

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	<b>Date:</b> 06 September 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	Radcliffe Regeneration Governance	
<b>Report of</b>	Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth	

## Summary

1. The continued regeneration of Radcliffe remains a key priority for the Council. Following approval at Radcliffe Cabinet Committee in July, this report seeks to propose a suitable way forward for Ward Councillor involvement in Radcliffe regeneration activity and allow for officers to move forward operational business in a timely manner.

## Recommendation(s)

2. That the Radcliffe Cabinet Committee be formally stood down; and
3. That Cabinet note an informal Radcliffe Members' Forum will be established to allow for Ward Councillor engagement.

## Reasons for recommendation(s)

4. To better streamline decision making processes and allow more meaningful cross-party engagement.
5. To facilitate the implementation of a collaborative forum with a wider, more strategic focus, based on the Radcliffe Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF).

## Alternative options considered and rejected

6. To continue current arrangements; this option has been rejected as the existing meeting schedule has proved inconvenient for decision making, with Councillors not having input until late in the decision making process and papers often coming to Cabinet before they can be considered by the RCC.

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## **Background**

7. In September 2020, Cabinet agreed a report setting out the intended next steps in securing the delivery of proposals in the Radcliffe Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF), including the governance arrangements overseeing its delivery.
8. This included the creation of the Radcliffe Regeneration Delivery Board (RRDB), Radcliffe SRF Advisory Group, and the Radcliffe Cabinet Committee (RCC), each representing a different tier in a hierarchy to ensure the division of responsibilities to enable the delivery of the SRF and other regeneration initiatives.

## **Radcliffe Cabinet Committee (RCC)**

9. The RCC was established to provide executive political leadership for the delivery of the SRF and a forum for cross-party engagement, and was tasked with monitoring progress in delivering the SRF and making recommendations to Cabinet in relation to investment decisions, acquisitions and an advisory role on public services integration.
10. In practice, as decision making is still routed through Cabinet, the RCC has acted as an additional layer of governance for officers to facilitate, and it has therefore had to focus on regeneration proposals approaching a decision point rather than allowing Councillors early steer and insight.
11. Through establishing a new, informal group in the place of the RCC, it is hoped that Ward Councillor engagement will be more meaningful and release more officer time which can be utilised to support the SRF delivery.
12. Cabinet is asked to note that, at their meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023, the RCC approved the proposal to stand down and be replaced by the informal Radcliffe Forum, detailed below.

## **Radcliffe Members' Forum**

13. The Radcliffe Members' Forum will be an informal meeting, meaning it will not meet in public, and will not be formally minuted. It is not proposed for any formal Terms of Reference to be drafted, but some expectations are set out here for the purposes of good governance:
  - Meetings to take place on a monthly basis other than during the pre-election period;
  - Meeting invites to include all Radcliffe Ward Councillors and meetings be open to all Elected Members to attend, with Cabinet Members attending when appropriate;
  - Meetings to be informal and therefore not open to the public;
  - Meetings to be scheduled for a maximum two hours with a 5pm start;

- Meetings to be held in Radcliffe;
- Meetings to be coordinated by senior staff in BGI;
- Although it will not have a formal agenda, Members of the Forum may decide to ask for staff to attend to provide updates in particular areas (for example plans for the new School) and they will be invited to attend the Forum;
- Information shared at the Forum is not necessarily confidential, but where an Officer states that privileged information is being shared there is an expectation that it not be communicated beyond the meeting;
- Members and Officers to remain mindful of the Council's Code of Conduct and Officer and Protocol on Member and Officer Relations;
- Meetings to not be minuted, but key actions will be recorded;
- Meetings will not have a formal or fixed agenda but will have some areas of focus:
  - The progress of delivering the regeneration schemes in Radcliffe
  - Sharing of information in relation to the development challenges faced in delivering the regeneration programmes;
  - Updates on the progress of the new Radcliffe School
  - Proposals to deliver new housing in the Town;
  - Existing community-led projects and programmes
  - Improving public service delivery in the Town.
- Meetings will also explore future opportunities to improve the Town:
  - Sharing ideas for how to improve the town centre and wider environs (beyond the regeneration programmes);
  - Ideas about how to help tackle the deprivation and social challenges many citizens encounter;
  - Develop concepts and ideas to improve the skills and return to work programmes;
  - Review the Strategic Regeneration Framework and identify opportunities to implement projects;
  - Share knowledge of particular sites which could be improved to benefit the Town;
  - Identify initiatives and programmes that could help improve the health and quality of life of residents.

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**Links with the Corporate Priorities:**

14. Local - Meeting with Ward Councillors on an informal basis allows for candid engagement, supporting development and growth and removing barriers to collaboration.
15. Enterprising – Meeting will facilitate a collaborative and creative approach to joint working on regeneration themes/projects to better focus activity and overcome constraints.

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**Equality Impact and Considerations:**

16.N/A – the proposals will not have any effect equality considerations.

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**Environmental Impact and Considerations:**

17.N/A – the proposals will not have any effect environmental considerations.

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**Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:**

18.N/A – decision making structures and Member engagement routes will continue and therefore the proposals do not give rise to any new risks.

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**Legal Implications:**

19. This report proposals represent a streamlined system of governance, with decision making powers continuing to rest with Cabinet, and Member engagement taking place informally. This will allow officer resources to be better utilised to support the SRF delivery whilst maintaining Councillor involvement and contribution.

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**Financial Implications:**

20. There are no financial implications from these proposals.

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**Appendices:**

There are no appendices.

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**Background papers:**

Report to Cabinet Sep 2020 - Radcliffe Strategic Development Framework (SRF):  
<https://councildecisions.bury.gov.uk/documents/s23841/Radcliffe%20SRF%20-%20Cabinet%20Report%20September%202020%20-%20V10.pdf>

Report to Radcliffe Cabinet Committee Jul 2023 – Radcliffe Regeneration Governance:  
<https://councildecisions.bury.gov.uk/documents/s36217/Radcliffe%20Regeneration%20Governance.pdf>

**Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
SRF	Strategic Regeneration Framework
RCC	Radcliffe Cabinet Committee
RRDB	Radcliffe Regeneration Delivery Board