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Monday, 13 October 2025

Chair: Councillor L Tift
Vice-Chair: Councillor R Jackson

To all Members of the Council:

MEETING:	**Full Council**
DATE:	**Tuesday, 21 October 2025 at 6.00 pm**
VENUE:	**Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY**

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.

If you have any queries please contact Nigel Hill on Tel: 01636 655243
Email: nigel.hill@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk.

AGENDA

Page Nos.

1. Notification to those present that the meeting will be recorded and streamed online

2. Apologies for absence

3. Declarations of Interest by Members and Officers

4. Minutes from the meeting held on 15 July 2025 — 6 - 20

5. Communications which the Chairman, Leader, Chief Executive or Portfolio Holders may wish to lay before the Council

6. In accordance with Rule No. 3.1 to receive the presentation or the debating of any Petitions from Members of the Council (if any)

7. Questions from Members of the Public and Council

   In accordance with Rule No. 3.3.2 the following question has been submitted to the Council from a member of the public, Laurence Goff:

   Empty Properties – Why did it take so long?

   “For many years Newark and Sherwood has had empty buildings not being protected, empty properties, often commercial buildings.

   Work is set to take place to transform the historic 300-year-old Ollerton Hall that has stood vacant for 50 years. It now has planning permission to turn them into apartments. The Robin Hood Hotel in Newark, a landmark building, stood derelict for over two decades after its closure in 1999 before being transformed into a Travelodge hotel.

   The Lilley and Stone School, Newark has stood empty for 9 years; Woods Court former care home is empty; the Oaks and Little Oaks Care Home, 172 London Road, Balderton, Newark is also standing empty. The Corner Exchange, Newark stood empty for years which is now a night club, located in the town Centre.

   The question is why they did not have someone to live in to safeguard the properties in the first place? It would be good to setup a Guardianship to safeguard our properties across the District.

   An empty property guardianship offers the best solution where an individual lives in and protects vacant properties, at a lower cost than traditional renting, while the property owner benefits from security and reduced risks. Guardians secure the property, preventing issues like squatters, anti-social behaviour and vandalism, and often enjoy more affordable, flexible living arrangements. Not only do property owners benefit from having their vacant buildings protected, but guardians pay lower rent than market rates in exchange for maintaining the property and ensuring its security."

In accordance with Rule No. 3.3.3 the following question has been submitted to the Council from Councillor Peter Harris:

"The Leader is our representative to the East Midlands Combined Authority Mayor. What influence does the East Midlands Mayor have at the Government for improving rail services in our area?"

In accordance with Rule No. 3.3.3 the following question has been submitted to the Council from Councillor Johno Lee:

"During the last election, the Independents for Newark & District set out a number of manifesto commitments. Residents reasonably expect clarity on whether those commitments are being delivered within the current term.

For example:

1. Housing and Green Space – The Council's Housing Allocation Scheme consultation (Sept 2024) confirmed that demand for homes continues to outstrip supply. In addition, 142 homes were approved on Lowfield Lane, Balderton, land that residents had previously understood would be protected. ([Newark Advertiser, 2024]).
2. Climate Change – The Council has reported a 26% reduction in carbon emissions from its own buildings and operations ([Newark Advertiser, Sept 2025]), but there is no published timetable showing how the wider district will move towards the pledged 2035 net zero target.
3. Health and Wellbeing – While community events have been delivered, there is no published evidence demonstrating improvements in life expectancy or reduced health inequalities.
4. Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour – Nottinghamshire Police figures show shoplifting increased by 21% and burglary by 9% in 2024 compared to the previous year. Overall crime stood at 6,834 incidents per 100,000 people in the year to Sept 2023. ([Notts Police, Jan 2025]; [Varbes, 2023])

Given these published figures, will the Deputy Leader confirm when each of these manifesto pledges will be fully met, or whether she accepts that they will not be met within the lifetime of this administration".

In accordance with Rule No. 3.3.3 the following question has been submitted to the Council from Councillor Neil Allen:

"With the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee's annual report having just been published does this report reflect the findings of the recent peer review?

And in particular the recommendations to improve scrutiny and flexibility in regard to: -Working groups; the shaping of policy and strategy; driving

service improvement; and scrutiny and allowing flexibility in regard to allowing Councillors to question performance."

8. Appointment of the Council's Monitoring Officer 21 - 23

9. Appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel 24 - 26

10. Treasury Management Outturn Report 2024/25 27 - 36

11. Winthorpe and Langford Neighbourhood Plan Referendum 37 - 38

12. Outcome of Standards Complaints Hearing Panel 39 - 47

13. Notices of Motion 48 - 50

In accordance with the Rule No. 3.4.3, the following motions are to be considered:

Motion 1 - Consideration of the introduction of Article 4 Directions within urban areas of Newark and Sherwood (Under the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015)

Motion 2 – Marie Curie Campaign for a Council Tax Exemption for Terminally Ill

14. Minutes for Noting

(a) Cabinet - 8 July 2025 51 - 56

(b) Cabinet - 15 July 2025 57 - 58

(c) Cabinet - 9 September 2025 59 - 65

(d) Policy & Performance Improvement Committee - 1 September 2025 66 - 75

(e) Policy & Performance Improvement Committee - 6 October 2025 76 - 82

(f) Planning Committee - 21 July 2025 83 - 84

(g) Planning Committee - 7 August 2025 85 - 89

(h) Planning Committee - 4 September 2025 90 - 92

(i) Planning Committee - 2 October 2025 93 - 96

(j) Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee - 11 September 2025 97 - 102

(k) Executive Shareholder Committee - 8 July 2025 103 - 104

(l) Executive Shareholder Committee - 9 September 2025 105 - 106

15. 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 **Full Council** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY on Tuesday, 15 July 2025 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT:	Councillor L Tift (Chair) Councillor R Jackson (Vice-Chair) Councillor N Allen, Councillor A Amer, Councillor A Brazier, Councillor L Brazier, Councillor C Brooks, Councillor I Brown, Councillor R Cozens, Councillor S Crosby, Councillor L Dales, Councillor D Darby, Councillor P Farmer, Councillor S Forde, Councillor J Hall, Councillor S Haynes, Councillor R Holloway, Councillor J Kellas, Councillor J Lee, Councillor K Melton, Councillor S Michael, Councillor D Moore, Councillor E Oldham, Councillor P Peacock, Councillor C Penny, Councillor M Pringle, Councillor P Rainbow, Councillor K Roberts, Councillor S Saddington, Councillor T Smith, Councillor M Shakeshaft, Councillor M Spoors, Councillor P Taylor, Councillor T Thompson and Councillor T Wendels
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:	Councillor A Freeman, Councillor P Harris, Councillor N Ross and Councillor T Wildgust

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

The Chair advised the Council that the meeting was being recorded and streamed online in accordance with usual practice.

Councillors J Lee and P Taylor notified the Council that they would be recording parts of the meeting.

17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Those Members on Newark Town Council declared other registerable interests in relation to Agenda Item No. 12 – Community Governance Review.

The Council noted the interests previously declared by Members in Agenda Item No. 14 – Minutes for Noting.

18 MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 20 MAY 2025

AGREED that the minutes from the meeting held on 20 May 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

19 COMMUNICATIONS WHICH THE CHAIR, LEADER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OR PORTFOLIO HOLDERS MAY WISH TO LAY BEFORE THE COUNCIL

The Chair opened the meeting with her ‘moment of reflection’ referring to her recent stay in hospital and the devastating flooding in Texas. The Chair then invited Councillor P Rainbow to read a prayer.

The Portfolio Holder for Climate & the Environment advised the Council that Sherwood Avenue Park had become the Council's sixth park to achieve Green Flag Award.

The Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Culture & the Arts updated the Council on the Castle Gatehouse project which was now a reality and thanked officers and the former Portfolio Holder for their work on this long-term project. The Portfolio Holder also informed Members that the unveiling of the Kiddey Stones sculptures and Trail was taking place later in the week.

20 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCIL

In accordance with Rule No. 3.3.3, one question had been submitted by Councillor J Lee to the Council. Details of the question put forward and the response given by Councillor S Crosby are attached as Appendix A to the Minutes.

21 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive, which provided an update on the Government's requirement for Local Government Reorganisation, including the work undertaken to determine which option to develop as a final proposal for submission to the Government in November 2025.

At the Extraordinary Meeting held on 19 March 2025, the Council agreed to endorse the Interim Plan for submission to the Government. Feedback on the Interim Plan reiterated encouragement for areas to work together to submit a single proposal, whilst acknowledging the opportunity for individual Councils to submit their own proposals. One key theme that emerged more prominently was the need to demonstrate how new unitary structures would enable neighbourhood empowerment, with local areas being invited to come forward with proposals to create local area committees or other local engagement and decision-making forums.

The interim plan contained three options for unitary structures in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire – 1b as Nottingham City conurbation to include Broxtowe and Gedling, and the rest of Nottinghamshire; 1e as Nottingham City conurbation to include Broxtowe and Rushcliffe, and the rest of Nottinghamshire; and 2 as Nottingham City to remain the same and the rest of Nottinghamshire. The option appraisal work undertaken by PWC had concluded that option 2 demonstrated the weakest alignment with the Government's criteria and it was therefore anticipated that this option would be rejected by all Nottinghamshire Councils.

The PWC independent appraisal concluded that options 1b and 1e both met the Government's criteria and the differences between each were marginal. The report gave an officer steer as to a recommended option having regard to the options appraisal. The focus was on the operational, service delivery implications in relation to options 1b and 1e. The differences in geography and land area covered by the two options were also an area of consideration.

As part of the recommendation to progress the development of option 1e as the Council's preferred option, there was a further recommendation to register, as part of the Council's submission to amend the boundary so the whole of the Newark Parliamentary Constituency would form part of the 'north Notts' unitary authority. The rationale for this being that this would strengthen community identity and provide for more "sensible" geography with the whole of the Newark Parliamentary Constituency being covered by a single unitary authority.

Councillor P Peacock proposed, and Councillor R Cozens seconded the report recommendations.

In accordance with Rule No. 4.6.1, Councillor J Kellas moved and Councillor T Wendels seconded an amendment to the report recommendations as follows:

The Full Council endorses the following recommendations to Cabinet for formal approval:

a) to consider the options appraisal and summary document provided by PwC UK (Appendices 1 and 2 to the report);

b) to recommend to Cabinet the development of Option 1B as this Council's preferred option for submission as a final proposal to Government by 28 November 2025;

c) to ensure the involvement of Town and Parish Councils and other local community and business organisations in the development of the final proposal;

d) to request regular updates to and from the Governance, General Purposes & Local Government Reorganisation Committee to ensure all members are kept informed and have an opportunity to input their views; and

e) to delegate the creation of a budget to the Leader of the Council through a Portfolio Holder decision in consultation with the Chair of the Governance, General Purposes & Local Government Reorganisation Committee.

The amendment, on being put to the vote, was lost with 14 votes for, 19 against and 2 Abstentions. In accordance with Rule No. 5.4 a recorded vote was taken as follows:

Councillor	**Vote**
Neil Allen	For
Adrian Amer	For
Alice Brazier	Against
Lee Brazier	Against
Celia Brooks	Against
Irene Brown	For
Rowan Cozens	Against
Susan Crosby	Against
Linda Dales	For
Debbie Darby	Against
Phil Farmer	For

Simon Forde	Against
Jean Hall	Against
Simon Haynes	For
Rhona Holloway	Against
Roger Jackson	For
Jack Kellas	For
Johno Lee	For
Keith Melton	Against
Sylvia Michael	For
David Moore	Against
Emma Oldham	Abstain
Paul Peacock	Against
Claire Penny	Against
Mike Pringle	Against
Penny Rainbow	For
Karen Roberts	Against
Sue Saddington	For
Maurice Shakeshaft	Against
Tom Smith	For
Matthew Spoors	Abstain
Paul Taylor	Against
Tina Thompson	Against
Linda Tift	Against
Timothy Wendels	For

Following the vote on the amendment and during the debate on the substantive motion, there was a suggestion that a further amendment was proposed effectively deferring any decision on a preferred option until further work, such as an environmental impact assessment on options 1b and 1e had been undertaken.

(Meeting adjourned at 7.41pm to consider the impact of deferral and recommenced at 7.49pm).

Following advice that further work around the environmental impact could be undertaken during the work on putting together any final proposal, the Council debated the substantive motion.

AGREED (with 19 votes for, 14 votes against and 2 abstentions) that Full Council endorses the following recommendations to Cabinet for formal approval:

a) to consider the options appraisal and summary document provided by PWC UK (Appendices 1 and 2 to the report);

b) to recommend to Cabinet the development of Option 1e as this Council's preferred option for submission as a final proposal to Government by 28 November 2025;

c) to register as part of the submission, a request for consideration of including the whole of the Newark Parliamentary Constituency within the boundary of the proposed 1e unitary authority, to strengthen community identity and provide for more "sensible" geography;

d) to ensure the involvement of Town and Parish Councils and other local community and business organisations in the development of the final proposal;

e) to request regular updates to and from the Governance, General Purposes & Local Government Reorganisation Committee to ensure all members are kept informed and have an opportunity to input their views; and

f) to delegate the creation of a budget to the Leader of the Council through a Portfolio Holder decision in consultation with the Chair of the Governance, General Purposes & Local Government Reorganisation Committee.

In accordance with Rule No. 5.4, a recorded vote was taken as follows:

Councillor	**Vote**
Neil Allen	Against
Adrian Amer	Against
Alice Brazier	For
Lee Brazier	For
Celia Brooks	For
Irene Brown	Against
Rowan Cozens	For
Susan Crosby	For
Linda Dales	Against
Debbie Darby	For
Phil Farmer	Against
Simon Forde	For
Jean Hall	For
Simon Haynes	Against
Rhona Holloway	For
Roger Jackson	Against
Jack Kellas	Against
Johno Lee	Against
Keith Melton	For
Sylvia Michael	Against
David Moore	For
Emma Oldham	Abstain
Paul Peacock	For
Claire Penny	For
Mike Pringle	For
Penny Rainbow	Against
Karen Roberts	For

Sue Saddington	Against
Maurice Shakeshaft	For
Tom Smith	Against
Matthew Spoors	Abstain
Paul Taylor	For
Tina Thompson	For
Linda Tift	For
Timothy Wendels	Against

(*The Chair left the meeting following the vote on this item. The Vice-Chair took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting).*

22 CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION - REPLACING THE AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Council considered the report of the Assistant Director Legal & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer, which sought to adopt the terms of reference and membership for the two new committees – Audit & Accounts Committee and Governance, General Purposes & Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Committee.

Further to the resolution of the Full Council at the last meeting, the Audit & Governance Committee had considered draft terms of reference for the two new Committees at its meeting held on 2 July 2025. The terms of reference for the two new committees were set out in the appendix to the report, and these had been recommended for approval by the Audit & Governance Committee.

The report also proposed a schedule of meetings for the two new committees for the remainder of the municipal year and proposed arrangements for convening the Independent Remuneration Panel to consider Special Responsibility Allowances.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

a) the Terms of Reference for the two new Committees as set out in the Appendix B to the report be approved;

b) the proposed meeting schedule for the two new Committees as set out in paragraphs 2.5 and 2.6 of the report be approved;

c) the arrangements to convene an Independent Remuneration Panel to undertake a full review of Members' Special Responsibility Allowances as set out in the report, be noted; and

d) a cost envelope of £2,200 for the Independent Remuneration Panel is confirmed.

23 POLITICAL COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive, which sought to reconsider the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules, following the changes made to the Council's Committees.

The political composition of the Council and allocation of seats to committees was considered at the Annual Meeting held on 20 May 2025. Whilst the political composition of the Council remained unchanged from the last meeting, the changes in the structure of committees had impacted on the number of seats on committees, which had decreased from 77 to 71. The matrix at Appendix A to the report set out the proposed allocation of seats to political groups on committees reflecting this change.

AGREED (unanimously) that the allocation of seats to Political Groups (as set out at Appendix B to these minutes) be approved.

24 TO ALLOCATE MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

The Council were circulated with a proposed schedule of appointments to the Council's Committees following the changes made to the structure of the Committees. The resolution of the Annual Meeting of the Council had confirmed the appointments of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees.

AGREED (unanimously) that the appointments of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs on Committees be noted, and the appointment of other Members to Committees etc. as set out in the schedule attached as Appendix C to these minutes, be approved.

25 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - NEWARK TOWN COUNCIL

The Council considered the report of the Assistant Director – Legal & Democratic Services, which sought to approve the Final Recommendations following the Community Government Review of Newark Town Council which had been undertaken by the General Purposes Committee.

In accordance with the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Council had the responsibility for undertaking community governance reviews. The context for the review was the housing development that was being delivered in the south of the town and the anticipated development that was not being delivered in the east. The review also sought to ensure that Member representation was equitable across the Town Council.

The Final Recommendations, as set out in Appendix B to the report, contained minimal changes to existing arrangements, but it was considered that these would ensure appropriate electoral arrangements ahead of the next full Town Council election scheduled to be held in May 2027.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

a) the Final Recommendations as set out at Appendix B to the report be approved and published on the Council's website; and

b) the appropriate Community Governance Order be made following notification to interested parties of the outcome of the review.

26 NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion One – Mandating Swift Bricks in New Developments

In accordance with Rule No. 3.4.3 Councillor E Oldham moved and Councillor C Penny seconded a motion to the following effect:

"This Council acknowledges the significant and ongoing decline in swift and other cavity-nesting bird populations across the UK, with four species known to use swift bricks now on the Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern. These species, including swifts and house martins, rely entirely on buildings for breeding and are rapidly losing nesting sites due to modern construction practices and insulation schemes that seal off access to traditional cavities.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Formally support the call to mandate swift bricks through an amendment to the Planning and Infrastructure Bill and/or via changes to Building Regulations.
2. Write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the two local MP's for Newark and Sherwood Forest, and relevant Ministers at DEFRA, urging the UK Government to:
   - Accept or table an amendment to the Bill requiring mandatory installation of swift bricks in all suitable new housing developments
   - Commit to updating Building Regulations to incorporate integral nest bricks for cavity-nesting birds as standard.
3. Ask officers to explore the implications of mandating swift bricks across all new HRA suitable properties and NSDC commercial buildings and report to Cabinet as soon as practicable.
4. Ask Arkwood to consider committing to installing swift bricks across all suitable properties, complementing those planned for Lowfield Lane.
5. Encourage developers within Newark and Sherwood District to install swift bricks in all suitable new residential developments and publish guidance on best practice placement.
6. Support the Planning Policy team to continue exploring opportunities to embed swift bricks within local planning policy or supplementary planning guidance—such as in future iterations of the Newark Town Centre Design Code—and report back with options for their inclusion in upcoming Local Plan updates and biodiversity net gain assessments."

The motion, on being put to the vote, was agreed unanimously.

Motion Two – Protecting Areas of Significance for Nature

In accordance with Rule No. 3.4.3 Councillor K Melton moved and Councillor M Spoors seconded a motion to the following effect:

"Newark and Sherwood District Council calls upon the Government to amend Part 3 of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill before it becomes an Act of Parliament.

Developers must be required to demonstrate that their projects will not harm biodiversity or reduce the resilience of natural ecosystems, with financial offsets only used as a supplementary measure under strict regulatory oversight.

Furthermore, NSDC resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to express our concerns regarding these changes in the following terms:

Re: Concerns Over the Nature Restoration Fund in Part 3 of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill

I am writing on behalf of Newark and Sherwood District Council expressing our serious concerns regarding Part 3 of the Government's Planning & Infrastructure Bill that involves proposals that will allow some developments to make payments into a Nature Restoration Fund (NRF) thereby disregarding existing, tried and tested legislation, currently affording protection to European Sites, sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) and protected species.

Whilst we commend the initiative to establish a UK-wide NRF and its potential to support nature restoration efforts, we believe these changes present substantial risks to biodiversity, ecosystems, and the integrity of protected areas and protected species.

It is our view that Part 3 of the Bill needs substantial amendment before it becomes an Act of parliament. Specifically, we are concerned about:

- The adequacy of financial offsets in fully mitigating environmental damage;
- The potential for short-term solutions that fail to address the root causes of ecological degradation;
- The weakening of protections afforded under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations;
- With the potential removal of site ecological survey work, a subsequent degradation of the application of the ecological mitigation hierarchy;
- The prioritisation of economic development over the long-term sustainability of habitats and species.

We urge the Government to reconsider Part 3 of the P&I Bill and provide greater assurances that protected areas and protected species will continue to receive the highest level of legal protection.

Developers must be held accountable for demonstrating that their activities will not harm biodiversity or reduce the resilience of ecosystems, with financial offsets used only as a supplementary measure under rigorous control.

We are further concerned that the process proposed would be highly likely to remove biodiversity restoration to areas entirely separated from the areas which may be harmed and will, anyway, not be capable of restoration at anything close to a “Like for Like” level.

We look forward to your response and hope to see action taken to address these pressing concerns.”

The motion, on being put to the vote, was agreed unanimously.

27 MINUTES FOR NOTING

27a CABINET - 10 JUNE 2025

Minute No. 278 – Review of the Council’s Carbon Net Neutral Target (Key Decision)

Councillor K Melton expressed his concern over the decision taken by the Cabinet to retain the current carbon net neutral target and to defer any decision on the housing stock and sought reassurance that this issue is kept under review.

Councillor S Forde confirmed that any well-costed and viable ideas would be considered.

Councillor M Spoors added that ‘cooler homes’ was also an issue that needed to be addressed. Councillor L Brazier confirmed this was being considered.

27b POLICY AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - 2 JUNE 2025

27c PLANNING COMMITTEE - 5 JUNE 2025

27d AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 2 JULY 2025

27e GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE - 19 JUNE 2025

27f LICENSING COMMITTEE - 19 JUNE 2025

27g TRUSTEE BOARD OF THE GILSTRAP AND WILLIAM EDWARD KNIGHT CHARITIES - 24 JUNE 2025

27h POLICY AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - 30 JUNE 2025

27i PLANNING COMMITTEE - 3 JULY 2025

Meeting closed at 8.47 pm.

Chair

APPENDIX A

FULL COUNCIL MEETING – 15 JULY 2025

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

In accordance with Rule No. 3.3.3 the following question was submitted to the Council from Councillor Johno Lee:

Potential Impact of Boundary Changes on Health, Wellbeing, and Leisure Services in Nottinghamshire

"As Nottinghamshire considers transitioning to a unitary authority, concerns have arisen regarding the potential impact of boundary changes on essential services, particularly those under your portfolio of Health, Wellbeing, and Leisure. Given your extensive involvement in community health initiatives, including your role as Chair of the Friends of Newark Cemetery and your advocacy for improved healthcare access, your insights on this matter are invaluable.

Nottingham City Council has faced significant financial challenges in recent years. In November 2023, the Council issued a Section 114 notice due to a £23 million overspend for the 2023-24 financial year, primarily attributed to rising social care costs, increased homelessness, and inflationary pressures. The collapse of Robin Hood Energy in 2020 further exacerbated the Council's financial position, resulting in a loss of £38 million.

In contrast, Nottinghamshire County Council has demonstrated prudent financial management. The 2024/25 budget reflects an increase in overall spending of over £47 million, with more than £160 million invested in capital projects across the county. However, the Council is projected to spend an additional £31 million on adult social care, highlighting the existing pressures on essential services.

Given your commitment to promoting healthier lifestyles and ensuring residents have access to affordable, nutritious food, as evidenced by your participation in initiatives like the Crop Drop scheme and cookery classes for young people, there is a valid concern that any division of the current County Council area could lead to reduced funding for Nottinghamshire's unitary authority. This reduction could, in turn, impair the delivery of health, wellbeing, and leisure services, with detrimental effects on our residents.

In light of these potential risks, do you agree that maintaining the integrity of the Nottinghamshire County Council area during the transition to a unitary authority is essential to safeguard the funding and effectiveness of our health, wellbeing, and leisure services?"

Reply from Councillor Susan Crosby – Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Leisure

"Thank you for your question, Councillor Lee. Your questions are broader than my portfolio and I'm not entirely clear what you mean by the reference to "maintaining the integrity of Nottinghamshire County Council". The County Council is set to be abolished along with the other 8 Councils in Nottinghamshire and if you think that there is any realistic prospect of there being a unitary Council based on the current County Council geography you are mistaken. That option has been independently assessed as the worst option for the people of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

I also think that your financial analysis of Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council is less than well rounded to say the least and also out of date. That's not a matter for our Council though so I'll leave that there.

The decision on how Nottinghamshire looks as one or more unitary authorities is a matter for the Councils and Government to determine.

Creating a whole new system of Councils will create a number of risks but also hopefully lots of opportunities too.

In health and wellbeing, our Council already makes many contributions. The examples you mentioned, like Crop Drop and cookery classes, were started by Newark & Sherwood District Council, not Nottinghamshire County Council. The Nottinghamshire County Council funded a food coordinator post in 2021, which helped us expand food schemes like Crop Drop and sustain community food clubs.

Our health and wellbeing projects are now fully funded in-house, including a 3-year food coordinator post funded by the Cost-of-Living response. We also coordinate initiatives like the Barbers Initiative, Community Alcohol Partnerships, and Breastfeeding Friendly. These are linked with NCC officers but don't have financial commitments from partners.

Looking to our partners in Health, there are also boundaries to navigate with the Integrated Care Boards and no doubt many others. Moving to a unitary arrangement will take a lot of time and planning and again, the details of this transition will be discussed and decided by leaders and executives across Nottinghamshire.

While social care pressures might appear to threaten the continuity of some of our initiatives, I think we'd all agree that aspects of the current two-tier system are inefficient and do not serve the public well. Closer integration of social care and housing; joined up waste and highways maintenance; closer co-operation of public protection and trading standards. These are just a few examples so let's not cling on to a system that we all know is no longer fit for purpose".

Note - the Chair ruled that the supplementary question put by Councillor Lee was not relevant.

APPENDIX B

ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS

Committee	Conservative	Labour	Independents for Newark & District	Liberal Democrats	Newark & Sherwood District Independents	Green	Independent N/A - Amer	Independent N/A - Brown	Independent N/A - Holloway	Independent N/A - Lee	Total Seats By Committee
Policy & Performance Improvement	4	4	3	1	1	1			1		**15**
Planning	5	4	2	2		1	1				**15**
Licensing	5	4	2	1	1	1				1	**15**
Audit & Accounts*	3	2	2		1					1	**9**
Governance, General Purposes & LGR	3	3	2	1	1	1			1		**12**
Board of Gilstrap Trustees+	2	1					1	1			**5**
Total Seats by Group	22	18	11	5	4	4	2	1	2	2	**71**

*Note The Audit & Accounts Committee includes one independent co-opted member acting in an advisory capacity

+Note The Board of Trustees of the Gilstrap Charity includes up to four non-voting co-opted Members (Newark Wards)

APPENDIX C

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

POLICY & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE						
CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	INDEPENDENTS FOR NEWARK & DISTRICT	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS	N&S INDS	GREEN	IND - NON-ALIGNED
1. S. Haynes	1. A. Brazier	1. J. Hall	1. K. Roberts	1.T. Thompson	1. M. Spoors	1. R. Holloway
2. R. Jackson	2. C. Brooks	2. D. Moore				
3. P. Rainbow	3. A. Freeman	3. N. Ross (V/C)				
4. T. Wendels	4. M. Pringle (C)					
SUBSTITUTES	SUBSTITUTES	SUBSTITUTES	SUBSTITUTES	SUBSTITUTES	SUBSTITUTES	SUBSTITUTES
1. N. Allen	1. M. Shakeshaft		1. P. Harris	1.D. Darby	1. E. Oldham	
2. S. Michael	2. L. Tift					

PLANNING COMMITTEE						
CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	INDEPENDENTS FOR NEWARK & DISTRICT	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS	N&S INDS	GREEN	IND - NON-ALIGNED
1. L. Dales	1. C. Brooks	1. S. Forde	1. P. Harris		1. E. Oldham	1. A. Amer
2. P. Rainbow	2. A. Freeman (C)	2. D. Moore (V/C)	2. K. Melton			
3. S. Saddington	3. M. Shakeshaft					
4. T. Smith	4. L. Tift					
5. T. Wildgust						

LICENSING COMMITTEE						
CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	INDEPENDENTS FOR NEWARK & DISTRICT	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS	N&S INDS	GREEN	IND - NON-ALIGNED
1. N. Allen	1. A. Brazier	1. J. Hall (C)	1. K. Roberts	1. D. Darby	1. M. Spoors	1. J. Lee
2. R. Jackson	2. L. Brazier	2. D. Moore				
3. S. Michael	3. P. Taylor					
4. S. Saddington	4. L. Tift (V/C)					
5. T. Wildgust						

AUDIT & ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE*						
CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	INDEPENDENTS FOR NEWARK & DISTRICT	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS	N&S INDS	GREEN	IND - NON-ALIGNED
1. N. Allen (V/C)	1. C. Penny	1. S. Crosby		1. D. Darby		1. J. Lee
2. S. Michael (C)	2. M. Shakeshaft	2. J. Hall				
3. T. Wendels						

GOVERNANCE, GENERAL PURPOSES & LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION						
CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	INDEPENDENTS FOR NEWARK & DISTRICT	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS	N&S INDS	GREEN	IND - NON-ALIGNED
1. S. Haynes	1. A. Freeman	1. J. Hall	1. P. Harris	1. D. Darby	1. E. Oldham	1. R. Holloway (C)
2. J. Kellas	2. P. Peacock	2. D. Moore				
3. P. Rainbow (V/C)	3. M. Pringle					
SUBSTITUTES	SUBSTITUTES	SUBSTITUTES	SUBSTITUTES	SUBSTITUTES	SUBSTITUTES	SUBSTITUTES
1. L. Dales	1. L. Brazier	1. R. Cozens	1. K. Roberts	1. T. Thompson	1. M. Spoors	
2. T. Wildgust	2. A. Freeman	2. -				

BOARD OF GILSTRAP TRUSTEES^						
CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	INDEPENDENTS FOR NEWARK & DISTRICT	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS	N&S INDS	GREEN	IND - NON-ALIGNED
1. S. Haynes	1. P. Taylor					1. A. Amer (C)
2. J. Kellas						2. I. Brown

MANSFIELD AND DISTRICT CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE#						
CABINET						
1. L. Brazier						
2. S. Crosby						
3. P. Peacock						

TENANT ENGAGEMENT BOARD
Membership to comprise of the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for housing and three representatives to be appointed by the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee (plus three tenant representatives).
PLANNING POLICY BOARD
Membership to comprise of the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for planning policy and four representatives to be appointed by the Planning Committee and four representatives to be appointed by the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee.

Notes:

1. C = Chair
2. VC = Vice-Chair

* The Audit & Accounts Committee includes 1 co-opted independent member (non-voting).

^ Newark Ward Members not appointed to sit on the Trustee Board as non-voting co-optees.

\# The Mansfield Crematorium Joint Committee is an Executive Function which does not need to reflect political balance and will comprise of Executive Members.

Report to: Meeting of the Full Council: 21 October 2025

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor Paul Peacock, Strategy, Performance & Finance

Director Lead: John Robinson, Chief Executive

Report Summary	
Report Title	Appointment of the Council's Monitoring Officer
Purpose of Report	This report proposes the appointment of Francesca Whyley as the Council's Monitoring Officer and the Director – Resources and Section 151 Officer, Sanjiv Kohli as Senior Responsible Officer (Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA))
Recommendations	That Council: a) approves the appointment of Francesca Whyley as the Council's Monitoring Officer with immediate effect; b) approves the appointment of Sanjiv Kohli as Senior Responsible Officer (RIPA) with immediate effect; and c) subject to (a) give delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer to make minor consequential amendments to the constitution given references to the Assistant Director - Legal & Democratic Services.
Reason for Recommendation	Under Section 5 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989, the Council has a duty to appoint a Monitoring Officer. Part 4.41 Covert Surveillance and Property Interference Code of Practice (Accessible) provides that it is best practise for a Council to appoint a Senior Responsible Officer (RIPA) and that individual to be a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

1.0 Background and Proposal

1.1 The appointment of a Monitoring Officer is a matter reserved for Full Council. The Monitoring Officer has a number of statutory duties and responsibilities relating to the Council's constitution and the arrangements for effective governance. These duties include:

1.1.1 To report on matters believed to be, or likely to be, illegal or amount to maladministration
1.1.2 To be responsible for matters relating to the conduct of councillors and officers
1.1.3 To be responsible for the operation of the Council's constitution

1.2 As Members will be aware, Sue Bearman, Assistant Director - Legal & Democratic Services and the Council's Monitoring Officer, has recently left the Council for alternative employment. Under normal circumstances, the post would be filled on a like for like basis with the continued attachment of the designation of Monitoring Officer.

1.3 However, under Local Government Re-organisation, all of the options proposed will reduce the number of Councils to two and consequently, going forward only two Monitoring Officers would be required. To mitigate the risk of recruiting a new employee and placing them in a potential redundancy situation with the associated costs involved, the Chief Executive has reached out to a number of neighbouring authorities to explore the appetite to share their current post of Monitoring Officer.

1.4 Gedling Borough Council has provided legal services support to Newark & Sherwood over a number of years and their Monitoring Officer, Francesca Whyley, is someone who is known to Newark & Sherwood colleagues and is highly respected. Francesca is a qualified solicitor and considered to have the appropriate skills, experience and values required.

1.5 Agreement has been reached with Gedling Borough Council to share the Monitoring Officer services of Francesca Whyley, with Newark & Sherwood receiving support two days a week.

1.6 The Council's two Principal Legal Officers have also recently been designated as Deputy Monitoring Officers, which provides them with a valuable development opportunity, and they have been working alongside the Business Manager - Elections & Democratic Services who is also a Deputy Monitoring Officer. It is proposed that this arrangement will continue following the appointment of Francesca Whyley. Once appointed, Francesca Whyley will be invited to designate these three posts as Deputy Monitoring Officers to support her work with the Council.

1.7 Short-term locum support has also been sourced to ensure continuity of service, and to sustain the current level of resource commitment to Code of Conduct issues.

1.8 Following the appointment of Francesca Whyley as Monitoring Officer, minor amendments will need to be made to the Constitution to reflect such changes, specifically given there will be a transfer of relevant functions delegated to the Assistant Director - Legal & Democratic Services given that post will no longer be in existence.

1.9 In addition, the Assistant Director - Legal & Democratic Services held the role of the Senior Responsible Officer (RIPA). It is therefore proposed that this role be allocated to the Director – Resources as the most appropriate member of the Council's Senior Leadership Team.

3.0 Implications

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

Financial Implications FIN25-26/8332

3.1 The cost of the arrangements referred to above will met be met from existing salary budgets, namely the vacant post of Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic Services.

Legal Implications LEG2526/3876

3.2 Under Section 5 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989, the Council has a duty to appoint a Monitoring Officer.

3.3 In addition, Section 5(1)(b) Local Government and Housing Act 1989 provides that sufficient staff and resource be provided to perform the Monitoring Officer role and duties effectively.

3.4 Part 4.41 Covert Surveillance and Property Interference Code of Practice (Accessible) provides that it is best practise for a Council to appoint a Senior Responsible Officer (RIPA) and that individual is to be a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Human Resources Implications

3.5 The services of the proposed appointee are being sought through an SLA with Gedling Borough Council, and no employment relationship will be created with the appointee.

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

NEWARK & SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report to:	Meeting of the Full Council: 21 October 2025
Relevant Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Paul Peacock, Strategy, Performance & Finance
Director Lead:	Sue Bearman, Assistant Director Legal & Democratic Services
Lead Officer:	Nigel Hill – Business Manager Elections & Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer, Ext. 5243

Report Summary	
Report Title	Appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel
Purpose of Report	To convene an Independent Remuneration Panel to consider Members Special Responsibility Allowances given the recent changes in Committees.
Recommendations	That Council: a) approves the convening of the Independent Remuneration Panel as set out in the report to undertake a full review of the Special Responsibility Allowances; and b) approve a cost envelope of £4,500 for the purposes of the review.
Reason for Recommendation	To bring the current Scheme of Members Allowances in line with the current Committees following the recent changes.

1.0 Background

1.1 At its last meeting held on 15 July 2025, Full Council approved the Terms of Reference and made appointments to the two new committees, the Audit & Accounts Committee and Governance, General Purposes & Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Committee.

1.2 At this same meeting, appointments were made to the new Licensing Committee for which Terms of Reference were approved on 20 May with the Committee taking effect as from 15 July 2025.

1.3 These new Committees replaced the former General Purposes and Audit & Governance Committees.

1.4 Given these changes, the Full Council considered arrangements for the convening of an Independent Remuneration Panel and agreed to reconvene the same Panel who last undertook a review of Special Responsibility Allowances. The resolution of the Full Council was to convene the same Panel to undertake a full review of Special Responsibility Allowances within a cost envelope of £2,200.

1.5 Further to the Council resolution, the previous panel were approached to carry out the review. The Council's two Independent Persons confirmed their availability to assist, but unfortunately the previous Chair of the Panel was unable to undertake the review. Therefore, an alternate Chair has been sought which requires the approval of the Council.

2.0 <u>Proposal/Options Considered</u>

2.1 Following various enquiries and recommendations as to potential Chairs, an approach was made to Mr Declan Hall. Mr Hall acts as a 'remuneration consultant' and has a wealth of experience of Independent Remuneration Panels having conducted circa 20 reviews in the last 18 months for a whole range of authorities including Ashfield District Council and the East Midlands Combined Authority.

2.2 Mr Hall has indicated his availability for the Panel to consider Special Responsibility Allowances which reflected the resolution of the Full Council.

2.3 Given information provided by Mr Hall, it is anticipated that a review of Special Responsibility Allowances would take around 3- 5 days. Approximate costs for Mr Hall services are £550 per day plus any expenses.

2.4 With the support of the two other Panel Members, as Chair Mr Hall would undertake the relevant benchmarking and research and would produce the final report following various interviews with stakeholders and relevant parties.

2.5 Given the estimate of time required, costs for the proposed Chair would be up to £3,000 for a full review of Special Responsibility Allowances. An appropriate payment for the two Independent Persons as the other panel members would also need to be made and it is suggested that dependent on the scope of the review these be made at £750.

2.6 Based on the approximations above the Council will need to consider a cost envelope of £4,500 to support the full review of the Special Responsibility Allowances.

3.0 <u>Implications</u>

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

<u>Financial Implications (FIN25-26/2029)</u>

3.1 The £4,500 can be financed by the Corporate Contingency budget in year.

<u>Legal Implications (LEG2526/7873)</u>

3.2 The process for determining and setting Members' Allowances for local authorities is set out in the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. These Regulations set out the range of allowances that can be paid to Councillors (with particular reference to special responsibilities) and the requirement to have an Independent Remuneration Panel to make recommendations to the Council regarding Members' Allowances.

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.

The current Councillors' Allowance Scheme is published - https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/your-council/your-council/councillors-and-committees/councillor-allowances/

NEWARK & SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report to:	Full Council – 21 October 2025
Relevant Committee Chair:	Councillor Sylvia Michael, Audit & Accounts Committee
Director Lead:	Sanjiv Kohli, Deputy Chief Executive, Director - Resources & S151 Officer
Lead Officer:	Nick Wilson, Business Manager – Financial Services

Report Summary	
Report Title	Treasury Management Outturn Report 2024/25
Purpose of Report	To update Members on the Treasury Management activity and confirm that the Council complied with its Prudential Indicators for 2024/24.
Recommendations	That Council note: a) the Treasury Management Outturn report following consideration by the Audit and Governance Committee on 2 July 2025; and b) that in 2024/25 the Council complied with its Prudential Indicators which were approved by Full Council on 7 March 2024.
Reason for Recommendation	To allow Members to consider the Treasury Outturn position.

1.0 Background

1.1 In January 2010 the Council formally adopted the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management which requires that the Council receives regular reports on its treasury management activities including, as a minimum, an annual strategy and plan in advance of the year, a mid-year review and an annual report after its close.

1.2 The Council delegates responsibility for the implementation and regular monitoring of its treasury management policies and practices to the Audit & Accounts Committee and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the Section 151 Officer, who will act in accordance with the Council's policies and practices.

1.3 At their meeting held on 2 July 2025, the Audit and Governance Committee considered the Treasury Management Outturn report for 2024/25. A copy of the report and appendix considered by the Committee is attached at Appendix 1.

2.0 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.

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

Report to: Audit & Governance Committee - 2 July 2025

Director or Business Manager Lead: Sanjiv Kohli Deputy Chief Executive / Director – Resources and Section 151 Officer

Lead Officer: Andrew Snape, Assistant Business Manager Financial Services on ext 5331

Report Summary	
Report Title	Treasury Management Outturn Report 2024/25
Purpose of Report	To give Members the opportunity to review the Annual Treasury Outturn report, which will be presented to Council on 21 October 2025.
Recommendations	That the Treasury Outturn position for 2024/25 be considered.
Reason for Recommendation	To allow Members to consider the Treasury Outturn position.

1.0 Background

1.1 In January 2010 the Council formally adopted the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management which requires that the Council receives regular reports on its treasury management activities including, as a minimum, an annual strategy and plan in advance of the year, a mid-year review and an annual report after its close.

1.2 The Council delegates responsibility for the implementation and regular monitoring of its treasury management policies and practices to the Audit & Governance Committee and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the Section 151 Officer, who will act in accordance with the Council's policies and practices.

1.3 The Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2024/25 was approved by Full Council on 7 March 2024, and the Outturn report is the last report for the financial year, as required by the Code. It has been prepared based on the draft final accounts, which appear elsewhere on the agenda. If there are significant changes resulting from the audit of the accounts, they will be reported at the next meeting of this Committee.

2.0 Summary of Treasury Balances as at 31 March 2025

2.1 Below is a summary of the Councils borrowing position as at 31 March 2025. Further detail can be found in appendix A at section 4.

Balance on 01/04/2024 £m		**Balance on 31/03/2025 £m**
85.463	Total Borrowings	109.798
4.864	Total Other Long Term Liabilities	4.738
90.327	**Total External Debt**	**114.536**

2.2 Below is a summary of the Councils investment position as at 31 March 2025. Further detail can be found in appendix A at section 5.

Balance on 01/04/2024 £m		**Balance on 31/03/2025 £m**
21.910	Total Short Term Investments	36.528
12.500	Total Long Term Investments	12.500
34.410	**Total Investments**	**49.028**

2.3 There have been no breaches of the approved prudential indicators during 2024/25. Further information can be found at section 6 of appendix A.

3.0 Implications

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

Legal Implications LEG2526/7251

3.1 The Audit & Governance Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Nil.

APPENDIX A

ANNUAL TREASURY REPORT 2024/25

1. Background

1.1 This Council is required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2024/25. This report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, (the Code), and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, (the Prudential Code).

1.2 Treasury management is defined as: 'The management of the local authority's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.'

1.3 Overall responsibility for treasury management remains with the Council. No treasury management activity is without risk; the effective identification and management of risk are integral to the Council's treasury management strategy.

2.0 Economic Background

UK Economy

2.1 UK inflation has proved somewhat stubborn throughout 2024/25. Having started the financial year at 2.3% y/y (April), the CPI measure of inflation briefly dipped to 1.7% y/y in September before picking up pace again in the latter months. The latest data shows CPI rising by 2.8% y/y (February), but there is a strong likelihood that figure will increase to at least 3.5% by the Autumn of 2025.

2.2 Against that backdrop, and the continued lack of progress in ending the Russian invasion of Ukraine, as well as the potentially negative implications for global growth as a consequence of the implementation of US tariff policies by US President Trump in April 2025, Bank Rate reductions have been limited. Bank Rate currently stands at 4.5%, despite the Office for Budget Responsibility reducing its 2025 GDP forecast for the UK economy to only 1% (previously 2% in October).

2.3 Moreover, borrowing has becoming increasingly expensive in 2024/25. Gilt yields rose significantly in the wake of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, and the loosening of fiscal policy, and have remained elevated ever since, as dampened growth expectations and the minimal budget contingency (<£10bn) have stoked market fears that increased levels of borrowing will need to be funded during 2025.

2.4 The table below provides a snapshot of the conundrum facing central banks: inflation pressures remain, labour markets are still relatively tight by historical comparisons, and central banks are also having to react to a fundamental re-ordering of economic and defence policies by the US administration.

	UK	Eurozone	US
Bank Rate	4.50%	2.5%	4.25%-4.5%
GDP	0.1%q/q Q4 (1.1%y/y)	+0.1%q/q Q4 (0.7%y/y)	2.4% Q4 Annualised
Inflation	2.8%y/y (Feb)	2.3%y/y (Feb)	2.8%y/y (Feb)
Unemployment Rate	4.4% (Jan)	6.2% (Jan)	4.1% (Feb)

2.5 The Bank of England sprung no surprises in their March meeting, leaving Bank Rate unchanged at 4.5% by a vote of 8-1, but suggesting further reductions would be gradual. The Bank of England was always going to continue its cut-hold-cut-hold pattern by leaving interest rates at 4.50% but, in the opposite of what happened at the February meeting, the vote was more hawkish than expected. This suggested that as inflation rises later in the year, the Bank cuts rates even slower, but the initial impact of President Trump's tariff policies in April 2025 on the financial markets underpin our view that the Bank will eventually reduce rates to 3.50%.

2.6 Having said that, the Bank still thinks inflation will rise from 2.8% in February to 3¾% in Q3. And while in February it said "inflation is expected to fall back thereafter to around the 2% target", this time it just said it would "fall back thereafter". That may be a sign that the Bank is getting a bit more worried about the "persistence in domestic wages and prices, including from second-round effects". Accordingly, although we expect a series of rate cuts over the next year or so, that does not contradict the Bank taking "a gradual and careful" approach to cutting rates, but a tepid economy will probably reduce inflation further ahead and prompt the Bank to cut at regular intervals.

2.7 From a fiscal perspective, the increase in businesses' national insurance and national minimum wage costs from April 2025 is likely to prove a headwind, although in the near-term the Government's efforts to provide 300,000 new homes in each year of the current Parliament is likely to ensure building industry employees are well remunerated, as will the clamp-down on immigration and the generally high levels of sickness amongst the British workforce. Currently wages continue to increase at a rate close to 6% y/y. The MPC would prefer a more sustainable level of c3.5%.

2.8 As for equity markets, the FTSE 100 has recently fallen back to 7,700 having hit an all-time intra-day high 8,908 as recently as 3rd March. The £ has also endured a topsy-turvy time, hitting a peak of $1.34 before dropping to $1.22 in January and then reaching $1.27 in early April 2025.

USA Economy

2.9 Despite the markets willing the FOMC to repeat the rate cut medicine of 2024 (100 basis points in total), the Fed Chair, Jay Powell, has suggested that the Fed. Funds Rate will remain anchored at 4.25%-4.5% until inflation is under control, and/or the economy looks like it may head into recession as a consequence of President Trump's tariff policies.

2.10 Inflation is close to 3% and annualised growth for Q4 2024 was 2.4%. With unemployment just above 4%, and tax cuts in the pipeline, the FOMC is unlikely to be in a hurry to cut rates, at least for now.

EZ Economy

2.11 The Eurozone economy has struggled throughout 2024 and is flat lining at present, although there is the promise of substantial expenditure on German defence/infrastructure over the coming years, which would see a fiscal loosening. France has struggled against a difficult political backdrop, but with a large budget deficit it is difficult to see any turn-around in economic hopes in the near-term.

2.12 With GDP currently below 1% in the Euro-zone, the ECB is likely to continue to cut rates, although the headline inflation rate is still above 2% (2.3% February 2025). Currently at 2.5%, a further reduction in the Deposit Rate to at least 2% is highly likely.

3.0 Local Context

3.1 During 2024/25, the Council maintained an under-borrowed position. This meant that the capital borrowing need, (the Capital Financing Requirement), was not fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow was used as an interim measure. This strategy was prudent as although near-term investment rates were equal to, and sometimes higher than, long-term borrowing costs, the latter are expected to fall back through 2025/26 as inflation concerns are dampened.

3.2 A cost of carry remained during the year on any new long-term borrowing that was not immediately used to finance capital expenditure, as it would have caused a temporary increase in cash balances; this would have incurred a revenue cost – the difference between (higher) borrowing costs and (lower) investment returns.

3.3 The policy of avoiding new borrowing by running down spare cash balances, has served well over the last few years. However, this was kept under review to avoid incurring higher borrowing costs in the future when this authority may not be able to avoid new borrowing to finance capital expenditure and/or the refinancing of maturing debt.

3.4 The Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) at 31 March 2025 was £146.614m, while usable reserves and working capital which are the underlying resources available for investment were £67.764m**.**

3.5 The Council has an increasing CFR over the next 2 years of £40.1m, due to the borrowing requirement of £49.9m (GF £19.8m / HRA £30.1m) for financing the capital programme over the forecast period. The CFR reduces when Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) are made and the repayment of debt, over the forecast period there are loans due for repayment with a combined total value of £9.788m.

4.0 Borrowing Strategy

4.1 Borrowing Activity in 2024/25

	Balance 1/4/24 £m	New Borrowing £m	Debt Maturing £m	Balance 31/3/25 £m
CFR	135.658			146.614
Short Term Borrowing	7.065	4.220	-3.847	7.438
Long Term Borrowing	78.397	27.000	-3.037	102.360
Total Borrowing	**85.463**	**31.220**	**-6.884**	**109.798**
Other Liabilities – Finance Lease Liability	4.864	0.000	-0.126	4.738
Total External Debt	**90.327**	**31.220**	**-7.010**	**114.536**
Increase/(Decrease) in Borrowing £000				24.209

4.2 The Council's chief objective when borrowing has been to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required, with flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Authority's long-term plans change being a secondary objective.

4.3 The Council has an increasing CFR due to the capital programme and an estimated borrowing requirement as determined by the Liability Benchmark, which also takes into account usable reserves and working capital. Having considered the appropriate duration and structure of the Council's borrowing need based on realistic projections, it was decided not to take any long term borrowing due to the high interest rates.

4.4 **LOBOs**: The Council holds £3.5m of LOBO (Lender's Option Borrower's Option) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Council has the option to either accept the new rate or to repay the loan at no additional cost. All of the £3.5m of LOBOS had options during the year, none of which were exercised by the lender.

4.5 **Debt Rescheduling**: The premium charge for early repayment of PWLB debt remained relatively expensive for the loans in the Council's portfolio and therefore unattractive for debt rescheduling activity. No rescheduling activity was undertaken as a consequence.

5.0 Investment Activity

5.1 The Council's investment policy is governed by DLUHC investment guidance, which has been implemented in the annual investment strategy approved by the Council on 7 March 2024. The policy sets out the approach for choosing investment counterparties and is based on credit ratings provided by the three main credit rating agencies, supplemented by additional market data, (such as rating outlooks, credit default swaps, bank share prices etc.). During 2024/25 the Council's investment balances have ranged between £29.8m and £60.7m.

	Balance 1/4/24 £m	New Investments £m	Investments Redeemed £m	Balance 31/3/25 £m
Short Term Investments	21.910	190.205	-175.587	36.528
Long Term Investments	12.500	0.000	0.000	12.500
Total Investments	**34.410**	**190.205**	**-175.587**	**49.028**
Increase/(Decrease) in Investments £000				14.618

5.2 Security of capital remained the Council's main objective. This was maintained by following the Council's counterparty policy as set out in its Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2024/25.

5.3 Counterparty credit quality is assessed and monitored by Link the Council's treasury advisors, with reference to credit ratings; credit default swap prices, financial statements, information on potential government support and reports in the quality financial press. Link provide recommendations for suitable counterparties and maximum investment periods.

6.0 Compliance with Prudential Indicators

6.1 The Council has complied with its Prudential Indicators for 2024/25, which were set on 7 March 2024 as part of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement.

6.2 **Interest Rate Exposure:** These indicators allow the Council to manage the extent to which it is exposed to changes in interest rates for both borrowing and investments. The upper limit for variable rate exposure allows for the use of variable rate debt to offset exposure to changes in short-term rates on our portfolio of investments.

	Approved Limit for 2024/25 %	Maximum during 2024/25 £m
Fixed Rate		
Borrowing	100%	99.38%
Investments	75%	16.32%
Compliance with Limit		*Yes*
Variable Rate		
Borrowing	20%	0.62%
Investments	100%	83.68%
Compliance with Limit		*Yes*

6.3 **Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing.** This indicator is to limit large concentrations of fixed rate debt and control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk.

	Upper Limit %	Fixed Rate Borrowing 31/03/25 £m	Fixed Rate Borrowing 31/3/25 %	Compliance?
Under 12 months	15%	15.938	14.52%	Yes
12 months to 2 years	15%	3.000	2.73%	Yes
2 years to 5 years	30%	16.059	14.63%	Yes
5 years to 10 years	100%	23.936	21.80%	Yes
10 years and above	100%	50.865	46.33%	Yes

6.4 **Principal Sums Invested for over 364 Days.** The purpose of this indicator is to control the Council's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments.

Price Risk Indicator	Limit 2024/25	Actual 31/03/25	Compliance?
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£15m	£12.5m	Yes

6.5 **Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for External Debt.** The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council to set an Affordable Borrowing Limit, irrespective of their indebted status. This is a statutory limit which should not be breached. The Operational Boundary is based on the same estimates as the Authorised Limit but reflects the most likely, prudent but not worst case scenario without the additional headroom included within the Authorised Limit. The s151 Officer confirms that there were no breaches to the Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary during 2024/25.

	Approved Operational Boundary 2024/25 £m	Authorised Limit 2024/25 £m	Actual External Debt 31/03/25 £m
Borrowing – incl Finance Leases	161.972	166.972	114.536
Other Long Term Liabilities	2.000	2.000	0.000
Total	163.972	168.972	114.536

6.6 In compliance with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice this report provides members with a summary of the treasury management activity during 2024/25. A prudent approach has been taken in relation to investment activity with priority being given to security and liquidity over yield.

6.7 The Council also confirms that during 2024/25 it complied with its Treasury Management Policy Statement and Treasury Management Practices.

NEWARK & SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report to:	Meeting of the Full Council: 21 October 2025
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Claire Penny, Sustainable Economic Development
Director Lead:	Matt Lamb, Planning & Growth
Lead Officer:	Matthew Norton, Business Manager – Planning Policy & Infrastructure

Report Summary	
Report Title	Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan Referendum
Purpose of Report	To seek the Council's approval to call the referendum for the Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan.
Recommendations	That Council: a) note the report; and b) authorise the Chief Executive, acting as Returning Officer, to arrange the referendum for the Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan.
Reason for Recommendation	To allow the Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan to proceed to Referendum.

1.0 Background

1.1 Following its Examination, the Independent Examiner has concluded that the Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions and other relevant regulatory requirements. It has therefore been recommended that the Plan proceed onto referendum.

1.2 Neighbourhood Plans are required to meet the Basic Conditions set out at paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as well as a range of other regulatory requirements. It is through their Examination by an Independent Examiner that final conclusions are drawn over whether this is the case. Where a Plan is successful at Examination then it is able to proceed onto Referendum, with eligible persons being able to vote over whether it should be brought into force.

1.3 The Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Area was designated on 26 February 2021, with the first stage of public consultation being carried out in various phases between 5 June 2023 and 16 September 2023. Submission of a Draft Neighbourhood Plan to the District Council occurred in December 2024 with public consultation occurring between 8 January 2025 and 19 February 2025. The Plan was submitted for Examination in May 2025. Subject to the recommended modifications being accepted, the Examiner has concluded that the Plan should proceed onto referendum. Confirmation has been provided by the Parish Council that they are content with the recommended modifications.

2.0 Proposal/Options Considered

2.1 Approval is therefore sought for the referendum to be arranged for the Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan as soon as practical. Prior to this date the referendum will be subject to a minimum, six-week publicity period. To support the referendum an Information Statement and the Notice of Referendum will be published and polling cards will be sent to all electors.

2.2 It is the District Council's responsibility to prepare a version of the Neighbourhood Plan incorporating any modifications from the Examiner, and it will be this version which goes to referendum. The Plan to be put referendum and its associated Examination report will be published on the District Council's website in advance of the Notice of Referendum being issued.

3.0 Implications

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

Financial Implications

3.1 The District Council will be responsible for paying for the referendums, but funds will be provided by central Government to cover the cost of this exercise.

Legal Implications - LEG2526/5358

3.2 This is a matter reserved to Full Council under the Council's Constitution.

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.

Submission Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan
Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan Examiner's Report

Available at:
https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/winthorpewithlangfordneighbourhoodplan/

NEWARK & SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report to:	Meeting of the Full Council: 21 October 2025
Committee Chair:	Councillor Rhona Holloway, Governance, General Purposes and LGR Committee
Director Lead:	Sue Bearman, Assistant Director Legal & Democratic Services, Monitoring Officer
Officer Lead:	Bryony Norman, Principal Legal Officer & Deputy Monitoring Officer and Lisa Ingram, Principal Legal Officer & Deputy Monitoring Officer.

Report Summary	
Report Title	Outcome of Standards Complaints Hearing Panel
Purpose of Report	To update Full Council of the outcome of the Code of Conduct Hearing held on 10 October 2025
Recommendations	That Members note the contents of the report
Reason for Recommendations	All councils are required to have a local Councillor Code of Conduct to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its Councillors. The Council's Code of Conduct is designed to protect the democratic role of Councillors, encourage good conduct and safeguard the public's trust in local government. It is based on the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership ("The Nolan Principles"). The Council's Community Plan includes our 'Purpose and Values' to make it clear what it is we are here to do and how it will go about it – as public servants we place great emphasis on adopting a public sector ethos and seek to embody this in how we interact with residents and each other. This includes a commitment to being professional and trustworthy.

1.0 <u>Background</u>

1.1 Four complaints were raised in relation to the conduct of Councillor Johno Lee which the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Council's Independent Person, decided warranted further investigation.

1.2 East Midlands Councils were commissioned in March 2025 to undertake the independent investigation. The investigation was paused for a period between mid-April and mid-May 2025 due to the County Council elections, in relation to which Councillor Lee and two of the witnesses were also candidates. East Midlands Councils produced their final report on 26 August 2025. The investigation found evidence of breach in relation to two complaints: -

1.2.1 Complaint Number 20241126: This complaint was made by Councillor Mike Pringle and relates to Councillor Lee's alleged conduct at a meeting of the Council's Policy & Performance Improvement Committee which took place on the evening of 25 November 2024.

The investigation concluded that Councillor Lee failed to treat two Councillors with respect and did not lead by example in a way that secures public confidence in the role of a councillor - and that as a result Councillor Lee's conduct brought the Council into disrepute.

1.2.2 Complaint Number 20250205: This complaint was made by Councillor Forde but also supported by the Chief Executive and relates to a 'Facebook' post published by Councillor Lee on 29 January 2025 detailing the alleged poor performance of the Council, the substance of which was repeated by Councillor Lee at a meeting of Balderton Parish Council on the same day. The investigation concluded that the information posted was entirely fictitious and therefore calculated to unfairly damage the reputation of the Council.

Accordingly, it was concluded that Councillor Lee brought the Council into disrepute through first publishing fictional information, then failing remove that information when advised to so by the Monitoring Officer, and further by repeating verbally it at a meeting of Balderton Parish Council.

1.3 The investigation found no evidence of breach in relation to two of the complaints. Considering this the Monitoring Officer decided to take no further action in relation to those complaints.

1.4 A draft of the investigation report was sent to Councillor Lee for comment on the 28 July 2025. It was made clear in the covering email that, consistent with the Council's procedure for Code of Conduct investigations, the draft report and the investigation itself should remain strictly confidential. Subsequently, the investigators were sent copies of an email written by Councillor Lee to four parish councils on the 29 July 2025 clearly referencing aspects of the draft investigation report and a Facebook post by Councillor Lee (made on or around the 29 July 2025 and subsequently removed) which does similar.

In their final report, the investigators concluded that this amounted to a further breach of the Code of Conduct by Councillor Lee; breach of confidentiality.

1.5 Following receipt of the final report, the Monitoring Officer, in line with the Council's Arrangements for dealing with Complaints, considered the report and was satisfied the investigation had been conducted properly. In relation to the findings of breach, the Monitoring Officer concluded, after consultation with the Independent Person, that there was evidence of a failure to comply with the Code of Conduct and that the matter should be referred to a Standards Complaint Hearing Panel. It was not considered appropriate to resolve by local informal resolution, although it was acknowledged that Councillor Lee had offered apologies and to attend Code of Conduct training. This was due to the belated nature of these actions.

1.6 In line with the Council's arrangements, the matter progressed to a hearing. A Standards Complaint Hearing Panel was convened on 10 October 2025 formed of Councillor Rainbow (Chair), Councillor Brazier and Councillor Shakeshaft.

2.0 Summary

2.1 The Panel considered the information in the report and presented at the hearing and retired to determine whether there has been a breach of the District Council's Code of Conduct by Councillor Lee.

2.2 Councillor Lee's legal advisor confirmed prior to the publication of this report that Councillor Lee would not be attending the hearing and would not be represented at the hearing. Instead, written submissions were submitted on 29 September 2025. Councillor Lee nor his legal advisor attended the hearing.

2.3 The outcome of the hearing was as follows:

2.3.1 Complaint Number 20241126:

The Panel found that there had not been a breach of the Code of Conduct in Councillor Lee's behaviour in reference to Councillor Hall.

The Panel found that there had been a breach of the Code of conduct in Councillor Lee's behaviour towards Councillor Pringle but that his conduct did not reach the threshold to bring his Office or the Council into disrepute.

2.3.2 Complaint Number 20250205:

The Panel found that there had been a breach of the Code of Conduct in the social media post about the performance of the Council, the information contained within the post was incorrect and this information was further supported at a meeting of Balderton Parish Council and Councillor Lee refused to remove the post on request of the Monitoring Officer. This information unfairly damaged the reputation of the Council and brought the Council into disrepute.

2.3.3 Further complaint:

The Panel found that there had been a breach of the Code of Conduct by breaching confidentiality when he shared parts of the confidential draft investigation report online and by email to four Parish Councils.

2.4 Sanctions:

2.4.1 The Panel imposed the following sanctions:

- The Panel determined that Councillor Lee should attend training in relation to the Code of Conduct which should include training on the use of social media and confidentiality.
- The Panel determined that their findings should be reported to Council.

2.5 A copy of the decision notice is attached as an **Appendix** to the report.

3.0 <u>Implications</u>

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

<u>Legal Implications - LEG2526/7289</u>

3.1 Code of Conduct complaints must be dealt with in accordance with the Council's Approved Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints made under s.28 (6) Localism Act 2011. This is being reported to Members at Full Council at the request of the Panel Members.

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.

Standards Complaints Hearing Panel – 10 October 2025 Agenda and Hearing Recording
https://democracy.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=316&MId=1224

Decision Notice: Breach of Newark & Sherwood District Council Code of Conduct

Complaint

On 10 October 2025, the Standards Complaints Hearing Panel (“the Panel”) sat at Newark & Sherwood District Council to determine three complaints regarding alleged breaches of the Newark & Sherwood District Council Member Code of Conduct (“the Code”) by District Councillor Johno Lee (“the Subject Member”).

The complaint had been referred for investigation by the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Independent Person. In March 2025 independent investigators were appointed from East Midlands Councils (“the Investigator”). The investigation concluded that the Subject Member had breached the following paragraphs of the Code:

7.
1. Respect
As a Councillor you should
1.1 treat other councillors and members of the public with respect.

4. Confidentiality and Access to Information
As a Councillor you should:
4.1 not disclose information:
   a) given to you in confidence by anyone
   b) acquired by you which you believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, unless:
      i. you have received the consent of the person authorised to give it;
      ii. you are required by law to do so;
      iii. the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional legal advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or
      iv. the disclosure is:
      reasonable and in the public interest; and
      made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the local authority; and
      you have consulted the Monitoring Officer prior to its release.

5. Disrepute
As a Councillor you should:
4.2 not bring your role or the local authority into disrepute.

Having considered the Investigator’s report and consulting with the Independent Person, the Monitoring Officer referred the matter for a local hearing. It was not considered appropriate to resolve by local resolution, although it was acknowledged that the Subject Member had offered apologies and to attend training, it was considered to be a belated offer.

The Panel, sitting on 10 October considered the following information:

- Report of the Monitoring officer
- Council's Arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct Complaints
- Code of Conduct
- Hearing Procedure
- Investigator's report
- Schedule of Evidence
- Representations from the Subject Member's representative
- Local Government Association's Guidance on the Code of Conduct

During the hearing, the Panel heard from the following:

- Andrew Pritchard and Samantha Maher – the Investigators

The Complainant did not attend the hearing.

The Panel were advised by Francesca Whyley (legal officer) and heard the views of the Independent Person.

Full details of the complaints were set out in the agenda papers, in summary, the complainants alleged:

1) *On 25 November 2024 at a meeting of the Council's Policy & Performance Improvement Committee (PPIC) the Subject Member demonstrated a lack of respect to Councillor's Hall (not present at the Committee) and Pringle (Chair of the Committee) and in so doing, did not lead by example in a way which secured public confidence in the role of a councillor – and that as a result the Subject Member's conduct brought the Council into disrepute.*
2) *The Subject Member posted comments on the Johnno Lee facebook page on 29 January 2025 which he referenced at a meeting of Balderton Parish Council also on 29 January. The comments set out 10 specific service failures of Newark & Sherwood District Council which the Subject Member indicated were quoted from the Q2 Performance Report 2024/25. The Subject Member then clarified to the Monitoring Officer that the comments came from an LGA Corporate Peer Challenge report then that they came from both reports. It was alleged that the comments were not in fact taken from either report and were not factually correct. The posting and referencing of the comments by the Subject Member on 29 January 2025 therefore brought the Council into disrepute.*
3) *A draft copy of the investigation report was shared with the Subject member on 28 July 2025 inviting his comments. The Subject Member was advised the report was strictly confidential in line with the Council's procedure for dealing with investigations. Subsequently an email was sent by the Subject Member to four parish Councillors on 29 July referencing aspects of the draft investigation report and a facebook post the same day made by the Subject Member, also referenced the same comments. This is alleged to be a breach of confidence.*

Decision

In accordance with Sections 28 (6) and (7) of the Localism Act 2011, having carefully considered the allegation in accordance with the Council's Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints about breach of the Code of Conduct, having considered all the information before them and in consultation with the Independent Person, the Panel determined that the Subject Member had breached paragraphs 1, 4 and 5 of the Code. In that he had showed disrespect towards Councillor Pringle on 25 November 2025, he had, by posting comments on 29 January 2025 and reiterating those comments at a parish meeting brought the Council into disrepute and finally that the Subject Member had, by disclosing information from the draft investigation report on 29 July 2025 breached confidentiality.

The Panel did not find that the Subject Member had shown disrespect towards Councillor Hall on 25 November 2025, nor did they find that his actions on 25 November brought his role or the Council into disrepute.

Reasons for Decision

Section 27(2) of the Localism Act 2011 requires all relevant authorities to "adopt a code dealing with the conduct that is expected of members and co-opted members of the authority <u>when they are acting in that capacity</u>."

Newark & Sherwood District Council has adopted such a Code of Conduct which reflects this and states:

4.3 This Code of Conduct applies to you when you are acting in your capacity as a councillor which may include when your actions give the impression to a reasonable member of the public with knowledge of all the facts that you are acting as a councillor.

The Panel accepted that on 25 November 2024 when the Subject Member spoke at the PPIC he was acting as a Councillor, and the Code was engaged.

The Panel determined that the posts on 29 January 2025 on the Johnno Lee facebook page, related to Council activities and as such the Code was engaged. The Panel were aware that some of the content of the facebook page may be handled by administrators but ultimately the page was in the Subject Member's name, and he was ultimately responsible for the postings. Similarly, when on 29 January 2025 he attended a meeting of the Balderton Parish Council, the Subject Member was attending in his capacity as a District Councillor, and the Code was engaged.

Finally, when the Subject Member received the draft investigation report, it specifically related to his role as a Councillor, he then contacted parish councillors and posted on his facebook page about that report which directly related to his role as a Councillor. The Code was therefore engaged.

The Panel considered the matter extremely carefully and came to the following conclusions:

In relation to alleged disrespect towards Councillor Hall at the meeting on 25 November 2024 the Panel considered all the information provided and the representations of the Subject Member Councillor Lee and watched the video footage of the meeting in the retiring room. On balance, whilst the Panel felt the quoting of Councillor Hall's post to be unnecessary, and politically motivated, it did not find on balance that the threshold for disrespect towards Councillor Hall was met.

In relation to alleged disrespect shown towards Councillor Pringle, the Chair of PPIC, on 25 November 2024, the Panel considered all the information and watched the video a number of times. The Panel considered the Subject Member's Article 10 right to freedom of expression and his right to robustly express his views in a political forum. On balance, however, the Panel found that the Subject Member's behaviour towards the Chair, Councillor Pringle did cross the threshold for disrespect.

The Chair of the Committee exercised his discretion in allowing the Subject Member to speak at the Committee as he was not a committee member. Once speaking Councillor Lee was overly assertive in his views, took the opportunity to make lengthy statements when asked by the Chair to state his question and walked out of the meeting mid discussion, still addressing the room as he left which was unprofessional and petulant. The Panel considered carefully whether the threshold for disrespect had been reached. On balance, the Panel determined that the Subject Member, in his behaviour specifically toward the Chair demonstrated disrespect. His actions and demeanour towards the Chair were rude, especially as the Chair had shown goodwill in allowing him to speak. PPIC is not a decision-making body but a scrutiny committee as such the Subject Member's conduct was unnecessary and disrespectful to the Chair.

The Panel considered whether the Subject Member's conduct at the meeting brought his office or the Council into disrepute. Whilst the Panel have determined that disrespect was shown towards Councillor Pringle as the Chair, the Panel did not find, on balance, that this brought the Subject Member's office or the Council into disrepute as it did not undermine necessarily the public's confidence in the Subject Member to undertake his role. It was however not the standard of behaviour the Panel would expect from Councillors.

In relation to the second complaint, the Panel considered the information before them and the posts and public comments made by the Subject Member about the performance of the Council on 29 January 2025. The Panel considered the Subject Member's Article 10 rights and his right to provide comments on matters of public interest such as the performance of the Council, however they determined that where negative comments are made publicly and expressed as fact, this will undoubtedly have an impact on the reputation of the Council and reflect badly on the ability of the Council to effectively perform its functions, which will impact the public's confidence in the organisation.

The Panel determined that whilst it is acceptable for Councillors to comment on performance, the comments made by the Subject Member which he claimed were referenced from the Performance Report for Q2 2024/25 and the Peer Review Performance Report have been considered and there is no correlation to the comments the Subject

Member made and the content of the reports. As such, the Panel found that the comments posted by the Subject Member were unfounded, had no factual basis and as such the posting of the comments brought the Authority into disrepute. The Panel felt that as the owner of the facebook page the Subject Member had overall responsibility to ensure accuracy of what was reported, and he continued to claim that the comments were from within the two reports previously mentioned which was not the case. Even when advised to remove the posts due to inaccuracy by the Monitoring Officer, the Subject Member did not remove them.

Finally, in relation to the third complaint in respect of confidentiality, the Panel considered the email to parish councillors and the post on facebook made by the Subject Member on 29 July 2025 in which he referenced the content of the draft Code of Conduct Investigation report. The Panel considered the guidance in relation to confidentiality. Investigations into the Code of Conduct are kept confidential at the investigation stage, the Subject Member, Councillor Lee was aware of that from the cover email he received in relation to the report and the Council's own arrangements for dealing with complaints. The Subject Member has referenced the reports in public, and he should not have done so as he was aware the information was confidential. The Panel therefore found that the Subject Member had breached the code of conduct by failing to maintain confidentiality.

Sanctions

Having determined that the Code had been breached by the Subject Member, the Panel sought representations from the Investigating Officer in relation to sanctions that the Panel may impose. The Panel also sought the views of the Independent Person.

The Panel considered the sanctions available to them under the Council's Arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct Complaints. The Panel recognised that there had been efforts by the Subject Member to apologise to Councillor Pringle and took this into account as mitigation when considering appropriate sanctions.

The Panel also recognised that it had been some time since the Subject Member had attended training in relation to the Code of Conduct and that his actions demonstrated a lack of understanding in relation to the appropriate use of social media.

The Panel imposed the following sanctions:

- The Panel determined that the Subject Member should attend training in relation to the Code of Conduct which should include training on the use of social media and confidentiality.
- The Panel determined that their findings should be reported to Council.

Please note, there is no right of appeal against a decision of the Hearing Panel. If the Complainant feels the Council have failed to deal with the complaint properly, he/she may complain to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman PO Box 4771, Coventry, CV4 0EH.

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR FULL COUNCIL See Part D of the Council's Constitution – Council Procedure Rules – for the rules on motions	
Title of Motion:	To request that officers explore the feasibility and implications of the introduction of Article 4 Directions within urban areas of Newark and Sherwood (Under the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015)
Date of Council meeting:	21 October 2025
Proposer of Motion: (Name, and signature if hard copy submitted)	Councillor Johno Lee
Seconder of Motion: (Name, and signature if hard copy submitted)	Councillor Matthew Spoors

Background/supporting information (maximum 300 words):

Article 4 Directions remove the national permitted development rights in a specific area of a town or district. Generally, they are intended to protect unacceptable impacts of unchecked development that will adversely affect local amenity or the well-being of the area. Most recently councils in cities such as Bristol, Nottingham and York, have used these powers to manage and regulate growth of housing developments which may have left residents vulnerable to the impacts of over-concentration of certain housing types that would have reduced housing affordability, for residents, students and minority groups. The measures also took into consideration issues such as parking pressures, and increased waste.

These measures have protected community cohesion and allowed strong integration and cooperation between the different ethnic and socio-economic groups that have been welcomed into these areas. They have proven to be effective, lawful, and necessary in ensuring local housing remains accessible and affordable while giving councils greater control over planning decisions.

Whilst Newark and Sherwood has had few issues to date with an over-supply of any one type of housing, as the expansion of our housing stock increases and the demographics of our communities alters, we should be mindful of allowing this council the opportunity to robustly regulate our housing stock to ensure that it is appropriate for current residents as well as welcoming to those that join our communities.

By exploring the options now, we will be better prepared for future change.

Motion to be proposed (active section):

This Council therefore resolves to:

a) Establish a working group through the Policy Performance & Improvement Committee to assess the current and future impact of the permitted development allowing change of use from a dwelling house (C3) to a House of Multiple Occupation (C4) at all conurbations across our district.
b) The working group should consider the impact of HMOs on our communities including (but not limited to) housing affordability, community balance, infrastructure and planning enforcement.

c) The working group should present through the Policy Performance & Improvement Committee to Cabinet recommendations regarding the principles of issuing Article 4 Directions. d) Subject to any view of Cabinet any Article 4 Directions be referred to the Planning Committee for progression.	
Date and time received: *(for completion by Democratic Services)*	24 September 2025 - 18:59

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR FULL COUNCIL **See Part D of the Council's Constitution – Council Procedure Rules – for the rules on motions**	
Title of Motion:	Marie Curie Campaign for a Council Tax Exemption for the Terminally Ill
Date of Council meeting:	21 October 2025
Proposer of Motion: (Name, and signature if hard copy submitted)	Councillor Jean Hall
Seconder of Motion: (Name, and signature if hard copy submitted)	Councillor Paul Peacock
Background/supporting information (maximum 300 words):	
Newark & Sherwood District Council notes the research undertaken by Marie Curie Cancer Care into the cost of living and the additional financial burden faced by those with a terminal illness. Newark & Sherwood District Council believes that people at the end of life should be able to focus on what really matters, but as life is often more expensive when you live with a terminal diagnosis, too many people are spending their final days, weeks and months struggling to make ends meet.	
Motion to be proposed (active section):	
Newark & Sherwood District Council therefore resolves to: a) Support the Marie Curie campaign for a Council Tax Exemption for the Terminally Ill. b) Congratulate Manchester City Council on becoming the first council to implement such a scheme for their local residents. c) Establish a PPIC working group to consider the development of an appropriate policy for Council Tax Exemption for those with a terminal illness, or a partner or family member within the same household, as part of the local tax reduction scheme. PPIC to make recommendations to Cabinet to adopt a formal policy if appropriate. d) Write to other Nottinghamshire Local Authorities to ask that they support the Marie Curie campaign for a Council Tax Exemption for the terminally ill.	
Date and time received: *(for completion by Democratic Services)*	25 September 2025 - 12:39

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Cabinet** 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 S Crosby, Councillor L Brazier, 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

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

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

280 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillor P Taylor declared an Other Registerable Interest in Agenda Item No. 12 – Management and Maintenance of Public Open Space on New Residential Developments as Chair of the Castle Brewery Management Company.

281 MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10 JUNE 2025

The minutes from the meeting held on 10 June 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

282 CHAIR'S UPDATE

In referring to the Government's commitment of funding for the dualling of the A46, the Chair welcomed the good news adding that it was hoped there would be an announcement in the next few days about the A614 Improvement Scheme.

The Chair also referred to the meeting of Cabinet on 15 July, immediately following the meeting of full Council which was being held to confirm the decision of Council in relation to the preferred Option for Local Government Reorganisation.

283 PROVISIONAL FINANCIAL OUTTURN REPORT TO 31 MARCH 2025

The Business Manager – Financial Services, was in attendance to present the provisional 2024/25 financial outturn position on the Council's revenue and capital budgets, including: General Fund Revenue; Housing Revenue Account; Capital Programme; Provisions and Impaired Estimates on Debtors; Usable Reserves; and Collection Fund.

The report detailed a summary of actual income and expenditure compared to the revised budget and how any surpluses/deficits have been allocated to/from reserves. Members considered the report and welcomed the Council's financial position.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

a) the final outturn of revenue and capital spending for 2024/25 be noted;

b) the capital financing proposals as set out in table 5 at paragraph 1.19 of the report, be noted;

c) the Capital Programme reprofiling of £7.817m carried forward into 2025/26, as per appendices E and F to the report, be noted;

d) the movement in Provisions and Impaired Estimates on Debtors be noted;

e) the creation of the new reserve, as outlined in paragraph 1.28 of the report, be approved; and

f) the individual contributions to, and withdrawals from, the revenue and capital Usable Reserves be noted.

Reasons for Decision:
To consider the provisional 2024/25 financial outturn position on the Council's revenue and capital budgets.

To consider performance against actual income and expenditure compared to the revised budget and how any surpluses/deficits have been allocated to/from reserves.

Options Considered:
None, this report provides information on the Council's financial outturn for 2024/25.

284 COMMUNITY PLAN PERFORMANCE FOR QUARTER 4 2024/25

The Senior Transformation & Service Improvement Officer was in attendance to present the Community Plan Performance for Quarter 4 2024/25. The comprehensive report provided a wide range of information, which included: customer feedback; implementation of Health & Wellbeing Strategy; pollution prevention; ongoing work to increase the supply, choice and standard of housing; creation of employment opportunities; and tackling ASB.

In considering the report, Members raised the increase of an increase rent arrears. In response, the Portfolio Holder – Housing and the Director -Housing, Health & Wellbeing advised that the implementation of Universal Credit had greatly impacted this but were confident that an improvement would be seen in Q1.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

a) review the Community Plan Performance Report attached as Appendix 1 to the report;

b) review the compliance report attached as Appendix 2 to the report; and

c) consider the Council's performance against its objectives highlighting any areas of high performance and identifying areas for improvement.

Reasons for Decision:
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.

Options Considered:
Not applicable, this report presents the Council's performance against Community Plan objectives.

285 QUARTER 4 2024/25 - HOUSING COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE REPORT

The Director – Housing, Health & Wellbeing was in attendance to present the Housing Assurance position as of 31 March 2025 (Quarter 4) with regard to compliance including actions to rectify identified issues.

It was reported that the slight reduction in gas servicing compliance was due to a dip in contractor performance. This was now being address following the contractor appointing a manager to oversee the implementation of the Action Plan. Additional engineers had also been appointed to reduce the number of properties out of compliance. In total there were 4 homes where the oil service and solid fuel service had not been completed with work ongoing to contact the tenants. In relation to EICR electrical certification compliance, work was ongoing towards being 100% compliant and being 6 months in advance of renewal of certification. It was reported that there had been recruitment issues to key posts to fulfil fire safety checks and this had now been resolved with internal and external resource now in place.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet note:

a) the exceptions to performance of the housing service compliance functions; and

b) the new format for performance for Quarter 4 2024.25 onwards.

Reasons for Decision:
To enable the Cabinet to monitor performance and compliance relating to the Council's legal and regulatory landlord responsibilities for 27 building safety measures including fire protection, gas, asbestos, electrical and water.

Options Considered:
Not applicable, this report presents performance of housing compliance services.

286 CORPORATE ANNUAL BUDGET STRATEGY FOR 2026/27

The Business Manager – Financial Services was in attendance to present the General Fund, Capital & HRA Budge Strategy for 2026/27 for consideration by Members before detailed work commenced.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

a) approve the overall General Fund, Capital & HRA Budget Strategy for 2026/27;

b) note the consultation process with Members;

c) note that Budget Officers continue work on the assessment of various budget proposals affecting services for consideration in setting the Council's budget;

d) note that Budget Managers work with Finance Officers in identifying further efficiency savings, increasing income from fees and charges and in identifying new sources of income; and

e) review the policies and principles on Budgeting, Council Tax, Reserves and Provisions, Charging, Value for Money and make any recommendations to Council.

Reasons for Decision:
To enable the Council's budget process to proceed in accordance with assumptions set out in this report.

Options Considered:
Not applicable, the Budget Strategy is required each year in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

287 PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK 2025/26

The Transformation & Service Improvement Manager was in attendance to present an update on the Performance Framework and indicator that would be used to monitor and measure the Council's performance against the refreshed Community Plan. The report also provided the Cabinet with the results of the recent Assurance Review of Performance Management. The Framework provided details of Corporate Planning, Performance Management, Assurance and Data Quality.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet note:

a) the Corporate Planning, Performance Management and Assurance Framework at Appendix 1 to the report;

b) the refreshed performance indicators at Appendix 2 to the report; and

c) the findings of the recent Assurance Review of Performance Management at Appendix 3 to the report.

Reasons for Decision:
The Performance Framework is refreshed on a regular basis to reflect the priorities of the Council.

Options Considered:
None considered, a mechanism is required to measure the Council's performance.

288 SALE OF THE HOLLIES, BARNBY ROAD, NEWARK (KEY DECISION)

The Asset Manager was in attendance to present a report which sought Cabinet's consideration of a proposal that the current tenant, Hope House School, purchase the freehold titles for The Hollies. It was reported that an initial offer from the school had been made in 2023 of £220,000 to purchase the property. Following a Red Book Valuation carried out by Richard Watkinson on behalf of the Council this was considered to be too low with the site being valued at £950,000. Following discussions with the School, a revised formal offer was made in line with the valuation of £950,000, subject to contract and survey.

AGREED (unanimously) that the exclusive sale of the Hollies, Barnby Road, Newark, to Hope House School be approved.

Reasons for Decision:
Based on the sites current market value, and the potential for future development, the offer from Hope House School is good.

The sale will enable the school to keep providing extremely complex services within the community and continue to improve the school and grow its capacity.

Options Considered:
The Council has the option not to sell and propose a further lease to Hope House School, which maybe declined leaving a void property.

A further option would be to sell The Hollies on the open market. This would have a devastating impact on the school residents and employees.

289 MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE ON NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS (KEY DECISION)

The Director – Planning & Growth was in attendance to present background information into some of the challenges with regard to the different models for securing the appropriate long-term management and maintenance of Public Open Space within new residential developments and to provide recommendations for future stated preferences. Details of the Council' current approach were reported, noting that the establishment of a ManCo was lawful and within a developer's gift, noting there was no national regulation. The proposal within the report was that the

Council’s current position be extended to welcome taking on open space on all major residential developments in addition to the Strategic Urban Expansion sites, subject to securing an appropriate 20-year maintenance contribution.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

a) note that Management Companies are a lawful and legitimate model for the ongoing management and maintenance of Public Open Space which can continue to be promoted by developers;

b) endorse the recommendation of the Planning Policy Board to produce guidance on Public Open Space Management Company Best Practice to cover instances where a Management Company is promoted by the developer;

c) endorse the recommendation of the Planning Policy Board to continue to promote the Council managing and maintaining Public Open Space on Strategic Urban Extension (SUE) sites in the first instance; and

d) endorse the recommendation of the Planning Policy Board to continue to promote for all non-SUE residential housing developments the principle of public ownership of Public Open Space, either via the District Council alongside an appropriate commuted payment to cover 20 years maintenance or via the host Town or Parish Council whey they have the appetite, capacity and capability to do so. Should the developer insist on a Management Company, it shall accord with the guidance detailed at b) above.

<u>Reasons for Decision:</u>
Addressing the appropriate and ongoing management and maintenance of Open Space will ensure ongoing quality and equity for new residential developments, in according with Ambitions 2, 3 6 and 7 of the Council’s Community Plan.

<u>Options Considered:</u>
The Council could allow market forces and developer preferences to dictate future approaches to the management of Public Open Space on new development. This is discounted in favour of clear guidance and preference such that the development industry, Town and Parish Council’s and future residents are clear on expectations and limitations. Moreover, guidance will ensure appropriate practices are secured as far as reasonably possible.

Meeting closed at 7.32 pm.

Chair

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Cabinet** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY on Tuesday, 15 July 2025 at 8.55 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor P Peacock (Chair)

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

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

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

291 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no declarations of interest.

292 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive on Local Government Reorganisation, in light of the outcome of the earlier debate at Full Council. The Cabinet were asked to determine the Council's final position on the option to be developed as the final proposal for submission to the Government in November 2025.

AGREED (with 7 votes for and 1 against) that Cabinet:

a) consider the options appraisal and summary document provided by PwC UK (Appendices 1 and 2 to the Full Council report);

b) following the decision of the Full Council, develop Option 1e as this Council's preferred option for submission as a final proposal to Government by 28 November 2025;

c) register as part of the submission, a request for consideration of including the whole of the Newark Parliamentary Constituency within the boundary of the proposed 1e unitary authority, to strengthen community identity and provide for more "sensible" geography;

d) ensure the involvement of Town and Parish Councils and other local community and business organisations in the development of the final proposal;

e) consider future reports on Local Government Reorganisation as required; and

f) delegate the creation of a budget to the Leader of the Council through a Portfolio Holder decision in consultation with the Chair of the Governance, General Purposes and Local Government Re-organisation Committee.

Reasons for Decision:
To ensure that the Council meets the requirements of the statutory invitation from government to submit a final proposal for local government reorganisation by 28 November 2025.

Options Considered:
A detailed options appraisal was contained in the PwC report (Appendices 1 and 2 to the Full Council report).

Meeting closed at 8.58 pm.

Chair

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Cabinet** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY on Tuesday, 9 September 2025 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor P Peacock (Chair)

Councillor R Cozens, Councillor S Crosby, Councillor S Forde, Councillor C Penny, Councillor P Taylor and Councillor J Kellas

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor N Allen, Councillor P Rainbow and Councillor J Lee

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor L Brazier

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

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

294 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no declarations of interest.

295 MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON 8 JULY AND 15 JULY 2025

The minutes from the meeting held on 8 July and 15 July 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

296 PROJECTED GENERAL FUND AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT TO 31 MARCH 2026 AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

The Business Manager- Financial Services presented a report regarding the projected General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Revenue and Capital Outturn Report to 31 March 2026 as at 30 June 2025, forecasting the outturn position for the 2025/26 financial year for the Council's General Fund and Housing Revenue Account revenue and capital budgets. The report detailed performance against the approved estimates of revenue expenditure and income; major variances from planned budget performance; and variations to the Capital Programme for approval; all in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

Members noted a projected unfavourable variance against the revised budget of £0.395m on Service budgets, representing 1.88% of the total service budgets, with an overall favourable variance of £0.303m that would need to be transferred to the General Fund reserve. The HRA accounts showed a projected unfavourable variance on the Net Cost of HRA Services against the revised budget of £0.355m and a reduced transfer to the Major Repairs Reserve of £0.409m. The Council had been fully compliant with all prudential indicators during the reporting period.

Members discussed performance in relation to recruitment, and queried whether the forthcoming Local Government Organisation (LGR) might have an impact, noting that recruitment could often take a while due to notice periods. The Chief Executive explained that there were pockets of recruitment that had always been challenging but LGR had the potential to give wider employment opportunities for staff. Members emphasised the importance of accurate and responsible communication with staff in the work towards the Reorganisation.

AGREED (unanimously) That Cabinet:

(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.

Reasons for Decision:
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.
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.

Options Considered:
Not applicable.

297 QUARTER 1 2025/26 - HOUSING COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE REPORT

The Head of Housing, Health and Wellbeing was in attendance to present the Housing Compliance report for quarter 1 of 2025/26 to the end of June 2025. The report focused on exceptions performance, which is outside the Council's target parameters. During the presentation, Members heard the latest updated performance figures.

Members noted that the Council received a letter from the Government in June 2025 ahead of the introduction of new regulation relating to phase 1 of Awaab's Law, relating to damp and mould, and changes to electrical safety standards from the Autumn, which the Council are already preparing for.

Due to the move to the new Housing Management System, an interim reporting arrangement was in place as the new system was set up for Awaab's Law (Damp & Mould) and the associated reporting arrangements required. When Awaab's Law was in force, the system would report automatically from a specific contractor code that related only to damp and mould repairs, ensuring accurate information on performance.

AGREED (unanimously) That Cabinet note:

a) the exceptions to performance of the housing service compliance functions;

b) interim arrangements for monitoring damp and mould ahead of introduction of Awaab's Law; and

c) the ongoing actions to improve and maintain performance.

Reasons for Decision:
To provide assurance on the work undertaken to ensure the safety of tenants and compliance with the regulatory standards.

Options Considered:
None

298 COMMUNITY PLAN PERFORMANCE FOR QUARTER ONE - 2025/26

The Transformation and Service Improvement Officer presented a report which detailed the Quarter 1 Community Plan Performance Report for 2025/26.

The report and accompanying presentation highlighted various projects undertaken by Business Units and performance in including re-let times, tenant satisfaction, Active4Today and the National Civil War Centre, and Local Government Re-organisation.

Members discussed the delay in re-letting and rent arrears performance. The Head of Housing, Health and Wellbeing was in attendance and explained the reasons for the performance, as well as measures that had been taken, including re-focusing of teams and appointing an external resource to undertake voids work, to address the delay. Members noted officers were focussed on the performance measures and the anticipated timescales to see improvement.

Members also considered in detail the work experience offer, sickness absence, and enabling Councillors to proactively communicate resources within the District, including activities held at the National Civil War Centre and recycling.

AGREED (unanimously) That Cabinet:

a) review the Community Plan Performance Report attached as **Appendix 1;**

b) review the compliance report attached as **Appendix 2;** and

c) consider the Council's performance against its objectives highlighting any areas of high performance and identifying areas for improvement.

Reasons for Decision:
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.

Options Considered:
Not applicable.

299 LAND TRANSFER, BOWBRIDGE ROAD - GENERAL FUND TO HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

The Development Manager - Corporate Property was in attendance to present a report which sought approval to transfer the residue land off Bowbridge Road, Newark from the General Fund to the HRA to facilitate the proposed new build development of 5 no large family 4 and 3 bed level access bungalows to meet the local housing need. The land had been held for the purpose of a car park, however was no longer required as the car park had been developed on the rest of the site.

The land had been valued as part of the Council's rolling valuation programme in 2024/25 at a value of £326,400, representing £65,280 per unit. The Cabinet welcomed the proposal, especially the type of housing that was proposed and suggested that parling measures may be required due to the proximity to the hospital and town centre.

AGREED (unanimously) 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.

Reasons for Decision:
To enable construction of 5 no HRA bungalows to support the local housing need.

Options Considered:
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.
Leave the land in the General Fund for future currently unidentified potential development.

300 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - HOUSING COMMUNITY CENTRE POLICY

The Director- Housing, Health and Wellbeing was in attendance to present a report which set out the Council's approach to managing Housing Community Centres, financed and supported via the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The Council had 29 HRA community centres, located across the district either within or adjacent to areas of housing for older people. It was proposed that no charges be imposed for the use of the Council's HRA community centres as it would result in the properties being liable for business rates and to cover this charge, hire costs would have been prohibitive for many community-based groups across the district.

The Cabinet considered the report noting the importance of spaces within the community where people could take part in various activities.

AGREED (unanimously) That Cabinet:

a) endorse the Policy;

b) note that no charges will be levied for the use of HRA Community Centres; and

c) note the alignment with the Community Plan Ambition Seven *"Be a top performing, modern, accessible Council that get its everyday services right for the residents and businesses that it serves".*

Reasons for Decision:
To ensure effective management of the Council's 29 HRA Housing Community Centres.

Options Considered:
Not having a policy in place could result in ineffective management and misuse of valuable community spaces.

301 ANNUAL REVIEW OF EXEMPT ITEMS

The Deputy Chief Executive presented a report to consider the list of exempt business considered by the Cabinet for the period 24 September 2024 to date, and decide which, if any, reports can be released into the public domain.

The Cabinet considered the report, noting the Officer recommendations for the exempt reports.

AGREED that Cabinet note the report, with any items being released into the public domain if considered no longer being exempt.

Reasons for Decision:
To review previous exempt reports considered by the Cabinet over the previous 12 months.

Options Considered:
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.

302 DIGITAL STRATEGY 2025-2028

The Business Manager – ICT and Digital Services and Business Manager- Customer Services, were in attendance to present the Digital Strategy for 2025-2028, including the outcome of the Members Digital Working Group and results of the stakeholders survey. The new digital strategy, gave a clear strategic direction for our digital initiatives, minimising resourcing and financial risks, ensuring our alignment with other authorities involved in local government reorganisation, and providing our communities with assurance that their needs were central to the development of our digital initiatives.

The Cabinet welcomed the Strategy, particularly the commitment to ensure that no-one in the District would be left behind or unable to access services from the Council.

AGREED (unanimously) That Cabinet:

a) approve the digital strategy (attached as an appendix) for 2025-2028; and

b) note the findings of the working group and stakeholder surveys.

Reasons for Decision:
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.

Options Considered:
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 developments in digital technologies enable greater understanding and use of data. This necessitates a fresh strategy.
Take no action and therefore no digital strategy. This is not considered to be an acceptable option.

303 PROGRESSION OF BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN HABITAT BANKS FOR NEWARK & SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL (KEY DECISION)

The Biodiversity and Ecology Lead Officer was in attendance to present a report identifying existing Council land assets with the potential to be used for the purposes of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). Four sites, detailed within the report, map and exempt appendix had been identified for progressions to become biodiversity units. The Cabinet considered the report, noting the work undertaken and the intent to continue searching for possible BNG sites.

AGREED (unanimously) That Cabinet:

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.

Reasons for Decision:
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.

Options Considered:
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.

Meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Chair

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Policy & Performance Improvement Committee** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY on Monday, 1 September 2025 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor M Pringle (Chair)
Councillor N Ross (Vice-Chair)

Councillor A Brazier, Councillor C Brooks, Councillor A Freeman, Councillor J Hall, Councillor S Haynes, Councillor R Holloway, Councillor R Jackson, Councillor D Moore, Councillor P Rainbow and Councillor T Thompson

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor N Allen and Councillor P Taylor

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor K Roberts, Councillor M Spoors and Councillor T Wendels

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

The Chair advised that the meeting was being recorded and live streamed from Castle House.

133 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no declarations of interest.

134 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 JUNE 2025

The minutes from the meeting held on 30 June 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

135 BASSETLAW AND N&S CSP PROGRESS & PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The Committee considered the report presented by the Business Manager – Public Protection and Chief Inspector, Clive Collings of the Nottinghamshire Police Authority which sought to provide Members with an update on the work undertaken by the Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood Community Safety Partnership.

The report set out the performance for all crime and ASB in January to July 2025 when compared with the previous year.

In considering the report, Members asked the Business Manager and CI Collings a number of questions.

In noting the number of crimes committed, a Member queried as to the percentage of those which had resulted in an offender being charged and the percentage of those crimes which had been solved. CI Collings advised that detection rates in the Newark & Sherwood area for the period July and August 2025 was at 34% in comparison to the county figure of 26.4%.

In response to comment made about the use of microphones in CCTV cameras, the Business Manager advised that this was not available in the current cameras and that the main priority is the ability to view the footage and live feed information to the police.

A Member referred to the Domestic Homicide Reviews, querying the time period covered by the information provided at paragraph 5 of the report. The Business Manager advised this could be over quite a length of time as referrals and reviews could often be delayed whilst an active police investigation was carried out.

In noting the reduction in anti-social behaviour but that Newark & Sherwood remained the third highest in the county for such incidents, a Member queried whether the Council should consider additional investment to reduce the rates further. CI Collings noted the success of the Neighbourhood Teams in helping to reduce the number of incidents. Members agreed that a visual Police presence provided the public with a degree of confidence.

A Member queried whether any surveys were carried out in relation to public perception. CI Collings advised that a number of trust and confidence surveys were carried out by the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, the results of which often fluctuated. He added that the results seen on the ground by the Police did not quickly translate to the public and that more could be done to communicate any positive changes, adding further that work on this issue was ongoing.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Community Safety Partnership performance information be noted.

Councillor P. Rainbow left the meeting partway through the following item, with the agreement of the Chair.

136 <u>PRESENTATION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PUBLIC PROTECTION & COMMUNITY RELATIONS</u>

The Committee considered the report of the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection & Community Relations, Councillor Paul Taylor.

As detailed in the report, the Portfolio Holder had been invited to attend Committee to respond verbally to four specific queries, as detailed within the report.

In relation to the work carried out by Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Officers and Community Protection Officers (CPO) in tackling ASB, the Portfolio Holder referred to the multi-agency work recently carried out on Yorke Drive. Officers had assisted in the gathering of intelligence and evidence to secure enforcement action. This type of action was also carried out in other areas throughout the district. The CPOs and ASB Officers dealt with complaints which are then triaged and signposted to the most appropriate recipient. The Portfolio Holder also noted that the officers dealt with reports surrounding safeguarding issues and that the Safer Streets initiative had resulted in a 40% in recorded incidents of ASB.

In referring to what the challenges were experienced when dealing with ASB, the Portfolio Holder stated that the main challenge was in relation to the volume of reported incidents and the complexity of the cases, noting that there were often underlying issues, for example, the mental health of the individuals involved.

In relation to the importance of the Council's working relationship with the Police and other partners in tackling youth ASB, the Portfolio Holder stated that the Council had a good working relationship with the Police. The aim was to reduce incidents of ASB as early as possible by attending primary schools to speak to young children about this.

In noting the question raised about tackling ASB in the Sherwood area, the Portfolio Holder advised that reported incidents were dealt with and processed in the same way across the district. He acknowledged that Newark received additional funding but that that was outside the control of the Council as it was based on crime data.

In response to whether the Council should consider increasing budget provision to assist in further reducing incidents of ASB, the Portfolio Holder advised that a budget bid would be submitted for additional funding and this would be primarily for diversionary work. He added that currently, investigations into domestic homicide reviews was funding from reserves but it was likely that an application for funding to assist with those would also be submitted.

In referring to the previous external organisation used to assist with Fixed Penalty Notices being disbanded, a Member queried as to the latest situation. The Portfolio Holder advised that the Council and appointed an alternative company who were in the process of mobilisation, but this was unfortunately taking longer than expected. The Chair requested that the Committee be provided with an update on how this would be progressed.

A Member queried whether the recent spate of anti-asylum seekers protests were affecting ASB figures and also the placement of flags on lighting columns. The Portfolio Holder responded by stating that we had not seen the level of protests that had happened elsewhere and the one that had taken place had been well policed and had seen no incidents. The Portfolio Holder explained that the undoubted patriotic intent in putting up flags was understood however, the placement of flags on lighting columns could be irresponsible, if they came loose and fell into the path of a motorist they could be the driver at risk.

CI Collings added that he had been appointed as the officer in charge of the recent protest at Castle House. He commented that such protests were likely to reduce in number as the season changed to autumn, adding that community cohesion was a challenge for the Police.

In referring to knife crime, a Member advised that she had attended an event at the YMCA which had been run by young people. She advised that they had presented some good initiatives to combat knife crime. The Portfolio Holder commented that such incidents were rare in Newark. CI Collings advised that his Officers attended primary schools to teach the students about being a good citizen and it was hoped that this would be the best way to educate them from a young age.

In concluding the debate, the Chair stated that it was the responsibility of adults that respected the Police to actively promote how to be a good citizen. He requested that Members be kept informed of any upcoming events, such as that held at the YMCA.

AGREED (unanimously) that the response of the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection & Community Relations to the questions raised be noted.

137 PROJECTED GENERAL FUND & HRA REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT TO 31 MARCH 2026 AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Financial Services which provided Members with the forecast position for the 2025/26 financial year for the Council's General Fund and Housing Revenue Account revenue and capital budgets. The report also provided Members with information as to the performance against the approved estimates of revenue expenditure and income and on major variances from planned budget performance, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

Details were provided as to the current position (as at 30 June 2025) variances. Table 1 showed an unfavourable variance against the revised budget of £0.395m on service budgets with an overall favourable variance of £0.303m that would require transferring to the General Fund reserve. Table 2 provided an overview of projected Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Outturn for 2025/26 with an unfavourable variance on the net cost of HRA Services against the revised budget of £0.355m and a reduced transfer to the Major Repairs Reserve of £0.409m. Details of the overview of the Projected Capital Outturn 2025/26 were also provided.

In considering the report, Members referred to the number of vacancies and if consideration had been given to whether local government reorganisation (LGR) would have an impact on these figures going forward in relation to budget provision. The Business Manager advised that the budgets had been built prior to LGR being implemented. He added that a reduction in staff numbers was not anticipated but that LGR would be factored into the budgets for 2026/2027.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

a) the General Fund projected favourable outturn variance of £0.303m be noted;

b) the Housing Revenue Account projected unfavourable outturn variance of £0.409m to the Major Repairs Reserve be noted; and

c) the Capital Programme revised budged and financing of £55.240m be noted.

138 COMPLIANCE UPDATE - HOUSING PERFORMANCE Q1

The Committee considered the report presented by the Compliance Manager – Housing Maintenance & Asset Management which sought to provide Members with the performance position as of 30 June 2025 (Q1) for housing related compliance and to provide an update on activities in the service area.

The report set out how performance was rated, as recommended by the external auditors and the Regulator of Social Housing. It also included information on performance in relation to the reported cases of damp and mould. Paragraph 3 of the report set out the performance exceptions with these being noted as: gas servicing domestic; fire safety checks; fire door inspections; asbestos domestic and communal; water safety; stair lifts; EICR certifications less than 5 years old; and solid fuel and soil servicing, each with commentary as to the reason for the exception.

Members commented in general on the information contained in the report with the Chair thanking officers for their ongoing work in relation to reported cases of damp and mould.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

a) the exceptions to performance of the housing service compliance functions be noted;

b) the interim arrangements for monitoring damp and mould ahead of the introduction of Awaab's Law be noted; and

c) the ongoing actions to improve and maintain performance be noted.

139 COMPLIANCE UPDATE - CORPORATE ESTATE ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee considered the reported presented by the Development Manager – Corporate Property which sought to update Members on compliance management across the corporate estate, focusing on corporate estate and tenanted properties. The report provided a high-level overview of the core elements of the compliance related activities.

It was reported that the corporate compliance budget for the 2025/2026 financial year was £291,760.00 and was for the full programme of statutory compliance servicing across 22 corporate sites. Compliance servicing, inspections and testing included: fire, gas and electrical safety; legionella; asbestos; air conditioning systems; lifts and lifting equipment; and fall arrest systems with the servicing being carried out in accordance with legislative and regulatory requirements. Details of service improvements; tenant compliance monitoring details; and the future work plan were all included within the report.

A Member raised the issue of poor performance by an external contractor, specifically in relation to gas inspections, and how this would be resolved. The Member also queried whether the Council had suitable protections in place should the situation occur. The Development Manager advised that prior to a contract being awarded, gas contractors were subject to interview and receipt of suitable references to ensure they would provide a robust service.

In considering the report, the Chair requested further information be included in future reports in relation to how the Council engaged with external contractors.

AGREED (unanimously) that the content of the report and the work being undertaken across the corporate estate be noted.

140 HOUSING OMBUDSMAN COMPLAINT HANDLING CODE SELF-ASSESSMENT

The Committee considered the report presented by the Business Manager – Customer Services which sought to provide Members with an update of the completion of the Housing Ombudsman Complaint Handling Code.

The report set out that the Housing Ombudsman (HO) Complaint Handling Code "the Code" set out best practice for landlord's complaint handling procedures to enable a positive complaints culture across all landlords within the social housing sector. The Code became a statutory duty on 1 April 2024 with the HO having a legal duty to ensure landlords complaint procedures and response were compliant. Part of the Code requires landlords to submit an annual submission of a self-assessment, detailing their compliance against the Code. The report listed the 9 sections of the Code and detailed that the self-assessment had been completed and reviewed by the Council's Tenant Engagement Board, noting that in all but one area the Council was compliant and that this was due to issues with reports being submitted to the appropriate committee, which the HO was aware of.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

a) the completed Housing Ombudsman Complaint Handling Code Self-Assessment be endorsed; and

b) the completed Housing Ombudsman Complaint Handling Code Self-Assessment be recommended to the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee for approval and that it be published on the Council's website.

141 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee considered the report presented by the Business Manager – Customer Services which sought to provide Members with information in relation to the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) Annual Review Letter.

The report set out that the LGSCO produced an annual review letter detailing the number, type and decisions made in relation to each authority. The review letter was attached as an appendix to the report and detailed that 16 complaints and decisions had been made relating to services provided by the Council. This was in comparison to 11 received and 9 decisions made for 2023/2024. An explanation of how complaints were dealt with was provided at paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 of the report. Table 2 within the report set out the category of complaint and the outcome of each decision.

AGREED (unanimously) that the contents of the report be noted.

142 SIMPLER RECYCLING - CHANGES TO NATIONAL RECYCLING POLICIES

The Committee considered the report presented by the Waste & Recycling Manager which sought to provide Members with the Council's progress towards the new legislative requirements and the impact that the changes would have on the authority.

The report set out the key parts of the Government's Simpler Recycling Strategy and how this would directly impact on the Council. It was reported that the recycling policy was being introduced over a period of 2 and a half years with the requirements to beginning food waste collections being delayed by a further 18 months for contractual stated reasons. A summary of the timelines for implementation were provided at paragraph 1.11 of the report with paragraphs 2 and 3 detailing the future changes for both commercial and domestic waste collection services. The full financial implications were set out for the Committee at paragraph 4.1 onwards.

In noting the proposed changes to food waste collection and the impending local government reorganisation (LGR), a Member suggested that in order to realise costs savings and efficiencies, this should be a county-wide scheme. The Waste & Recycling Manager advised that the date for implementation of the new collections was before the date for LGR but acknowledged that efficiencies could be achieved thereafter.

In relation to the issue of battery disposal and vapes and the possible consequences therefrom, a Member requested that information as to their safe disposal be publicised. The Waste & Recycling Manager advised that the Council did collect batteries but that they must be left on the lid of the bin in a carrier bag. These would then be safely disposed of at the Veolia plant. He added that there was currently nothing in place for the collection of vapes and that there had been instances of fires in collection vehicles when they had been incorrectly disposed of.

Members agreed that recycling must be made as simple as possible for residents and queried whether consideration was being given to the size of bins issued to new properties. The Waste & Recycling Manager advised that this had not yet been discussed, noting that there would be issues with the storing of all the necessary bins at some addresses. He added that a review would be needed in the future to look at the composition of all waste products.

In closing the debate, the Chair welcomed the report and requested that continued updates be provided to the Committee.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

a) the current status of the project be noted; and

b) further update reports be provided to the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee.

The Chair agreed to amend the running order of the Agenda and to merge the reporting of the Digital Strategy Refresh Working Group Outcomes and the Digital Strategy 2025/2028.

143 DIGITAL STRATEGY 2025-2028 AND DIGITAL STRATEGY REFRESH WORKING GROUP OUTCOMES

The Committee considered the report presented by the Transformation & Service Improvement Officer which sought to update Members on the work and outcomes of the Digital Strategy Refresh Working Group.

The report set out the main areas which the group had considered, the membership of the group and the agreed objectives. The outcomes and recommendations of the group were detailed at paragraph 2.0 of the report.

The Committee also considered the report presented by the Data & Digital Innovation Team Leader together with the Business Manager – Customer Services which sought to update Members on the outcome of the Working Group; survey results of stakeholders; and how these had been used to develop the new Digital Strategy for 2025/2028.

The report provided a detailed explanation of how digital initiatives were increasingly vital to the wellbeing and progress of communities, shaping how residents' access essential services, engage with local government and participate in the digital economy and how all these aspects were reflected in the new Digital Strategy. The new strategy was appended to the report for Members consideration.

In considering the reports, Members made a number of observations.

In relation to the use of artificial intelligence (AI) a Member commented that its potential was not yet fully understood, adding that there would be a requirement for both staff and Members to be trained and supported to be able to use it effectively.

A Member queried whether online security in relation to AI had been factored into the Strategy, citing phishing and whaling and whether there was capacity to enhance training should gaps be identified. The Data & Digital Innovation Team Leader advised security underpinned all digital interactions and that training undertaken by Officers and Members was monitored.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

a) the Digital Strategy for 2025/2028 be endorsed and forwarded to Cabinet for approval; and

b) the findings of the Digital Strategy Refresh Working Group together with the results of the stakeholder surveys conducted and used to provide an insight for the 2025/2028 Digital Strategy be noted.

144 COMMUNITY PLAN PERFORMANCE Q1

The Committee considered the report presented by the Senior Transformation & Service Improvement Officer which sought to provide Members with the Q1 Community Plan Performance for 1 April to 30 June 2025.

In considering the report, Members asked a number of questions.

In relation to Yorke Drive, a Member queried whether works had commenced on the redevelopment. The Senior Transformation & Service Improvement Officer advised that she would provide a written response to the Committee.

In referring to the Measuring Success table (agenda page 160) a Member noted that traditionally Q1 was the most challenging period and queried whether there was potential for Officers to be reassigned to assist with a spike in calls. Members were advised that Business Managers had flexibility to focus on areas of high volume with the Director – Customer Services & Organisational Development adding that Officers worked additional hours to deal with the spike in work, noting that there was a high level of expertise required to deal with such calls.

AGREED (unanimously) that the report be noted.

145 <u>UPDATE ON LIFE CHANCES FOR GIRLS WORKING GROUP</u>

In the absence of the Chair of the Working Group, the Director – Customer Services & Organisational Development provided Members with a verbal update of the work undertaken by the group to-date.

146 <u>CABINET FORWARD PLAN (AUGUST TO NOVEMBER 2025)</u>

NOTED the Forward Plan of the Cabinet for the period August to November 2025.

147 <u>8 JULY 2025 - CABINET MINUTES</u>

NOTED the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 8 July 2025.

148 <u>REVIEW OF HERITAGE & CULTURAL EXPENDITURE</u>

The Committee considered the Topic Request Form to establish a Working Group to review the expenditure of Heritage & Culture. As was usual practice, all Members of the Council would be invited to express an interest in participating in the Working Group with the chair of the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee and the Chair of the Working Group determining the membership, which would be a maximum of 9 members.

AGREED (unanimously) that a Review of Heritage & Cultural Expenditure Working Group be established with the following Policy & Performance Improvement Members expressing an interest in participating in the Group.

Councillors: Alice Brazier
Celia Brooks
Andy Freeman
Jean Hall
Simon Haynes
David Moore (Chair)
Neil Ross

Neil Allen (PPIC Substitute)
Peter Harris (PPIC Substitute)

149 PROVISIONAL ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

NOTED the provisional items for future meetings of the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee.

Meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Chair

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Policy & Performance Improvement Committee** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY on Monday, 6 October 2025 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor M Pringle (Chair)
Councillor N Ross (Vice-Chair)

Councillor A Brazier, Councillor C Brooks, Councillor A Freeman, Councillor S Haynes, Councillor R Holloway, Councillor R Jackson, Councillor P Rainbow, Councillor K Roberts, Councillor T Thompson and Councillor T Wendels

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor N Allen and Councillor S Forde

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor J Hall, Councillor D Moore and Councillor M Spoors

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

The Chair advised that the meeting was being recorded and live streamed from Castle House.

151 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no declarations of interest.

152 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2025

The minutes from the meeting held on 1 Setpember 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

153 MEMBERSHIP OF THE PLANNING POLICY BOARD

AGREED (unanimously) that Councillor Debbie Darby be appointed onto the Planning Policy Board, replacing Councillor Karen Roberts.

154 ANNUAL TENANT SATISFACTION MEASURES 2024/2025

The Director - Housing, Health & Wellbeing and the Housing Regulatory Compliance Manager were in attendance to present the results of the annual Tenant Satisfaction Measures survey for 2024/25. Landlords with more than 1,000 properties were required to carry out the survey annually and submit their results to the Regulator for Social Housing. The results were included in the appendix to the report for Members.

The report summarised the latest year performance, the previous year performance (2023/24) and the direction of travel and percentage change between 2024/25 and 2023/24. Whilst some measures have declined, it was pleasing to see that many had increased, with a marked increase in satisfaction with complaints, contribution to the neighbourhood and communal areas.

Regarding the reduction in satisfaction with repairs, Members heard details of actions being taken to improve satisfaction levels, including additional resources for the team, reviewing the repair policy, appointing contractors and reviewing the business unit following recruitment of a business manager. Members noted that the benchmarking was undertaken both nationally and locally.

AGREED (unanimously) That the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee note:

a) the content of the report; and
b) that this report has been presented to SLT and the Tenant Engagement Board.

155 ANNUAL OUTTURN - HEALTH IMPROVEMENT & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TEAMS

The Senior Health Improvement Officer and the Senior Community Relations Officer were in attendance to give a presentation on delivery within the Health Improvement & Community Development Teams during 2024-25. The presentation outlined key projects undertaken, including grant schemes, response to the cost of living, work with under-represented groups and delivery of various events including the Newark and Sherwood Community and Sports Awards and Volunteer Thank You week.

In response to questions, the Committee heard that all primary schools within the District had been given the opportunity to apply to the school uniform scheme, with 37 ultimately applying and taking part. Volunteer Thank You week was advertised across a number of platforms, but officers would take details of any to be included from Councillors and let Councillors know the timetable for the week, usually held in June. Members welcomed the activities and support in place for veterans.

The Director- Housing, Health and Wellbeing explained that the Council were in process of mapping defibrillator machines across the District, to rationalise provision.

AGREED (unanimously) that the report and presentation be noted.

156 AFFORDABLE HOUSING DELIVERY REPORT 2024/25

The Business Manager – Healthy Places and Senior Housing Strategy & Development Officer were in attendance to provide the Committee with details of affordable housing delivery across the district for the financial year 2024/25, including progress on the 5-year Housing Revenue Account Development Programme.

In discussion, the Officer confirmed that the affordable housing was designed in partnership with Planning Officers to ensure that proposed designs and subsequent developments would be acceptable and desirable to live in. An Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document was in development to inform the design and planning process. Members also heard that the Council was now entitled to keep 100% of the receipt.

Members then considered the S106 agreement process, noting that whilst this was sometimes difficult to achieve, often due to viability, the potential benefits it could bring to a community were significant.

AGREED (unanimously) That the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee note the affordable housing delivery and progress with the Council's five-year HRA development Programme, making any observations as appropriate.

157 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE & NOTTINGHAM LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY UPDATE

The Business Manager – Planning Policy & Infrastructure, and the Ecology & Biodiversity Lead Officer were in attendance to update Members on the production and consultation on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy by Nottinghamshire Council and to endorse the District Council's proposed response at the final consultation stage prior to publication of the strategy. Members noted that the Strategy would be considered by the Cabinet on 14 October 2025 and the report contents was outlined in the report before the Committee tonight. No objections to the publication of the Strategy had been raised.

Members welcomed the report, noting the positive impact the Team were having in the District and across the County.

AGREED (unanimously) That Policy & Performance Improvement Committee consider the proposed recommendations and forward to Cabinet for approval as the Council's response to the final consultation prior to publication of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

158 UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND & RURAL ENGLAND PROSPERITY FUND UPDATE

The Business Manager - Economic Growth & Visitor Economy, the Economic Development Grants & Programmes Manager and the Economic Growth Officer were in attendance to give a presentation to the Committee on the delivery, progress and future of the UK Shared (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) programme.

The presentation outlined the different types of projects undertaken, including grant funding and business support, and their locations across the District. The focus had been to develop schemes that would be sustainable once the initial funding had been used. It was noted that the scheme would end in March 2026, with remaining function and funds, if any, transferred to EMCCA.

Members welcomed the report and requested data on which projects had been supported that were green/eco projects.

AGREED (unanimously) That the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee note:

a) the updates regarding the local approach to UKSPF/REPF programme delivery and the achievements to date, as detailed throughout this report; and

b) the opportunities presented in relation to potential future UKSPF/REPF investment, noting the current uncertainty of programme funding, beyond March 2026, as detailed throughout this report.

The delivery of UKSPF and REPF is an identified activity outlined within the Community Plan, linking back to several key economic and regeneration related objectives.

159 POLICY & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Transformation & Service Improvement Officer was in attendance to present the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee's Annual Report for 2024-25, for approval and publication. The report detailed the work of the Committee over the previous 12 months, including: working groups; shaping policy and strategy; driving service improvement; and scrutinising performance.

AGREED (unanimously) That the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee approve the report content and structure for publication.

160 ATTENDANCE BY PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CLIMATE & THE ENVIRONMENT

The Portfolio Holder for Climate and the Environment was in attendance to report on specific areas within his portfolio. The Portfolio Holder addressed 6 questions which had been submitted to him prior to the meeting:

1. To what extent is the Climate Change Action Plan reaching and succeeding in its goals and milestones?";

   Councillor Forde listed a number of projects the Council had undertaken to achieve the goals in the Climate Change Action Plan, including solar panels on Council owned properties across multiple sites, air source heat pumps at Blidworth Leisure Centre, electric vehicles and electric gardening equipment.

2. What do you see as priorities for next year as we move into the budget setting process?;

   Councillor Forde stated that the priority areas were bin collections and green spaces. With regard to bin collections, he felt that the service was working very well in general. Work would soon begin on identifying areas of the District which would benefit from increased green spaces and play areas. Funding would be sought for this, as well as £10k for environmental education. It was also noted that a report due to be taken to Cabinet on 14 October sought approval for biodiverse greening of the entrances to communities throughout the District.

   Members noted that income from kerbside glass collection was higher than anticipated, and the uptake of the garden waste recycling service had been extremely popular.

3. Are we on track for the rollout of domestic food waste collections from 2027?;

   The requisite building works on Brunel Drive had received permission and were progressing on time and within budget. It was proposed to undertake a pilot scheme, one group with biodegradable liners for the bins and another without, to see which was most popular with residents.

4. Biodiversity and tree planting is a key strand of the Council's Community Plan – how are we delivering?;

   Over 20 thousand trees had been planted since 2020/21. A report had been commissioned to investigate the impact of the drought over summer on saplings. Biodiverse green planting at the entrance to communities was to be considered by the Cabinet, and it was hoped that five communities per year could be included in the scheme if approved. The Council also undertook 'no mow May' where possible and was open to extending the initiative.

5. Reducing the Council's carbon footprint is a key objective of the Council. How is the Council progressing to this goal?;

   Councillor Forde explained that the Council had already reduced the carbon footprint by one quarter of the ten year target set by the Carbon Trust. Further work would be undertaken where possible, but noting the move to LGR in 2028, he felt that it would be up to the new Authority to pursue.

6. What opportunities exists as a result of LGR?

   Councillor Forde believed that LGR could potentially reduce the split of responsibilities across different authorities, and may be beneficial for co-ordinated public transport across the area. He also suggested that local area sub-structures would be required.

The Committee then addressed a number of questions to Councillor Forde.

In response, the Portfolio Holder explained that one of his biggest concerns was the Open Space Strategy which was commissioned but not always implemented. The budgeting process could be used and Members could keep a focus on areas which were of most value to residents of the District. The Portfolio Holder also looked for opportunities to generate income to off-set costs. Legacy spending on play areas and green space would be part of the capital spending.

There were a number of questions put to the Portfolio Holder where he agreed to provide a written reply to the Committee. These were:

From Cllr Haynes- what is the risks of increasing CO_2 through the move to LGR?- particularly in relation to possible increase of CO_2 because of increased travel for officers having to work at alternative sites.

From Cllr Haynes- looking for detail on the 'practicalities' of the food waste bin trials- e.g. how will people be given/use the biodegradable liners?

From Cllr Rainbow- is there a charge for glass collection from businesses?

From Cllr Roberts- what will the £10k for environmental education cover? – Councillor Forde said would get back as he was wating further detail from an officer but that it would also include what goes in which bins.

From Cllr Holloway – background- over consumption of goods drives climate damage- accelerating demand for natural resources, increasing fossil fuel consumption for production and transportation, generating massive amounts of waste. This Cycle leads to higher greenhouse gas emissions including potent gases like methane from landfills and carbon dioxide from deforestation and waste. The environmental impact spans resource depletion, pollution from plastics and textiles, and habitat destruction. Question- From Cllr Holloway – What is the council doing to try and reduce its own consumption of goods and to look at ways to try to change how things are done to reduce the environmental impact of our choices?

161 OUT OF REMIT ACTIVITIES WORKING GROUP UPDATE

The Chair of the Out of Remit Activities Working Group, Councillor Rhona Holloway, gave un update to the Committee on progress so far. It was anticipated that the final report would be submitted to the Committee in December. Members also noted that Officers from Planning would attend the Committees meeting in January.

162 CABINET FORWARD PLAN (SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2025)

NOTED the Forward Plan of the Cabinet for the period September to December 2025.

163 MINUTES OF CABINET MEETINGS HELD ON 15 JULY AND 9 SEPTEMBER 2025

NOTED the minutes from the Cabinet meetings held on 15 July and 9 September 2025.

164 PROVISIONAL ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- Review of HRA Business Plan Assumptions
- Customer Satisfaction Half Yearly Report
- Q2 Financial Forecast Outturn Performance 23025/2026 – General Fund, HRA & Capital Budget
- Q2 Community Plan Performance Report
- Customer Feedback Report – Half One
- Attendance at Committee by Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Economic Development
- Attendance at Committee by Environment Agency
- Life Chances for Girls Working Group – Recommendations
- Newark Town Centre Masterplan & Design Code

- Annual Review – Grant Funding Outturn

Meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

Chair

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Planning Committee** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY on Monday, 21 July 2025 at 4.00 pm.

PRESENT:

Councillor D Moore (Vice-Chair)

Councillor A Amer, Councillor C Brooks, Councillor L Dales, Councillor S Forde, Councillor P Harris, Councillor K Melton, Councillor E Oldham, Councillor P Rainbow and Councillor M Shakeshaft

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor N Allen

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor A Freeman (Chair), Councillor S Saddington, Councillor T Smith, Councillor L Tift and Councillor T Wildgust

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

The Chair informed the Committee that the Council was undertaking an audio recording of the meeting and that it was being live streamed.

27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillors L Dales and K Melton declared an other registrable interest for any relevant items, as they were appointed representatives on the Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board.

28 ONE EARTH SOLAR FARM - LOCAL IMPACT REPORT (LIR)

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought Committee approval regarding the Local Impact Report.

It was reported that the One Earth Solar Farm Project was in the examination stage, with the Preliminary Meeting having taken place on the 8 July 2025, followed by Open Floor Hearings on the 8 and 9 of July and Issue Specific Hearing One on the 9 and 10 July. The examination would take place over a 6-month period and would primarily be a written process, supplemented by hearings throughout that period. There were a series of deadlines that were fixed by the Examining Authority (ExA) whereby responses must be made by the Council, to ensure that the Council retained the opportunity to influence the process. The Local Impact Report (LIR) was required to be submitted to the ExA by Deadline One - 29 July 2025. If the LIR was not issued by the set deadline, the ExA had no obligation to take it into account, in accordance with the provisions set out in the Planning Act 2008.

Members debated the LIR at length and the report was welcomed and an acknowledgment that Officers had put a lot of work into the submission. Members during the debate raised a number of issues regarding environmental impacts, such as ground contamination, fire hazards, noise levels, landscape character and water run-off. Members also debated the socio-economic impacts, whether 60 years could be considered to be temporary, what the breakdown of best and most versatile land was and community benefits. Officers gave clarity on some of these issues, including the extent of delegation. The lack of detail on trees was also mentioned, as well as the potential use of land between solar panels for farming. Officers gave reassurance that Members could continue to discuss concerns on behalf of communities impacted.

In accordance with the Planning Protocol, as Councillor Oldham arrived during the Officer presentation, she took no part in the vote.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Planning Committee delegate to Officers to finalise the draft Local Impact Report, enabling its release to the Examining Authority by Deadline One.

Meeting closed at 5.24 pm.

Chair

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Planning Committee** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY on Thursday, 7 August 2025 at 4.00 pm.

PRESENT:

Councillor D Moore (Vice-Chair)

Councillor A Amer, Councillor C Brooks, Councillor L Dales, Councillor P Harris, Councillor K Melton, Councillor T Smith, Councillor L Tift and Councillor T Wildgust

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor N Allen

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor A Freeman (Chair), Councillor S Forde, Councillor E Oldham, Councillor P Rainbow, Councillor S Saddington and Councillor M Shakeshaft

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

The Chair informed the Committee that the Council was undertaking an audio recording of the meeting and that it was being live streamed.

30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillors L Dales and K Melton declared an other registrable interest for any relevant items, as they were appointed representatives on the Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board.

31 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 JULY 2025

AGREED that the minutes from the meeting held on 3 July 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

32 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 JULY 2025

AGREED that the minutes from the meeting held on 21 July 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

33 LAND AT THE WEST LAWNS, SOUTHWELL - 25/00637/FUL

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought the approval of a proposed detached dwelling.

Mr Pearson, spoke against the application.

Mr Grace, the agent, spoke in support of the application.

Members considered the presentation from the Senior Planning Officer, which included photographs and plans of the proposed development.

Members supported the call-in of the application, suggesting that there was no need for a 5 bed house in this location and raised concern that they had not been involved in pre-application discussions. Several Members stated that they were uncomfortable with the proposal but recognised the need to consider the tilted balance in favour of sustainable development whilst the Council has a shortfall of housing land supply. Members recognised the logic in following the building pattern of the cul-de-sac, but felt uncomfortable with the position of the new house in proximity with neighbours. One Member stated that the design was not innovative and not acceptable in the countryside. There was recognition that the reinstatement of the orchard was a positive feature.

A recorded vote was taken for approval with 4 votes For and 5 votes Against.

In accordance with paragraph 18.5 of the Planning Protocol, as the motion was for Officer recommendation, a recorded vote had been taken.

Councillor	**Vote**
A Amer	For
C Brooks	For
L Dales	Against
P Harris	Against
K Melton	Against
D Moore	For
T Smith	For
L Tift	Against
T Wildgust	Against

AGREED with the Proposer Councillor P Harris and Seconder Councillor L Tift that contrary to Officer recommendation Planning Permission had been refused and all voted for the reasons given for refusal:

a) Proposal is outside the Southwell Urban Boundary where there is a presumption against new development (SP3 and DM8);
b) Design is not of exceptional quality or innovative;
c) Adverse impact on neighbour at 18 Handford Court.

34 <u>FIELD REFERENCE NUMBER 8890, MANSFIELD ROAD, EDWINSTOWE - 24/01195/RMAM</u>

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought an application for reserved matters (all matters) pursuant to outline application 21/02094/OUTM (Outline application for the development of up to 50 dwellings (including affordable housing), open space, children's play space and associated infrastructure, including a new access).

Councillor Celia Brooks declared an interest as a resident of the adjacent estate.

The agent, spoke in support of the application.

Councillor Paul Peacock spoke against the application.

Members considered the presentation from the Senior Planning Officer, which included photographs and plans of the proposed development.

Members recognised the concerns from local residents regarding highways (Ollerton roundabout) and the impact of significant new development at Thoresby Vale. Members discussed the challenges of dealing with a site that has already been allocated for development and benefits from outline consent. Members recognised the positives of the scheme in terms of a good mix of 1, 2 and 3 bed properties. Members also recognised that there were already a significant number of bungalows locally.

Members encouraged the applicant to consider including solar panels and insulation in their project.

Concerns were raised about not meeting parking standards.

AGREED (unanimously) that Planning Permission be approved subject to the conditions contained within the report.

35 90 KIRKLINGTON ROAD, SOUTHWELL NG25 0AX - 25/00628/S73

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought for variation of condition 02 to replace approved drawings with revised to replace existing lean-to with minor extension attached to planning permission 22/01023/FUL; Proposed single storey extension to host dwelling and alterations, partial rebuilding and conversion of outbuildings for use ancillary to the enjoyment of the dwellinghouse.

A site visit had taken place earlier in the day of the Planning Committee for the following reasons:

There are particular site factors which are significant in terms of the weight attached to them relative to other factors if they would be difficult to assess in the absence of a site inspection;

The impact of the proposed development is difficult to visualise; and

The comments of the applicant and/or objectors cannot be expressed adequately in writing.

Ms Kerry Corden, the applicant, spoke in support of the application.

Members considered the presentation from the Senior Planning Officer, which included photographs and plans of the proposed development.

Members made positive comments about the quality of the annex conversion and broadly had no concerns with the design changes set out in the section 73 application.

Nevertheless, Members did query whether the lean-to was subservient or whether the annex was of a suitable scale. Clarity was sought that the condition requiring the development to remain as an annex ancillary to the main house would be retained.

Concerns were raised about the nature of retrospective development proposals and potential enforcement matters outside of the scope of the application (fences and outbuildings).

AGREED (unanimously) that Planning Permission be approved subject to the conditions contained in the report.

36 PALACE THEATRE 16 - 18 APPLETON GATE NEWARK ON TRENT, NG24 1JY - 25/00877/LBC

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought internal and external refurbishment and repairs works, including new LED lights to the auditorium stairs of the Palace Theatre.

The application was referred for determination as the property is in the Newark & Sherwood District Council ownership.

Members considered the presentation from the Business Manager, which included a mock up example of the LED lights. The benefits of keeping an important historic building in a good state of repair were discussed, alongside the benefits of improving safety and wayfinding with lighting on the stairs.

AGREED (unanimously) for approval.

37 PLANNING REFORM UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development to update Members of the Planning Committee on the latest planning reform consultations.

The Business Manager explained that Member comments from the last Committee report on planning reform were considered and incorporated into the Council's formal response to government. This included concerns about having a limit to Committee size and the need for call-in for smaller sites.

AGREED that the Members of the Planning Committee noted the planning reform consultation responses.

38 APPEALS LODGED

AGREED that the report be noted.

39 APPEALS DETERMINED

AGREED that the report be noted.

Members raised concerns about the Greenaway appeal at Rolleston. The Business Manager agreed to reiterate those concerns to the Director and Chief Executive.

40 DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Committee considered the report from the Planning Technical Support Manager relating to the performance of the Planning Development Business Unit over the three-month period April to June 2025 (Quarter 1), alongside a summary for the period April 2024 to March 2025.

The Business Manager talked through some of the key data sets for planning applications validated, planning decisions and appeals.

AGREED that the report be noted.

41 QUARTERLY PLANNING ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY UPDATE REPORT

The Committee considered the report from the Senior Planner (Enforcement) to update Members as to the activity and performance of the planning enforcement function over the fourth quarter of the current financial year.

Members were also provided with examples of cases that have been resolved (both through negotiation and via the service of notices) and to provide details and explanations of notices that have been issued during that period.

AGREED that the report be noted.

Meeting closed at 6.50 pm.

Chair

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Planning Committee** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY on Thursday, 4 September 2025 at 4.00 pm.

PRESENT:	Councillor A Freeman (Chair) Councillor D Moore (Vice-Chair) Councillor C Brooks, Councillor L Dales, Councillor S Forde, Councillor P Harris, Councillor K Melton, Councillor P Rainbow, Councillor M Shakeshaft, Councillor L Tift and Councillor T Wildgust
ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:	Councillor N Allen and Councillor R Jackson
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:	Councillor S Saddington and Councillor T Smith

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

The Chair informed the Committee that the Council was undertaking an audio recording of the meeting and that it was being live streamed.

43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillors L Dales, A Freeman and K Melton declared an other registrable interest for any relevant items, as they were appointed representatives on the Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board.

44 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 AUGUST 2025

AGREED that the minutes from the meeting held on 7 August 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

45 LAND AT GODFREY DRIVE, WINTHORPE - 23/02281/OUTM

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought outline planning permission (all matters reserved) for up to 41,806sqm of employment land (use class B2, B8 and E(g) (i), (ii) and (iii) with associated internal access roads, landscaping and drainage. Diversion of existing footpath and creation of new access into Newark Showground.

Members visited the site in December 2024 in advance of the Committee determining Phase 1 at Overfield Park (ref 23/01283/OUTM).

Mr R Jays, the agent, spoke in support of the application.

Members considered the presentation from the Senior Planning Officer, which included photographs and plans of the proposed development.

Members considered the application and felt that there was no objection in principle with the proposal. Members discussed the impact of employment proposals cumulatively in the A17 corridor and the complexity of the highway network. The potential A46 road improvements being considered by government was also discussed alongside the setting of Winthorpe Conservation Area. Members raised the importance of considering landscaping, boundary treatments, highway issues, noise and lighting in this location. The Parish Council had raised concern regarding pedestrian access across the A46 and how the footway would be constructed. A Member also raised concern that the active travel arrangements was not clear whether the footpath and cycle way would be accessible without going on the road, and assurance was requested that cycle and pathways would be available to this site. Renewable energy was suggested using wind power or solar panels on the roofs. Bus links were also encouraged as there would be a demand for this service from the two train stations. Members recognised that the technical details would be resolved at reserved matters stage.

AGREED (unanimously) that Planning Permission be approved subject to the conditions contained in the report.

46 LAND AT FERNWOOD SOUTH, CLAYPOLE LANE, FERNWOOD - 24/01672/RMAM

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought a reserved matters application relating to appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for 430 dwellings with associated wider infrastructure including SUDs, public open space including play area, sports pitches with changing facilities and allotments, in relation to Phase 1a of outline permission 16/00506/OUTM.

Councillor N Mison, Fernwood Parish Council, spoke against the application.

Mr R Steel, the applicant, spoke in support of the application.

Councillor N Allen, Local Ward Member, spoke against the application.

Members considered the presentation from the Business Manager – Planning Development, which included photographs and plans of the proposed development. The context of the section 106 agreed at outline was discussed in detail, including the basis for the affordable housing contribution.

Members considered the application and some were concerned regarding the sports fields, pavilion and allotments being in flood zone 3A, whilst other Members considered that acceptable as the land could not be used for housing. It was suggested that the pavilion could be built on stilts to prevent damage in the event of flooding. The inclusion of cycle ways was also considered important. Concerns were raised about the proposed mix of housing and the lack of bungalows, although it was recognised that this part of the wider masterplan would be denser with the opportunity for bungalows in later phases. One Member felt that the proposed house designs were poor and unacceptable, another Member commented that design was a personal thing and building companies had a difficult task predicting housing prices.

AGREED (with 5 votes For, 5 votes Against and 1 Abstention, the Chair used his casting vote in support of the application) that Planning Permission be approved subject to the conditions contained in the report.

Councillor M Shakeshaft left the meeting at this point.

47 <u>WEST VIEW FARM HOUSE, COLLINGHAM ROAD, BESTHORPE, NEWARK ON TRENT, NG23 7HP - 25/00707/FUL</u>

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought the removal of a portal frame building and demolition of a brick barn and the extension to a barn conversion and three new dwellings.

A site visit had taken place previously for the reason that there were particular site factors which were significant in terms of the weight attached to them relative to other factors if they would be difficult to assess in the absence of a site inspection.

Members considered the presentation from the Business Manager – Planning Development, which included photographs and plans of the proposed development.

Members considered the application acceptable. A Member encouraged the use of solar panels on the buildings and a discussion was had on the challenge of incorporating environmental features in the historic environment. Members highlighted the positive aspects of retaining historic buildings and that there did not appear to be any merit in the barns to be removed.

AGREED (unanimously) that Planning Permission be approved subject to the conditions contained in the report.

48 <u>APPEALS LODGED</u>

AGREED that the report be noted.

49 <u>APPEALS DETERMINED</u>

AGREED that the report be noted.

Meeting closed at 6.36 pm.

Chair

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Planning Committee** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY on Thursday, 2 October 2025 at 4.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor A Freeman (Chair)
Councillor D Moore (Vice-Chair)

Councillor C Brooks, Councillor S Forde, Councillor K Melton, Councillor P Rainbow, Councillor S Saddington, Councillor M Shakeshaft, Councillor L Tift and Councillor T Wildgust

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor L Dales, Councillor P Harris and Councillor T Smith

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

The Chair informed the Committee that the Council was undertaking an audio recording of the meeting.

51 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillors A Freeman and K Melton declared an other registrable interest for any relevant items, as they were appointed representatives on the Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board.

52 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2025

AGREED that the minutes from the meeting held on 4 September 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

The Chair and Vice-Chair referred to vote counting when the Chair has the casting vote, as when live streaming not all hands are visible. The Chair therefore asked the Committee when voting by a show of hands to hold them up for longer until all counted.

53 PHASE 6A/7 THORESBY VALE, DEVELOPMENT, FORMER THORESBY COLLIERY, OLLERTON ROAD, EDWINSTOWE, NG21 9PS - 24/00289/OUTM (MAJOR AND EIA DEVELOPMENT)

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager for Planning Development, which was an outline application for the erection of up to 190 dwellings, including public open space, landscaping, drainage and associated infrastructure with all matters reserved except access.

A site visit had taken place earlier in the day of the Planning Committee.

Mr Lewis-Roberts, the agent spoke in support of the application.

Members considered the presentation from the Senior Planning Development Officer, which included photographs and plans of the proposed development.

The impact of additional housing on Edwinstowe was discussed. One Member explained that the master developer Harworth Estates had been very good at engaging and communicating with the local community. Members discussed a number of issues, including street trees, the possibility of an NHS clinic on site, social housing and the desirability of solar panels on housing development. The importance of ground nesting nightjar and woodlarks was also discussed. Questions were raised about highway elements, bus routes, cycle routes and active travel, and the secondary school bus service.

AGREED (unanimously) to grant Planning Permission subject to conditions and legal agreement.

54 LAND OFF ST MICHAELS CLOSE, HALAM - 25/01319/PIP

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager for Planning Development, which was an application for permission in principle for residential development of four to nine dwellings.

A site visit had taken place earlier in the day of the Planning Committee.

Mr Paris from the Parish Council and Mr Croxton a member of the public both spoke against the application.

Members considered the presentation from the Planning Development Officer, which included photographs and plans of the proposed development.

The Committee recognised the specific range of matters that could be considered in the PIP application, being limited to the consideration of the site location, proposed land use and quantum of houses. Members recognised that the Council has no 5 year housing land supply. Nevertheless, Members raised concerns with the open countryside location and lack of local facilities. Concerns were raised about walking to Southwell. There was acknowledgement of local community concerns and potential highway matters that might be difficult to resolve at technical matters stage. Concern about backland development was discussed, as well as a perception that the proposed number of houses was not proportionate to the modest scale of Halam.

A vote was taken and lost for approval with 2 votes For and 8 votes Against.

The motion to Refuse planning permission was moved by Councillor Freeman and Seconded by Councillor Rainbow.

AGREED (with 8 votes For and 2 votes Against) that:

(a) contrary to Officer recommendation, Planning Permission be refused notwithstanding the Council's lack of 5 year housing land supply on the basis of conflict with Policy DM8, open countryside location, backland development and disproportionate number of houses.

(b) the wording for refusal be delegated to the Business Manager for Planning Development.

In accordance with paragraph 18.5 of the Planning Protocol, as the motion was against Officer recommendation, a recorded vote was taken.

Councillor	**Vote**
C Brooks	Against
S Forde	Against
A Freeman	For
K Melton	For
D Moore	For
P Rainbow	For
S Saddington	For
M Shakeshaft	For
L Tift	For
T Wildgust	For

55 LAND AT WILLOUGHBY FARM, CARLTON LANE, NORWELL - 25/00107/FUL

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager for Planning Development, which sought Change of Use of Farm Yard to Residential; Demolition of Modern Farm Buildings; and Erection of Five Dwellings, Together with Associated Infrastructure and Erection of Detached Garage; Siting of Community Ground Mounted Photovoltaic Panels.

A site visit had taken place earlier in the day of the Planning Committee.

Members considered the presentation from the Senior Planning Officer, which included photographs and plans of the proposed development.

Members discussed the planning history of the site and the overall planning merits of the proposal. Members discussed a range of issues including impact on the character of the area and highways. The benefits of high levels of building insulation were raised. Questions were asked regarding the schemes compliance with policy DM8, and the number of houses proposed in the context of the lack of a 5 year housing land supply and the established fallback position.

AGREED (unanimously) to Grant Planning Permission subject to conditions (including condition 6) and legal agreement.

56 TAMBO LOUNGE, THE BUTTERMARKET, 27 MIDDLE GATE, NEWARK ON TRENT, NG24 1AL - 25/01173/LBC

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager for Planning Development, for flat roof replacement works and 2no. new rainwater pipes installation.

The application was referred for determination as the property is in the Newark & Sherwood District Council ownership.

Members considered the presentation from the Business Manager which included photographs and plans of the proposed development.

The complexity of the building range at the back of the Town Hall was discussed and the limited special interest of the flat roof to be repaired. Members queried whether solar panels or a roof top terrace had been considered in this location. The benefits of improved rainwater management was discussed.

AGREED (unanimously) for approval.

57 APPEALS LODGED

AGREED that the report be noted.

58 APPEALS DETERMINED

AGREED that the report be noted.

59 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 items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 and 5 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

60 LAND NORTH OF MAIN ROAD, KELHAM, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, NG23 5QY - 23/01837/FULM

The Planning Committee considered the exempt Land North of Main Road, Kelham, Nottinghamshire, NG23 5QY - 23/01837/FULM as an update on the Council's case for the forthcoming appeal inquiry (ref APP/B3030/W/25/3364181. This information was noted and Officers advised that Members would be kept updated on all aspects of the Appeal.

At this point in the meeting, in accordance with Rule 2.7, the Chair indicated that the meeting had been ongoing for three hours and a motion was required to be proposed and seconded to extend the meeting for the duration of one hour.

AGREED (unanimously) that: the meeting continue for the duration of one hour.

Meeting closed at 7.17 pm.

Chair

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Governance, General Purposes & Local Government Reorganisation Committee** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY on Thursday, 11 September 2025 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor R Holloway (Chair)
Councillor P Rainbow (Vice-Chair)

Councillor J Hall, Councillor P Harris, Councillor S Haynes, Councillor J Kellas, Councillor D Moore and Councillor M Shakeshaft

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor R Cozens, Councillor L Dales, Councillor N Allen and Councillor S Michael

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor P Peacock and Councillor M Pringle

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

The Chair advised that the meeting was being recorded and live streamed from Castle House.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no declarations of interest.

3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

The Committee considered the report presented jointly by the Chief Executive and the Transformation & Service Improvement Officer which sought to provide Members with an update on the Government's requirement for local government reorganisation (LGR), including the work being undertaken to development Option 1e as a final proposal for submission in November 2025.

In presenting the report, the position of each of the Nottinghamshire councils and their preferred options was clarified. Paragraph 2 of the report set out the work being undertaken to develop the Business Case and of the collaborative work with the other Councils in developing the case for Option 1e. Members were advised that immediately following submission of the Business Case on 28 November, transitional work would commence whilst the Government were appraising the submissions. In relation to public engagement, Members were advised that there had been 10,462 responses to the survey and approximately 120 staff had attended the LGR drop-in sessions. It was also noted that following the submission of the Business Case, the Government would issue a consultation.

In considering the report, a Member stated that the public engagement survey should have included a question as to whether they supported the LGR, noting that the reorganisation would lose all local decision making. In response, the Chief Executive advised that LGR was a statutory decision. In relation to local decision making, he commented that neighbourhood committees and forums could be included in the final submission.

In response to how Members could input their views on LGR into the submission, the Chief Executive suggested that an additional meeting of the Committee be convened. Also, in response to whether Full Council would debate LGR further, the Chief Executive clarified that final approval of the Business Case was an executive decision and would be taken by Cabinet.

In considering the report and the ongoing work to develop the Business Case, a Member queried as to whether more should be done to better understand the financial implications of LGR. The Chief Executive advised that until the final decision of the Government was known the development of the Business Case was based on assumptions. He acknowledged that there had been a degree of financial modelling undertaken but that it remained a fluid situation.

In response to queries raised the Chief Executive advised that all the partner authorities were aware of Newark & Sherwood's preference for the whole of the Newark constituency to be within the new unitary authority. He added that the Local Government Association provided LGR webinars which included local authorities who had already gone through the process.

Referring to how Members might contribute to the ongoing work streams, the Chief Executive suggested that these be shared and discussed in a workshop setting, with Members requesting that they be involved in the development of the final proposal.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee noted the progress update in line with their role to:

a) oversee the plans for, and impact of, local government reorganisation within Nottingham and Nottinghamshire;

b) liaise with and advise the Council's Cabinet, Audit & Accounts Committee, Policy & Performance Improvement Committee and other committees to ensure all Members are kept informed and provide opportunity for them to input their views on LGR; and

c) that informal meetings of the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee be convened to provide Members with the opportunity to contribute to the ongoing LGR work streams.

4 HOUSING OMBUDSMAN COMPLAINT HANDLING CODE SELF-ASSESSMENT UPDATE

The Committee considered the report presented by the Business Manager – Customer Services which sought to provide Members with an update on the completion of the Housing Ombudsman Complaint Handling Code.

The report set out that the Housing Ombudsman (HO) Complaint Handling Code "the Code" set out best practice for landlord's complaint handling procedures to enable a positive complaints culture across all landlords within the social housing sector. The Code became a statutory duty on 1 April 2024 with the HO having a legal duty to ensure landlords complaint procedures and response were compliant. Part of the Code required landlords to submit an annual submission of a self-assessment, detailing their compliance against the Code. The report listed the 9 sections of the Code and detailed that the self-assessment had been completed and reviewed by the Council's Tenant Engagement Board, noting that in all but one area the Council was compliant and that this was due to issues with reports being submitted to the appropriate committee, which the HO was aware of.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

a) the completed Housing Ombudsman Complaint Handling Code Self-Assessment be approved; and

b) publication of the Self-Assessment on the Council's website be approved.

5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN

The Committee considered the report presented by the Business Manager – Customer Services which sought to provide Members with information in relation to the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) Annual Review Letter.

The report set out that the LGSCO produced an annual review letter detailing the number, type and decisions made in relation to each authority. The review letter was attached as an appendix to the report and detailed that 16 complaints and decisions had been made relating to services provided by the Council. This was in comparison to 11 received and 9 decisions made for 2023/2024. An explanation of how complaints were dealt with was provided at paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 of the report. Table 2 within the report set out the category of complaint and the outcome of each decision.

In response to the issue raised of damage caused by a Council contractor and the decision of the Ombudsman, the Chief Executive commented that the purpose of the Council's complaints process was to provide a learning opportunity. The Business Manager advised that a dedicated Customer Satisfaction Officer was now in post within Customer Services and that contact was made with complainants to ascertain if they felt their complaint had been satisfactorily dealt with.

AGREED (unanimously) that the contents of the report be noted.

6 CUSTOMER FEEDBACK - HALF YEAR 2 - 2024/2025

The Committee considered the report presented by the Senior Transformation & Service Improvement Officer which sought to provide Members with information as to what complaints had been submitted across the Council. It also provided an opportunity to understand how the customer was receiving the services delivered.

The report provided an overview of all types of customer feedback between October 2024 to March 2025 which included: numbers received; types of feedback – praise or complaint; and how the complaints were dealt with and categorised.

In considering the report a Member referred to a review undertaken of the system used with a view to improving the handling of complaints. He also referred to the results of any blind tests carried out, requesting that these be included in the Half Year 1 – 2025/2026 report.

In referring to Table 2 within the report, a Member requested that additional detail be provided in future report to enable a better understanding of the complaints received.

AGREED (unanimously) that the report be noted.

7 CODE OF CONDUCT ANNUAL REPORT - 1 MAY 2024 TO 30 APRIL 2025

The Committee considered the report presented by the Assistant Director – Legal & Democratic Services & Monitoring Officer which sought to provide Members with details of Code of Conduct complaints received in 2024/2025 together with related matters.

The report set out the number of complaints received relating to district and town/parish councillors. The report provided: a summary of complaints received, the complainant type together with a summary of the outcomes in relation to complaints received. Details of the formal investigations and Code of Conduct hearings were provided together with information relating to Register of Members' Interests; Code of Conduct training; Government consultation on Code of Conduct; and Conduct and Public Service.

In considering the report, Members raised a number of queries in relation to the complaints process. In response, the Assistant Director advised that complainants are kept informed of progress, adding that whenever possible the Monitoring Officer would attempt to resolve a complaint without taking it any further, noting that formal investigations were a slow and costly process with only minor sanctions available at the end of the process.

In noting reference to political motivation for complaints received, the Chief Executive advised that he had discussed with the Monitoring Officer the possibility of introducing a policy to mirror that which was used for members of the public in relation to unreasonable behaviour, suggesting that a Member and Officer workshop be held to explore this further.

In referring to the cost implications of investigations as detailed in paragraph 3.1 of the report, the Monitoring Officer noted the volume of complaints received and highlighted the amount of Officer time taken to review the initial complaints.

In response to the Chief Executive's comments that complaints in relation to incidents of misconduct were not always submitted, a Member stated that sanctions available following a breach of the Code of Conduct were of little use and therefore did not encourage this course of action.

In noting the increase in the number of complaints since 2023, it was suggested that there had been a deterioration in standards nationally, which was reflected at a local level.

Reflecting on the debate in relation to the annual report, Members agreed that they would wish to see additional detail in future reports which would enable them to make informed decisions.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

a) the annual Code of Conduct Report be noted;

b) particular focus will be given to social media at the next Code of Conduct Refresher Session for all Members be noted; and

c) the communications strategy for the Local Government Association Debate not Hate campaign be endorsed and noted.

8 REMOTE ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS AND PROXY VOTING

The Committee considered the report presented by the Business Manager – Elections & Democratic Services which sought to provide Members with an update on the Government consultation on remote attendance at meetings and proxy voting.

The report set out the reasoning behind the consultation and that it was Government's intention to amend the law to introduce provisions for remote attendance at local authority meetings. The intention was to permit local authorities to develop their own locally appropriate policies to facilitate this change in law. In relation to proxy voting, the plan was to require principal councils to implement a proxy voting scheme to provide consistency for Members who were absent due to, for example, becoming a new parent.

In considering the report a Member noted that the consultation responses indicated that local authorities were against allowing proxy voting, however, the Government appeared to be proceeding with this. The Business Manager advised that the use of proxy voting may be restricted to meetings of Full Council only. In relation to whether this may impact on town and parish councils, the Business Manager advised that this would likely be dependent on the size of the parish but that until the legislation was published, the full extent of the changes would not be known.

AGREED (unanimously) that the contents of the report be noted.

In accordance with Section 100(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair has agreed to take the following item as a late item of business in order to enable Eakring Parish Council to take decisions and co-opt new councillors to fill the current vacancies as soon as possible.

9 LATE ITEM - EAKRING PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The Committee considered the late item presented by the Business Manager – Elections & Democratic Services which sought Members' approval to make an Order under Section 91 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 to temporarily appoint the Ward Members for Rainworth North & Rufford onto Eakring Parish Council to enable the parish council to meet to take decisions and co-opt to fill current vacancies.

The report set out that following the May 2023 parish elections, Eakring Parish Council had seen a number of changes and recent resignations resulting in there only being two elected members and therefore being unable to act. As noted at paragraph 1.3 of the report, in such circumstances the district council is able to temporarily appoint persons to fill all or any of the vacancies until other councillors are elected and take up office. It was therefore proposed to make the Order to temporarily appoint Councillors Claire Penny and Linda Tift to Eakring Parish Council.

AGREED (unanimously) that the making of an Order under Section 91 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 to temporarily appoint the Ward Members for Rainworth North & Rufford onto Eakring Parish Council be approved.

10 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

AGREED (unanimously) that:

a) the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee's Work Programme; and

b) the Audit & Accounts Committee be recommended to include issues surrounding the hacking of data centres to their Work Programme.

Meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Chair

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

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, 9 September 2025 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor P Peacock (Chair)

Councillor S Forde, Councillor C Penny, Councillor R Cozens, Councillor S Crosby, Councillor P Taylor and Councillor J Kellas

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor N Allen, Councillor I Brown and Councillor P Rainbow

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor L Brazier

31 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.

32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillor S. Forde declared an interest in Item 5- Active4Today Performance as he was a Director of Actie4Today.

The Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer declared an interest in Item 6- Performance of Arkwood- Quarter 2 2025/26 as he was a Director of Arkwood Developments Ltd.

33 MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 8 JULY 2025

The minutes from the meeting held on 8 July 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

34 ACTIVE4TODAY PERFORMANCE REPORT - FOR 2025/26 - 31 JULY 2025

The Business Manager- Regeneration and Housing Strategy was in attendance to present the performance report for the period 1 April- 21 July 2025. Members heard that performance remained strong, and that the Company had reached an agreement to act as interim operator of Southwell Leisure Centre until March 2026.

The Managing Director- Active4Today and the Director of Business and Finance- Active4Today were in attendance to deliver a presentation to Members covering various projects undertaken in the community, sports development work, exercise referrals, corporate members and volunteering opportunities.

Members considered the report and presentation. Members asked about the support from Active4Today at the inception of projects, such as Footy Fun Hawtonville. The Director- Business and Finance explained that with any projects, it was important to have partners working together from the beginning to take ownership moving forward, however, support for partners was always available and accessible through collaborative working.

AGREED (unanimously) That the Executive Shareholder Committee note the performance of Active4Today for the financial year 1st April 2025 – 31st July 2025.

35 PERFORMANCE OF ARKWOOD - QUARTER 1 2025/26

The Non-Executive Director and the Managing Director- Arkwood Developments were in attendance to present the performance information for Quarter 1. In addition, Members heard updates on progress at sites including Cambridge, Wirksworth and Long Bennington. Members noted that sales nationally were slower and people were now choosing to wait until they could view showhomes, rather than purchase 'off-plan'. This had meant slower sales however there was still demand for properties. The willingness of Arkwood to build different types of housing, including smaller houses and bungalows was positive and enabled it to respond to market demand.

AGREED (unanimously) 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.

Meeting closed at 6.43 pm.

Chair