



**Castle House
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Monday, 1 September 2025

Chair: Councillor P Peacock

Members of the Committee:

**Councillor S Forde
Councillor C Penny
Councillor R Cozens
Councillor L Brazier**

**Councillor S Crosby
Councillor P Taylor
Councillor J Kellas**

MEETING:	Executive Shareholder Committee
DATE:	Tuesday, 9 September 2025 at 6.00 pm
VENUE:	Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY
<p>You are hereby requested to attend the above Meeting to be held at the time/place and on the date mentioned above for the purpose of transacting the business on the Agenda as overleaf.</p> <p>If you have any queries please contact Nigel Hill on Nigel.hill@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk.</p>	

AGENDA

		<u>Page Nos.</u>
1.	Notification to those present that the meeting will be recorded and streamed online	
2.	Apologies for Absence	
3.	Declarations of Interest from Members and Officers	
4.	Minutes from the previous meeting held on 8 July 2025	3 - 5
5.	Active4Today Performance Report - for 2025/26 - 31 July 2025	6 - 31
6.	Performance of Arkwood - Quarter 1 2025/26	32 - 34
7.	Exclusion of the Press and Public	

To consider resolving that, under section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

None.

Note – Fire Alarm Evacuation

In the event of an alarm sounding please evacuate the building using the nearest fire exit in the Civic Suite. You should assemble at the designated fire assembly point located in the rear car park and remain there until the Fire Service arrive and advise it is safe to return into the building

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Executive Shareholder Committee** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY on Tuesday, 8 July 2025 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor P Peacock (Chair)

Councillor L Brazier, Councillor S Crosby, Councillor C Penny, Councillor P Taylor and Councillor J Kellas

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor N Allen, Councillor S Haynes and Councillor P Rainbow

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor R Cozens and Councillor S Forde

24 NOTIFICATION TO THOSE PRESENT THAT THE MEETING WILL BE RECORDED AND STREAMED ONLINE

The Leader and Chair advised that the proceedings were being audio recorded and live streamed by the Council.

25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

The Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer declared an interest in Item 6 as a Director of Arkwood Developments Ltd.

26 MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11 MARCH 2025

The minutes from the meeting held on 11 March 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

27 ACTIVE4TODAY PERFORMANCE OUTTURN FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 MARCH 2025

The Business Manager – Regeneration & Housing Strategy was in attendance to present the Active4Today Performance Outturn report for the financial year 1 (April 2024 – 31 March 2025). It was reported that the company had performed exceptionally well in terms of memberships, with a growth at Newark Sports & Fitness Centre and Blidworth Leisure Centre offsetting losses at Southwell Leisure Centre and Dukeries Leisure Centre with year end memberships showing a new increase of 538 to 12,212 members across all categories and sites with income for the year showing a favourable variance of £186,686 on the original forecasted budget target. It was also reported that expenditure for the year had delivered a favourable variance of £532,571. In relation to performance against the Business Plan actions, at year end the Company had delivered activities and interventions to support the wider community who typically might not have access one of the Council's leisure centres.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Executive Shareholder Committee note the performance of Active4Today for the financial year 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025.

28 ARKWOOD DEVELOPMENTS PERFORMANCE - QUARTER 4 2024-25

The Non-Executive Director presented the Arkwood Developments Performance Q4 2024/2025 report to the Executive Shareholder Committee.

AGREED (unanimously) that Members note the Arkwood Performance Report attached as **Appendix 1** to the report.

29 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

30 PRESENTATION FROM ARKWOOD DEVELOPMENTS LTD

The Executive Shareholder Committee considered the exempt presentation in relation to Arkwood Developments Ltd.

(Summary provided in accordance with Section 100C(2) of the Local Government Act 1972).

Meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

Chair

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

Document is Restricted



Report to: Executive Shareholder Meeting - 9 September 2025

Portfolio Holders: Councillor Paul Peacock, Strategy, Performance & Finance
Councillor Susan Crosby, Health, Wellbeing & Leisure

Director Lead: Suzanne Shead, Director - Housing, Health & Wellbeing

Lead Officer: Cara Clarkson, Business Manager Regeneration & Housing Strategy, Ext. 5923

Report Summary	
Type of Report	Open Report / Non-Key Decision
Report Title	Active 4 Today Performance Report for the Financial Year 1 st April 2025 – 31 st July 2025
Purpose of Report	This report presents the performance of Active 4 Today for the period 1 st April – 31 st July 2025.
Report Recommendations	That the Executive Shareholder Committee note the performance of Active4Today for the financial year 1 st April 2025 – 31 st July 2025.
Alternative Options Considered	None, this report presents performance for Active4Today.
Reason for Recommendations	To ensure that the shareholder has assurance and oversight of the company's performance ensuring that the company continues to deliver the outcomes required by the Council as aligned to the Council's Community Plan.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Council's wholly owned 'not for profit' leisure company, Active4Today (A4T) has been delivering leisure and sports development on behalf of the Council since 2015. This includes the management of four leisure centres: Blidworth, Dukeries, the Newark Sports and Fitness Centre and Southwell Leisure Centre.
- 1.2 Prior to the establishment of the Executive Shareholder Committee, performance of the company was overseen by the Leisure & Environment Committee.
- 1.3 Oversight of Active4Today is now achieved through the Councils' nominated representatives on the Board of Active4Today, quarterly monitoring of the

management agreement at officer level through the Directorate for Housing, Health and Wellbeing, and through the Executive Shareholder Committee.

- 1.4 This cover report provides the highlights for committee with appended documents to this report:
 1. Active4Today - Report from the Managing Director 1st April to 31st July 2025
 2. Active4Today - Performance Indicators 1st April to 31st July 2025
 3. Active4Today - Sports Development Report 1st February to 31st July 2025

2.0 Business Performance Overview – Usage, Memberships, Income and Expenditure

- 2.1 Following strong performance in 2024 -2025 A4T's performance over the first 4 months of the current financial year has continued thanks to retained usage and relatively low attrition rates in its membership base, although utilities cost have risen and the position is being tracked closely as detailed in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Members will also be aware that the Council recently reached an agreement with Southwell Leisure Centre Trust to surrender the lease and the management agreement and the centre returned to the Trust with the Company being retained as the interim operator until the end of the current financial year, March 2026. Accordingly, this in-year change in operations will be reported separately to Shareholder Committee moving forwards for the purposes of transparency pending a longer-term solution being agreed by the Trust, the Council and A4T should this be appropriate.
- 2.3 The Council and A4T are also currently investigating the potential benefits of developing an 'Agency' model of business operation whereby A4T would act as the Council's Agent to increase the amount of VAT that the Council can recover through the delivery of its leisure offer to customers at Council owned leisure centres. Shareholder Committee will be appraised of the progress of this work particularly if this proposal becomes a viable option to secure further savings for the Council.
- 2.4 Changes agreed as apart of the approved Business Plan for 2025 - 2026 in relation to alignment of membership prices has seen an uplift in income without any significant impacts on membership sales and retention which has led to an overall improved budget position at the end of Period 4.

3.0 Financial and Usage Headlines up to 31st July 2025

- 3.1 Table 1 below, provides the current financial position of the Company, which is monitored by the Board, as part of its role in managing the operations of the business. It shows the original full year budget for 2025 – 2026, the revised budget for 2025 – 2026 and the variance between the two budgets.
- 3.2 What Committee will be aware of is the significant variations across all codes. As stated above in para 2.2 for the purposes of this report, Southwell Leisure Centre Trust's budget

has been removed from the revised figures. Whilst this does mean that comparisons/variations between periods are more difficult to understand as detailed in Table 1, the Committee now has an accurate starting point for budget comparison and monitoring for the remainder of the year, without Southwell's figures included.

Budget Category	Original full year budget for 2025-2026	Period 4 revised budget for 2025-2026	Variance between the original full year budget and the revised budget at period 4
Membership Income	-£3,772,210	-£3,223,700	£548,510
Pay and Play Income	-£298,800	-£250,300	£48,500
Facility Hire Income	-£430,300	-£373,800	£56,500
Other Income	-£103,700	-£100,000	£3,700
Total income	-£4,605,010	-£3,947,800	£657,210
Staff	£2,805,600	£2,269,700	-£535,900
Premises	£838,200	£722,700	-£115,500
Supplies and services	£1,020,600	£839,100	-£181,500
Total expenditure	£4,664,400	£3,831,500	-£832,900
Transfer to Reserves	£50,000	£50,000	£0
(Surplus)/Deficit	£109,390	-£66,300	-£175,690

Table 1 Financial performance update, **without Southwell Leisure Centre finance included.**

- 3.3 In summary the adjustments to the budget position with Southwell Leisure Centre removed from the calculation forecasts a positive variance to year end of £175,690 thereby reducing a forecast deficit of £109,390 to a forecast surplus of £66,300 to yearend based on current financial modelling which is the first occasion, from the establishment of the Company in 2015 that it is in a position to forecast a surplus at year end.
- 3.4 In terms of user numbers, visits are currently following seasonal trends, with quarter 1 being traditionally quiet, due to the improved weather and lighter evenings, as well as many winter club bookings moving outdoors and not requiring all weather, or indoor training facilities. At period 4, 389,656 users have accessed facilities an increase of 47,405 compared with Period 4 in 2024 -2025 representing an increase of 13.85%.

3.5 As at 31st July 2025 there were 12,395 live memberships across all sites representing an increase of 608 members compared to the same period in 2024 -2025 an increase of 5.2%, with a split of 9,233 adults members and 3,162 juniors.

3.6 Table 2 below provides the breakdown of memberships across all sites as at 31st July compared to 31st March 2025 which shows overall positive growth.

Month	BLC Adult	DLC Adult	NSFC Adult	SLC Adult	BLC Child	DLC Child	NSFC Child	SLC Child	TOTAL
Mar 25	913	1,321	5,024	1,821	125	436	1,728	844	12,212
April	916	1,313	5,034	1,801	130	431	1,718	843	12,186
May	925	1,304	5,089	1,800	132	425	1,732	852	12,259
June	945	1,355	5,087	1,800	136	424	1,738	845	12,330
July	960	1,379	5,115	1,779	138	415	1,750	859	12,395

Table 2. Membership Details at Sites

3.7 Table 3 below shows the forecast Management Fee at yearend being zero meaning there is no direct subsidy per user to the Council to operate the current leisure offer.

Year	Management Fee	User Visits	Subsidy per user
2019 – 2020	£120,220	1,189,899	£0.10
2020 – 2021	£611,220	267,825	£2.28
2021 – 2022	£731,645	914,491	£0.80
2022 – 2023	£480,650	1,008,319	£0.48
2023 – 2024	£410,534	1,101,987	£0.37
2024 – 2025	£80,000	1,102,936	£0.07
2025 - 2026	£0.00 (forecast)	1,100,000 (est)	£0.00

Table 3. Management fee v user visits to calculate subsidy per visit

3.8 In order to maintain this positive trend of increasing income and reducing expenditure the Council continues to invest capital in its leisure assets in the financial year 2025 – 2026 to support the improving performance of A4T. Significant examples include an additional Sport England grant for a pool cover for the Dukeries swimming pool, new swimming starting blocks for clubs based at Newark Sports and Fitness Centre which will be available to both Newark and Muskham swimming clubs to support performance coaching at the respective clubs and the introduction of pool and sports hall inflatables at Dukeries Leisure Centre, all of which will drive income and usage at the sites.

4.0 Performance Against Business Plan Actions

4.1 Each year the company sets out within its business plan, the key activities it will deliver alongside its standard memberships under three broad themes of 'Healthy and Active

Lifestyles', 'Accessible Facilities' and 'Financial Viability'. These activities are approved by the Shareholder Cabinet and reflect the Council's priorities around engagement, health improvement through tackling physical inactivity and addressing the needs of different population groups including older persons, younger persons or those with a disability.

4.2 A number of these additional activities, as detailed in paragraph 7.1 in Appendix A, are often delivered outside the standard leisure centre provision through outreach activity, making physical activity accessible to a much wider participation base.

4.3 At the end of 31st July 2025 A4T has delivered activities and interventions to support the wider community who typically may not access one of the Council's leisure centres and a number of these initiatives are outlined below:

- 111 participants engaged in free fun swims and squash activities during the Easter and May holiday,
- 12 bursary awards made to qualifying young people experiencing poor mental health for 12-month gym memberships,
- 3 community based sports clubs are engaged with the VISPA Placement Scheme to offer opportunities for young people to secure volunteering experience in secure club settings,
- Engaged with 23 new businesses to develop corporate memberships through Newark Business club,
- 11 new referral partners identified across the District to expand A4T's exercise referral programme,
- New disability session established following the introduction of the Changing Places facility at Dukeries Leisure Centre.
- 52 local community groups and sports clubs supported across the District,
- The Sports Development Team supported 18 community events,
- The CAP funded 'Footy Fun' at Hawtonville Young People's Centre attracted 226 participants during its first programme

5.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection, Digital and Cyber Security, Equality and Diversity, Financial, Human Resources, Human Rights, Legal, Safeguarding and Sustainability, and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

5.1 Financial Implications – (FIN25-26/6059)

5.2 The budgeted management fee to Active4Today within the Council's financial system is £109,390 for financial year 2025-2026. However, as shown in table 1 and paragraph 3.3, A4T's current forecast to year end is indicating that they will present a surplus outturn

therefore no management fee will be required. The Q1 budget monitoring reports were forecast to spend the full £109,390 that was budgeted for, the Q2 budget monitoring will be updated to show the saving to the Council with the budget unspent.

5.3 Legal Implication - LEG2526/4627

This report is for noting only.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None

1st SEPTEMBER 2025

UPDATE REPORT 1st APRIL 2025 – 31ST JULY 2025



1. REPORT PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide the Shareholder Committee with an update on the operations of Active4Today, for the period 1st April 2025 to 31st July 2025 (period 04).
- 1.2 To provide the Shareholder Committee with an update on any proposed management fee, following the revised budget process completed in July 2025.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Committee will be aware, that the Company finished the year in a strong position, with the deficit figure outturn of £29,843; this represents the best financial performance for the Company, since it was established in 2015. This was an excellent final position for the Company, given that this included, continuing to operate Southwell Leisure Centre, with no main pool and significant losses in memberships carrying forward from the previous year and which had been reported to the Committee on several occasions.
- 2.2 Attrition rates across the membership base (cancellations v new members), remained relatively low, which is testament to the hard work of the fitness staff, in retaining their customers through excellent customer service.
- 2.3 Due to this positive closing position for the Company, the starting income for the 2025-2026 financial year, is slightly higher than expected.
- 2.4 Utilities experienced an increase in usage across several sites, and this was particularly noticeable for gas usage at Newark. This is currently being investigated by the management team and external specialists and may identify possible issues with the way the building is being powered, which is adding to the additional usage and the cost. This is quite a complex piece of work, due to the site operating a combined heating and power system (CHP), as well as recently having solar panels installed to the site, which is supporting the electric consumption of the building.
- 2.5 During 2025, the Council reached an agreement with the Southwell Leisure Centre Trust to relinquish the lease between the two organisations and return the centre to the management of the Trust. As a result of this agreement, Active4Today were approached by the Trust to discuss its continued operation of the facility for the remainder of 2025-2026 financial year, in order to provide continuity for the customers using the facility.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 During May 2025, Active4Today signed the agreement with Southwell Leisure Centre Trust to operate their facility until the end of the 2025-2026 financial year. For the purposes of reporting to the Committee, Southwell's budgets have been taken out of this report, in order that the Company can report separately to the Trust. As the contract was signed on 22nd May 2025, any deficit rising from the operation of Southwell from this point, will be met by the Trust. Consequently, any deficit which has arisen between 1st April 2025 and 21st May 2025, will be reported to the Committee, to provide transparency for the Council, with regards its financial closure on this facility.
- 3.2 As the Company set the original 2025-2026 budget during December 2024, several changes to the finances have arisen, not least the changes in arrangement with Southwell Leisure Centre. As a result, the Company has revised budgets during July 2025, to enable accurate and up to date reporting to take place.
- 3.3 In addition to the above, a further change has been the recent price alignment exercise, which increased a large proportion of membership fees by £1 per month. This seems however, to have not had an adverse effect on the membership sales and retention data remains quite steady, with the overall budget position being slightly higher than expected at this stage.
- 3.4 As previously stated to the Committee, utility prices for the 2025-2026 financial year were increased by 8% over the 2024-2025 financial year, on the information which the Company had at that time (December 2024). The Company is not made aware of the price of utilities until after 1st April, which is the start of the new financial year. The Company has now received the new pricing schedule for utilities to 31st March 2026 and has factored this into the revised budget position.
- 3.5 Along with the Council, the Company is currently in the process of investigating the adoption of the 'Agency' model with the main benefit of reducing the amount of irrecoverable VAT the Company pays to HMRC. The financial implication of this is that through the Council, the Company will benefit on recovering VAT on purchases, where previously it was unable to. Based on the current information which the Company holds, this could result in significant saving for the Council and opportunities for Active4Today to work with the Council to provide more services to the community, for the same or less finance than is currently received from the Council, in the form of a management fee.
- 3.6 As stated above, the Company are working closely with the Council and have agreed to joint legal consultation to draft the new contract for the agency model. The cost of this work will be shared equally between the Company and the Council.

4. FINANCIAL HEADLINES UP TO 31st JULY 2025

- 4.1 Set out in the table below (table 1), Active4Today has provided the current financial position of the Company, which is monitored by the Board, as part of its role in managing the operations of the business. The table below shows the original full year budget for 2025 – 2026, the revised budget for 2025 – 2026 and the variance between the two budgets.
- 4.2 What the Committee will be aware of is the significant variations across all codes. As stated above in para 3.1, for the purposes of this report, Southwell Leisure Centre Trust's budget has been removed from the revised figures. Whilst this does mean that comparisons/variations between periods are difficult to understand using the table below, the Committee now has an accurate starting point for budget comparison and monitoring for the remainder of the year, without Southwell's figures included.

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Pay and Play Income	-£298,800	-£250,300	£48,500
Facility Hire Income	-£430,300	-£373,800	£56,500
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Total expenditure	£4,664,400	£3,831,500	-£832,900
Transfer to Reserves	£50,000	£50,000	£0
(Surplus)/Deficit	£109,390	-£66,300	-£175,690

Table 1 Financial performance update, **without Southwell Leisure Centre finance included**

- 4.3 Below are the highlights from the financial information, in a bid to provide some narrative for the Committee. Please note the variances discussed are only those that relate to Active4Today's cost centres and do not include detail on any variance the Southwell separation has created in the table above.

- I. **Membership income** – This income budget has been increased by £162,000 from the original budget to the revised budget. As mentioned previously membership prices have increased by £1 per month across the majority of the membership types, providing much of the income growth. Whilst the Company had expected higher attrition rates than usual following the increase, the retention rates have been much better than anticipated, resulting a higher expected income. As a result, this is expected to be significantly higher at year end, if the trend at period 4 continues.

- II. **Facility hire/pay and play income** – This income budget has increased by £5,500 from the original budget to the revised budget. This increase is due to a higher take up than expected across the summer period, for the outdoor facilities hired by the Company.
- III. **Other income** – This income budget is currently unchanged from the original budget.
- IV. **Staffing** – This budget has seen an increase of £97,300, based on the original base budget. Whilst the Company had budgeted for an annual pay increase, this came in slightly higher than expected, which with on-costs has increased the salaries budget. In addition to this, two new posts have been introduced to the Company for a new training officer, which will assist the Company in ensuring all staff are up to date with ongoing mandatory training requirements, to meet the compliance required. Finally, a new apprentice has been added, to support the succession planning within the sports development/activity development section.
- V. **Premises** – This budget is forecasted to increase by £86,700 from the original base budget specifically connected with increases in both utility prices (the unit cost) and utility usage across all leisure centres. This is particularly relevant within reference to Newark Sports and Fitness Centre, which is the highest utility user of all sites, with utilities costing over £300,000 per annum. That said, income is very buoyant still at that site, which has helped to off-set the increases.
- VI. **Supplies and services** – This section of the budget has increased by £27,400 and is made up of several budget lines. The majority of this increase, however, is due to the inclusion of new AI software. This will allow the customers to have an improved initial contact experience with the Company's website, when trying to locate specific information. As the Committee will be aware, AI are now playing a significant role within many organisations and specifically within customer service. For A4T, the introduction of AI, allows an improved personal contact to then take place, when customers move from the AI 'chat' and onto an operator, due to the AI managing most of the easy conversations and questions.
- VII. **Transfer from balances** – This line historically represented the expected shortfall of the Companies budget at year end. This is currently forecast to be a net surplus position of £66,300. This is an extremely positive position for the Company given that it is the first time since the Company opened, it has been in a positive financial position.
- VIII. The Company is forecasting to continue to maintain the reserve following a successful year end. Currently the reserve position is £690,345, which is £59,655 away from the target of £750,000. After the budgeted £50,000 is contributed this year, the Company will have almost achieved the targeted reserve position.

5. FURTHER FINANCIAL UPDATES

- 5.1 The Company has completed the year-end audited accounts which were completed and audited by Wright Vigar in July 2025. The Auditors confirmed *‘we can advise you that no significant weaknesses have arisen during our work, that we consider need to be drawn to your attention other than those identified’*.
- 5.2 In addition, they have stated: *‘we can confirm that on the basis of the evidence obtained during the course of our audit procedures, we propose to issue an unqualified auditor’s opinion on the financial statements, for the year ended 31st March 2025’*.
- 5.3 Following the success of the recent Sport England sustainability funding applications, which were made jointly between Active4Today and the Council, an opportunity recently occurred to bid for a further amount of residual finance, held by them. Following an application, the Council and Active4Today have been successful in securing further finance, to install a new pool cover at Dukeries Leisure Centre, to aid the utility sustainability of this site. Installation is expected to commence during August, with completion during September, following the delivery of the new cover.
- 5.4 During September, A4T are expecting the delivery of the new inflatable purchased by the Council, following Cabinets approval. This will be an excellent opportunity for Dukeries Leisure Centre, and the Company is looking forward to jointly launching the new resource with the Council and offering several community groups within the district, the opportunity to try the new activity for free, as part of the promotional launch.

6. USAGE PERFORMANCE

- 6.1 As the Committee is aware, the performance of the Company is monitored against a small set of indicators, which focus on usage and membership sales. These indicators have been agreed and used for several years, which has allowed for comparative data to be available. Attached at appendix I, are the indicators for the Company.
- 6.2 In addition to the quantitative data set out above, case studies and more qualitative performance information is provided separately within this report and focuses on the performance of the Company’s Sports Development team. This is attached at appendix II.
- 6.3 Finally, to provide compliance reassurance to the Council, the following list now forms part of the update report.
- I. Performance against Business Plan Actions and Performance Indicators
 - II. By exception: update on regulatory compliance
 - III. By exception: Strategic Risk
 - IV. Outcome of any formal complaints
 - V. Inclusion of customer satisfaction data

7. PERFORMANCE TO PERIOD 4, TO 31ST JULY 2025

7.1 Performance against Business Plan Actions and Performance Indicators:

	AIMS	LINKS TO COMMUNITY PLAN	ACTION	PROGRESS TO 31 ST JULY 2025
1.	Healthy and active lifestyles			
1.1	Children and young people	Improve health and wellbeing / Raise people's skills level and create employment opportunities for them to fulfil their potential / Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour	<p>a) Co-ordinate a series of free activities for children and families during school holidays. At least 2 free activities on 1 day per week, identified during each school holiday week, in each holiday period.</p> <p>b) Offer school holiday activities to qualifying children on free school meals through the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) funded programme.</p> <p>c) Develop the school holiday provision to include developmental sports clubs and provide experience for VISPA volunteers.</p> <p>d) Support the N&S Council to offer events to engage with new junior members.</p> <p>e) Identify 2 areas in the district for delivery of holiday activities with partners including Anti-Social Behaviour team and Youth Service</p>	<p>In progress - 97 participants engaged in free fun swims, free squash activities and family sports sessions during the Easter school holiday. This includes 69 free fun swim places and 2 free squash places at NSFC and 26 free fun swim places at DLC.</p> <p>14 participants engaged in free fun Swims and family sports sessions during May half term at DLC.</p> <p>In progress - 1 VISPA Volunteer supported at 2 sports camp sessions during Easter. All VISPA volunteers have been asked to complete availability to support at future holiday activity sessions.</p> <p>In progress - All NSSC member clubs invited to engage with new junior members during A4T holiday activity programme. Invitation to attend community events alongside A4T including Collingham Community Fair, Ollerton St. Georges Day event, Nottinghamshire Show and the Positively Empowered Kids event, Newark.</p> <p>In progress – funding application submitted for 3 years of community delivery in targeted areas of Ollerton/Boughton, Blidworth, Bilsthorpe and Newark.</p>
1.2	Inclusion	Improve health and wellbeing / Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour	<p>a) Offer 20 bursaries for identified young people living with mental health conditions, to access a free 12-month gym membership at each of our leisure centre sites DLC, NSFC, SLC, BLC</p> <p>b) Investigate the expansion of the bursary scheme to other targeted groups i.e. young people with a disability, offering additional free passes to young people.</p>	<p>There were 12 successful awards made in June.</p> <p>Complete – Insight gained from the delivery of group gym and community sport activities with Orchard School have led to the creation of a new bursary scheme for young people with SEND. The scheme opened in June for applications from partner organisation including Portland College, Wings School,</p>

			<p>c) Explore, pilot and develop one session targeting people with a disability engaging with a minimum of 10 people per session, over a 10-week period.</p> <p>d) Identify other areas in the district for addressing anti-social behaviour with young people with physical activity sessions.</p> <p>e) Identify sessions/activities, once per month that can be offered on a 'Pay what you can' basis.</p> <p>f) Investigate new pathways and partners to broaden the reach of the DWP bursary scheme in Newark, Ollerton and Boughton</p> <p>g) Showcase the accessibility of the leisure centre offer, and adaptability of fitness equipment, by developing content for use on social media, which will build confidence for new disabled users.</p> <p>h) Use links with Newark College to develop talking maps for new users with visual impairments</p>	<p>REAL Education, Newark Orchard and Hope House schools.</p> <p>In progress – Proposal sent to Newark and Sherwood Autism Support Group following conversations regarding accessing sports hall and gym activities at NSFC.</p> <p>In progress – Target areas identified as Ollerton/Boughton, Blidworth, Bilsthorpe and Newark. A funding application submitted for 3 years of community sport activity delivery in partnership with ASB Officers, Youth Service, Police, Fire Service, local town/parish councils and community based clubs and groups.</p> <p>In progress</p> <p>In progress with video supplier</p> <p>In progress - A Talking Map for NSFC has been created in partnership with (Newark) Lincoln College students and is currently being reviewed.</p>
1.3	Volunteers and workforce	Raise people's skills level and create employment opportunities for them to fulfil their potential	<p>a) Work with the district's secondary schools to develop volunteering opportunities for young people aged 14 and over. Engagement with 5 schools and a target of engaging 40 new young people on the VISPA programme.</p> <p>b) Include developmental/mentoring opportunities for VISPA volunteers within the school holiday activity programme.</p> <p>c) Recruit 5 new sports clubs to engage with and offer VISPA volunteering placements.</p> <p>d) Develop a calendar of events i.e. careers fairs, open evenings, for attendance by the team to raise the profile of VISPA.</p> <p>e) Work with partners to develop and organise/deliver mental health training for identified staff.</p> <p>f) Develop a series of training opportunities for staff and external</p>	<p>In progress – Attended Dukeries Mock Interviews in April, Your CVS Careers Fair in June and Joseph Whitaker Careers Fair in July. Engaged 46 people, received 19 applications for VISPA and VISPA Academy with 5 young people being fully inducted and beginning volunteering.</p> <p>In progress - 3 community-based sports club have expressed an interest in offering VISPA placements and are in the process of completing A4T's club check list. 1 club currently has an opportunity available for a volunteer over the age of 18 years, this has been shared with CVS colleagues.</p> <p>Complete – Calendar of events created and being updated with engagement figures.</p> <p>In progress. A meeting is taking place during October</p>

			<p>individuals, which will upskill the workforce and widen access to recognised courses, including Menopause and stroke rehab.</p> <p>g) Review the performance and self-reflection feedback from staff to identify key personnel, for succession planning and training.</p>	
1.4	New opportunities	Improve health and wellbeing	<p>a) Investigate the possibilities of developing and implementing a charitable arm (NewCo) of the company, in a bid to attract external funding.</p> <p>b) Support the Council with the development of the new Lincoln Road Sports Facility and what this may provide to the community. This will focus on the look and feel of the facility, the operations day to day and the potential long term management opportunities.</p> <p>c) Engage with 40 new companies to build a relationship and share promotional material to take up corporate membership packages, with a view to improving the health and wellbeing of their workforce.</p> <p>d) Enrolment of 3 companies to convert to the full managed membership package for the corporate scheme.</p> <p>e) Investigate the options for a bronze, silver, gold, and business centre packages, for corporate partners.</p> <p>f) Support NSDC with the development of all-weather pitches across the district, including the planning, operation and management of the pitches, for community use.</p> <p>g) Work with NTU's Business School, supporting the development of undergraduate projects, with particular focus on investigating a digital marketing strategy for the company, to support the business.</p> <p>h) Introduce a major new piece of dryside inflatable equipment at the Dukeries Leisure Centre, which will provide new activities at the site and offer greater opportunities to the young people of Ollerton and the surrounding areas.</p> <p>i) Introduce a new pool inflatable at the Dukeries Leisure Centre, which will support the wetside programme and offer new opportunities for the young people</p>	<p>Research undertaken and review required of information. This will commence after the Agency process.</p> <p>Meetings planned with key NSDC officers during August</p> <p>Engaged 23 new companies, April- July across Newark and Sherwood as part of Newark Business Club and direct approaches.</p> <p>In progress - Initial draft completed and being reviewed.</p> <p>In progress – Expression of Interest forms completed for Newark Academy and Magnus Academy.</p> <p>Report and presentation completed. Series of recommendations provided for implementation.</p> <p>Delivery booked for 4th September. Draft programme created for introduction of sessions from late September.</p> <p>Pool inflatable delivered and operational. Weekly sessions are programmed with additional sessions on school holiday timetable.</p>

			<p>of Ollerton and the surrounding areas.</p> <p>j) Investigate options for new branding and website design.</p> <p>k) Develop a new programme of poolside activities, following the completion of the new disability changing facility, built within the Dukeries swimming pool hall.</p> <p>l) Develop a series of videos to promote the facilities, which can be streamed on social media and other platforms to raise exposure of the company.</p>	<p>Linked to NTU marketing project.</p> <p>DLC pool programme will be reviewed in September and relaunched alongside dryside inflatable.</p> <p>Selection of digital marketing content developed and shared on social media platforms</p>
2.	Accessible facilities			
2.1	Long term health conditions	Improve health and wellbeing	<p>a) Identify 10 new referral agencies/surgeries within the district and on the borders of the district per year, advising them of the benefits of engaging with the GP referral programme.</p> <p>b) Recruit 5 new referring partners.</p> <p>c) Develop trusted partners network to signpost people to the exercise referral scheme.</p> <p>d) Identify 2 staff for attendance/completion of the Level 3 GP/Exercise Referral qualification, to build capacity and resilience.</p> <p>e) Understand the demand from healthcare professionals for specialist health sessions in the Sherwood area of the district and develop an action plan to raise awareness of opportunities.</p> <p>f) Use 'World Hypertension Day' and 'Know your numbers' week to raise the profile of high blood pressure, do checks in leisure centres and community settings.</p>	<p>In progress - 11 new referral partners from across the district and its fringes identified and advised.</p> <p>In progress - 6 new referral partners recruited from NHS Local mental health teams, new GP practices and private healthcare services.</p> <p>In progress - 2 new partners recruited for the trusted partner pathway.</p> <p>In progress - 6 staff members identified and approached.</p> <p>In progress – Identified an increase of working age cardiac rehab patients. Implemented an evening Heart-Fit session at SLC to support working age patients.</p> <p>In progress - Free blood pressure checks delivered across A4T sites and in the community. Of the 33 blood pressure checks conducted, 4 referrals were referred for further blood pressure monitoring, due to their high result.</p> <p>An additional session was delivered at Boughton Community Hub in July. 12 people received blood pressure checks, of these 6 were on medication for high blood pressure.</p>
2.2	Partner sites	Improve health and wellbeing	<p>a) Contact 2 schools with the offer to work with A4T with a target of developing two further partner sites within 2025-2026.</p> <p>b) Improve community access through partner facilities and review current SLAs with each partner site.</p>	<p>Four sites contacted and one site visit made to date. Further follow up to take place throughout the year.</p>
2.3	Digital technology	Improve health and wellbeing	<p>a) Improve the content and functionality of the App, including</p>	<p>Refresh of app content and layouts undertaken. Under continuous review.</p>

			<p>increased marketing, customer feedback.</p> <p>b) Undertake a digital customer survey to assess the feedback regarding customer satisfaction.</p> <p>c) Continue to develop and roll out the self-service offer within the Company, moving all grant aid forms and applications online, to speed the process up for the applicant and improve the quality of offer, provided by the Company.</p> <p>d) Use artificial intelligence to improve building efficiency and operations i.e. cleaning robots, customer services, swimming programmes and social media Q&As.</p> <p>e) Explore the options for leisure management system to be hosted off premise.</p>	<p>Annual survey planned for March 2026.</p> <p>Grant aid forms drafted for online use. Review required to go live by next panel date in September.</p> <p>AI customer agent introduced alongside new children's lesson software and membership sign up. Initial data shows this is filtering enquiries and creating additional capacity in the customer services team to deal with more complex enquiries. Site visit planned with another leisure provider for introducing another agent.</p>
2.4	Physical access		<p>a) Continue to ensure the buildings where possible continue to be accessible for all our customers, including those who may have conditions, which make access more difficult.</p>	<p>Excellent feedback from customers from the changing places improvements at DLC. New pool sessions have now been added and discussions are taking place with disability groups regarding a specific session, on the new inflatable.</p>
3. Financial viability				
3.1	Pricing	Improve health and wellbeing	<p>a) In conjunction with the Council, undertake a pricing review of all hire fees and charges, monthly membership options and pay and play per activity.</p> <p>b) Undertake the remaining price re-alignments for the memberships with a target of achieving a full re-alignment of all memberships by the end of the financial year 2025/2026</p> <p>c) Refining and streamlining of the block booking process and renewal of bookings, identification of other appropriate software packages.</p>	<p>Increases applied recently to memberships. Information contained within the business plan and within the report.</p> <p>Re-alignment of membership fees completed in July. Several membership types to be completed by March 2026.</p> <p>Review of 3 new software providers undertaken with 1 platform identified</p>
3.3	Financial services and expenditure / income	Improve health and wellbeing	<p>a) Approach sporting organisations to collect and administer the subscriptions made by members, through the Company's efficient direct debit membership collection process.</p> <p>b) Explore the options of alternative financial modelling with the Council, which will focus on an 'Agency' model to improve the company's and councils VAT position.</p>	<p>External advice commissioned by A4T with NSDC for implementation from 1st October 2025.</p>
3.3	Sustainability	Reduce the impact of climate change	<p>a) Expand the use of recycling pods for single use plastics and other recyclable materials.</p> <p>b) Review data of energy usage to understand patterns and trends</p>	<p>This is taking place across all the leisure centres, with further improvements to take place throughout the year, changing customer habits.</p>

			alongside Environmental Audit and identify specific interventions, which will decrease the carbon footprint. c) Review findings of BMS investigations and implement appropriate actions.	In progress Initial meeting took place during May 2025 with actions to undertake following this review. A further meeting is set up for September 2025, to follow up the works.
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Table 2. Performance against Business Plan Actions and Performance Indicators

7.2 **PERFORMANCE TO PERIOD 4, TO 31st JULY 2025**

- 7.3 The number of user visits is currently following seasonal trends, with quarter 1 being traditionally quiet, due to the improved weather and lighter evenings, as well as many winter club bookings moving outdoors and not requiring all weather, or indoor training facilities.
- 7.4 Information on the subsidy per user in relation to the management fee, provided by Newark and Sherwood District Council is detailed in the table below, detailing the current rate and provides some historical data for comparison.

Year	Management Fee	User Visits	Subsidy per user
2019 – 2020	£120,220	1,189,899	£0.10
2020 – 2021	£611,220	267,825	£2.28
2021 – 2022	£731,645	914,491	£0.80
2022 – 2023	£480,650	1,008,319	£0.48
2023 – 2024	£410,534	1,101,987	£0.37
2024 – 2025	£80,000	1,102,936	£0.07
2025 - 2026	£0.00 (forecast)	1,100,000	£0.00

Table 3. Management fee v user visits to calculate subsidy per visit

- 7.5 The number of user visits has experienced growth in direct comparison to the same period in 2024, reaching 389,656 across all leisure centres and partner sites. This is an increase of 13.85% (47,405).
- 7.6 In comparison to 31st July 2024, the number of under 16's has increased by 3.67% reaching 93,456, at 31st July 2025, which is reassuring given the junior memberships has also remained at a similar level.
- 7.7 The number of users that are 60+ has again experienced an increase in comparison to the same period in 2024, which is in line with seasonal trends. There were 57,352 visitors from this age group using the leisure centres up to 31st July 2025 compared to 51,557 for the same period in 2024, a small increase of over 11%. A full report on referrals can be seen attached at appendix III.
- 7.8 The number of referrals received from healthcare professionals up to 31st July 2025 reached 160. This is a 21% increase on the referrals submitted in the same period in 2024, with the

conversions achieving a record high of over 53% and reaching 85 new sign-ups so far this year. This is an 88% increase on 2024 performance.

7.9 The number of community groups supported has reached 83 across the team of sports development officers and more details regarding the progress and performance of the sports development team are included in appendix II.

7.10 On 31st July 2025 there were 12,395 live memberships held across all sites. In comparison to July 2024, there is an increase of +608, where the total live membership was 11,787, this is an increase of 5.2%.

7.11 The table below provides the Committee with direct debit membership data and how this has performed since 1st March 2025.

Month	BLC Adult	DLC Adult	NSFC Adult	SLC Adult	BLC Child	DLC Child	NSFC Child	SLC Child	TOTAL
March 2025	913	1,321	5,024	1,821	125	436	1,728	844	12,212
April	916	1,313	5,034	1,801	130	431	1,718	843	12,186
May	925	1,304	5,089	1,800	132	425	1,732	852	12,259
June	945	1,355	5,087	1,800	136	424	1,738	845	12,330
July	960	1,379	5,115	1,779	138	415	1,750	859	12,395

7.12 Since 1st April there have been 1,895 new memberships sold, which covers all the different membership types, across all centres.

7.13 In addition to the full membership sales above, there have been 347 free passes provided to residents of the district which included 324 1-day and 3-day leisure centre passes, 5 care leaver passes, and 10 talented individual passes.

7.14 During the summer months, the annual promotion of a pass for a set number of days was offered, and this year, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Active4Today being established on 1st June, the campaign offered was '10 days for £10' which achieved 68 sales.

7.15 The live adult membership base at DLC for July 2025 is 1,379, which is an increase of +162 in comparison to the same period in 2024 where the membership was 1,217. This is an excellent achievement following the significant focus that the area has had from the team over the last 9 months. This will continue with further work supporting local business and health partners through the 'Project Ollerton' campaign.

7.16 The children's membership at DLC has fallen in comparison to July 2024 from 487 to 415 at 31st July 2025 (-72). A new pool inflatable has arrived at the centre with weekend and school holiday sessions taking place to generate more usage and increase membership numbers.

- 7.17 In addition, the indoor inflatable to be located in the sports hall, will arrive in September, following a slight delay in manufacturing and delivery dates. This will be launched at the end of September and plans are currently underway to engage with local community organisations and young people's groups to increase awareness.
- 7.18 Although a smaller membership base than other centres, BLC has experienced continued growth over the last 18 months in both adult and junior memberships. In 12 months, the adult membership has climbed from 831 to 960, an increase of 15% (+129).
- 7.19 The junior membership has reached 138, a steady increase of +29 over the last 12 months. The junior offer at the centre includes the use of pin loaded resistance and circuit training equipment and selected classes if accompanied by an adult. The centre is extremely busy with young people on weekdays between 3.30pm and 5.30pm.
- 7.20 The NSFC adult membership base has continued to grow and reached 5,115 at 31st July 2025. This is an increase of +446 in comparison to 31st July 2024. The centre was built and opened in 2016 and achieving a membership base of over 5,000 adults was always one of the key objectives, given the size of the fitness suite and following the extensive refurbishment and new equipment in November 2024, the centre has seen an increase of +457 adult members as well as an increase in usage.
- 7.21 The junior membership base at NSFC has also experienced an increase since July 2024 and reached 1,750 (+62) at 31st July 2025. This is excellent news given that there has been a consolidation of dry side coached lessons at the site in the last 6 months, which has increased availability for casual and block bookings in the sports hall.
- 7.22 The adult membership base at SLC has experienced a small decrease since the start of the year and achieved 1,779 on 31st July 2025 and a decrease in the same point in 2024, where the adult membership was 1,830 (-51). This is due to the ongoing closure of the main pool at the centre.
- 7.23 The junior membership base at SLC reached 859 at 31st July 2025 where it has remained at a similar level throughout the last 12 months.
- 7.24 The number of concessionary memberships held has once again increased in comparison to last year, and reached 569 members, on 31st July 2025. This is an increase of +73 (496) on the same period in 2024.

8. By exception: Update on regulatory compliance

- 8.1.1 Since 1st April, several inspections and checks have been undertaken by Active4Today staff, supported by external contractors where necessary. Between 1st April and 31st July, the following checks were undertaken:

- Legionella flushing
- Pool water sampling (bacteriological tests)
- Service and inspection fitness equipment at all sites
- Integrated Building Management service and inspection (Newark)
- Lifts inspections
- Intruder alarm inspections
- Air handling unit inspections and servicing
- Pool Pod inspection
- Aqua cycles inspections
- Combined Heat and Power unit servicing and inspection
- Air conditioning service and inspections
- Service and inspection for the swimming pools at NSFC

8.1.2 There are also a number of checks and tests, which are the responsibility of the Council as the buildings owner, or which have been commissioned by the Council on behalf of Active4Today. These are managed on a regular basis with Council staff from Corporate Property and Safety and Risk. These have included:

- Swimming pool EICR inspections (electrical testing)
- Legionella inspections and tank cleaning
- Lighting protection service and inspection
- Fire detection systems service and inspection
- Fire doors and shutters inspections
- Fire extinguisher inspections
- Zurich Insurance inspections
- Fire damper inspection and servicing
- PAT testing (electrical testing)
- Emergency lighting at all sites
- Roof inspections (Newark)

8.1.3 There are currently no other compliance issues identified.

8.2 By exception: Strategic Risk

8.2.1 There are currently no strategic risks identified.

8.3 Outcome of any formal complaints and customer satisfaction data

8.3.1 Currently Active4Today has a process of collecting customer comments and feedback through various means. This includes verbal interaction, email sent directly to the Company through the enquiry's inbox, completing a form on the webpage, via the Council's customer services team, or direct to a staff member (usually captured on Staffmis).

8.3.2 These various communications are then either actioned by the Operations Manager on duty, (if they are able to answer the query, question, or complaint), or passed through to the Director of Development and Operations, who will action the feedback by arranging a meeting with the customer/s and/or respond in writing.

8.3.3 In turn, where the feedback involves praise for the Company or an individual; this is passed on to the person/s in question, with a supporting email from the Director of Development and Operations.

8.3.4 Active4Today continues to receive comments through an online form, which has recently been developed further to allow the filtering of comments and feedback at the point of submission. This will now split comments into categories which include safeguarding, theft and car parks, inappropriate behaviour and general customer feedback. Dependent on the selection, is then automatically sent to a specific member of the team. This is managed internally by both Directors, to ensure there is a consistency of message and application of the policy.

8.3.5 There have been 53 customer comments received in total across the Company from April to July 2025. These are split down as follows, with often multiple comments covering more than one area of the business:

- Accidents and incidents - 0
- Facilities - 15
- Positive staff feedback - 18
- Negative staff feedback - 7
- Programming - 7
- Systems and pricing - 4
- Miscellaneous - 2

8.3.6 Examples of some of the comments during the last quarter are –

- Delivery of the exercise classes at NSFC
- Wifi connect on the cardio equipment at DLC
- Positive management of swimmers in the lane swims at NSFC
- Poor programming of a group booking using the pool at DLC
- Cancellation of classes due to availability of qualified instructors at SLC
- Classes are full and no availability at SLC
- Compliments for staff that administered first aid following a fall in the car park at SLC
- Temperature of the air conditioning in the cardio room at SLC

8.3.7 Individuals who highlighted that they wanted a response to the comments were contacted by the Director of Development and Operations. On some occasions there was further action taken, i.e. positive/negative comments relating to staff and this feedback to individuals concerned.

8.3.8 The breakdown of scores relating to the comments are as follows, with 1 being the lowest score and 5 being the highest –

- Score of 1/5 – 14
- Score of 2/5 – 6
- Score of 3/5 – 7
- Score of 4/5 – 4
- Score of 5/5 – 22

9. BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are significant budget implications contained within this report and this will continue to be discussed with the Council's Senior Leadership team, in order they are fully appraised of the most recent financial position of the Company.

10. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 All information will continue to be available in a number of formats in line with Active4Today's access requirements and those set out in the equalities and diversity policy.

For further information please contact Andy Carolan – Managing Director

Appendix 2			
<u>Active4Today Performance Indicators</u>	31st July 2024	31st July 2025	Growth (+) Decline (-)
No. of User Visits - TOTAL	342,251	389,656	+13.85%
No. of Leisure Centre user visits - Children (under 16) - TOTAL	90,145	93,456	+3.67%
No. of Leisure Centre user visits - Aged Over 60 - TOTAL	51,557	57,352	+11.24%
No. of Leisure Centre user visits - Deprived areas - Total users	14,491	17,009	+17.38%
No. of individuals referred to Active4Today from a health professional - Total	132	160	+21.21%
No. of individuals referred to Active4Today from a health professional - Attended Session - TOTAL	45	85	+88.89%
No. of Community Groups supported by Sports Development	82	83	+1.22%
Live Leisure Centre Membership base (adults) - Total	8,647	9,233	+6.78%
Live Leisure Centre Membership base (children) - Total	3,140	3,162	+0.70%
Number of people on concessionary membership	496	569	+14.72%

Appendix 3

SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE REPORT

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT UPDATE FROM 1ST APRIL TO 31ST JULY 2025

Community Development

The sports development team supported 52 clubs, which included Rainworth Judo Club, Clipstone Cricket Club, Edwinstowe Cricket Club, Newark Tennis Club, Newark Swimming Club, and Southwell Squash Club. Information has been provided on grants, volunteer recruitment, and local sports council initiatives. All clubs were encouraged to nominate to the Community and Sport Awards, with application support offered.

Officers are supporting Newark Swimming Club to develop a 'Club Links' programme at Dukeries Leisure Centre, designed to provide young people in Sherwood with the opportunity to transition from Active4Today's swimming programme into competitive club swimming.

Additionally, officers collaborated with Southwell Squash Club to introduce Minster School students to squash. In July, the club engaged 20 students in fun squash activities at Southwell Leisure Centre during Minster School Sports Day. Sessions were led by coaches from Southwell Squash Club who is a local professional player and Nottinghamshire Squash.

Newark and Sherwood Sports Council (NSSC) held a member event at Southwell Cricket Club in April which engaged with 12 clubs, who were infrequent attendees. Support was offered by staff and external partner organisations including Active Notts, NSDC Communities Team and Newark Youth Trust. To support the event a webpage was created with funding, training and additional club support information available for members to access. The next meeting of the Sports Council will take place in September with new promotional items in place.

Active4Today received 29 grants applications for the June panel from a range of sports clubs including Adventure Activities for All Abilities (4A's Newark), Newark Amateur Boxing Club and Ollerton Town FC.

Community Engagement	Club Development	Coach and Official Development	Talented Individual	Kit Sponsorship
3	3	10	3	10

In June the team met with the School Games Organiser to develop links between district-based school students and local sports club opportunities. This meeting also supported a closer link between Joseph Whitaker school PE team and Rainworth Judo Club.

Team members supported Collingham Tennis Club coaches in the delivery of accessible tennis sessions for students at Hope House School. This was a fantastic opportunity for the apprentice to experience inclusive tennis delivery in a sports club setting.

In June Active4Today presented information on the leisure centre and community physical activity and sport offer to NSDC 'Life Chances for Girls' working committee. This information supported members to understand the opportunities taking place for women and girls in the district alongside other partners.

The team attended 18 community events which engaged 754 people across the district. The team provided fun activities, information, advice and signposting to sport and physical activity opportunities taking place in leisure centres and community settings across the district.

Collingham Community Fair	Positively Empowered Kids	Blidworth Summer Gala	Balderton Senior Citizens Fair
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Ollerton St George's Day Celebration	Your CVS Volunteer Fair	Sherwood Avenue Park, opening	St Joseph's School Health Roadshow
Newark Brazil's Celebration Event	Nottinghamshire County Show	CVS Health and Wellbeing Summer Fair	Parkgate Academy Health Roadshow
Ollerton Boughton Community Hub, opening	Holy Trinity School Health Week	Forest View Academy Health Roadshow	Yorke Drive Summer Event

Active and healthy lifestyles

During this period Active4Today recruited 8 new Exercise Referral partners, received 160 exercise referrals and supported 85 new exercise referral members. The team also received 11 care leaver referral applications, with 5 individuals taking up the 1-year membership offer. A full review of the 2024/2025 Exercise Referral Report is attached at appendix III.

Following attendance at Newark Hospital cardio sessions and a noticeable increase in referrals for cardiac rehabilitation, especially among working-age people, Active4Today introduced a new cardiac rehabilitation class at Southwell Leisure Centre. This session is scheduled for early evening to accommodate individuals who may wish to attend outside of standard working hours.

To help strengthen relationships with community partners and the delivery of Cardiac Rehab, Stroke Rehab and Cancer Rehab, the Active Lifestyles officer has joined the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Deliverers Networks alongside Notts County Foundation and Stroke Association.

Working with corporate partners, the Active Lifestyles Officer has delivered 24 wellbeing checks, resulting in three referrals to GP practices.

Free blood pressure checks were delivered at NSFC, BLC, SLC and Boughton Community Hub in May, to raise awareness of World Hypertension Day. Overall, 33 checks were completed with 4 referrals made to GP practices. Following this, Active4Today delivered an additional session at Boughton Community Hub which engaged a further 12 individuals resulting in two referrals for further monitoring. Notably, 50% of attendees were already on blood pressure medication, indicating an increase in engagement from individuals actively managing their health.

The Active Lifestyles Officer participated in Newark Business Club meetings held in April and July, involving 12 additional companies. During these meetings, information regarding Active4Today's corporate membership scheme was provided and free 3-day passes were distributed.

The Active Lifestyles Officer attended the Newark and Sherwood Carers Roadshow and Women's Health Event at Edwinstowe House, in partnership with Your CVS and the District Council. There were 23 people engaged with information on health and wellbeing, the Active Ollerton Campaign, and local physical activity opportunities including the women's only swim at Dukeries being shared.

The team represented Active4Today at the Currys GXO Summer Carnival, engaging with 65 individuals through a fitness challenge that included prize giveaways and promoted a no-joining-fee membership offer available during and after the event. Additionally, in partnership with DWP Newark, a successful mental health and physical activity session was delivered to 21 adults, providing information on health, physical activity and the DWP Bursary.

Working collaboratively with community partners, the team engaged 10 people at the Macmillan Community Wellbeing Walk in Bilsthorpe, an extended walk aimed at strengthening community ties and raising funds for Macmillan cancer care.

Inclusion

Active4Today delivered a successful holiday programme during Easter holidays and May half term at NSFC, SLC and DLC. Activities included swimming, kayaks and floats with 33 places filled. There were also badminton, squash and racket ball activities offered.

Holiday period	Number of visits					
	Free sessions	Sports Camps	Family Sports	Total wet side	Total dry side	Total visits
Easter	97	131	22	532	156	688
May Half Term	14	52	13	353	66	419

During this period, 3 community sports clubs expressed an interest in the VISPA community volunteer scheme, with 1 club advertising an opportunity for a volunteer 18 years+ with both Active4Today and Your CVS.

The Inclusion and Engagement Officer engaged with 46 individuals during Mock Interviews at Dukeries Academy and Careers Fairs at Joseph Whitaker School, to promote VISPA and VISPA Academy opportunities, this resulted in receiving 19 applications. Of these, 8 applications were specifically for supporting the 'Footy Fun' session, and 4 young people have now completed a full VISPA induction and commenced volunteering roles.

'National Volunteers Week' was celebrated on Active4Today social media platforms. VISPA volunteers shared their experiences on TikTok, responding to questions about their volunteering journey and a testimonial from a former VISPA Volunteer, who has since advanced to paid employment, was featured on Facebook. This initiative offered the public valuable insights into the VISPA scheme, detailing the benefits available and the experiences gained from volunteering with Active4Today. Posts received a great number of views as well as gathering positive feedback from the wider community.

The CAP funded 'Footy Fun' programme at Hawtonville Young Peoples Centre attracted 226 visits during this period, with participation doubling since Nottingham Forest Community Trust began coaching activities. The last session prior to summer welcomed partners from NSDC and the Fire Service. Alongside the usual coached football activities participants enjoyed a BBQ, got inside the fire engine and enjoyed a tug-of-war game with partner organisations.



Report to: Executive Shareholder Meeting - 9 September 2025

Director Lead: John Robinson, Chief Executive

Lead Officer: Andy Dewberry, Managing Director - Arkwood Developments Limited

Report Summary	
Type of Report	Open Report / Non-Key decision
Report Title	Performance of Arkwood – Quarter 1 2025/26
Purpose of Report	To present the performance of Arkwood in Quarter 1
Report Recommendations	That Members note the Arkwood Performance Report (attached as the Appendix) and consider company's performance against its targets and objectives highlighting any areas of high performance and identifying areas for improvement.
Alternative Options Considered	None
Reason for Recommendations	To ensure appropriate review of the Performance of the Councils wholly owned Housing Development Company (Arkwood).

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Performance management is a tool to drive improvement. This is done by analysing performance using performance information and progress against key activities.

2.0 Proposal

- 2.1 Committee to note the Quarter 1 Arkwood Performance report (**Appendix**).

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations' officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection, Digital and Cyber Security, Equality and Diversity, Financial, Human Resources, Human Rights, Legal, Safeguarding and Sustainability, and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

- 3.1 Legal Implications (LEG2526/2011)

Executive Shareholder Cabinet is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None

Appendix 1

Code	Indicator Name	22/23 Q1 YTD Value	23/24 Q1 YTD Value	24/25 Q1 YTD Value	25/26 Q1 YTD Value	25/26 Q1 YTD Target	25/26 Q1 Business Manager Comments
ARK002	Number of homes delivered through our housing development company Arkwood	29	60	87	97	N/A	We continue to complete homes at Manea and Wirksworth and both are expected to be built out this financial year at this time. However, see notes for ARK003 below, the impact of the delay in commencing both of these sites will impact upon expected completed units during this financial year.
ARK003	Number of plots commenced to date through our housing development company Arkwood	87	87	87	170	N/A	We have a number of sites currently underway and further sites at Long Bennington and Lowfield Lane are expected to commence during the Autumn. However, we have experienced delays with planning at Long Bennington, which is now expected to go to September Committee (we expected April). Additionally, the Lowfield Lane procurement exercise has required a longer period of time to undertake value engineering to achieve a project value that is in line with viability cost expectations, which we have now achieved. Both may impact upon the expected commencements within this financial year.