

CABINET – TUESDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2025

DECISION NOTICE

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday, 9 September 2025 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: **Wednesday, 10 September 2025.**

End of the call-in period is **10:00 hours on Monday, 15 September 2025.**

These decisions will not be implemented until after this date and time.

Present: P Peacock, R Cozens, S Crosby, S Forde, C Penny, P Taylor and J Kellas

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Action By</u>
6.	Projected General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Revenue and Capital Outturn Report to 31 March 2026 as at 30 June 2025	<p>That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) note the General Fund projected favourable outturn variance of £0.303m;(b) note the Housing Revenue Account projected unfavourable outturn variance of £0.409m to the Major Repairs Reserve;(c) approve the variations to the Capital Programme at Appendix C;(d) approve the Capital Programme revised budget and financing of £55.240m; and(e) note the Prudential indicators at Appendix F. <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> To consider the forecast outturn position for the 2025/26 financial year for the Council's General Fund and Housing Revenue Account revenue and capital budgets.</p> <p>To show performance against the approved estimates of revenue expenditure and income; report on major variances from planned budget performance; and report on variations to the Capital Programme for approval; all in accordance with the Council's Constitution.</p> <p><u>Options Considered:</u> Not applicable.</p>	Nick Wilson Business Manager – Financial Services
7.	Community Plan Performance for Quarter One - 2025/26	<p>That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) review the Community Plan Performance Report attached as Appendix 1;b) review the compliance report attached as Appendix 2; and	Rowan Bosworth-Brown Senior Transformation & Service Improvement Officer

		<p>c) consider the Council's performance against its objectives highlighting any areas of high performance and identifying areas for improvement.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> Performance management is used to drive improvement by analysing data and progress against key activities as well as building a picture of the context of performance using district statistics, customer feedback and workforce information.</p> <p><u>Options Considered:</u> Not applicable.</p>	
8.	Quarter 1 2025/26 - Housing Compliance Assurance Report	<p>That Cabinet note:</p> <p>a) the exceptions to performance of the housing service compliance functions;</p> <p>b) interim arrangements for monitoring damp and mould ahead of introduction of Awaab's Law; and</p> <p>c) the ongoing actions to improve and maintain performance.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> To provide assurance on the work undertaken to ensure the safety of tenants and compliance with the regulatory standards.</p> <p><u>Options Considered:</u> None</p>	Lynda Priest Compliance Manager
9.	Land Transfer, Bowbridge Road - General Fund to Housing Revenue Account	<p>AGREED that Cabinet approve to appropriate the land at Bowbridge Road, Newark from the GF to the HRA at the current value of £326,400 with subsequent CFR adjustment of £224,976 and Capital Receipt transfer of £101,424 to enable construction of HRA properties to support the local housing need and meet the Council's business plan objectives.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> To enable construction of 5 no HRA bungalows to support the local housing need.</p> <p><u>Options Considered:</u> The options to dispose of the land to the YMCA and Arkwood Developments Limited were explored, neither of these options were viable and were discounted.</p> <p>Leave the land in the General Fund for future currently unidentified potential development.</p>	Kevin Shutt Development Manager

10.	Housing Revenue Account - Housing Community Centre Policy	<p>That Cabinet:</p> <p>a) endorse the Policy; and</p> <p>b) note that no charges will be levied for the use of HRA Community Centres;</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> To ensure effective management of the Council's 29 HRA Housing Community Centres.</p> <p><u>Options Considered:</u> Not having a policy in place could result in ineffective management and misuse of valuable community spaces.</p>	Julie Davidson Business Manager - Housing Services
11.	Annual Review of Exempt Items	<p>AGREED that Cabinet note the report, with any items being released into the public domain if considered no longer being exempt.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> To review previous exempt reports considered by the Cabinet over the previous 12 months.</p> <p><u>Options Considered:</u> None, this report is a useful tool in reviewing previous exempt items of business in order to release any into the public domain if considered appropriate.</p>	Nigel Hill Business Manager – Elections & Democratic Services
12.	Digital Strategy 2025-2028	<p>That Cabinet:</p> <p>a) approve the digital strategy (attached as an appendix) for 2025-2028; and</p> <p>b) note the findings of the working group and stakeholder surveys.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> The proposed recommendation is to adopt the new digital strategy, which will offer clear strategic direction for our digital initiatives. This approach aims to minimise resourcing and financial risks, ensure alignment with other authorities involved in local government reorganisation, and provide our communities with assurance that their needs are central to the development of our digital initiatives.</p> <p><u>Options Considered:</u> Extend the existing digital strategy. There is a need to do more than simply extend the existing strategy. The existing strategy is not current and will not sufficiently address community needs or align with central government directives. The expectations of the internal and external stakeholders together with rapid</p>	Dave Richardson Business Manager – ICT & Digital Services

		<p>developments in digital technologies enable greater understanding and use of data. This necessitates a fresh strategy.</p> <p>Take no action and therefore no digital strategy. This is not considered to be an acceptable option.</p>	
13.	Progression of Biodiversity Net Gain Habitat Banks for Newark & Sherwood District Council (Key Decision)	<p>That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) note and welcome the updates on BNG and the Council's Land Assets review; b) approve the four 'NSDC BNG sites' identified be progressed for the purpose of generating biodiversity net gain (BNG) 'biodiversity units', to be used firstly for NSDC's own planning application BNG obligations; secondly for NSDC supported projects, and finally (and subject to unit capacity) for sale of BNG units to other third-party developments in discharge of their BNG responsibilities. c) approve a revenue budget of up to £25,000 to allow the implementation of the four NSDC BNG sites funded from the Change Management Reserve in 2025/26; d) approve a further revenue budget of £45,000 to allow the implementation of the four NSDC BNG sites in 2026/27 funded from the Change Management Reserve; e) approve delegated authority be given to the Director - Planning & Growth, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Strategy, Finance & Performance and Climate Change & Environment, to enter into necessary legal arrangements to secure the BNG Habitat Banks via the Governments Biodiversity Gain Site Register, including any appropriate habitat(s) to be created, as detailed below; and f) agree that a report is brought back to Cabinet prior to NSDC selling BNG units as detailed in recommendation b) above in order to set appropriate BNG unit fees. <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> To secure local and responsible BNG Habitats to mitigate the impacts of new developments and to enhance NSDC land-assets and the overall biodiversity of the District.</p>	Nick Law Biodiversity & Ecology Leader Officer

	<p><u>Options Considered:</u></p>	
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	<p>NSDC could choose not to enter the BNG market in favour of the national credit route or awaiting a local market for BNG units becoming available. These are discounted on the basis of a need to proactively create a local mechanism to secure BNG enhancements, including demonstrable cost-savings for the Council's own developments.</p>	
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