from their community grant.

It was agreed to remove this project from the consultation process and advise St Pauls to seek funding through the Councillor Community Support Scheme.

- **WEBCAN Reed Clearance (Grantham Canal)**

**Work to remove at the root extensive reed growth which has taken over a stretch of the Canal - £14,500**

It was noted that similar work on another stretch of the canal had been funded by UKSPF funding.

The work would improve the character and amenity value of the canal for local residents to enjoy and for the welfare of wildlife habitats and does meet the criteria for CIL funding. However, it was highlighted that a value for money aspect is questionable.

The Group agreed that the investigation and survey work to support repair and restoration efforts as part of the longer term plan would be challenging without clearing the reed and felt it was a justifiable project to support.

The Group approved for this project to go forward for consultation.

- **Grantham Canal Society**

**Various tools /equipment/vehicles to facilitate maintenance and repair work along the canal in the West Bridgford Area - £16,547**

The Group noted this community group and project is different from the WEBCAN application and supports the improvement of the operational capacity and long term restoration activities in West Bridgford.

The Group approved for this project to go forward for consultation.

- **Ladybay Sports Ground – Corsairs Rugby Club**

**Upgrade to clubhouse facilities on Lady Bay Sports Ground - £20k**

It was noted that funding should be used to provide infrastructure to support development within the Borough and that the second source of additional demand/funding is not linked to development within the Borough and as such the bid is only partially eligible.

The Group felt that more clarification was required around other potential funding opportunities there is from other organisations and whether the project could be part funded from CIL (£10k).

The Group approved for this project to go forward for consultation.

The Team Manager – Monitoring and Implementation asked the Group to consider the 4 Council led projects:

- **Friends of the Hook**

Renovation repair of building as storage /facilities building for community group(s) - £25k

- **Greythorn Drive Play Area – Astro-Turf MUGA**

Resurfacing and upgrading of MUGA and replacement Astro Turf Surfacing - £25k of a £48k project

- **West Park - Junior Play Area**

End of life replacement and upgrades with enhanced play opportunities - £25k of a £75k project

- **West Park MUGA**

Replacement and upgrades of MUGA including ground level changes to proof against tree root damage affecting current surface - £25k of a £77k+ project

With regards to the project at the Hook the Group noted the building was owned by the Council and leased to friends of the Hook via a minimal peppercorn rent.

The Group approved all 4 projects to go for consultation.

The remaining 5 expressions of interest were all approved by the Group to go forward for consultation. These projects are:

- **1<sup>st</sup> Lady Bay Scouts – Stackable Chairs - £7,480 for 80 chairs on 2 trolleys**
- **Nottinghamshire County Rowing Association – improved storage and rest facilities for athletes at the National Watersports Centre - £8k**
- **Notts Gymnastics Academy – Development of ancillary spaces- £25k of a £75k programme**
- **West Bridgford Scouts – Re-roofing of Wighton Hall - £25k of a £50k project**
- **NHS Social Prescribing Service – second year of a two year programme to fund a Social Prescribing Service - £25k**

The Team Manager – Planning – Monitoring and Implementation advised the Group that the consultation would be available for a period of 21 days. A further meeting of the Group would be held to consider any public feedback from the consultation and to provide final approval of CIL funding.

The meeting closed at 7.32 pm.

CHAIR