

CABINET – TUESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2025

DECISION NOTICE

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday, 11 November 2025 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: **Wednesday, 12 November 2025**

End of the call-in period is **10.00 am on Monday, 17 November 2025**.

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

Present: P Peacock, R Cozens, S Crosby, L Brazier, 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.	Localised Council Tax Support Scheme 2026/27	That Cabinet recommends to Full Council the uprating of the applicable amounts, premiums, state benefits and disregard criteria in accordance with the annual uprating amounts applied by the Department for Works & Pensions (DWP); whilst continuing the current Localised Council Tax Support Scheme for 2026/27 financial year. <u>Reasons for Decision:</u> To ensure the Council discharges its responsibilities to agree its Council Tax Support scheme by 31 January 2026. <u>Options Considered:</u> An alternative option would be to increase the maximum award of 80% - the cost of doing this has been considered within the financial implications section in the report.	Nick Wilson Business Manager – Financial Services Phil Ward Business Manager – Revenues & Benefits
7.	Biodiversity Net Gain Onsite Monitoring Fees (Key Decision)	That Cabinet approves two levels of relief for the existing fees and charges schedule to create two new lower fee levels for monitoring onsite BNG for the remainder of the financial year 2025-26: Tier 1 - £1,033 (inc. VAT); and Tier 2 - £1,722 (inc. VAT). <u>Reasons for Decision:</u> The proposed new fee levels are considered necessary in the light of the experiences with having actual small developments that are subject to mandatory BNG. In line with the Council's values, it is considered important that the Council responds appropriately to its experiences with small developments that are subject to mandatory BNG. <u>Options Considered:</u> Firstly, to take no action, or secondly to address as part of the setting of Fees and Charges for the 2026-27 Financial Year.	Oliver Scott Business Manager – Planning Development Nick Law Biodiversity & Ecology Lead Officer

8.	Purchase, Operation and Training for a Newark & Sherwood District Council Drone Asset	That Cabinet approve: a) the adoption of a Drone Usage Policy as detailed at Appendix A of the report, with delegated authority being given to the relevant Directors to make necessary amendments to improve operational effectiveness within the first 12 months of its adoption; b) the purchase and use of drone assets, primarily for use by NSDC in discharge of its relevant duties and services; c) the training of Senior Responsible Officers for the deployment and maintenance of drone asset(s) across the Council; and d) the creation of a fee schedule, to be reported to a future Cabinet, to allow NSDC to support other local authorities and public bodies. <u>Reasons for Decision:</u> The recommendations align with most of the Community Plan objectives. As set out in the report, this presents a cost-effective way to responsibly best utilise available technology. <u>Options Considered:</u> The Council could continue to procure drone support on an ad-hoc basis or seek a more permanent formal arrangement with the commercial market. Both routes would be more costly. Moreover, an NSDC owned and controlled asset will increase resiliency in terms of immediate availability alongside growing staff skills and competencies in this field.	Lisa Ingram Principal Legal Officer Richard Marshall Senior Planner (Enforcement)
9.	Plan for Neighbourhoods Programme and Local Assurance Framework Update (Key Decision)	That Cabinet: a) note the updates provided in relation to the Plan for Neighbourhoods initiative including the recent name change implemented by the UK Government of the 'Pride in Place Programme' (PiPP) and the related role of the Newark Town Board, as set out in section 2.0 of the report; b) note and endorse the Newark Town Board's PiPP Regeneration Plan for submission to the UK Government by 28 November 2025 (subject to Board and Section 151 Officer approval), comprising a 10-year vision document and four-year indicative investment profile;	Neil Cuttell Business Manager - Economic Growth & Visitor Economy Sarah Husselbee Economic Development Grants & Programmes Manager

		c) approve the addition of a revenue budget of £1,502,000 and a capital budget of £5,306,000 required for the first four years of the PiPP delivery (2026 to 2030) with individual financial commitments to be approved by the Newark Town Board and the Section 151 Officer. Both budgets remain subject to the Council receiving sufficient assurance of funding through a finalised Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) from the UK Government, to be approved by the Section 151 Officer, as detailed further in paragraphs 2.5 and 2.6 of the report; and d) approve the proposed Newark Town Board Local Assurance Framework (LAF), as provided in Appendix 3 of the report and detailed further in paragraphs 2.12 and 2.13. <u>Reasons for Decision:</u> The recommendations within this report are necessary to enable the local Newark Town Board to oversee and deliver the PiPP over the next decade through the provision of programme budgets. The proposed Local Assurance Framework will support the council to effectively fulfil its assurance role, clearly defining roles and processes to be followed by the Newark Town Board throughout programme delivery. <u>Options Considered:</u> The governance and funding arrangements detailed within this report are set by the UK Government throughout the PiPP prospectus. In particular, the council's role as the accountable body for programme funding, with the local Newark Town Board considered the strategic decision makers. The recommendations within this report reflect the arrangements and the funding conditions set by MHCLG.	
10.	Sustainable Economic Growth Strategy 2026 - 2031 (Key Decision)	To endorse the Newark & Sherwood District Council Sustainable Economic Growth Strategy for 2026 – 2031 <u>Reasons for Decision:</u> To enable a strategic, meaningful direction of travel for local economic growth the proposed recommendation to update the Sustainable Economic Growth Strategy based on data and evidence is recommended. <u>Options Considered:</u> There is an option to not update the Sustainable Economic Growth Strategy. This option has been discounted as Newark & Sherwood District Council have identified economic growth as a priority.	Neil Cuttall, Business Manager- Economic Growth & Visitor Economy