



*Castle House  
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**Monday, 2 February 2026**

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

**To all Members of the Council:**

**MEETING: Full Council**

**DATE: Tuesday, 10 February 2026 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](mailto:nigel.hill@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk)

## **AGENDA**

	<b><u>Page Nos.</u></b>
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 16 December 2025	4 - 19
5. Communications which the Chair, 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 (if any)	
8. 2026/2027 Housing Revenue Account Budget and Rent Setting	20 - 34
9. Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2025/26	35 - 46
10. Audit & Accounts (Governance) Committee Annual Report	47 - 52
11. Notices of Motion (if any)	
12. Minutes for Noting	
(a) Cabinet - 9 December 2025	53 - 59
(b) Cabinet - 20 January 2026	60 - 69
(c) Policy & Performance Improvement Committee - 12 January 2026	70 - 75
(d) Planning Committee - 4 December 2025	76 - 81
(e) Planning Committee - 15 January 2026	82 - 89
(f) Audit & Accounts Committee - 10 December 2025	90 - 94
(g) Licensing Committee - 11 December 2025	95 - 97
(h) Executive Shareholder Committee - 9 December 2025	98 - 99
13. 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, 16 December 2025 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor L Tift (Chair)  
Councillor R Jackson (Vice-Chair)

Councillor N Allen, 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 A Freeman, Councillor S Forde, Councillor J Hall, Councillor P Harris, Councillor S Haynes, Councillor R Holloway, Councillor M Home, Councillor J Kellas, Councillor S Michael, Councillor D Moore, Councillor P Peacock, Councillor C Penny, Councillor M Pringle, Councillor P Rainbow, Councillor K Roberts, Councillor N Ross, Councillor S Saddington, Councillor M Shakeshaft, Councillor K Smith, Councillor T Smith, Councillor M Spoor, Councillor P Taylor and Councillor T Wildgust

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor K Melton, Councillor T Thompson and Councillor T Wendels

40 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.

41 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

The Council noted the interests previously declared by Members in Agenda Item No. 13 – Minutes for Noting.

42 MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2025

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

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

The Chair invited Councillor P Harris to provide a ‘moment of reflection’ for the Council.

The Chair informed Members that she had recently represented the Council at two events. A Veterans’ Lunch at Balderton Village Hall and the Pantomime at the Palace Theatre, Newark. She also advised that the Chair’s raffle had raised £770 and that she had also received an anonymous donation of £200 for her chosen charities.

The Chair welcomed the two newly elected Members, Councillors M Home and K Smith to the Council following the by-elections held on 6 November 2025.

The Chair also announced the winners of the 'Serving People – Improving Lives' Awards for staff in 2025. The winners were invited to the Full Council to have their awards re-presented by the Chair and to celebrate their success with Members.

Team of the Year – Administrative Services

Manager of the Year – Oliver Scott

Colleague of the Year – Ashley Kitchen

Apprentice of the Year – Philene Evason-Bacon

Chief Executive's Award – The Bank Holiday Gypsy, Romany & Travellers Response Team and the Local Government Reorganisation Submission Team.

The Chair invited Councillor M Pringle, Chair of the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee to update Members on the Council Tax Support Scheme for Terminally Ill Residents following the Motion agreed at the last meeting.

The Leader of the Council advised that the Corporate Peer Team had recently revisited the Council following the Peer Challenge in 2024, reporting that positive initial feedback had been received, confirming they were pleased with the progress made.

The Deputy Leader of the Council thanked the Director – Communities & Environment and the Heritage & Culture Team for their work throughout the year.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing thanked all the Housing Teams for their work throughout the year. He also thanked Officers for their work in relation to Ollerton Hall.

#### 44 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCIL

In accordance with Rule No. 3.3.3, a question had been submitted by Councillor P Harris.

Details of the question and response given by the Leader of the Council are attached as Appendix A to the Minutes.

#### 45 LOCALISED COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2026-27

The Council considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive, Director – Resources and Section 151 Officer, which sought to confirm the continuation of the Localised Council Tax Support Scheme for 2026/27 with minor changes in accordance with the annual uprating amounts applied by the Department for Works and Pensions. By applying the annual uprating, the Council will continue to maintain the current level of support to all Council Tax Support claimants and ensure that the scheme continues to benefit the most vulnerable and low-income households. The Cabinet considered the report at their meeting held on 11 November 2025 and had recommended approval.

AGREED (with 32 votes for and 2 abstentions) that the Council continues to adopt the existing Localised Council Tax Support Scheme for all potential claimants for the financial year 2026/27 and uprates the applicable amounts, premiums, state benefits and disregard criteria in accordance with the annual uprating amounts applied by the Departments for Works & Pensions.

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

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive concerning the allocation of seats on Committees to political groups, following the by-elections to fill the vacancies in the Balderton North & Coddington and Castle Wards held on 6 November 2025. The Allocation of Seats to Political Groups and the Schedule of Members' Appointments to Committees can be found respectively at Appendices B and C to the Minutes.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- a) the allocation of seats to Political Groups (as set out in Appendix B to the minutes) be approved; and
- b) the Schedule of Members Appointments to Committees (as set out in the Schedule attached as Appendix C to the minutes) be noted.

47 PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2026-27

The Council considered the report of the Director – Customer Services & Organisational Development which sought approval of the Schedule of Meetings for the period May 2026 to May 2027.

AGREED (unanimously) that the proposed Schedule of Meetings for 2026/27, be approved. The schedule is attached as Appendix D to the minutes.

48 UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL'S ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING WITH CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS

The Council considered the report of the Monitoring Officer which provided an update on the changes made to the arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct Complaints, as agreed by the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee on 27 November 2025.

The report set out that the previous arrangements did not provide a clear mechanism for the early filtering and rejection of invalid complaints. The amendment approved was to include additional wording into the arrangements which provided clarity on how complaints would be dealt with if they were considered to be invalid, without engagement with the Independent Person. The report also provided information as to the Government's published response to the consultation on changes to the Standards regime.

AGREED (unanimously) that Full Council note:

- a) the changes made to the Council's arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct Complaints as agreed by the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee and as set out in paragraph 1.4 of the report;
- b) the ongoing work to review the arrangements through a cross-party working group of the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee; and
- c) the changes to the Standards regime recently announced by Government which would be subject to future legislative change.

*(Councillor T Smith entered the meeting at the conclusion of the previous item).*

#### 49 NOTICES OF MOTION

##### **Motion One – Code of Conduct**

In accordance with Rule No. 3.4.3, Councillor P Taylor moved and Councillor S Forde seconded a motion to the following effect:

“Newark & Sherwood District Council welcomes the proposed changes to the Code of Conduct which the Government intends to legislate for a whole system of reform of the current Code of Conduct and sanctions regime as set out in the Localism Act 2011.

The measures will include:

- the introduction of a mandatory code of conduct, which will include a behavioural code, for all local authority types and tiers.
- a requirement that all principal authorities convene formal standards committees, to include provisions on the constitution of standards committees to ensure objectivity, accountability and transparency.
- the requirement that all principal authorities offer individual support during any investigation into code of conduct allegations to both the complainant and the councillor subject to the allegation.
- the introduction at the authority level of a ‘right for review’ for both complainant and the subject elected member to have the case reassessed on grounds that will be set out in legislation.
- powers for authorities to suspend elected members for a maximum of 6 months for serious code of conduct breaches, with the option to withhold allowances during suspension for the most serious breaches and introduce premises and facilities bans either in addition or as standalone sanctions.
- in response to the most serious allegations involving police investigation, or where sentencing is pending, the introduction of powers to suspend elected members on an interim basis for an initial period of 3 months which, if extended, will require regular review.
- a new disqualification criterion for any elected member subject to the maximum period of suspension more than once within 5 years.

- the creation of a new national appeals function, to consider appeals from elected members to decisions to suspend them and/or withhold allowances, and for complainants if they consider their complaint was mishandled. Any appeal submitted will only be permitted after complainant or elected member has invoked their 'right for review' of the local standards committee decision has been invoked and that process is completed".

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

### **Motion Two – Union Flag to be Flown Permanently at Castle House**

In accordance with Rule No. 3.4.3, Councillor P Peacock moved and Councillor S Crosby seconded an altered motion (in accordance with Rule 4.7.1) to the following effect:

"Newark & Sherwood District Council is committed to promoting unity, compassion and trust in authority and agree the following:

1. The Council believes that the Union Flag is a symbol of Pride in Place and symbolises the British values of tolerance, community cohesion, decency and fairness.
2. The Council agrees that the Union Flag should be flown at Castle House every day except on certain occasions when other flags may be flown.
3. By flying the Union Flag at Castle House, the Council is declaring Castle House as a place of sanctuary, safety and security for all communities.
4. The Council notes that the Leader of this Council wrote to the Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council on 20 November 2025 to express his disappointment that Nottinghamshire County Council has cut funding for community and voluntary organisations such as Your CVS, Citizens Advice Central Nottinghamshire and Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire, instead, spending £75,000 to attach union flags to lampposts.
5. That the Council's flag will be flown at Castle House below the Union Flag".

The altered motion, on being put to the vote, was agreed with 34 votes for with 1 vote against.

## **50 MINUTES FOR NOTING**

### **50a CABINET - 14 OCTOBER 2025**

#### **Minute No. 311 – Green Gateways Update**

Councillor P Harris sought an explanation as to how this initiative would work given contracts were let through Via at the County Council to mow grass verges and he referred to an example in his Ward where there had been a loss of biodiversity.

The Chair added that it would be helpful for the local community to be made aware of when sub-contractors were due to cut verges.



The Portfolio Holder for Climate & the Environment advised that he would provide a written response.

50b CABINET - 11 NOVEMBER 2025

Minute No. 320 – Plan for Neighbourhoods Programme and Local Assurance Framework Update

Councillor P Harris asked what measures Cabinet would take to extend ‘Pride of Place’ in communities that did not benefit from government local development funding.

The Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Economic Development advised that ‘Pride of Place’ was a funded government programme so extending across the district was not within the Council’s gift, but there was a pipeline of projects across the district which could be mobilised if funding did become available.

50c CABINET - 26 NOVEMBER 2025

Minute No. 324 – Local Government Reorganisation in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

Councillor P Harris expressed concerns about the warding arrangements included in the Council’s Final Proposal submitted to government, suggesting that polling districts should have been used as the building blocks for smaller single Member seats which would deliver better democratic representation.

The Leader of the Council advised that the warding arrangement proposals were only indicative at this stage and there would be further opportunities to review these as part of the local government reorganisation process.

50d POLICY & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - 1 DECEMBER 2025

Minute No. 169 – Presentation by the Environment Agency

Councillor P Harris stated that the Environment Agency had a statutory responsibility for dealing with sewage in rivers and suggested that the Chair of the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee invite them to a further meeting of the Committee to inform the Council how this issue is dealt with.

The Chair of the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee advised that the Environment Agency had delivered an extremely informative presentation to the Committee covering local issues. He confirmed that he would invite them back to a future meeting at which sewage could be raised if they were given sufficient notice.

50e PLANNING COMMITTEE - 13 NOVEMBER 2025

50f GOVERNANCE, GENERAL PURPOSES & LGR COMMITTEE - 27 NOVEMBER 2025

50g AUDIT & ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE - 15 OCTOBER 2025

Meeting closed at 7.22 pm.

Chair

**FULL COUNCIL MEETING – 16 DECEMBER 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 Peter Harris:**

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

**Reply from Councillor Paul Peacock – Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Performance & Finance**

Thank you for the question, just to clarify my position in relation to Mayor Claire and EMCCA. I am one of two representatives of the Nottinghamshire District and Borough Council Leaders on the East Midlands Combined Councils Authority as a non-constituent member. I also sit on the Transport and Digital Connectivity Committee. I am not representing Newark and Sherwood District Council in these roles, I am representing all Nottinghamshire District and Borough Councils, these roles are not remunerated.

In answer to the question, Mayor Claire is in regular contact with Government Ministers, including the Secretary of State for Transport Heidi Alexander, Lilian Greenwood, Simon Lightwood and Lord Hendy (Rail Minister) and therefore is well placed to influence the Government's thinking and decision-making on rail matters. The Mayor has regularly raised issues such as Midland Mainline Electrification with the Government.

EMCCA is a member of Midlands Connect and an associate member of Transport for the North. This gives EMCCA a seat at the Midlands Connect Board and the Rail North Committee and the ability to influence Government through lobbying by both those bodies. EMCCA is also part of Transport for the East Midlands, a sub-group of East Midlands Councils which has a formal role with DfT in the management of the East Midlands railway franchise. EMCCA is also building a relationship with Great British Railways in readiness for rail devolution and the creation of GBR which is expected in 2027.

The Mayor has recently launched a consultation period regarding the emerging East Midlands Local Transport Plan, which includes all modes of transport including rail. Members have been invited to contribute to the council's response which will be agreed through the planning policy board, members can also make their own contributions directly to EMCCA.

**Supplemental Question from Councillor Harris**

The Government earlier this year suspended the completion of the electrification of the Midland Main Line from Wigston to Nottingham. The Government has now suspended, or is it ending, the construction of the Bordesley East Chord of the Midlands Rail Hub.

Most of the infrastructure such as rebuilding the bridge for the wires on the Midland Main Line has been completed. This has cost millions. The 'spark effect' on rail transport is well known and can be seen on the growth of passenger numbers of the East Coast Main Line.

The failure to complete the electrification is significant. Improved services from Nottingham to London and the Midlands Rail Hub for better services into the West Midlands will benefit many residents from Newark & Sherwood.

When will there be a timetable for completion of the electrification of the Midland Main Line using the workforce skills currently available, or is the Government happy to lose this opportunity and continue to use polluting bi-modal trains into Nottingham, and what are the plans for completing the Midlands Rail Hub including the Bordesley Chord. What has the EMCLA Mayor said or doing to address these failures?

**Reply from Councillor Paul Peacock – Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Performance & Finance**

I would reiterate that the Mayor is lobbying for the electrification of the Midland Main Line. I cannot say when that will be, but I can say that probably 30 or 40 years of massive under-investment in our railways across all political parties is one of the reasons why there is difficulty now extending those lines or improving those lines or bringing things in like HS2 because of the massive cost involved of upgrading. I will take those questions back and I am sure the Mayor is in exactly the same place as you are with those things and is fighting for that investment in the East Midlands. However, we have to acknowledge that this is something that has been going on for decades and it is going to take some time before our railway system is put right.

**ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS**

Committee	Conservative	Labour	Independents for Newark & District	Liberal Democrats	Newark & Sherwood District Independents	Reform	Green - Spoors	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
<b>Total Seats by Group</b>	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

<u>POLICY &amp; PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE</u>						
CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	INDEPENDENTS FOR NEWARK & DISTRICT	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS	N&S INDS	REFORM	IND - NON-ALIGNED / GREEN
1. S. Haynes	1. A. Brazier	1. J. Hall	1. K. Roberts	1.T. Thompson	1. K. Smith	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. M. Home	
2. S. Michael	2. L. Tift					
<u>PLANNING COMMITTEE</u>						
CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	INDEPENDENTS FOR NEWARK & DISTRICT	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS	N&S INDS	REFORM	IND - NON-ALIGNED / GREEN
1. L. Dales	1. C. Brooks	1. S. Forde	1. P. Harris		1. M. Home	1. M. Spoors
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						
<u>LICENSING COMMITTEE</u>						
CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	INDEPENDENTS FOR NEWARK & DISTRICT	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS	N&S INDS	REFORM	IND - NON-ALIGNED / GREEN
1. N. Allen	1. A. Brazier	1. J. Hall (C)	1. K. Roberts	1. D. Darby		1. J. Lee
2. R. Jackson	2. L. Brazier	2. D. Moore				1. M. Spoors
3. S. Michael	3. P. Taylor					
4. S. Saddington	4. L. Tift (V/C)					
5. T. Wildgust						
<u>AUDIT &amp; ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE*</u>						
CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	INDEPENDENTS FOR NEWARK & DISTRICT	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS	N&S INDS	REFORM	IND - NON-ALIGNED / GREEN
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	REFORM	IND - NON-ALIGNED / GREEN
1. S. Haynes	1. A. Freeman	1. J. Hall	1. P. Harris	1. D. Darby	1. K. Smith	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. Home	
2. T. Wildgust	2. M. Shakeshaft	2. -				
BOARD OF GILSTRAP TRUSTEES^						
CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	INDEPENDENTS FOR NEWARK & DISTRICT	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS	N&S INDS	REFORM	IND - NON-ALIGNED / GREEN
1. S. Haynes	1. P. Taylor				1. M. Home	1. I. Brown
2. J. Kellas						
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.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2026/2027

APPENDIX D

2026	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
May					01
	04 BANK HOLIDAY	05	06	07 PLANNING	08
	11	12	13	14	15
	18	19 ANNUAL COUNCIL	20	21	22
	25 BANK HOLIDAY	26	27	28	29
June	01 POLICY & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT	02	03	04 PLANNING	05
	08	09 CABINET	10	11 LICENSING	12
	15	16 MEMBER TRAINING	17	18 GOVERNANCE, GENERAL PURPOSES & LGR	19
	22 GILSTRAP	23	24	25	26
	29	30			
July			01	02 PLANNING	03
	06 POLICY & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT	07 CABINET (P) EXECUTIVE SHAREHOLDER	08 AUDIT & ACCOUNTS	09	10
	13	14 COUNCIL	15	16	17
	20	21	22	23	24
	27	28	29	30	31

2026	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
August	03	04	05	06 PLANNING	07
	10	11	12	13	14
	17	18	19	20	21
	24	25	26	27	28
	31 BANK HOLIDAY				
September		01	02	03 PLANNING	04
	07	08	09	10 LICENSING	11
	14 POLICY & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT	15 CABINET (P) EXECUTIVE SHAREHOLDER	16	17	18
	21 GILSTRAP	22	23 AUDIT & ACCOUNTS	24 GOVERNANCE, GENERAL PURPOSES & LGR	25
	28	29	30		
October				01 PLANNING	02
	05	06	07	08	09
	12	13 CABINET	14	15	16
	19	20 COUNCIL	21	22	23
	26 POLICY & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT	27	28	29	30



2026/27	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
November	02	03	04	05 PLANNING	06
	09	10 CABINET	11	12	13
	16	17 MEMBER TRAINING	18	19	20
	23 GILSTRAP	24	25	26 LICENSING	27
	30				
December		01	02	03 PLANNING	04
	07 POLICY & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT	08 CABINET (P) EXECUTIVE SHAREHOLDER	09 AUDIT & ACCOUNTS	10	11
	14	15 COUNCIL	16	17 GOVERNANCE, GENERAL PURPOSES & LGR	18
	21	22	23	24	25 BANK HOLIDAY
	28 BANK HOLIDAY	29	30	31	
January					01 BANK HOLIDAY
	04	05	06	07	08
	11	12	13	14 PLANNING	15
	18	19 CABINET	20	21	22
	25	26	27	28	29

2027	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
February	01	02	03	04	05
	08	09 COUNCIL	10	11 PLANNING	12
	15	16	17	18	19
	22 POLICY & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT	23 CABINET (BUDGET)	24	25	29
March	01	02	03 AUDIT & ACCOUNTS	04	05
	08 GILSTRAP	09 COUNCIL (TAX SETTING)	10	11 PLANNING	12
	15	16	17	18	19
	22 POLICY & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT	23 CABINET (P) EXECUTIVE SHAREHOLDER	24	25 LICENSING	26 BANK HOLIDAY
	29 BANK HOLIDAY	30	31		
April				01	02
	05	06	07	08 PLANNING	09
	12	13 CABINET	14	15 GOVERNANCE, GENERAL PURPOSES & LGR	16
	19	20	21 AUDIT & ACCOUNTS	22	23
	26	27	28	29	30

2027	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
May	03 BANK HOLIDAY	04	05	06 PARISH & SHADOW UNITARY AUTHORITY ELECTIONS	07
	10	11	12	13 PLANNING	14
	17	18 ANNUAL COUNCIL	19	20	21
	24	25	26	27	28
	31 BANK HOLIDAY				

All meetings will start at 6.00pm, with the exception of the Planning Committee which will start at 4.00pm.



Report to: Meeting of the Full Council: 10 February 2026

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Lee Brazier, Housing

Director Leads: Sanjiv Kohli, Deputy Chief Executive, Director – Resources and S151 Officer  
Suzanne Shead, Director – Housing, Health & Wellbeing

Lead Officers: Nick Wilson, Business Manager – Financial Services, Ext. 5317  
David Price, Business Manager – Housing Income & Leasehold Management, Ext. 5538

Report Summary	
<b>Report Title</b>	2026/27 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget and Rent Setting
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To examine the proposed income and expenditure on the HRA for the 2026/27 financial year for both revenue and capital income and expenditure, in accordance with Section 76 (Duty to prevent debit balance on the Housing Revenue Account) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.</li> <li>b) To provide indicative amounts of income and expenditure for the 2026/27 to 2029/30 financial years for both revenue and capital income and expenditure; and</li> <li>c) To set rent levels and service charges for 2026/27 (with effect from the first Monday in April 2026).</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p>That Council approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the HRA budget for 2026/27, as set out in Appendix A to the report;</li> <li>b) an increase of 4.8% in the 2026/27 rents of all current HRA tenancies will be applied from 6 April 2026;</li> <li>c) the 2026/27 service charges, as set out in Appendix C to the report; and</li> <li>d) the Capital Budget set out in Appendix D to the report are committed expenditure in the Capital Programme for 2026/27 to 2029/30.</li> </ul>
<b>Reason for Recommendations</b>	For Members to approve the proposed HRA budget and charges in rent and service charge levels for 2026/27.

## 1.0 Background Information

- 1.1 The setting of the HRA budget and the approval of rent levels must be completed within the required time to notify tenants of proposed changes to rents in accordance with legislation.

1.2 The key dates in the budget setting timetable are detailed in the table below:

Council determination of HRA budget and rent setting	10 February 2026
Newark & Sherwood District Council update of rent systems	12 February 2026
Generation of rent cards and letters to notify tenants of variation of their rent levels (tenants are required to be given four weeks' notice of the changes).	By end of February 2026

1.3 Any slippage from these key dates would jeopardise the implementation of rent changes from the first Monday in April 2025, and therefore, pose a risk to the sustainability of the 30-year HRA Business Plan (BP).

## **2.0 Proposal/Details of Options Considered**

### Statutory Duty

2.1 Section 76 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 requires local housing authorities to set a budget annually for their HRA, and that implementation of the budget proposals will not result in a debit balance (deficit position) at year-end.

2.2 Following housing financing reforms (self-financing) in April 2012 the Council's HRA has been operating within a 30-year business plan. The inputs and assumptions in the Business Plan are key to setting the HRA budgets annually for each year of the HRA's four-year medium-term financial plan (MTFP).

### Rent Standard 2020

2.3 In February 2019, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government published a Direction to the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) to set a Rent Standard which would apply from 2020 for five years. This was published alongside a Policy Statement on Rents for Social Housing 2018 (Rent Policy Statement) for the Regulator to have regard to when setting its Rent Standard.

2.4 The Rent Standard 2020 specifies that rents must be set in accordance with the Rent Policy Statement. The Government's Rent Policy Statement allows annual rent increases to social rent and affordable rent properties by the maximum of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate published for September of the preceding financial year plus 1%.

2.5 The policy was extended in April 2024 for 2025/26 pending consultation with Government confirming that the policy of increases of up to CPI plus 1% being extended for the next 10 years or until 2036/37.

2.6 This was confirmed in the Autumn Budget Statement in November 2025. The September CPI rate was 3.8% meaning that the rent standard allows for a 4.8% increase in rent.

2.7 The below table shows the weighted average rents for socially rent properties in December 2025 and impact of applying the maximum permitted increase of 4.8% for 2026-27 as per the rent standard.

Unit Size	Average Rent 2025/26	With increase of 4.8% applied
1 Bedroom	£88.23	£92.46
2 Bedroom	£96.77	£101.41
3 Bedroom	£102.21	£107.12
4+ Bedroom	£111.20	£116.54
<b>Weighted Average of number of properties</b>	<b>£97.14</b>	<b>£101.80</b>

### Borrowing Cap

- 2.8 As part of the national self-financing arrangements, Newark & Sherwood District Council took on £36.078m of national housing debt in March 2012, bringing the total Housing Revenue Account (HRA) debt to £104.373m. This is forecast to increase to £109.050m by the end of March 2026, based upon the current agreed budget.
- 2.9 Following the Government's removal of the HRA debt cap on 30 October 2018, the Council adopted the Interest Cover Ratio (ICR) as the borrowing limit for the Housing Revenue Account (as approved annually by Council within the Treasury Management Strategy). The ICR measures how well the HRA's net cost of service can cover its annual interest costs. Setting a minimum ICR ensures that, even if income were to fall or operating costs were to rise unexpectedly, there would still be enough capacity to meet interest payments. The Council proposes a minimum ratio of 1.50 to be the most prudent approach.
- 2.10 The HRA Capital Programme shows the Council's commitment to invest further in existing housing stock and build new homes to replace those sold through the RTB scheme through the 30-year business plan.
- 2.11 The Treasury Management Strategy will be presented to Council on 5 March 2026. This will include the borrowing requirements of the HRA. The HRA Capital financing requirement (CFR) position is shown below which includes principal repayments due on existing loans and the borrowing requirement of the HRA to facilitate the proposed Capital Programme:

	2026/27 £'m	2027/28 £'m	2028/29 £'m	2029/30 £'m
Estimated Opening CFR Balance	109.050	124.005	138.315	143.012
Capital Programme Borrowing	17.999	20.356	13.742	5.571
Debt Repayments	-3.044	-6.046	-9.045	-1.045
<b>Estimated Closing CFR Balance</b>	<b>124.005</b>	<b>138.315</b>	<b>143.012</b>	<b>147.538</b>

### **30-year HRA Business Plan (BP)**

- 2.12 The BP summarises the viability of the Council's plans to fulfil its management, maintenance, and investment responsibilities to its HRA assets over the next 30 years. Key assumptions

are made in the BP based on the council's strategic priorities and policies, detailed stock data and other factors.

- 2.13 The assumptions in the BP are key to setting the HRA budgets annually for each year of the HRA's four-year MTFP. The main assumptions that are fed into the HRABP were noted by the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee on 1 December 2025 and from the Corporate Annual Budget Strategy approved by Cabinet on 8 July 2025.
- 2.14 The proposed rent increase of 4.8% for 2026/27 is essential to maintain a financially sustainable Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and deliver safe, high-quality homes. Rising costs in repairs, compliance, and service delivery - driven by new legal requirements such as Awaab's Law and the Social Housing Regulation Act - means we must invest in faster response times for damp and mould, improved empty homes standards, and enhanced tenant support. This adjustment also underpins our long-term 30-year business plan, ensuring we can fund day-to-day maintenance, planned works, and energy efficiency improvements while continuing initiatives like the Empty Homes Lettable Standard and Starting Well scheme. In short, the increase safeguards compliance, improves tenant experience, and secures the future of our housing stock.
- 2.15 Other scenarios of rental increase have been modelled against the 30-year business plan in order to test the strength and validity of the plan. The table below sets out the proposed increase of 4.8% (with a 3% rental increase thereafter being the rent standard of CPI plus 1% where CPI is based on the Government's target of 2%), compared against a 3.8% increase in 2026/27 with 3% thereafter. It also shows whether the base assumptions of 4.8% for 2026/27 meets the ICR test over the life of the 30 year plan together with whether the current plans for capital and revenue (over the life of the plan) are fully funded.

Description	Base 30 Year Business Plan	2026/27 rental increase at 3.8%
ICR Ratio	Within Limits across the whole 30 years	Breach of limit in FY 2026.27 through to 2030.31
Revenue	Fully funded	Fully funded
Capital	Fully funded	Fully funded
Financial variance to base plan (loss / gain (-))	N/A	£19.330m

- 2.16 As can be seen from the table above, available resources, over the 30 years would be significantly reduced (by £19.330m) based on the alternative option which would limit the ability of the HRA to be able to meet future responsibilities that may be placed upon Local Authorities from government policy announcements. This is due to a reduction in rental income, together with increased interest payments as further borrowing would need to be taken in order to fund both the capital programme and the revenue account. The ICR would also be breached, meaning the headroom of net cost of service over interest cost is forecast to be compromised, hence should there be an unexpected spike in expenditure or reduction in income, the capacity to meet the interest obligations may cause stress on the HRA 30 year Business Plan.
- 2.17 Therefore, a rent increase of 4.8% on current tenants, across all stock types is recommended in this report.

- 2.18 Priorities remain the safety and decency of council homes, modernisation of service delivery, future development of new homes to replace those lost through Right to Buy as well as meeting energy efficient homes by 2030 increasing those serviced by green energy.
- 2.19 As can be seen from the table at paragraph 2.15, currently the assumptions made within the BP together with future forecasts of income and expenditure (both capital and revenue) are affordable and sustainable and comply with the ICR ratio identified, within the 30-year plan, based on the recommendations within this report.

#### Rent Cycle

- 2.20 Rent is currently charged over 48 weeks, giving tenants four “rent free weeks” albeit that the full years rent charge is the same as if charged across 52 weeks. The non-charge weeks for 2026/27 will be weeks commencing 25 May 2026, 31 August 2026, 21 December 2026 and 29 March 2027.

#### Affordability Considerations

- 2.21 This section provides information regarding the impact of the proposed changes to rent and services charges, as well as data on how tenants pay their rent and the support they receive from Housing Benefit and Universal Credit.

#### Rent Level Comparable Data

- 2.22 *Table 1* compares data on average rent levels for the private rented sector (PRS) in Newark & Sherwood and in England as at November 2025 to the Council’s average social housing rented stock as at December 2025.

***Table 1: Comparison of data on weekly average rent levels for the PRS in Newark and Sherwood, the PRS in England, and NSDC’s social rented stock***

	<b>Newark and Sherwood Private Rented (as at November 2025)</b>	<b>England Average Private Rented (as at November 2025)</b>	<b>NSDC Social Rented Stock (as at December 2025)</b>
One Bed	£124.15	£268.38	£88.23
Two Bed	£163.85	£299.77	£96.77
Three Bed	£197.54	£333.92	£102.21
Four Bed plus	£293.77	£488.77	£111.20
<b>Average for all categories</b>	<b>£180.69</b>	<b>£328.15</b>	<b>£97.14</b>

- 2.23 For all sizes of accommodation, the Council’s average social housing rents are significantly lower than those in the private rented sector.
- 2.24 *Table 2* compares 2024/25 data on average rent levels for Private Registered Providers (PRPs) in Newark & Sherwood to the Council’s average social housing rents, split for each by whether properties are for general needs tenants or supported housing tenants.



**Table 2: Comparison of 2024/25 data on average rent levels for PRPs in Newark and Sherwood and NSDC's social housing rents, split by general needs tenants and supported housing tenants**

Type of Accommodation	Social Rent: General Needs		Social Rent: Supported Housing/Housing for Older People	
	NSDC	Private Registered Providers	NSDC	Private Registered Providers
Non-self-contained	-	-	-	£198.62
Bedsit	£70.82	£71.61	£67.53	£138.78
1 bedroom	£78.40	£92.96	£87.14	£135.50
2 bedrooms	£87.25	£110.09	£97.39	£113.86
3 bedrooms	£99.70	£112.42	£104.18	£138.66
4 bedrooms	£108.29	£123.71	-	-
5 bedrooms	£114.12	£117.44	-	-
<b>Average self-contained</b>	<b>£96.32</b>	<b>£107.98</b>	<b>£93.06</b>	<b>£132.04</b>
<b>Average all types</b>	<b>£96.32</b>	<b>£107.98</b>	<b>£93.06</b>	<b>£148.97</b>

- 2.25 For all sizes of accommodation, NSDC's average social housing rents are lower than those of the PRPs.
- 2.26 The average 2024/25 social rent levels of £107.98 (general needs tenants) and £148.97 (supported housing tenants) by PRPs in *Table 2* excludes service charges.

#### Housing Benefit and Universal Credit

- 2.27 A snapshot of data taken in December 2025 estimates that of the 5,323 current tenants, 3,731 (70.1%) received some help from benefits towards paying their rent.
- 2.28 Overall, this has remained unchanged compared to this time last year. However, the number of tenants receiving Housing Benefit (HB) has reduced from 1673 (31%) last year to 1193 (22.4%), with 2538 (47.7%) tenants receiving help from Universal Credit (UC), an increase from 2084 (39%) this time last year. The remaining 1,592 (29.9%) of tenants paid their rent without receiving help from benefits.
- 2.29 With the roll out UC due to be completed by March 2026, and with limited cases due to migrate to UC before this deadline, we would expect to see limited variation in the proportion of tenants claiming HB or UC.
- 2.30 We have seen an increase in the proportion of tenants claiming UC having their rent paid direct to the council due to being vulnerable or being in arrears or at risk of accruing arrears. Currently, around 50% of UC claimants have their rent paid. This is an increase from around 45% this time last year.

#### Supporting Tenants

- 2.31 We offer a range of support to tenants to help them meet their housing costs and help sustain their tenancy and will continue to provide additional support with cost-of-living challenges:

- We continue with our commitment to not move to evict tenants for rent arrears if they continue to engage with us to address their debt with us;
- We recognise the importance of supporting tenants at an early stage to sustain their tenancies, especially around rent collection, benefit entitlement and arrears management;
- We also promote the use of Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP's) where appropriate and refer tenants to partner advice agencies for specialist financial support and advice

### Service Charges

- 2.32 In addition to rent, local authorities can charge for other services they provide (service charges). Section 93 (Power to charge for discretionary services) of the Local Government Act 2003 requires charges to be set such that taking one financial year with another, the income from charges for a service does not exceed its costs of provision.
- 2.33 The Policy Statement on Rent for Social Housing (February 2019) sets out an expectation that service charge increases remain within the limit of rent charge of CPI + 1% to keep service charges affordable. Appendix C details the current (2025/26) and proposed (2026/27) service charges, with proposed increases to current charges of 4.8%. Subsequent paragraphs provide details about the services that tenants are charged for.

### Housing-Based Services for Supported Housing and Extra Care Services

- 2.34 The main housing-based support service provided is a community alarm service, to help tenants live more independently. Tenants with lifeline units in their properties can raise an alarm call from anywhere in the home if they require this. Around half of the council's social housing properties have these lifeline units.
- 2.35 Tenants in properties with Careline units currently pay £2.56 per week for the service and this report proposes to increase £2.68 per week.
- 2.36 In addition to these support services, tenants in the extra care housing schemes receive additional housing management and housing-related services due to their specialist needs. The council currently has four extra care housing schemes. These are at Gladstone House, The Broadleaves, Vale View and the Bilsthorpe Bungalows.

### Other Housing-Based Services

- 2.37 Other weekly service charges applied to tenants are for the costs of water and sewerage provided to properties at Vale View (£4.77 per week) and for the costs (where appropriate) of landscaping, lighting and drainage provided to 79 general needs properties.

### Consultation with Tenants

- 2.38 The assumptions used in this paper to propose the HRA budget and rent setting for 2026/27 were presented to the Tenant Engagement Board on 18 December 2025.
- 2.39 The tenants who sit on the Tenant Engagement Board were supportive of the assumptions used in the HRA budget and the proposal to increase of rent and service charges by the 4.8%.

### Revenue Budget

- 2.40 The budget increases reflect the focus on improving existing services that are important to our customers, repairs, building safety, responding to complaints (and learning from them) whilst always being as efficient and value for money as possible. We are increasing staff resources to better co-ordinate our front-line services and give a better customer experience to tenants including investment in damp, mould and disrepair and in responsive repairs. Details of the revenue budget can be found at **Appendix A and B**.

### Capital Budget

- 2.41 The Council intends to spend £83.311m from the HRA from 2026/27 to 2029/30. This is made up of £58.807m on existing property investment and £24.504m on additional Affordable Housing.

- 2.42 Major schemes included in the HRA are:

<b>Scheme Name</b>	<b>Summary of Proposed Financing</b>
Kitchen & Bathroom Replacements	MRR and borrowing
Roof Replacements	MRR and borrowing
Heating Renewals	MRR and borrowing
Decarbonisation	Government Grant, MRR and Borrowing
Yorke Drive Estate Regeneration	Borrowing plus external grant
New Phases 6 of the Council House Development Programme	S106 where appropriate, Capital Receipts and Borrowing

- 2.43 Details of individual schemes are shown in **Appendix D**.

### Capital Resources Available

- 2.44 External Grants and Contributions can provide additional resources to the Capital Programme and is subject to a detailed bidding process. Officers continue to liaise with external parties to secure the maximum available inward investment to contribute towards the delivery of the capital programme.
- 2.45 There is one grant currently forecast over the medium term which relates to Decarbonisation. It has been assumed that 50% of the budget will be available in grant.

### Capital Receipts

- 2.46

	<b>Right to Buy £'m</b>	<b>Right to Buy 1-4-1 £'m</b>	<b>Total £'m</b>
Estimated Balance @ 1 Apr 2026	0.006	0.941	<b>0.947</b>
Estimated Receipts 2026/27 – 2029/30	1.588	2.382	<b>3.112</b>
Approved for Financing 2026/27 – 2029/30	-0.897	-1.750	<b>-2.647</b>
<b>Unallocated Capital Receipts Balance</b>	<b>0.697</b>	<b>0.715</b>	<b>1.412</b>

- 2.47 The other receipt is the sale of a building on Lombard Street, Newark which is a property within the HRA but not a Council House, therefore is listed separately to the Right to Buy.
- 2.48 The Right to Buy (RTB) and RTB 1-4-1 figures above relate to forecast RTB sales. The Council has a Retention Agreement with the Secretary of State governing the use of retained receipts (1-4-1 receipts) from RTB sales for the delivery of replacement social housing. Government guidance on retained RTB receipts was most recently updated in July 2025, and now incorporates the reforms confirmed on 2 July 2025, which extend and simplify the flexibilities originally introduced in July 2024. These updated arrangements will generally apply from 2026/27 onwards including the following key provisions:
- The increased flexibilities introduced in July 2024—such as the ability to combine RTB receipts with other funding sources—are extended indefinitely, with RTB receipts explicitly permitted to be combined with grant funding from 2026/27 onwards;
  - Local authorities may continue to apply up to 100% of retained RTB receipts towards the cost of replacement affordable housing;
  - The previous cap on acquisitions is permanently removed, giving authorities discretion to determine the balance between acquisitions and new-build delivery;
  - Newly built social homes being exempt from RTB for 35 years;
  - The qualifying tenancy period increasing from 3 to 10 years;
  - Reformed discount structures, with discounts starting at 5% and capped at 15% of property value;
  - Stronger post-sale protections, including an extended repayment period and an indefinite right of first refusal for councils.
- 2.49 If the Council is unable to spend its retained receipts within five years of receiving them, it must return these to Government with interest of 4% above the base rate (currently 4.75%). Use of the receipts is monitored closely to maximise where practicable and appropriate.

#### Major Repairs Reserve

- 2.50 The table below shows the estimated contributions to and the use of the Major Repairs Reserve (MRR) in terms of Capital Financing.

	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m	2029/30 £m
Estimated Opening Balance	3.870	0.500	0.501	0.502
Depreciation Contribution to the MRR	6.364	6.624	6.788	6.686
Revenue Contribution to the MRR	2.095	2.278	2.654	3.277
Debt Repayments	-3.044	-6.046	-9.045	-1.045
Capital Financing	-8.785	-2.855	-0.395	-8.918
<b>Unallocated MRR Balance</b>	<b>0.500</b>	<b>0.501</b>	<b>0.503</b>	<b>0.503</b>

#### Capital Financing

- 2.51 Subject to the approval of the proposals outlined above, the current plan for financing the HRA capital programme is shown below.

HRA	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m	2029/30 £m
Government Grants	0.776	0.795	0.000	0.000
Contributions from Third Parties	0.592	0.218	0.000	0.000
Capital Receipts non 1-4-1	0.290	0.200	0.000	0.000
Capital Receipts 1-4-1	1.500	0.250	0.202	0.204
RCCO	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Revenue Support	8.785	2.855	0.396	8.918
Borrowing	17.999	20.356	13.742	5.571
<b>Total</b>	<b>29.942</b>	<b>24.674</b>	<b>14.340</b>	<b>14.693</b>

- 2.52 At the end of the financial year, once all capital expenditure has been finalised (including accrued expenditure) the financing of the Capital Programme is arranged by the Section 151 Officer, in line with the Council's Constitution.

### 3.0 **Implications**

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

Implications Considered			
Yes – relevant and included / NA – not applicable			
Financial	Yes	Equality & Diversity	Yes
Human Resources	N/A	Human Rights	N/A
Legal	Yes	Data Protection	N/A
Digital & Cyber Security	N/A	Safeguarding	N/A
Sustainability	N/A	Crime & Disorder	N/A
LGR	N/A	Tenant Consultation	Yes

### **Equalities Implications**

- 3.1 The proposed rent increase would apply to all occupied council social housing, rather than to the tenants themselves or to tenants in specific properties. The proposed rent increase is therefore not expected to discriminate against any of the characteristics protected under the Equality Act 2010.
- 3.2 The proposed rent and service charge increases are not expected to adversely impact tenants in receipt of benefits. The increase in rent and most service charges will be met by an increase in Housing Benefit or Universal Credit Housing Element.
- 3.3 The increase of state pension of 4.8% and increase of working age benefits of 3.8% in 2025, will compensate for the small number of service charges not fully eligible for increased Housing Benefit or Universal Credit Housing Element.
- 3.4 As outlined in the report, council housing tenants claiming benefits in need of help with housing costs can request a Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) from the council. The Government has not yet announced how much DHP it will be giving councils for 2026/27. Officers recognise the importance of supporting tenants of all ages to sustain their tenancies.

### **Financial Implications**

- 3.5 All of the financial implications are set out in the body of this report or its appendices.

### **Tenant Implications**

- 3.6 A presentation on the 2026/27 capital and revenue budgets and rent setting proposal was presented to the Tenant Engagement Board on 18 December 2025. The rationale for the proposed increase to rent and service charges was understood and supported by the Board.

### **Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives**

- 3.7 The implementation of the proposals in this report will directly support the council's HRA to meet multiple objectives of the Community Plan 2023-2027, such as to:
- Improve health and well-being
  - Increase the supply, choice, and standard of housing and
  - Reduce the impact of Climate Change
- 3.8 Some of the actions the council is taking to achieve the Community Plan objectives are:
- Refreshing stock condition information so the Council reprofile capital budgets to provide data driven improvement works inc. lifting the energy performance of homes and looking at green energy opportunities;
  - Build on our successful decarbonisation project, renewing over 100 oil heating systems with air source heat pumps and solar panels as part of the Warm Homes initiative currently in consultation; and
  - Implement the recommendations from TPAS on how to build on existing arrangements to engage with and involve tenants in scrutiny and improving housing services;
  - Deliver the Housing Strategy, 2023-2028;
  - Embed new Housing Management System to increase efficiencies in our operations, to free up officer time to focus on engagement with tenants

### **Legal Implications - LEG2526/5279**

- 3.9 As set out in the report, the Council is under a statutory obligation to set an annual budget for the HRA. Full Council must set the budget; the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules set out in the Council's Constitution provide for Cabinet to finalise proposals for the budget and submit them to Full Council, taking into account any recommendations made by Policy & Performance Improvement Committee.

### **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

	2025/26 BASE BUDGET £	SUMMARY	2026/27 BASE BUDGET £	2027/28 BASE BUDGET £	2028/29 BASE BUDGET £	2029/30 BASE BUDGET £
	(27,870,270)	<b>INCOME</b>	(29,077,350)	(30,031,630)	(31,040,180)	(32,001,330)
	(156,190)	Rents: dwellings	(154,280)	(158,910)	(163,680)	(168,580)
	(1,430,950)	Rents: non-dwellings	(1,294,140)	(1,331,980)	(1,370,980)	(1,411,120)
	(1,883,370)	Charges for services	(1,719,640)	(1,769,610)	(1,821,810)	(1,822,180)
		Contributions to expenditure				
	<b>(31,340,780)</b>	<b>Sub Total - Income</b>	<b>(32,245,410)</b>	<b>(33,292,130)</b>	<b>(34,396,650)</b>	<b>(35,403,210)</b>
		<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
	7,735,620	Repairs & maintenance	8,809,580	8,901,770	9,164,390	9,383,990
	8,906,430	Supervision & management	8,418,710	8,910,560	9,132,130	9,377,100
	1,319,560	Rents, rates, taxes & other charges	1,577,970	1,627,530	1,679,110	1,732,800
	6,368,700	Depreciation & impairment	6,363,980	6,623,390	6,787,550	6,685,810
	26,780	Debt management costs	14,000	14,350	14,710	15,080
	368,000	Efficiency savings: prospective revenue initiatives	368,000	0	0	0
	250,000	Improving Places Fund	0	0	0	0
	<b>24,975,090</b>	<b>Sub Total - Expenditure</b>	<b>25,552,240</b>	<b>26,077,600</b>	<b>26,777,890</b>	<b>27,194,780</b>
	<b>(6,365,690)</b>	<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>	<b>(6,693,170)</b>	<b>(7,214,530)</b>	<b>(7,618,760)</b>	<b>(8,208,430)</b>
	4,243,380	Interest payable/(receivable)	4,230,410	4,549,680	4,856,480	5,221,820
	13,000	(Profit)/loss on sale of non-current assets	13,000	7,800	7,800	7,800
	<b>(2,109,310)</b>	<b>NET OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>(2,449,760)</b>	<b>(2,657,050)</b>	<b>(2,754,480)</b>	<b>(2,978,810)</b>
		<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>				
	(13,000)	(Profit)/loss on sale of non-current assets	(13,000)	(7,800)	(7,800)	(7,800)
	123,750	Pension-related costs	118,000	122,250	126,750	126,750
	2,248,560	Revenue contribution to/(from) Major Repairs Reserve	2,344,760	2,542,600	2,635,530	2,859,860
	(250,000)	Contributions to/(from) earmarked reserves	0	0	0	0
	<b>0</b>	<b>HRA (SURPLUS)/DEFICIT FOR YEAR</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>(2,000,000)</b>	WORKING BALANCE brought forward (b/f)	<b>(2,000,000)</b>	<b>(2,000,000)</b>	<b>(2,000,000)</b>	<b>(2,000,000)</b>
	<b>(2,000,000)</b>	WORKING BALANCE carried forward (c/f)	<b>(2,000,000)</b>	<b>(2,000,000)</b>	<b>(2,000,000)</b>	<b>(2,000,000)</b>

	2025/26 BASE BUDGET £	SUMMARY	2026/27 BASE BUDGET £	2027/28 BASE BUDGET £	2028/29 BASE BUDGET £	2029/30 BASE BUDGET £
	137,060	STORES	144,930	149,800	154,850	160,070
	4,326,910	CENTRAL CHARGES INCL SLA'S	4,030,980	4,094,310	4,187,440	4,294,180
	567,520	HOUSING CHOICE	561,390	584,730	602,820	627,480
	988,460	INCOME MANAGEMENT	894,280	916,780	947,730	979,690
	78,000	INVESTMENT TEAM	0	0	0	0
	268,330	COMMUNITY CENTRES	292,630	306,860	321,800	337,480
	213,210	VALE VIEW	193,020	198,050	203,220	208,690
	174,930	STREET WARDENS	179,450	185,930	192,610	199,570
	0	LOCAL HOUSING OFFICES	(560)	(570)	(580)	(590)
	0	PLANNED MAINTENANCE	250,000	256,250	262,660	269,230
	1,240,940	VOIDS MAINTENANCE	1,079,830	1,099,380	1,119,520	1,140,470
	2,868,260	RESPONSIVE REPAIRS	3,112,280	3,162,490	3,231,560	3,303,310
	1,544,510	TENANCY & ESTATES	1,695,540	1,719,620	1,781,150	1,844,610
	(239,330)	GLADSTONE HOUSE	(239,490)	(250,590)	(262,090)	(277,670)
	2,306,140	COMPLIANCE SERVICES	2,144,150	2,094,650	2,193,730	2,297,510
	(82,040)	BOUGHTON EXTRA CARE SCHEME	(75,130)	(77,340)	(79,570)	(81,710)
	268,280	CARELINE SERVICES	319,450	328,010	337,480	347,160
	26,740	CPOOL/SEWAGE EMPTYING/REPAIRS	0	0	0	0
	391,550	YORKE DRIVE SCHEME	446,820	458,000	469,450	481,190
	19,830	COMMUNITY HUBS	26,370	27,550	28,770	30,040
	0	DAMP, MOULD & DISREPAIR	872,780	898,580	925,170	952,510
	0	HRA VACANCY FACTOR & SAVINGS	(559,110)	(572,290)	(588,290)	(600,830)
	(21,464,990)	HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT	(22,062,780)	(22,794,730)	(23,648,190)	(24,720,820)
	(6,365,690)	NET COST OF SERVICES	(6,693,170)	(7,214,530)	(7,618,760)	(8,208,430)



**Newark and Sherwood District Council (NSDC) proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) charges for 2026/27**

Service charge	2025/26 Charge (£)	Proposed 2026/27 charge (£)	Frequency	Other information
<u>CareLine service</u>				
Lifeline alarm monitoring. Advice, contact of next of kin or emergency service if required by tenant	2.56	2.68	per week	All tenants
Sensor rental and monitoring for two to five sensors	1.50	1.50	per week	All tenants. Lifeline customers only
Additional Tenancy Assistance (opt-in service)	6.21	6.51	per week	
<u>Gladstone House</u>				
Support Charge	2.56	2.68	per week	
Intensive Housing Management Charge	83.70	87.72	per week	
TV Licence	0.21	0.22	per week	
Meal Charge	45.48	47.66	per week	
<u>Broadleaves</u>				
Support Charge	2.56	2.68	per week	
Intensive Housing Management Charge (Apartment)	84.49	88.55	per week	
Intensive Housing Management Charge (Bungalow)	70.49	73.87	per week	
TV Licence	0.27	0.28	per week	
Meal Charge	57.10	59.84	per week	
<u>Vale View</u>				
Intensive Housing Management Service	96.34	100.96	per week	
Support Charge	2.56	2.68	per week	
Water Charge	4.55	4.77	per week	
<u>Extra Care Bungalows, Bilsthorpe</u>				
Intensive Housing Management Service	70.49	73.87	per week	
Support Charge	2.56	2.68	per week	
<u>Other charges relating to dwellings or tenants</u>				
New build landscaping, lighting and drainage	2.25-8.56	2.36-8.97	per week	
<u>Leasehold</u>				
Annual Leasehold Management Fee	150.15	157.36	per annum	
<u>Garages</u>				
Garage Rent	10.85	11.37	per week	VAT added if let to non-council tenant
Garage Plot	51.00	53.45	annually	VAT added if let to non-council tenant
Garage Port	4.83	5.06	per week	VAT added if let to non-council tenant

CODE	SCHEME	EXTERNAL FUNDING	NSDC COSTS	TOTAL SCHEME COST	BEFORE 2026/27 INC FORECAST FOR 2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
<b>HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT</b>									
<b>PROPERTY INVESTMENT PROGRAMME</b>									
S91100	ROOF REPLACEMENTS		9,201,650	9,201,650	1,789,400	1,785,000	1,829,630	1,875,370	1,922,250
S91218	Kitchens & Bathrooms		11,907,790	11,907,790	2,221,540	2,332,620	2,390,940	2,450,710	2,511,980
S91300	EXTERNAL FABRIC		1,986,910	1,986,910	378,000	387,450	397,140	407,070	417,250
S91412	Doors & Windows			1,528,300	307,470	294,000	301,350	308,880	316,600
S91500	OTHER STRUCTURAL		1,386,600	1,386,600	457,900	223,650	229,240	234,970	240,840
S93100	ELECTRICAL		3,620,510	3,620,510	0	840,000	882,000	926,100	972,410
S93300	PASSENGER LIFTS		443,890	443,890	53,550	94,000	96,350	98,760	101,230
S93500	HEATING		7,481,340	7,481,340	1,000,000	1,500,000	1,575,000	1,661,630	1,744,710
S93622	PV Invertors		1,107,290	1,107,290	200,050	218,480	223,940	229,540	235,280
S93626	Decarbonisation	2,783,657	2,717,244	5,500,901	2,358,341	1,551,880	1,590,680	0	
S93628	EPC		2,243,790	2,243,790	499,740	420,000	430,500	441,260	452,290
S95200	ESTATE IMPROVEMENTS		3,245,540	3,245,540	494,080	578,980	649,440	723,070	799,970
S95400	Void Works		5,476,579	5,476,579	493,559	1,200,000	1,230,000	1,260,750	1,292,270
S97100	ASBESTOS		1,038,126	1,038,126	0	250,000	256,250	262,656	269,220
S97200	FIRE SAFETY		3,680,320	3,680,320	150,680	850,000	871,250	893,030	915,360
S97400	DISABLED ADAPTATIONS		4,458,690	4,458,690	67,190	1,057,550	1,083,990	1,111,090	1,138,870
S97500	LEGIONELLA		428,810	428,810	80,000	84,000	86,100	88,250	90,460
S98100	BUILDING SAFETY		1,904,126	1,904,126	309,676	383,970	393,570	403,410	413,500
S99100	PROPERTY INVESTMENT CONTINGENCY		400,000	400,000	0	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
S99102	Investment Programme Fees		3,494,560	3,494,560	528,410	698,560	723,640	785,320	758,630
<b>SUB TOTAL PROPERTY INVESTMENT</b>		<b>2,783,657</b>	<b>66,223,765</b>	<b>70,535,722</b>	<b>11,389,586</b>	<b>14,850,140</b>	<b>15,341,010</b>	<b>14,261,866</b>	<b>14,693,120</b>
<b>AFFORDABLE HOUSING</b>									
SA1031	Site Acquisition (Incl RTB)		2,310,125	2,310,125	661,700	1,648,425			
SA1033	Yorke Drive Estate Regeneration	1,938,150	16,379,433	18,317,582	4,029,713	9,345,894	4,941,975		
SA1090	Phase 6		5,155,540	5,155,540	66,983	697,557	4,391,000		
SA1093	Phase 6 Cluster 3 - Church Circle		1,500,000	1,500,000	500,000	1,000,000			
SA1094	Phase 6 Cluster 4 - Bowbridge Road		1,500,000	1,500,000	500,000	1,000,000			
SA1095	Phase 6 Cluster 5 - Lowfield Lane		1,700,000	1,700,000	500,000	1,200,000			
SC2001	Asset Data Migration Software		78,780	78,780				78,780	
SC2002	New Housing Management System		856,000	856,000	656,000	200,000			
<b>SUB TOTAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING</b>		<b>1,938,150</b>	<b>29,479,878</b>	<b>31,418,028</b>	<b>6,914,397</b>	<b>15,091,876</b>	<b>9,332,975</b>	<b>78,780</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL HRA</b>		<b>4,721,807</b>	<b>95,703,643</b>	<b>101,953,750</b>	<b>18,303,983</b>	<b>29,942,016</b>	<b>24,673,985</b>	<b>14,340,646</b>	<b>14,693,120</b>



Report to: Meeting of the Full Council: 10 February 2026

Committee Chair: Councillor Sylvia Michael, Audit & Accounts Committee

Director Lead: Sanjiv Kohli, Deputy Chief Executive / Director – Resources and Section 151 Officer

Lead Officer: Jenna Norton, Senior Accountant, Financial Services ext. 5327

Report Summary	
<b>Report Title</b>	Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2025/26
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To provide an update on the Council's Treasury Activity and Prudential Indicators for the first half of 2025/26
<b>Recommendations</b>	That Full Council note the treasury management activity and the Prudential Indicators detailed in Section 6 & 7 of the report.
<b>Reason for Recommendation</b>	To allow Full Council to note the Treasury Management Activity and Prudential Indicators.

## 1.0 Background

1.1 This report has been written in accordance with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised 2017). The primary requirements of the Code are as follows:

- Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement which sets out the policies and objectives of the Council's treasury management activities.
- Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives.
- Receipt by the full council of an annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement - including the Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy - for the year ahead, a Mid-year Review Report and an Annual Report, (stewardship report), covering activities during the previous year.
- Delegation by the Council of responsibilities for implementing and monitoring treasury management policies and practices and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions.
- Delegation by the Council of the role of scrutiny of treasury management strategy and policies to a specific named body. For this Council the delegated body is the Audit and Governance Committee.

- 1.2 This mid-year report has been prepared in compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management, and covers the following:
- An economic update for the first part of the 2025/26 financial year;
  - A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy;
  - The Council's capital expenditure, as set out in the Capital Strategy, and prudential indicators;
  - A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2025/26;
  - A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2025/26;
  - A review of any debt rescheduling undertaken during 2025/26;
  - A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2025/26.
- 1.3 Treasury Management is defined as: "The management of the local authority's borrowing, 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"
- 1.4 The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the Council's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, essentially the longer-term cash flow planning to ensure the Council can meet its capital spending operations. This management of longer-term cash may involve arranging long or short term loans, or using longer term cash flow surpluses, and on occasion any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet Council risk or cost objectives.

## 2.0 Summary of Treasury Balances as at 30 September 2025

- 2.1 Below is a summary of the Councils borrowing position as at 30 September 2025, further information is available at section 4.

Balance on 01/04/2025 £m		Balance on 30/09/2025 £m
109.799	Total Borrowings	109.062
4.738	Total Other Long-Term Liabilities	5.000
<b>114.537</b>	<b>TOTAL EXTERNAL DEBT</b>	<b>114.062</b>

- 2.2 Below is a summary of the Councils investment position as at 30 September 2025, further information is available at section 5.

Balance on 01/04/2025 £m		Balance on 30/09/2025 £m
36.528	Total Short-Term Investments	41.114
12.500	Total Long-Term Investments	12.500
<b>49.028</b>	<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>53.614</b>

- 2.3 Below is a summary of the Councils capital expenditure position as at 30 September 2025, further information is available at section 3.

Capital Expenditure	2025/26 Initial Capital Budget £m	2025/26 Revised Estimate £m	2025/26 Current Expenditure £m
General Fund Expenditure	35.489	28.089	7.552
HRA Expenditure	23.295	18.734	4.626
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>58.784</b>	<b>46.823</b>	<b>12.178</b>

- 2.4 **Prudential Indicators**, during the first half of the financial year there was no breach in the prudential indicators.

**Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) and Annual Investment Strategy update**

- 2.5 The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2025/26 was approved by Full Council on 6 March 2025. There are no suggested policy changes to the TMSS within this report; the details in this report update the position in the light of the updated economic position and capital budget changes approved throughout the year.

**3.0 The Council's Capital Position**

- 3.1 This part of the report is structured to update:

- The Council's capital expenditure plans;
- How these plans are being financed;
- The impact of the changes in the capital expenditure plans on the prudential indicators and the underlying need to borrow; and
- Compliance with the limits in place for borrowing activity.

- 3.2 The table below shows the revised estimates for capital expenditure and the changes since the Capital Programme was agreed within the Capital budget on 6 March 2025

Capital Expenditure	2025/26 Original Budget Approved 6 March 2025 £m	2025/26 Revised Budget as at 30 September 2025 £m	Actual Spend as at 30 September 2025 £m
General Fund Expenditure	35.489	28.089	7.552
HRA Expenditure	23.295	18.734	4.626
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>58.784</b>	<b>46.823</b>	<b>12.178</b>
Financed By:			
Capital Receipts	3.639	1.440	0.375
Capital Grants & CIL	10.238	8.882	2.310

Capital Reserves	10.472	6.064	1.577
Revenue	2.574	2.731	0.710
<b>Total Financing</b>	<b>26.923</b>	<b>19.117</b>	<b>4.972</b>
<b>Borrowing Requirement</b>	<b>31.861</b>	<b>27.706</b>	<b>7.206</b>

- 3.3 The financing of the Capital Programme will be determined by the S151 Officer at the year-end based on best use of resources. The movement from the Budget approved 6 March 2025 relates to approved capital carry forward requests and approved variations to the capital programme as shown in the table below.

<b>Original Capital Budget Approved 2025/26</b>	<b>£58.784m</b>
Capital Slippages Carried Forward	£7.816m
Cabinet Approvals 8 July 2025	(£11.361m)
Cabinet Variations requested 3 December 24	(£8.417m)
<b>New Revised Budget</b>	<b>£46.823m</b>

#### 4.0 **Borrowing Strategy**

- 4.1 At 30 September 2025 the Council held £94.922m of loans, as part of its strategy for funding previous years' borrowing within those capital programmes.

#### 4.2 **Borrowing Activity in 2025/26**

	<b>General Fund</b>		<b>HRA</b>	
	<b>Balance on 01/04/2025 £m</b>	<b>Balance on 30/09/2025 £m</b>	<b>Balance on 01/04/2025 £m</b>	<b>Balance on 30/09/2025 £m</b>
Short Term Borrowing	0.901	1.184	0.000	0.000
Long Term Borrowing	3.500	3.500	105.397	104.379
<b>Total Borrowing</b>	<b>4.401</b>	<b>4.684</b>	<b>105.397</b>	<b>104.379</b>
Other Long-Term Liabilities	4.738	5.000	0.000	0.000
<b>Total External Debt</b>	<b>9.139</b>	<b>9.684</b>	<b>105.397</b>	<b>104.379</b>
CFR	63.910	51.874	119.165	117.164
<b>Under / (over) borrowing</b>	<b>54.771</b>	<b>42.191</b>	<b>13.768</b>	<b>12.2857</b>

- 4.3 As the Council is in a significant under borrowed position, as per the table in 4.2, there may be a requirement during the remainder of the financial year where new borrowing is required. Any new borrowing will be within the approved Treasury Management Borrowing Strategy framework and will have been reviewed by the S151 Officer for cost effectiveness as whether to borrow shorter term or long term in relation to interest rate forecasts.

- 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 last 6 months, none of which were exercised by the lender. The Council acknowledges

there is an element of refinancing risk even though in the current interest rate environment lenders are unlikely to exercise their options.

4.5 **Internal borrowing:** For the Council, the use of internal resources in lieu of borrowing has continued to be the most cost-effective means of funding of capital expenditure that has not been funded from grants and other resources. This has lowered overall treasury risk by reducing both external debt and temporary investments. However, this position will not be sustainable over the medium to longer term as the Council needs to use reserves for the purpose they were set aside for, and external borrowing may need to be undertaken.

4.6 **Debt rescheduling:** The premium charge for early repayment of PWLB debt remains relatively expensive for the loans in the Council's portfolio and therefore unattractive for debt rescheduling activity. No rescheduling activity was undertaken or is proposed during the rest of the financial year as a consequence.

## 5.0 Investment Activity

5.1 The Guidance on Local Government Investments in England gives priority to security and liquidity and the Council's aim is to achieve a return commensurate with these principles.

### 5.2 Investment Activity in 2025/26

Type of Investment	Balance on 01/04/202 5 £m	Balance on 30/09/202 5 £m	Average Interest Rate
<b>Short term Investments</b>			
<i>Fixed Term Deposits:</i>			
Santander	5.000	5.000	3.97%
Lloyds Call Account	6.000	6.000	4.28%
Standard Chartered Sustainable Deposit	3.000	3.000	4.40%
<i>Money Market Funds:</i>			
Goldman Sachs	0.310	0.310	4.18%
Deutsche Bank	0.535	1.591	4.19%
Invesco	11.835	12.000	4.26%
Northern Trust	7.608	10.973	4.26%
CCLA	2.240	2.240	4.39%
<b>Total Short Term Investments</b>	<b>36.528</b>	<b>41.114</b>	
Long term Investments			
CCLA Property Fund	7.000	7.000	4.33%
CCLA Diversified Income Fund	5.500	5.500	3.42%
<b>Total Long Term Investments</b>	<b>12.500</b>	<b>12.500</b>	
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>49.028</b>	<b>53.614</b>	
Increase/ (Decrease) in Investments		4.586	

5.3 Both the CIPFA Code and government guidance require the Council to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its treasury investments

before seeking the optimum rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.

## 6.0 **Non-Treasury Investments**

- 6.1 The definition of investments in CIPFA's revised Treasury Management Code now covers all the financial assets of the Council as well as other non-financial assets which the Council holds primarily for financial return or regeneration purposes. This is replicated in MLUHC's Investment Guidance, in which the definition of investments is further broadened to also include all such assets held partially for financial return or regeneration purposes.

Breakdown below of current Non-Treasury Investments held;

Counterpart	Balance at 30/09/2025 £m
Loans to Housing Associations	0.010
Loans to Parish Councils	0.009
Loan to Arkwood	6.867

- 6.2 These investments are due to generate £0.420m of investment income for the Council after taking account of direct costs, representing a rate of return of 6.11%.
- 6.3 **Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing.** This indicator is to limit large concentrations of fixed rate debt needing to be replaced at times of uncertainty over interest rates.

	Upper Limit %	Actual at 30/9/25 £m	Actual at 30/9/25 %	Compliance
Under 12 Months	25%	23.000	23.50%	Yes
12-24 Months	25%	6.000	6.13%	Yes
2-5 Years	40%	11.689	11.94%	Yes
5-10 Years	100%	6.325	6.46%	Yes
Over 10 Years	100%	50.865	51.97%	Yes

### **Limits to Investing Activity**

- 6.4 **Security.** The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit rating of its investment portfolio. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc.) and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

Credit risk indicator	Target	Actual	Compliance
Portfolio average credit rating	A	AA	Yes



- 6.5 **Liquidity Risk Indicator.** The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to liquidity risk by monitoring the amount of cash available to meet unexpected payments within a banding period, without additional borrowing.

Total Cash Available within;	Limit	Actual 30/09/25	Compliance
3 Months	100%	62%	Yes
3-12 Months	80%	15%	Yes
Over 12 Months	60%	23%	Yes

- 6.6 **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	Actual 30/09/25	Compliance
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£15m	£12.5m	Yes

#### 7.0 Limits to Capital Activity

- 7.1 **Capital Financing Requirement.** The table below shows the CFR, which is the underlying external need to incur borrowing for a capital purpose.

	2025/26 Original Estimate £m	2025/26 Revised Estimate £m
CFR – non housing	63.910	51.874
CFR – housing	119.165	117.164
<b>Total CFR</b>	<b>183.075</b>	<b>169.038</b>
<b>Estimated Net Movements in CFR</b>		<b>-14.037</b>

- 7.2 **Capital Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream.** Although capital expenditure is not charged directly to the revenue budget, interest payable on loans and MRP are charged to revenue, offset by any investment income receivable. The net annual charge is known as financing costs; this is compared to the net revenue stream i.e. the amount funded from Council Tax, business rates and general government grants.

	2025/26 Original Estimate £m	2025/26 Revised Estimate £m
<b>General Fund</b>		
Financing Costs	-1.299	-1.299
Proportion of net revenue stream	-5.14%	-5.14%
<b>Housing Revenue Account</b>		
Financing Costs	12.860	12.861

Proportion of net rental stream	41.98%	41.98%
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## 8.0 **Economic Background/Interest Rate Forecast**

8.1 **Appendix A and Appendix B** gives a summarised outlook for the economic background and interest rate forecast from our Treasury Consultants, Link.

## 9.0 **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.

Implications Considered			
Yes – relevant and included / NA – not applicable			
Financial	NA	Equality & Diversity	NA
Human Resources	NA	Human Rights	NA
Legal	NA	Data Protection	NA
Digital & Cyber Security	NA	Safeguarding	NA
Sustainability	NA	Crime & Disorder	NA
LGR	NA	Tenant Consultation	NA

## **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

## Economics Update

- The first half of 2025/26 saw:
  - A 0.3% pick up in GDP for the period April to June 2025. More recently, the economy flatlined in July, with higher taxes for businesses restraining growth.
  - The 3m/yy rate of average earnings growth excluding bonuses has fallen from 5.5% to 4.8% in July.
  - CPI inflation has ebbed and flowed but finished September at 3.8%, whilst core inflation eased to 3.6%.
  - The Bank of England cut interest rates from 4.50% to 4.25% in May, and then to 4% in August.
  - The 10-year gilt yield fluctuated between 4.4% and 4.8%, ending the half year at 4.70%.
- From a GDP perspective, the financial year got off to a bumpy start with the 0.3% m/m fall in real GDP in April as front-running of US tariffs in Q1 (when GDP grew 0.7% on the quarter) weighed on activity. Despite the underlying reasons for the drop, it was still the first fall since October 2024 and the largest fall since October 2023. However, the economy surprised to the upside in May and June so that quarterly growth ended up 0.3% q/q. Nonetheless, the 0.0% m/m change in real GDP in July will have caused some concern, with the hikes in taxes for businesses that took place in April this year undoubtedly playing a part in restraining growth. The weak overseas environment is also likely to have contributed to the 1.3% m/m fall in manufacturing output in July. That was the second large fall in three months and left the 3m/3m rate at a 20-month low of -1.1%. The 0.1% m/m rise in services output kept its 3m/3m rate at 0.4%, supported by stronger output in the health and arts/entertainment sectors. Looking ahead, ongoing speculation about further tax rises in the Autumn Budget on 26 November will remain a drag on GDP growth for a while yet. GDP growth for 2025 is forecast by Capital Economics to be 1.3%.
- Sticking with future economic sentiment, the composite Purchasing Manager Index for the UK fell from 53.5 in August to 51.0 in September. The decline was mostly driven by a fall in the services PMI, which declined from 54.2 to 51.9. The manufacturing PMI output balance also fell, from 49.3 to 45.4. That was due to both weak overseas demand (the new exports orders balance fell for the fourth month in a row) and the cyber-attack-induced shutdown at Jaguar Land Rover since 1 September reducing car production across the automotive supply chain. The PMIs suggest tepid growth is the best that can be expected when the Q3 GDP numbers are released.
- Turning to retail sales, and the 0.5% m/m rise in volumes in August was the third such rise in a row and was driven by gains in all the major categories except fuel sales, which fell by 2.0% m/m. Sales may have been supported by the warmer-than-usual weather. If sales were just flat in September, then in Q3 sales volumes would be up 0.7% q/q compared to the 0.2% q/q gain in Q2.
- With the November Budget edging nearer, the public finances position looks weak. Public net sector borrowing of £18.0bn in August means that after five months of the financial year, borrowing is already £11.4bn higher than the OBR forecast at the Spring Statement in March. The overshoot in the Chancellor's chosen fiscal mandate of the current budget is even greater with a cumulative deficit of £15.3bn. All this was due to

both current receipts in August being lower than the OBR forecast (by £1.8bn) and current expenditure being higher (by £1.0bn). Over the first five months of the financial year, current receipts have fallen short by a total of £6.1bn (partly due to lower-than-expected self-assessment income tax) and current expenditure has overshot by a total of £3.7bn (partly due to social benefits and departmental spending). Furthermore, what very much matters now is the OBR forecasts and their impact on the current budget in 2029/30, which is when the Chancellor's fiscal mandate bites. As a general guide, Capital Economics forecasts a deficit of about £18bn, meaning the Chancellor will have to raise £28bn, mostly through higher taxes, if she wants to keep her buffer against her rule of £10bn.

- The weakening in the jobs market looked clear in the spring. May's 109,000 m/m fall in the PAYE measure of employment was the largest decline (barring the pandemic) since the data began and the seventh in as many months. The monthly change was revised lower in five of the previous seven months too, with April's 33,000 fall revised down to a 55,000 drop. More recently, however, the monthly change was revised higher in seven of the previous nine months by a total of 22,000. So instead of falling by 165,000 in total since October, payroll employment is now thought to have declined by a smaller 153,000. Even so, payroll employment has still fallen in nine of the ten months since the Chancellor announced the rises in National Insurance Contributions (NICs) for employers and the minimum wage in the October Budget. The number of job vacancies in the three months to August stood at 728,000. Vacancies have now fallen by approximately 47% since its peak in April 2022. All this suggests the labour market continues to loosen, albeit at a declining pace.
- A looser labour market is driving softer wage pressures. The 3m/yy rate of average earnings growth excluding bonuses has fallen from 5.5% in April to 4.8% in July. The rate for the private sector slipped from 5.5% to 4.7%, putting it on track to be in line with the Bank of England's Q3 forecast (4.6% for September).
- CPI inflation fell slightly from 3.5% in April to 3.4% in May, and services inflation dropped from 5.4% to 4.7%, whilst core inflation also softened from 3.8% to 3.5%. More recently, though, inflation pressures have resurfaced, although the recent upward march in CPI inflation did pause for breath in August, with CPI inflation staying at 3.8%. Core inflation eased once more too, from 3.8% to 3.6%, and services inflation dipped from 5.0% to 4.7%. So, we finish the half year in a similar position to where we started, although with food inflation rising to an 18-month high of 5.1% and households' expectations for inflation standing at a six year high, a further loosening in the labour market and weaker wage growth may be a requisite to UK inflation coming in below 2.0% by 2027.
- An ever-present issue throughout the past six months has been the pressure being exerted on medium and longer dated gilt yields. The yield on the 10-year gilt moved sideways in the second quarter of 2025, rising from 4.4% in early April to 4.8% in mid-April following wider global bond market volatility stemming from the "Liberation Day" tariff announcement, and then easing back as trade tensions began to de-escalate. By the end of April, the 10-year gilt yield had returned to 4.4%. In May, concerns about stickier inflation and shifting expectations about the path for interest rates led to another rise, with the 10-year gilt yield fluctuating between 4.6% and 4.75% for most of May. Thereafter, as trade tensions continued to ease and markets increasingly

began to price in looser monetary policy, the 10-year yield edged lower, and ended Q2 at 4.50%.

- More recently, the yield on the 10-year gilt rose from 4.46% to 4.60% in early July as rolled-back spending cuts and uncertainty over Chancellor Reeves' future raised fiscal concerns. Although the spike proved short lived, it highlighted the UK's fragile fiscal position. In an era of high debt, high interest rates and low GDP growth, the markets are now more sensitive to fiscal risks than before the pandemic. During August, long-dated gilts underwent a particularly pronounced sell-off, climbing 22 basis points and reaching a 27-year high of 5.6% by the end of the month. While yields have since eased back, the market sell-off was driven by investor concerns over growing supply-demand imbalances, stemming from unease over the lack of fiscal consolidation and reduced demand from traditional long-dated bond purchasers like pension funds. For 10-year gilts, by late September, sticky inflation, resilient activity data and a hawkish Bank of England have kept yields elevated over 4.70%.
- The FTSE 100 fell sharply following the "Liberation Day" tariff announcement, dropping by more than 10% in the first week of April - from 8,634 on 1 April to 7,702 on 7 April. However, the de-escalation of the trade war coupled with strong corporate earnings led to a rapid rebound starting in late April. As a result, the FTSE 100 closed Q2 at 8,761, around 2% higher than its value at the end of Q1 and more than 7% above its level at the start of 2025. Since then, the FTSE 100 has enjoyed a further 4% rise in July, its strongest monthly gain since January and outperforming the S&P 500. Strong corporate earnings and progress in trade talks (US-EU, UK-India) lifted share prices and the index hit a record 9,321 in mid-August, driven by hopes of peace in Ukraine and dovish signals from Fed Chair Powell. September proved more volatile and the FTSE 100 closed Q3 at 9,350, 7% higher than at the end of Q1 and 14% higher since the start of 2025. Future performance will likely be impacted by the extent to which investors' global risk appetite remains intact, Fed rate cuts, resilience in the US economy, and AI optimism. A weaker pound will also boost the index as it inflates overseas earnings.

## Interest rate forecasts

## Appendix B

The Council has appointed MUFG Corporate Markets as its treasury advisors and part of their service is to assist the Council to formulate a view on interest rates. The PWLB rate forecasts below are based on the Certainty Rate (the standard rate minus 20 bps) which has been accessible to most authorities since 1st November 2012.

MUFG Corporate Markets' latest forecast on 11 August sets out a view that short, medium and long-dated interest rates will fall back over the next year or two, although there are upside risks in respect of the stickiness of inflation and a continuing tight labour market, as well as the size of gilt issuance.

MUFG Corporate Markets Interest Rate View 11.08.25													
	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27	Jun-27	Sep-27	Dec-27	Mar-28	Jun-28	Sep-28
<b>BANK RATE</b>	4.00	4.00	3.75	3.75	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25
<b>3 month ave earnings</b>	4.00	4.00	3.80	3.80	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30
<b>6 month ave earnings</b>	4.00	3.90	3.70	3.70	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.30	3.30	3.40	3.40	3.40
<b>12 month ave earnings</b>	4.00	3.90	3.70	3.70	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.30	3.40	3.50	3.60	3.60
<b>5 yr PWLB</b>	4.80	4.70	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.30	4.30	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.10	4.10
<b>10 yr PWLB</b>	5.30	5.20	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.80	4.80	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.60	4.60
<b>25 yr PWLB</b>	6.10	5.90	5.70	5.70	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.40	5.40	5.30	5.30	5.30	5.20
<b>50 yr PWLB</b>	5.80	5.60	5.40	5.40	5.30	5.30	5.30	5.20	5.20	5.10	5.10	5.00	5.00



Report to: Meeting of the Full Council: 10 February 2026

Committee Chair: Councillor Sylvia Michael, Audit & Accounts Committee

Director Lead: Sanjiv Kohli, Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Resources and S151 Officer

Lead Officer: Nick Wilson, Business Manager – Financial Services, Ext 5317

Report Summary	
<b>Report Title</b>	Audit & Accounts (Governance) Committee Annual Report
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To inform Members of the activity undertaken by the Audit and Governance Committee between 25 September 2024 and 2 July 2025.
<b>Recommendations</b>	That Full Council note the report.
<b>Reason for Recommendation</b>	To ensure that the Committee discharges its responsibilities as per its delegated authority within the Councils Constitution.

## **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 As part of the bi-annual review of the effectiveness of the Audit & Accounts Committee which was undertaken during July 2019, an action plan was presented to the Audit & Accounts Committee at the meeting in November 2019. One of the actions identified within that plan was to produce an annual report of the activity of the Audit & Accounts Committee.
- 1.2 Section 7.2 of Part C of the Constitution sets out the terms of reference for the Committee. This report details how the Committee has discharged those responsibilities throughout the year. The Council will be aware that during this time period the Committee remit fell to the Audit & Governance Committee.

## **2.0 Activity undertaken during the year**

- 2.1 During the year, the Committee discharged its responsibilities as described within the Constitution as follows:

## **25 September 2024**

- 2.2 Members were updated with the forecast outturn position for the 2024/25 financial year for the Council's General Fund and Housing Revenue Account revenue and capital budgets and to show performance against the approved estimates of revenue expenditure and income.
- 2.3 The Members were provided with a summary of Internal Audit work undertaken during 2024/25 against the agreed audit plan.
- 2.4 Members were informed of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman annual review updates.
- 2.5 An overview was provided of the of the circumstances of making a self-referral to the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) for a breach of the Home Standard for failures in the Council's HRA Gas Servicing Programme.
- 2.6 The Members approved updates and revisions to the Council's Arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct Complaints regarding Councillors.

## **11 December 2024**

- 2.7 Internal Audit provided a summary of Internal Audit work undertaken during 2024/25 against the agreed audit plan.
- 2.8 The External Auditor's Progress Report was presented for Newark and Sherwood District Council for 2023/24.
- 2.9 The Members noted the activity undertaken by the Audit and Governance Committee between 27 September 2023 and 31 July 2024. The report provided a summary of the activities, to then be taken to February's Full Council.
- 2.10 The update gave the forecast outturn position for the 2024/25 financial year for the Council's General Fund and Housing Revenue Account revenue and capital budgets. The report showing performance against the approved estimates of revenue expenditure and income. The report was provided to Members as a slimdown version as it had already been to Cabinet.
- 2.11 Update on the Council's Treasury Activity and Prudential Indicators for the first half of 2024/25. The report advised no breach to indicators and to expect interest rate levels to go down.
- 2.12 The Committee also received reports on:
  - Outcome of Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Investigation
  - Outcome of Housing Ombudsman Investigation
  - Housing Ombudsman Annual Review Update
  - Strategic Risk Management
  - Update on the LGA Newark and Sherwood District Council Cyber 360 Report
  - Government Consultation – Enabling Remote Attendance and Proxy Voting at Local Authority Meetings



- Review of the Council's Constitution
- Review of Policies – Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy, Guidance for Dealing with Irregularities and Anti-Money Laundering Policy
- Conduct and Public Service
- Annual Report Detailing Exempt Reports considered by the Audit & Governance Committee

## **19 February 2025**

- 2.13 Members took part in a survey with reported outcomes, completed by 20 Members out of 39. Members gave approval for Officers to undertake work to develop an action plan.
- 2.14 The Committee considered the customer feedback report to be able to see what complaints were being submitted across the organisation for half year 1, the Committee noted the report and recommended PPIC conduct a performance review for any areas of concern.
- 2.15 The Members were provided with a summary of Internal Audit work undertaken during 2024/25 against the agreed audit plan.
- 2.16 The External Auditor's Annual Audit Completion Report for Newark and Sherwood District Council for 2023/24 was presented by Mazars, Mark Surridge.
- 2.17 The Annual Audit Report confirmed that the External Auditor anticipates issuing an unqualified opinion of the 2023/24 Statement of Accounts. Approval of the Statement of Accounts by this Committee was being taken elsewhere on the agenda.
- 2.18 The final version of the Statement of Accounts, having brought the draft to the Audit & Governance Committee on 31 July 2024.
- 2.19 Members were provided with reports which had been approved at Cabinet on 18 February 2025.
- 2.20 The Committee considered a report seeking approval to the Capital Strategy 2025/26, this incorporated the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and Capital Prudential Indicators, updated in accordance with latest guidance.

The Committee approved the key elements and recommended these to Full Council on 6 March 2025 while noting that as the budgets were still being finalised and some of the figures within the Strategy were advised may alter.

- 2.21 The Committee also received reports on:
- Investment Strategy 2025/26
  - Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26
  - Review of Significant Issues in the Annual Governance Statement
  - Whistleblowing Policy Annual Report
  - Gifts and Hospitality Annual Report
  - Whistleblowing Policy Annual Report
  - Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) – Annual Report
  - Code of Conduct – Update and Government Consultation

## **16 April 2025**

- 2.22 The Committee considered a report presenting the External Audit Strategy Memorandum for the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts work for Members to review. The External Audit Strategy Memorandum at Appendix A of the report set out the proposed work of the Council's external auditors for 2024/25, relating to the audit of the financial statements and the commentary on the Council's Value for Money arrangements.
- 2.23 The report highlighted that in accordance with the Risk Management Policy, a facilitated strategic risk workshop was undertaken with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) in February 2025. This workshop evaluated all existing strategic risks and identified emerging risks for the forth coming year.
- 2.24 The report provided an update to the forecast outturn position for the 2024/25 financial year for the Council's General Fund and Housing Revenue Account revenue and capital budgets, showing performance against the approved estimates of revenue expenditure and income.
- 2.25 The Committee were provided with updates to the Council's accounting policies in relation to the closedown of the 2024/2025 financial year.
- 2.26 The Committee also received reports on:
- Underlying Pension Assumptions for 2024/2025 Statement of Accounts
  - Underlying Valuation Assumptions for 2024/2025 Statement of Accounts
  - Counter-Fraud Activities form 1 May 2024 to 31 March 2025
  - Fraud Risk Assessment

## **7 May 2025**

- 2.27 The Committee reviewed the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, to approve the revisions where appropriate and recommend to Council for adoption.
- 2.28 The Committee reviewed the Council's Financial Procedure Rules, to approve the revisions where appropriate and recommend to Council for adoption.
- 2.29 Members were informed of the outcome of an investigation where the Ombudsman found fault with the Council. The report advised that Corporate ASB training has been added to the 2025/2026 programme and will include the lessons learnt from this determination. Training will take place following the implementation of the new housing management system in May 2025.
- 2.30 Members were informed of the outcome of another investigation where the Ombudsman found fault with the Council. The report highlighted that findings of maladministration are published regularly on the Housing Ombudsman Service website along with spotlight reports which focus on specific issues or service areas to raise awareness and help landlords improve.
- 2.31 The Committee were provided with the recommendations from the Local Government Association Peer Challenge that had been delegated to Audit & Governance Committee. Amendments and updates endorsed by this Committee to be recommended to Full Council for approval at the Annual Meeting in May and the

Council's Independent Remuneration Panel will be asked to undertake a review in respect of any changes in Committee Terms of Reference.

- 2.32 The report provided progress on implementation of the Full Council resolution 'Conduct and Public Service' made on 15 October 2024.

## **2 July 2025**

- 2.33 The Internal Auditors provided a summary of Internal Audit work undertaken during 2024/25 and to support the Annual Governance Statement by providing an opinion on the organisation's governance, risk, financial and internal control environment.
- 2.34 The External Auditors provided an Audit Progress report for 2024/25 and they advised the Committee that progress to mid-June had no issues to note.
- 2.35 The Going Concern Status of the Council is assessed by the Section 151 Officer of the Council and is required for the preparation and approval of the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2025.
- 2.36 The Members were provided with provisional 2024/25 financial outturn position on the Council's revenue and capital budgets, as well as showing the performance against the approved estimates of revenue and capital expenditure and income.
- 2.37 The Committee were able to review the Annual Treasury Outturn report, to be presented to Council on 21 October 2025. There were no breaches of the approved prudential indicators during 2024/25 and further information was provided in Section 6 of Appendix A of the report.
- 2.38 The Committee considered the report to consider terms of reference and membership for two new Committees – Audit & Accounts Committee and Governance, General Purposes & Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Committee which will replace this Committee as per the Full Council decision taken on 20 May 2025.

## **3.0 Conclusion**

- 3.1 As can be seen from the account of the year, the Committee has discharged its responsibilities as per the Constitution.
- 3.2 The Committee has continued to add value to the organisation, in continuing with the independent member to the Committee. Adding skills to the Committee which benefit the whole organisation as further scrutiny over the reports presented to the Committee is achieved.

## **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.

<b>Implications Considered</b>			
<b>Yes – relevant and included / NA – not applicable</b>			
Financial	NA	Equality & Diversity	NA
Human Resources	NA	Human Rights	NA
Legal	NA	Data Protection	NA
Digital & Cyber Security	NA	Safeguarding	NA
Sustainability	NA	Crime & Disorder	NA
LGR	NA	Tenant Consultation	NA

### **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 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 December 2025 at 18.23 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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor S Haynes

325 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.

326 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillor J Kellas declared an interest in item 13- Community Grant Scheme Update as the report detailed grants awarded to Nottinghamshire Scouts, of which he was a Trustee but had taken no part in any grant applications.

327 MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING 11 NOVEMBER 2025 AND 26 NOVEMBER 2025

The minutes from the meeting held on 11 November and 26 November 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

328 CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Leader of the Council drew the attention of the Cabinet to the projects included in the East Midlands Mayoral Authority Growth Strategy which were located in the Newark and Sherwood Area. These included large investment projects in Ollerton and Yorke Drive, Newark.

329 HOUSING COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE REPORT - QUARTER 2

The Business Manager Building Safety & Asset Investment was welcomed to his first Cabinet meeting, to present the Housing Compliance report for quarter 2. The report and associated appendices set out the Council's performance against the Council's legal and regulatory landlord responsibilities for a range of building safety measures including fire protection, gas, asbestos, electrical and water. The Cabinet heard how monitoring had been undertaken and subsequent mitigation works to achieve the required performance targets.

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.

This links to two ambitions in our Community Plan:

**Ambition 2:** Increase the supply of housing, in particular decent homes that residents can afford to buy and rent, as well as improving housing standards and,

**Ambition 7:** Be a top performing, modern and accessible Council that get its everyday services right for the residents and businesses that it serves

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

Councillor L. Brazier left the meeting following consideration of this item.

330 BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT- QUARTER 2

The Assistant Business Manager - Financial Services, presented a report which detailed the forecast outturn position for the 2025/26 financial year for the Council's General Fund and Housing Revenue Account revenue and capital budgets, which detailed 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.

The Cabinet considered details of the favourable and unfavourable variances reported, detailed in tables one and two of the report, and the HRA revenue outturn in table three of the report. The Council had been fully compliant with all prudential indicators during the reporting period.

In discussion, Members considered resource provision for the Monitoring Officer function following implementation of the new working arrangements, which would be kept under review.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

- (a) note the General Fund projected favourable outturn variance of £0.062m;
- (b) note the Housing Revenue Account projected unfavourable outturn variance of £0.201m to the Major Repairs Reserve;

- (c) approve the variations to the Capital Programme at Appendix E;
- (d) approve the Capital Programme revised budget and financing of £46.823m; and
- (e) note the Prudential indicators at Appendix H.

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.

331 COMMUNITY PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTER 2

The Transformation and Service Improvement Officer presented a report which detailed the Quarter 2 Community Plan Performance Report (July to September 2025). The report and accompanying presentation highlighted performance across a number of performance indicators and work in progress and planned in mitigation to achieve performance targets. Members considered re-let times for voids in depth, and the performance of the leisure services.

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

332 COST OF LIVING UPDATE

The Business Manager- Healthy Place was in attendance to provide an update on the delivery of proposals to assist tenants and residents with the rise in the cost of living. The report detailed actions undertaken and the proposed activities for activity in 2026/27. Members noted the report and welcomed the work to support residents.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

- a) Approves the budget proposed for 2026/27 over the activities as described in Section 3 of the report, to be financed by £100,000 added into GF budgets and £30,000 from the HRA unallocated efficiency savings; and
- b) Agrees that any underspend within a project can be distributed amongst the pre-agreed projects to enhance delivery.

Reasons for Decision:

To support tenants and residents with the ongoing cost of living challenges.

Options Considered:

The alternative option includes not providing an additional budget and programme specially to address issues resulting from the cost-of-living crisis. This has been discounted due to the council's desire to support those residents most in need, with a focus for the coming year of support on meeting basic needs for the most vulnerable.

333 14 MARKET PLACE, NEWARK

The Asset Manager- Corporate Property was in attendance to provide an update on the tenancy of 14 Market Place, Newark. Members heard that since the December 2024 report considered and agreed by Cabinet, discussions had been ongoing with the potential end users of the ground floor part of the building for the proposed Community Hub. This included discussions with Lincoln College Group (LCG) and the Nottingham CVS who after viewing the property and plans decided against taking a tenancy at 14 Market Place due to the building not being large enough to incorporate their plans. Despite best efforts which included representations to, and by, the Newark Towns Board, it had not been possible to secure a tenant to manage and operate the ground floor throughout the week as a Community Hub. Having exhausted that option, it was proposed to market and let the ground floor space on commercial terms.

AGREED (with 6 for and 1 abstention) that Cabinet approve:

- a) the conversion of the designated community space within 14 Market Place, Newark to a commercial use; and
- b) delegated authority be given to the Deputy Chief Executive/Director - Resources to enter into a future lease once a tenant has been identified.

Reasons for Decision:

To ensure the continued utilisation of 14 Market Place as a commercial and residential asset, supporting the Council's town centre strategy and maximising the value of a key property within the Council's portfolio.

Options Considered:

Potential tenants such as Lincoln College Group and CVS were considered but



ultimately declined due to the space not meeting their operational requirements.

334 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING FUNDING (KEY DECISION)

The Business Manager Planning Policy & Infrastructure was in attendance to present a report which set out the current situation regarding neighbourhood plan funding for Parish and Town Councils and set out options for future funding. It was proposed that the District Council and Locality work with interested Neighbourhood Planning Bodies to scope out what they aim to achieve and seek to establish potential costs. Once this work was done, consideration can be given to how funding could be secured.

Members welcomed the report and proposals to work with parish councils and parish meetings.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- (a) Cabinet agree that the District Council and Locality work with interested NPBs to scope out what they aim to achieve and seek to establish potential costs; and
- (b) following the appraisal of potential resource implications, the District Council work with Neighbourhood Planning Bodies and Locality to identify potential funding sources.

Reasons for Decision:

To allow officers to consider alternative funding approaches for Neighbourhood Plans.

Options Considered:

None - supporting Town & Parish Council's in Neighbourhood Planning is a statutory responsibility.

335 INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING STATEMENT (KEY DECISION)

The Business Manager - Planning Policy & Infrastructure was in attendance to present a report to update Cabinet on matters set out in the 2024/25 (the reported year) Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS); and to seek approval to amend current CIL procedures. Members noted it was a national requirement for the District Council to publish an annual Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) setting out the current position on developer contributions. The 2025 IFS had been finalised and appended to the report for Members.

The report also set out a procedure for spending the meaningful proportion of CIL monies for Parish Meetings.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

- a) approve the publication of the Infrastructure Funding Statement, which has been produced in accordance with the legislative requirements, before the end of the calendar year;

- b) approve payment of the CIL meaningful proportion to Town and Parish Councils once per annum. This process to commerce for monies collected in the financial year 2025/2026;
- c) approve the proposed guidance note at Appendix C for Town and Parish Councils, regarding CIL Meaningful proportion including informing them of their legal duty to produce an annual report on CIL receipts, CIL Spend, and CIL monies held in their account; and
- d) approve the proposed procedures set out at paragraph 2.13 and 2.14 for the spend of CIL for Parish Meetings and Parishes with no meetings.

Reasons for Decision:

To ensure that the District Council is operating in accordance with the requirements of the Community Infrastructure Regulations.

To deliver resource efficiencies by reducing the administrative burden for Newark & Sherwood District Council To provide guidance on various aspects of CIL Meaningful Proportion Spend.

Options Considered:

None, there is a statutory requirement to publish the IFS by the end of the calendar year.

To not make an amendment to the payment of the CIL meaningful proportion to Town and Parish Councils.

### 336 COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME UPDATE

The Business Manager- Healthy Places was in attendance to present the annual report on the Community Grant scheme delivery for 2025-26 and budget setting proposals for 2026-27. The first round of the community grant scheme for 2025-26 received 44 applications of which 20 were successfully allocated a grant. The grant scheme was heavily oversubscribed with request for support totalling over £370k, over three times the amount available for allocation. Due to the demand on the scheme, it was proposed that Cabinet increase the budget for 2026-27 to £150,000 to continue the community grant scheme (inclusive of the £6086.71 underspend for 2025-26).

Members considered the eligibility criteria for grants and agreed to amend 3.3 in the report to the following :-

- Applicants can only secure grant once in a three-year period
- Where there are applications from multiple branches of an umbrella organisation, that are not separately constituted, only one allocation will be made in any three-year period.
- That where elected councillors are members of/ affiliated with groups receiving grant, all grants will be conditioned to ensure that there is no political gain

through grant or associated publicity.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

- c) notes the delivery of the Community Grant Scheme in 2025-26 to date;
- d) approves an increase to the current budget of £43,610 up to £150,000 for the 2026-2027 Community Grant Scheme; and
- e) approves the changes to the Community Grant Scheme eligibility criteria as detailed in section 3.3 of the report, subject to the second bullet point reading as follows:

Where there are applications from multiple branches of an umbrella organisation, that are not separately constituted, only one allocation will be made in any three-year period.

Reasons for Decision:

To ensure that funding can be allocated to community groups – supporting communities to be sustainable and thrive.

Options Considered:

To withdraw the community grant scheme. This alternative has been discounted due to the demonstrable positive impact the scheme has on the local community – empowering local groups and developing community capacity and resilience.

Meeting closed at 8.15 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, 20 January 2026 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor P Peacock (Chair)

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor N Allen, Councillor J Hall, Councillor S Haynes, Councillor R Holloway, Councillor S Michael, Councillor P Rainbow and Councillor K Roberts

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor S Forde

### 337 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.

### 338 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Sanjiv Kohli - Director - Resources and Deputy Chief Executive declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 8 - Arkwood Loan Facility, as a Director of Arkwood Developments.

### 339 MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2025

The minutes from the meeting held on 9 December 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### 340 CHAIR'S UPDATE

There was no Chair's update, however the Cabinet paid tribute to former Councillor Laurence Goff who had passed away the previous week.

### 341 CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE PROGRESS REVIEW OUTCOME

The Business Manager - Transformation & Service Improvement introduced a report which presented the findings of the Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge following the progress review return visit by the Peer Challenge Team from 11 to 12 December 2025.

The Team met selected groups of officers for discussions on the Council's progress against the original recommendations from their initial visit in October 2024. The full findings of the Progress Review were set out in Appendix C to the report. The report again highlighted several strengths while also encouraging the Council to continue making improvements.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet review and note the Peer Team's feedback and associated appendices of the report.

Reasons for Decision:

The Peer Team's feedback offers an independent view of how the Council is performing including areas where it can strengthen its approach. Reflecting on this feedback helps ensure the Council continues to improve, stays focused on delivering for residents and remains aligned to its strategic priorities.

Options Considered:

Not applicable.

342 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT FOR TERMINALLY ILL RESIDENTS

The Business Manager - Financial Services presented a report which recommended the establishment of a discretionary Council Tax Relief Scheme to support households facing the hardship of living with a terminally ill family member.

Four options for such a scheme were presented to the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee at their meeting held on 1 December 2025. The Committee endorsed and recommended option 3 to the Cabinet which was to develop a scheme to provide 100% council tax relief to all households who were in receipt of relief through the local council tax relief scheme (LCTR) within Newark & Sherwood District impacted by having a relative living in the household who had been diagnosed as receiving end of life care. This option aligned with the recommendation of the Marie Curie charity and was estimated to cost between £33,005 and £49,507 per year and it was recommended that the budget for 2026/27 be set at £50,000.

The Cabinet welcomed the report and were hopeful that this would act as a catalyst for other local authorities to adopt similar schemes. It was requested that an update on the implementation of the scheme be brought to the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee and Cabinet as appropriate.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet approve:

- a) Option 3 as detailed in paragraph 2.4.3 of the report; and
- b) the Discretionary Council Tax Relief Scheme to support households facing the hardship of living with a terminally ill family member, as set out at Appendix A to the report.

Reasons for Decision:

The recommended option supports the recommendation of Marie Curie to develop schemes to provide support to households on a low income that include someone living with a terminal illness. The recommended option is affordable to the Council, as identified in the report and the financial implications.

The recommended option aligns to Ambition 3 in the Community Plan to 'Improve health and wellbeing, with an emphasis on communities with lower levels of life expectancy'.

Options Considered:

Option 1 - 100% council tax relief to all households within the district impacted by having a relative living in the household who has been diagnosed as receiving end-of-life care.

Option 2 - 100% council tax relief to all households within the district impacted by having a relative who has been diagnosed as receiving end-of-life care. This would be provided irrespective of where the individual who has been diagnosed lives.

Option 3 - 100% council tax relief to all households who are in receipt of relief through the local council tax relief scheme (LCTR) within the district impacted by having a relative living in the household who has been diagnosed as receiving end-of-life care.

Option 4 - Develop a scheme to provide 100% council tax relief to all households who are in receipt of relief through the local council tax relief scheme (LCTR) within the district where the council tax liable party, subject to the LCTR claim, has been diagnosed as receiving end-of-life care.

343 ARKWOOD LOAN FACILITY AGREEMENT (KEY DECISION)

The Business Manager - Financial Services presented a report which provided an update on the current credit facility with Arkwood Developments Ltd. and sought approval to extend the loan cap to accommodate the company's current development programme. It was noted that there was an exempt report which contained commercially sensitive information which had been redacted from the open version.

In order to accommodate the current developments progressing, there was a need to increase the maximum permitted facility. Currently the maximum amount that could be loaned to the company was £11,408,071. Based on Arkwood's forecast Medium Term Financial Plan, they were expecting a spike in borrowing requirement which was forecast to be in excess of the current facility cap over the next half year. There was a need to increase the current cap to a proposed £25m. The £25m included head room of £3.787m against the current forecast maximum point, meaning should sales receipts not materialise, or earlier than expected spend occur, there was sufficient head room within the agreement to accommodate the additional borrowing requirement.

The Cabinet considered the risks around increasing the loan facility but these were mitigated by way of a debenture on all assets of the company and performance will be continued to be monitored by the Executive Shareholder Committee.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet approve:

- a) the additional £13,591,929 to be added to the Capital programme, making a total capital budget of £25m;
- b) the variation to the Facility Agreement to accommodate the power to vary the agreement and the extension to the cap on the facility from £12m to £25m; and

- c) subject to the subsidy control advice, to delegate responsibility to the Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Performance & Finance to amend the Facility Agreement to ensure the agreement remains subsidy control compliant.

Reasons for Decision:

To ensure that the Council's wholly owned company are able to meet their contractual commitments and complete the existing developments. This aligns with Ambition two within the Council's Community Plan ensuring which has a specific action relating to 'Develop new homes for open market sale or rent through Arkwood Developments Ltd'.

Options Considered:

Should the recommendation not be approved, this would impact on Arkwood's ability to be able to progress the sites they are contractually obliged to complete and would force the company to seek external finance.

344 THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE COUNCIL'S LEISURE FACILITIES UNDER AN AGENCY MODEL (KEY DECISION)

The Senior Accountant presented a report which sought approval for moving to an agency model of delivery for leisure services by Active 4 Today Ltd (A4T). The current contractual arrangements with A4T reflected a long-established and widely adopted model for leisure outsourcing within local authorities which was considered the most VAT-efficient at the time.

Following consultation with our tax advisors and legal specialists it was being proposed to amend the existing Leisure Management Agreement between the Council and A4T. The proposed restructure would designate the Council as the 'Principal' in the agreement, with A4T acting as 'Agent' on its behalf. This change would mean that income generated by the leisure centres would be treated as income belonging to the Council and therefore included in the Council's VAT returns. As a result, VAT that was previously irrecoverable (in the region of £236,000) could now be recovered going forward. The Council would, in turn, pay a management fee to A4T to cover the costs of operating the services.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

- a) approve a change to the Leisure Management Agreement between Newark & Sherwood District Council and Active 4 Today such that the company becomes an 'Agent' of the Council in the delivery of Leisure Services; and
- b) delegated authority be given to the Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Resources and S151 Officer to vary the existing contract to an Agency Model arrangement and enter into all necessary agreements to implement the proposals.

Reasons for Decision:

This opportunity follows the successful litigation taken by Chelmsford City Council (and others) "the Chelmsford ruling"). The ruling confirmed as being non-business all supplies of local authority leisure services that were previously taxable (liable to VAT at the zero rate, reduced or standard rate) or VAT exempt are now non-business.

Options Considered:

That the Council would continue under the existing contract with Active 4 Today acting as Principal and therefore would continue to incur irrecoverable VAT.

345 EQUALITY, EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION STRATEGY - REVIEW AND REVISED STRATEGY

The Business Manager - Transformation & Service Improvement presented a report which provided the Cabinet with an update following a review of the Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and sought approval for the revised Strategy. The last strategy covered the period for 2021-23 and the revised strategy was attached as Appendix A to the report.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

- a) note the changes made to the Council's Equality, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EEDI) approach; and
- b) approve the revised Strategy, attached as Appendix A to the report.

Reasons for Decision:

The previous EEDI Strategy was developed in 2019 and the Council have experienced significant changes in workforce, commitments and legislation since this time. Whilst the Council have maintained their commitment to operating within the framework of the Public Sector Duty, due to these changes the Strategy and associated documentation was overdue a review. This has now been completed and is presented for approval.

Options Considered:

None, a District Council must maintain a current EEDI Strategy to comply with legal duties under the Equality Act 2010, demonstrate its commitment to fairness and inclusion, and reduce risks of reputational and operational harm. It ensures policies and services are equitable, fostering trust and engagement across the community.

346 LIFE CHANCES FOR GIRLS

The Transformation & Service Improvement Officer presented a report which set out the findings from the work of the Life Chances for Girls Working Group that was established by the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee. The Chair of the Working Party, Councillor K Roberts, also provided the Cabinet with a summary of what they had achieved. The recommendations of the Working Group were set out in Appendix 3 to the report, and these had been recommended to the Cabinet by the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee at their meeting held on 12 January



2026.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

- a) note the findings and recommendations of the Working Group; and
- b) endorse the recommendations as outlined in Appendix 3 to the report.

Reasons for Decision:

To ensure that the findings of the Life Chances for Girls Working Group are formally acknowledged and acted upon. This is in addition to Policy Performance and Improvement Committee, which will be presented the report on 12 January 2026.

By noting the outcomes and endorsing the recommendations, Cabinet can also support targeted actions that improve opportunities and outcomes for girls. This will be whilst working with our partners who can contribute to improving the life chances for girls. This approach demonstrates a commitment to addressing identified challenges and supports a number of the Council's Community Plan ambitions.

Options Considered:

The decision could have been to dismiss the topic request and not establish the Life Chances for Girls Working Group.

347 PARKS AND OPEN SPACES DEVELOPMENT PLAN (KEY DECISION)

The Director - Communities & Environment presented a report which put forward a programme which would further improve parks and open spaces across the district. The Parks and Open Spaces Development Plan included the creation of a fund specifically for town and parish councils with the aim of improving facilities. The proposal was to create a £100,000 fund for town and parish councils to submit matched funding bids of up to £10,000 for investment in parks, play equipment and open spaces within their area. A formal grant application process would need to be established for this grant funding as well as award criteria.

In addition, there were a number of sites within the Councils ownership that presented opportunities for new planting and features as well as future development into Green Flag parks. The outline proposals for the various sites identified were detailed in the report.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

- a) endorse the allocation of £100,000 in 2026/27 for parks and open spaces legacy fund for Town and Parish Councils to bid into on a match-funded basis, to drive improvement in parks and open spaces across the district, and delegate authority for the implementation and administration of the fund to the Director - Communities & Environment in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate and the Environment;

- b) agree that £30,000 is committed within the budget for 2026/27, to enable investment in a number of Council-owned sites which have the potential for future development, including some for future Green Flag status;
- c) agree that three strategic sites are identified for potentially significant investment in new facilities, with consultation due to take place about those developments within 2026/27; and
- d) once c) above is complete, to bring a report back to Cabinet in 2026/27 about detailed development at those sites, together with a funding package, for delivery in 27/28 – the last operating year of NSDC ahead of Local Government Reorganisation.

Reasons for Decision:

The recommendations align with the Community Plan objectives in relation to health and wellbeing, protecting and enhancing the environment and promoting community spirit. The proposals are also in line with resident feedback as evidenced through the latest resident survey and the increasing importance being placed on parks and open spaces.

Options Considered:

Given the growing importance residents attach to parks and open spaces, doing nothing was not deemed a viable option. In the context of LGR, future decisions about investment in parks and open spaces in Newark and Sherwood will be taken by a new entity with a much broader geographical footprint and set of delivery responsibilities. Cabinet could choose to press on with developments at the three strategic sites in 2026/27 but given the potential costs it is deemed prudent to understand community support and explore sources of funding that may be available. There is no requirement to create a Town and Parish Council Park Legacy Fund, but this would fail to address the reality that many parks and open spaces across the district are not owned by NSDC and would be a missed opportunity to facilitate improvement in these valued facilities.

348 2026/27 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET AND RENT SETTING (KEY DECISION)

The Business Managers - Financial Services and Housing Income & Leasehold Management presented a report which examined the proposed income and expenditure on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the 2026/27 financial year for both revenue and capital, in accordance with Section 76 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The report also provided indicative amounts of income and expenditure for the 2026/27 to 2029/30 financial years for both revenue and capital income and expenditure, and proposed rent levels and service charges for 2026/27, with effect from the first Monday in April 2026.

The setting of the HRA budget and the approval of rent levels would be presented to the Full Council Meeting in February 2025, which would allow the required time to notify tenants of proposed changes to rents in accordance with the legislation.

AGREED (with 6 votes for and 1 abstention) that Cabinet recommend to Council at its meeting on 10 February 2026:

- a) the HRA budget for 2026/27, as set out in Appendix A to the report;
- b) an increase of 4.8% in the 2026/27 rents of all current HRA tenancies will be applied from 6 April 2026;
- c) the 2026/27 service charges, as set out in Appendix C to the report; and
- d) the Capital Budget set out in Appendix D to the report are committed expenditure in the Capital Programme for 2026/27 to 2029/30.

Reasons for Decision:

To advise Members of the proposed HRA budget and charges in rent and service charge levels for 2026/27 and for these to be recommended to Council at its meeting on 10 February 2026.

Options Considered:

Various modelling was undertaken to assess the impact of different rent levels on the viability of the HRA 30-year business plan to arrive at the recommendation above.

Consideration was also given to varying increases between general needs and supported (sheltered and extra care) accommodation, but no rationale was found to support this, alongside the equitable nature of any decision to do so.

349 CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND POLICY REVIEW

The Safety, Risk & Insurance Manager presented a report which sought approval for the Corporate Risk Management Strategy and Policy which had been subject to recent review by officers. The purpose of the strategy was to ensure that suitable systems were in place to manage significant risks. The revised policy was attached as Appendix A to the report.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet review and approve the updated Corporate Risk Management Strategy and Policy as attached at Appendix A to the report.

Reasons for Decision:

To ensure the Council has a current policy, therefore ensuring the continued management of risk within the Council in accordance with its policies.

Options Considered:

If deemed unsuitable, Cabinet should provide feedback and not approve the revised policy.

350 BILSTHORPE VILLAGE HALL COMPLEX - CAPITAL CONTRIBUTION

In accordance with Section 100(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair has agreed to take this item as a late item of business to enable the Bilsthorpe Village Hall Complex to progress without delay.

The Business Manager - Healthy Places presented a report which sought approval for a capital contribution towards the delivery of the Bilsthorpe Village Hall complex. Bilsthorpe Parish Council secured UK Shared Prosperity Fund grant in 2022-23 which was used to undertake a community asset report which recommended a new community hub, rationalising the existing community assets (the Miners Welfare, museum, and village hall) into one central, fit for purpose, asset. The parish council went onto commission architects to develop proposals for a community village which culminated in the submission of a planning application for the construction of a new parish hall, new multi-use games area outdoor court, new phased playground, bin and bicycle store and new car park.

It was proposed that the District Council provides a capital contribution of £1m from reserves towards the delivery of the Village Hall Complex. It is further proposed that this capital contribution was made available from 2026-27, with a schedule for draw down, spend by dates and outputs and outcome delivery to be contractually agreed through an agreed business case and programme.

Councillor R Holloway as the local Ward Member attended the Cabinet to set out her support for the project.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

- a) approve the creation of capital budget within the Capital Programme 2026-27 of up to £1,299,097.16 financed by £1,000,000 from the Change Management Reserve and £299,097.16 S106 Contributions listed in the table at paragraph 2.4 of the report; and
- b) approve that grant be released following the submission of a business case by Bilsthorpe Parish Council which would be subject to approval by the Council's Section 151 Officer in agreement with the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Community Relations.

Reasons for Decision:

The Community Plan has a specific action within the Portfolio for Public Protection and Community Relations to 'work alongside Bilsthorpe Parish Council and other partners, to continue to support the development of the Bilsthorpe Community Hub'.

Options Considered:

The option to not support Bilsthorpe Parish Council with a capital contribution has been discounted, reflecting the project's priority with the District Council's Community Plan, and the opportunity to improve outcomes for the residents of Bilsthorpe through the provision of a village hall complex that meets needs now and in the future.

Meeting closed at 7.40 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, 12 January 2026 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 Jackson, Councillor  
D Moore, Councillor P Rainbow, Councillor K Roberts, Councillor  
K Smith, Councillor T Thompson and Councillor T Wendels

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor N Allen

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor R Holloway

177 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.

178 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillor A Freeman declared an Other Registerable Interest in Agenda Item No. 8 – Life Chances for Girls - Final Report and Recommendations as a Chair of the Board of Directors for Active4Today.

179 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 DECEMBER 2025

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

180 EQUALITY, EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION REVIEW AND REVISED STRATEGY

The Committee considered the report presented by the Business Manager – Transformation & Service Improvement which sought to update Members on the progress made through the review of the Council's Equality, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EEDI) Strategy with the revised Strategy being attached as Appendix A to the report.

It was reported that the Council must maintain a current EEDI Strategy in order to comply with legal duties under the Equality Act 2010; to demonstrate its commitment to fairness and inclusion. Following a recent audit of how the Council delivered services in alignment with the Equality Act 2010, it was noted that whilst meeting statutory requirements and all appropriate activities taking place, there were gaps documenting this with the appropriate policies and procedures. A targeted action plan was produced with an overview of this being attached as Appendix B to the report, noting that the actions within the plan had been completed.

In considering the action plan, a Member sought further information in relation to Recommendation 5 – Review the Council’s buildings and assess their accessibility against good practice; and Recommendation 6 – Review toilet facilities across the estate following the supreme court ruling. In response the Business Manager advised that all Council assets were accessible except for older buildings, citing the Palace Theatre. This, however, provided access to lifts to enable accessibility. In relation to toilet facilities, all signage was now compliant following the supreme court ruling.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- a) the changes made to the Council’s EEDI approach be noted; and
- b) the revised Strategy be endorsed and recommended to Cabinet for approval.

Councillor S Hayes entered the meeting shortly after the presentation of the above item began and therefore did not take part in the debate or voting thereon.

181 CUSTOMER FEEDBACK REPORT - HALF YEAR 1 - 2025/2026

The Committee considered the report jointly presented by the Business Manager – Customer Services and the Senior Transformation & Service Improvement Officer which sought to provide Members with a summary of customer feedback in order to better understand how the customer was receiving the services delivered.

The report set out an overview of all types of customer feedback received between April and September 2025, including complaints, suggestions and compliments.

In considering the report, a Member noted that the majority of complaints were in relation to housing maintenance works. Officers advised that the newly appointed Business Manager was aware of the issues and had restructured his team in order to closely monitor the situation.

In relation to complaints received within Housing & Estates Management, it was noted that the most frequent category of complaints was poor quality work/service/repair. In acknowledging this a Member queried whether this was due to the works being outsourced. Officers advised that they would provide a written response.

Members noted that the Ombudsman had widely promoted the way in which complaints could be made and that this had likely led to an increase in the numbers lodged.

In summarising the debate, the Chair requested that further information be provided to a future meeting of the Committee in relation to the progression of complaints from Stage 1 to Stage 2.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- a) the Customer Feedback Half Year 1 report be noted; and

- b) reports to a future meeting of the Committee be provided in relation to:
  - i) progression of complaints from Stage 1 to Stage 2; and
  - ii) further detail behind the most frequent complaint category of poor-quality work/service/repairs.

182 PRESENTATION BY PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Committee considered the report presented by the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Economic Development, Councillor Claire Penny.

As detailed in the report, the Portfolio Holder had been invited to attend Committee to respond verbally to six specific queries as at paragraph 2.2.

In relation to how the Council ensured that our area was prioritised for investment and resources to deliver economic growth, Councillor Penny advised that the Council had assisted in developing the framework for growth by providing evidence. Work had also been undertaken to ensure that the Council's strategy matched that of the East Midlands Combined County Authority, which included those areas which had been previously overlooked. The Council were proactive at applying for funding pots and had submitted three bids. Two of the bids had been successful with funding being granted of £4.25m. It was also hoped that a third would also be supported.

In relation to what the Council were doing to support town centres, Councillor Penny acknowledged the challenges recently faced citing the cost-of-living crisis and the covid pandemic. She noted that there had been a change in approach to how town centres were assisted with a move away from a retail only focus to now include leisure provision, open spaces, community led projects together with residential and hospitality. She advised that the Council provided free planning advice for key town centre sites, there was provision of discretionary rate relief to support new retailers and also charitable and community organisations. A number of capital projects had been instigated across the district and campaigns to promote retailers were also undertaken. Grant funding was also provided to restore historical shop fronts. There were active business forums within the district and an improved way in which to measure footfall had been launched all of which were done to support the district's town centres and high streets.

In relation to how the Council promoted the district to attract visitors, Councillor Penny noted that the area had a strong tourism offer. A project entitled the Rebel Rangers Tour had been instigated by Newark & Sherwood and involved other local authorities throughout the county. The tour enabled a person to visit a variety of locations and would promote the district as a whole rather than visiting a single point of interest in isolation. Work was also ongoing with the improvement and promotion of the district's green spaces and work was continuing with the Castle Gatehouse Project. She also advised that there had been a Happy Families promotion to encourage visitors and noted the continuing work of the Tourism Action Group, which included the promotion of the district both regionally and nationally. Councillor Penny also referred to the success of the shopper's gift card.



In relation to how the Council were supporting people with health issues into employment or training, Councillor Penny advised that much of this work was undertaken by partner organisations with the Council's role being that of influencing the project's direction, of supporting the projects and of providing funding. The work provided pathways and removed barriers to enable the district's residents to take up employment and/or training. The Council's health and wellbeing agenda was also aligned with this work to better support people into work who had existing health issues. The Council provided an annual Future First Expo which provided a forum for young people of engage with employers.

In referring to increased digitisation of processes arising from planning reforms and how the Council would meet the Government agenda for 1.5 million new homes, growth and investment whilst encouraging positive planning outcomes for local communities, it was noted that the reforms had resulted in the removal of some of the processes currently in place and Councillor Penny advised that the existing in-house process needed to be reviewed. She noted that the current local plan had been submitted some 2 years previously but was yet to be approved. Work had however already commenced on the development of the new plan which would cover a period of 36 months. Speculative applications were expected due to the situation with the current local plan and not having a 5-year housing delivery plan. She acknowledged the challenges this brought and noted that the Council were not able to compel developers to bring houses to the market.

In relation to what measure the Council may take to ensure that the voice of local residents continued to be heard following the planning reforms, Councillor Penny noted that this was a challenge for all local planning authorities and would continue to be following local government reorganisation. She commented that work would be required to encourage parishes to develop their own neighbourhood plans or planning statements. Also, that development of a process to allow community advocates to speak on planning applications would be required.

In considering the responses to the questions raised, a Member queried as to how successful the Shopper's Gift Card promotion had been. Councillor Penny advised that she would provide the Committee with a written reply.

In relation to attracting visitors to the district, a Member raised queries in relation to a number of issues in Newark including: the amount of budget spent on advertising outside of the district; what did the Tourist Action Group achieve; how was the data collected from the footfall sensors used; could consideration be given to producing physical information for the visitors rather than it being totally digital. In response, In acknowledging the comments, Councillor Penny advised that her remit was to consider the whole of the district. She added that discussions were held in relation to the provision of paper-based information and also the further enhancement of digital information. She also requested that, if possible, Members provide examples of how paper-based information was utilised in other areas.

In referring to a county-based tourist app called Visit Notts., a Member queried whether this was still in use and if so, how did Newark & Sherwood promote itself on there. He also queried what specific work was being carried out with local schools in terms of employment opportunities. In response, Councillor Penny commented that

she was not aware of the Visit Notts. App. but that the Rebel Rangers Tour was countywide and that the Council were at the heart of its development. In relation to working with the local schools, she advised of the opportunities for students to engage with businesses at the Future First Expo which was held annually at the Newark Showground.

In referring to economic growth in the district, a Member queried as to why funding was not allocated wider across the district than at present. In relation to promotion of the district, she stated that not all residents were able to use digital means and there should be, if possible, physical promotions or boards with QR codes on that took the user direct to a site with appropriate information. She also queried whether there was sufficient resource to allow Officers to assist parish councils with developing their neighbourhood plans as it was often very challenging for them to do so without assistance. In response, Councillor Penny advised that the allocation of funding was based on strict eligibility criteria and could not be extended beyond that which it was allocated for. In responding to the suggestion that Officers supporting the development of parishes neighbourhood plans, she advised that there was not sufficient resource to do this but that discussions with other organisations were ongoing who may be able to assist.

In closing the debate, the Chair thanked Councillor Penny for her attendance and detailed responses to the queries raised. He requested that reports be brought to future meetings of the Committee in relation to tourism in the district.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- a) the responses to the questions raised be noted; and
- b) a report be brought to a future meeting of the Committee in relation to tourism in the district.

Councillor P. Rainbow left the meeting during discussion of the previous item and therefore did not take part in the vote thereon.

#### 183 LIFE CHANCES FOR GIRLS - FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee considered the report presented by Councillor K. Roberts, Chair of the Life Chances for Girls Working Group, which sought to provide Members with an update and the findings of the work of the group.

The report provided a comprehensive overview of the work undertaken and those Members and Officers who had contributed. The remit and three key aims of the group were detailed at paragraph 1.1 of the report with Appendix 3 listing the 20 recommendations together with a narrative as to the reasoning behind them.

In considering the report, the Chair thanked all those who participated, noting that the group had generated a great deal of conversation from both Members and Officers.

Members of the group spoke of what they had taken from their work. It was acknowledged that every effort must be made to promote feelings of self-worth in children and that this should be done at an early age; and that misogyny in all its forms must be 'called out' on a daily basis, with Members agreeing that attitudes towards women and girls must change.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- a) the findings and recommendations of the Working Group be noted; and
- b) the recommendations as outlined in Appendix 3 to the report be endorsed.

184 CABINET FORWARD PLAN (DECEMBER 2025 TO MARCH 2026)

NOTED the Forward Plan of the Cabinet for the period December 2025 to March 2026.

185 MINUTES OF CABINET MEETINGS

NOTED the Cabinet Minutes from the meetings held on:

11 November 2025; and  
26 November 2025

186 PROVISIONAL ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- General Fund Capital Programme 2026/2027-2029/2030
- General Fund Medium Term Financial Plan 2026/2027-2029/2030
- General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/2027
- Q3 Community Plan Performance Report
- Presentation by Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing & Leisure
- Planning Infrastructure – Overview of Projects and Commitments
- Newark Town Centre Masterplan and Design Code
- Q3 Housing Compliance Performance Report

Meeting closed at 7.42 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 December 2025 at 4.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor D Moore (Vice-Chair)

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor A Freeman (Chair), Councillor P Harris and Councillor T Wildgust

### 73 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.

### 74 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillor L Dales declared an other registerable interest for any relevant items as an appointed representative on the Tent Valley Internal Drainage Board.

Councillor K Melton declared a registerable interest in Agenda Item No. 9 – Great North Road Solar Farm – Local Impact Report, as a resident of Staythorpe.

Councillor S Saddington declared a registerable interest in Agenda Item No. 9 – Great North Road Solar Farm – Local Impact Report, as a resident of North Muskham.

### 75 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2025

Subject to the following amendment, the minutes from the meeting held on 13 November 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Minute No. 64 – Land to the South East of Bullpit Road, Balderton, Newark (25/00805/FULM)

Paragraph commencing: The Senior Planning Officer confirmed in response etc.

Delete the figure 16 in relation to the number of Winthorpe pitches  
Insert the figure 6 in relation to the number Winthorpe pitches

*Councillor T Smith joined the meeting part way through the following item and therefore did not take part in the debate or vote.*

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager - Planning Development which sought the development of the site for distribution uses (Use Class B8) including ancillary offices and associated works including access, car parking and landscaping.

A site visit had taken place prior to the commencement of the Planning Committee for Members, for the following reasons:

- (i) 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; and
- (ii) There are specific site factors and/or significant policy or precedent implications that need to be carefully addressed.

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

Councillor M Ayers, Coddington Parish Council, spoke against the application.

Councillor L Geary, Newark Town Council, spoke in support of the application.

Mr. R. Twigg, the Agent, spoke in support of the application.

Members considered the application with the adjacent Ward Member commenting as to whether there would be cumulative impact in relation to noise and lighting from Phase 1 of the development. She added that she welcomed the employment opportunities but had concerns regarding the ability to travel to the site, noting that there was no footpath from Coddington or Winthorpe. She also raised concerns about the impact should the development of this site coincide with that of the dualling of the A46.

In acknowledging the employment opportunities at the site, a Member noted that the majority of these might be for low-skilled workers and queried whether the developer would give consideration to upskilling their workforce. He added that it was a suitable location for solar panels due to the large roof area of the development.

Members debated a number of issues, including the potential scale and appearance of the new buildings, the relevance of the appeal decision from the adjacent unit and the benefits of the BNG offer.

In response to the issue of the lack of a direct footpath link to the site from Winthorpe again being raised, the Business Manager – Planning Development referred Members to paragraph 7.107 of the report, which detailed the revised Illustrative Landscape Masterplan (Rev 02) which included a link to the A1 underpass which would allow an access point to the site, if required.

AGREED (unanimously) that planning permission be approved, subject to conditions in the report and the S106 Agreement.

*Councillor S Saddington joined the meeting part way through the following item and therefore did not participate in the debate or vote.*

77 PLAYING FIELD, CROMPTON ROAD, BILSTHORPE, NG22 8PS - 25/00409/FUL

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development which sought the construction of a new parish hall, new multi-use games area outdoor court, new phased playground, bin and bicycle store and new car park.

A site visit had taken place prior to the commencement of the Planning Committee for Members for the following reason:

- i) 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.

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

A Schedule of Communication was circulated prior to the meeting which detailed correspondence received following publication of the agenda from the following: Mrs A Wood.

Councillor R Holloway, Bilsthorpe Parish Councillor and District Ward Member spoke in support of the application.

Members considered the application and welcomed the proposed development. Comment was made in relation to the consultation response from Nottinghamshire County Council (Highways) and the request for a distinct and segregated route for pedestrians to the site from Crompton Road (Condition 12). In response, Officers advised that it would be for Members to consider whether such a condition would be reasonable and necessary to make the proposal acceptable. Members concluded that it would be better to amend condition 12 to enable a scheme of improvements to the pedestrian area be considered rather than imposing a footpath.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- a) planning permission be approved, subject to the conditions detailed in Section 10.0 of the report and the signing of a Unilateral Undertaking to secure a fee for monitoring of on-site Biodiversity Net Gain; and
- b) delegated authority be given to the Business Manager – Planning Development, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee to amend Condition No. 12.

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development which sought the proposed development of nine detached dwellings along with associated garages, access road and landscaping.

A site visit had taken place prior to the commencement of the Planning Committee for the following reason:

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 proposal is particularly contentious, and the aspects being raised can only be viewed on site.

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

A Schedule of Communication was circulated prior to the meeting which detailed correspondence received following publication of the agenda from the following: Zoe Henry.

Mrs D Tinklin, a member of the public, spoke against the application.

Councillor T Duffy, Blidworth Parish Council, spoke against the application.

Mr. L. Evans, the applicant, spoke in support of the application.

In considering the application, the local Ward Member commented that he welcomed the design of the development but that the proposed location was inappropriate. He stated that this was due to poor access to the site, existing issues with traffic and surface water flooding of No. 7 Cottage Close. He added that his main concern was one of highway safety, irrespective of Nottinghamshire County Council (Highways) revised consultation response.

Members expressed differing views on the proposed development with issues and concerns being raised in relation to the topography of the site, access to the site and the potential for increased flooding. The design of house types, garage and parking arrangement and the contribution of the site to the conservation area were discussed in detail. The importance of the stone wall on the main road was also discussed.

In considering the debate, Officers advised Members that given the concerns raised, they may wish to consider deferring the application to allow for further consultations in relation to the issue of surface water flooding at no 7 to be undertaken.

AGREED (with 9 votes for and 1 against) that the application be deferred in order to allow further consultation on surface water flooding to be undertaken.

*Councillor T Smith left the meeting at the end of the previous item.*

79 FORMER THORESBY COLLIERY, OLLERTON ROAD, EDWINSTOWE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, NG21 9PS - 25/00971/VAR106

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development which sought a Deed of Variation to the Section 106 Agreement to remove occupation restrictions associated with the Ollerton roundabout works attached to Planning Permission 16/02173/OUTM.

Members considered the presentation from the Senior Planner – Planning Development which included plans of the development site.

A Schedule of Communication was circulated prior to the meeting which detailed correspondence received following publication of the agenda from the following: Nottinghamshire County Council.

Members considered the application with the local Ward Member noting the delays in relation to the Ollerton Roundabout improvement works and the effect this had had on the applicant's development.

AGREED (unanimously) that the application to the Deed of Variation to the Section 106 Agreement to remove occupation restrictions associated with the Ollerton Roundabout Works attached to Planning Permission 16/02173/OUTM be approved.

80 GREAT NORTH ROAD SOLAR FARM - LOCAL IMPACT REPORT (LIR)

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development which presented the Local Impact Report (LIR) in relation to the Great North Road Solar Farm for Members approval.

Members considered the presentation from the Planner Major Projects - Planning Development, which included a site wide plan of the development area.

A Schedule of Communication was circulated prior to the meeting which detailed correspondence received following publication of the agenda from the following: Simon Betts, Case Officer, NSDC.

Members considered the covering report and the LIR with comment being made as to the loss of rich agricultural land within the district. Further comment was made as to the manufacture of the solar panels taking place overseas in China and being shipped to the UK being at odds with the purpose of solar panel farms which was to assist with mitigating the impact of climate change. Comment was also made that the companies involved in the development of solar panels had reserved space on the national grid in previous years in anticipation of future applications for solar farms coming forward. Whilst acknowledging the need for green energy, it was suggested that solar panels be sites in alternative locations before being used on agriculture land.

In acknowledging the need for sustainable energy, a Member noted that the Planning Committee's role was as consultee of the LIR. He suggested that every effort be made



to ensure that any benefits and compensation from the siting of the solar farm in the district be awarded to residents affected. He further suggested that local residents be informed that the Council had no influence on this development as it was not a Planning Authority decision. In response to comments regarding compensation, Officers advised that the Council could not compel the developers to award any compensatory payments.

AGREED (unanimously) that the draft LIR be approved to enable its release to the Examining Authority by Deadline One.

*Having declared registerable interests in this item, Councillors Melton and Saddington did not take part in the vote.*

*During the debate of this item, the Chair indicated that the meeting duration had expired therefore a motion was moved by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Dales to continue the meeting. A motion was voted on with unanimous agreement to continue for a further hour.*

#### 81 WILDLIFE FEATURES AS PART OF NEW DEVELOPMENT GUIDANCE NOTE

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Policy & Infrastructure which sought to inform Members of the publication of a Guidance Note to encourage wildlife features as part of new development.

The report set out that following the agreed Motion to Council on 15 July 2025 in relation to the ongoing decline in swift and other cavity-nesting birds across the UK and how developers could be encouraged to install swift bricks in all suitable new residential developments, the Planning Policy team together with the Biodiversity and Ecology teams had developed a Guidance Note in relation to Wildlife Features as part of new development.

AGREED (unanimously) that the production and publication of the Guidance Note be noted.

#### 82 APPEALS LODGED

AGREED that the report be noted.

#### 83 APPEALS DETERMINED

AGREED that the report be noted.

Meeting closed at 7.17 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, 15 January 2026 at 4.00 pm.

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

Councillor C Brooks, Councillor L Dales, Councillor P Harris, Councillor P Rainbow, Councillor S Saddington, Councillor M Shakeshaft, Councillor T Smith, Councillor T Wildgust, Councillor M Home and Councillor M Spoors

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor S Forde, Councillor K Melton and Councillor L Tift

### 84 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.

### 85 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillors L Dales and A Freeman declared an other registerable interest for any relevant items as appointed representatives on the Tent Valley Internal Drainage Board.

Councillor P Rainbow declared a non-registerable interest in Agenda Item No. 11 – Land to the North of Hawthorn Cottage, Main Street, Kirklington, Newark On Trent, as the applicant was known to her. Councillor P Rainbow took no part in the debate or vote.

### 86 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2025

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

### 87 LAND TO THE NORTH OF 14 COTTAGE CLOSE, BLIDWORTH, NG21 0QE - 25/00785/FUL

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought the proposed development of nine detached dwellings along with associated garages, access road and landscaping.

*Councillor P Harris arrived during the Officers presentation and took no part in the debate or vote for this application.*

A Schedule of Communication was circulated prior to the meeting which detailed correspondence received from a local resident.

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

Mr A Smith, local resident spoke in objection to the application.

Mr L Evans, the applicant spoke in support of the application.

Members considered the application, and it was felt that the access and egress to this development was unsafe and although the report had indicated that flooding issues had been addressed there were still concerns regarding this. It was commented that whilst the development would enhance the area and appeared to be of good design it was not in the right place.

The Senior Planning Officer confirmed that contact with No. 7 Cottage Close had not taken place as flooding at that property was an existing flood problem and was not from this site.

*Having left the meeting during the presentation of this application Councillor M Spoors took no part in the vote.*

A vote was taken for approval and lost with 4 votes For, 5 votes Against and 1 Abstention.

AGREED        Moved Councillor T Smith and Seconded Councillor D Moore (with 5 votes For, 4 votes Against and 1 Abstention) that contrary to Officer recommendation Planning Permission be refused for the following reasons:

- (i)        Access and Highways issues; and
- (ii)       Failure to address surface water flood issues.

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
L Dales	Against
A Freeman	Abstention
M Home	Against
D Moore	For
P Rainbow	For
S Saddington	For
M Shakeshaft	For
T Smith	For
T Wildgust	Against

88        LAND ON WEST SIDE OF NEWARK ROAD, OLLERTON - 23/02274/OUTM

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought outline planning permission for up to 184 Dwellings, All Matters Reserved apart from Access.

A site visit had taken place prior to the commencement of the Planning Committee for Members, for the following reasons:

- (i) 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; and
- (ii) The proposal was particularly contentious, and the aspects being raised could only be viewed on site.

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

Ms A Smithson, local resident spoke in objection to the application.

Mr S Silcocks, the applicant spoke in support of the application.

Members considered the application, and concern was raised regarding traffic onto the surrounding network. It was suggested that a dual access was required. Members also commented that there was no affordable housing on this site and the payment in lieu was not considered acceptable. It was considered that whilst planning permission was extant on the site for housing, which had been granted twenty years ago, the housing market had changed since then and affordable housing had not been part of that scheme at that time but was considered needed at present time.

A vote for approval was taken and lost with 2 votes For and 10 votes Against.

AGREED                      Moved Councillor A Freeman and Seconded Councillor Councillor D Moore (unanimously) that Planning Permission be refused on the grounds of safety due to the single point of access and no affordable housing on site, the payment in lieu was not acceptable.

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	For
L Dales	For
A Freeman	For
P Harris	For
M Home	For
D Moore	For
P Rainbow	For
S Saddington	For
M Shakeshaft	For
M Spoors	For
T Smith	For
T Wildgust	For

89 WINGS EAST SCHOOL, MAIN STREET, KIRKLINGTON, NG22 8NB - 25/01445/FULM

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought the erection of an animal therapy provision including associated animal shelter and livestock fencing to grazing paddocks.

A site visit had taken place prior to the commencement of the Planning Committee for Members, for the following reasons:

- (iii) 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; and
- (iv) There were specific site factors and/or significant policy or precedent implications that needed to be carefully addressed.

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

Members considered the application acceptable given the inappropriate sports field and the nature for the use of the site for animal therapy for children. Concern was raised that there appeared to be no provision to the wellbeing of the Alpaca's as the field was located in flood zone 3. It was suggested that if Members were minded to approve the application that a flood evacuation plan protecting the animals on site be written and submitted to the Planning Authority within six months of confirmation of planning permission.

AGREED (with 11 votes For and 1 vote Against) that:

- (a) Planning Permission be approved subject to the conditions, as contained within the report;
- (b) an additional condition providing a flood evacuation plan protecting the animals on site in the event of flooding, be submitted to the Planning Authority within six months of confirmation of planning permission; and
- (c) due to the statutory objection from Sport England, the application be referred to the Secretary of State to determine if they wish to call in the application, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Consultation)(England) Direction 2024.

90 LAND AT NEWARK ROAD, WELLOW - 25/01862/PIP

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought permission in principle for construction of a minimum of 2 dwellings and a maximum of 9 dwellings.

A site visit had taken place prior to the commencement of the Planning Committee for Members, for the reason, the impact of the proposed development was difficult to visualise.

A Schedule of Communication was circulated prior to the meeting which detailed correspondence received from a member of the public, who raised concern regarding highway safety and character of the area.

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

Mr S White, a member of the public spoke against the application.

Mr N Baseley, the Agent for the applicant spoke in support of the application.

*During the debate of this item, the Chair indicated that the meeting duration had expired therefore a motion was moved and seconded to continue the meeting. A motion was voted on with unanimous agreement to continue for a further hour.*

Members considered the application and whilst some Members felt that the proposal was acceptable given that the site was located adjacent to the 30mph speed area of the road, and the other side of the road was also built up. Other Members felt that the proposed houses on the front were in keeping with the street scene but suggested that the development should not go beyond that as it would be out of character with Wellow. It was also commented that the development was in the open countryside.

The Senior Planning Officer advised the Committee that the proposed application did not provide any details of the proposed design therefore the Committee did not have the knowledge of what the character and design of the area would be.

AGREED (with 8 votes For and 4 votes Against) that Permission in Principle is approved, as contained within the report.

*Councillor T Smith left the meeting at this point.*

91 LAND AT CORKHILL LANE, NORMANTON - 25/01827/PIP

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought permission in principle for a residential development of a minimum of 2 dwellings and a maximum of 5 dwellings.

A site visit had taken place prior to the commencement of the Planning Committee for Members, for the reason, the impact of the proposed development was difficult to visualise.

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

Mr N Baseley, the Agent for the applicant spoke in support of the application.

Members considered the application and felt that this development was outside of the built-up area of Normanton and would affect the views of Southwell Minster, which was steeped in years of history. Members considered this a creep of urbanisation into the open countryside and was not a suitable site for development.

AGREED (unanimously) that Permission in Principle be refused for the following reasons:

- (i) DM8; and
- (ii) Protective Views - impact of the view of the Minster.

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	For
L Dales	For
A Freeman	For
P Harris	For
M Home	For
D Moore	For
P Rainbow	For
S Saddington	For
M Shakeshaft	For
M Spoors	For
T Smith	For
T Wildgust	For

92 LAND ADJACENT CARTREF, CORKHILL LANE, NORMANTON - 25/01832/PIP

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought permission in principle for proposed residential development of 2 dwellings.

A site visit had taken place prior to the commencement of the Planning Committee for Members, for the reason, the impact of the proposed development was difficult to visualise.

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

Mr N Baseley, the Agent for the applicant spoke in support of the application.

Members considered the application acceptable as the proposal was for two houses which would not impact on the infrastructure of the village.

AGREED (unanimously) that Permission in Principle is Approved, as contained within the report.

*The Planning Committee Chair indicated that the meeting duration of an additional one hour had expired therefore a motion was moved by the Chair and agreed by Members to continue the meeting for a further hour. The Chair sought agreement from the Committee to defer agenda items 13 and 15 to the February meeting of the Planning Committee, to achieve this time deadline.*

93     LAND TO THE NORTH OF HAWTHORN COTTAGE, MAIN STREET, KIRKLINGTON, NEWARK ON TRENT, NG22 8NL - 25/01823/PIP

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought permission in principle for residential development of one dwelling following demolition of existing open-fronted car port.

A site visit had taken place prior to the commencement of the Planning Committee for Members, for the reason, the impact of the proposed development was difficult to visualise.

A Schedule of Communication was circulated prior to the meeting which detailed correspondence received from Kirklington Parish Council.

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

Members considered the application acceptable and felt that the proposed development would tidy the site and requested a high-quality design.

Having declared an interest in this application Councillor P Rainbow took no part in the debate or vote.

AGREED            (unanimously) that permission in principle be approved, as contained within the report.

94     NEWARK CASTLE, CASTLE GATE, NEWARK ON TRENT - 25/01917/ADV

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought vinyl advertisement attached to hoardings.

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

A Schedule of Communication was circulated prior to the meeting which detailed correspondence received from Newark Town Council, who raised no objection to the application.

Members considered the application acceptable however commented that the examples of the advertisements included in the report were not appropriate and suggested the history of the Castle to be displayed. The expiration date was also proposed to be one year instead of the end period of five years, from the date of consent.

The Director for Planning & Growth confirmed that the advertisement had been decided by the Council's design team and would be consistent with the hoarding on Stodman Street, he confirmed that this would be taken back to the design team and also confirmed that the end period of one year was acceptable.



AGREED (with 8 votes For and 3 votes Against) that:

- (a) advertisement consent is approved, subject to the conditions within the report, and the amendment of condition 01, the end period of one year; and
- (b) the design of the vinyl advertisements for the hoarding to be addressed by the design team.

95 PLANNING REFORM UPDATE

The Committee agreed that due to the time this report would be considered at the 12 February 2026 meeting of the Planning Committee.

96 NOMINATION TO THE PLANNING POLICY BOARD ONE MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE TO BE NOMINATED TO THE PLANNING POLICY BOARD TO REPLACE FORMER COUNCILLOR OLDHAM

The Committee were asked to nominate one Member of the Planning Committee to be appointed to the Planning Policy Board, to fill the vacant seat.

AGREED (unanimously) that Councillor M Home be appointed as the Planning Committee representative on the Planning Policy Board up to May 2026.

97 MIDDLEBECK - AFFORDABLE HOUSING REVIEW (S106) - 14/01978/OUTM

The Committee agreed that due to the time this report would be considered at the 12 February 2026 meeting of the Planning Committee.

98 APPEALS LODGED

AGREED that the report be noted.

99 APPEALS DETERMINED

The Committee was informed that Application No. 25/00673/AGR – Land adjacent to the Old Grain Store, Old Epperstone Road, Lowdham. Judicial review had been requested but was not taken any further by the Courts.

AGREED that the report be noted.

Meeting closed at 8.24 pm.

Chair

## NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Audit & Accounts Committee** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY on Wednesday, 10 December 2025 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor S Michael (Chair)  
Councillor N Allen (Vice-Chair)

Councillor S Crosby, Councillor J Hall, Councillor C Penny, Councillor M Shakeshaft and Councillor T Wendels

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor D Darby and Councillor J Lee and C Richardson – Co-optee

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

Other than the Council recording in accordance with usual practice, there were no declarations of intention to record the meeting.

### 27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

That no Member or Officer declared any interest pursuant to any statutory requirement in any matter discussed or voted upon at the meeting.

### 28 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2025

AGREED that the minutes from the meeting held on 15 October 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Maurice Shakeshaft to the Audit and Accounts Committee.

### 29 STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT

The Committee considered the report from the Safety, Risk and Insurance Manager providing an overview of the Council's current 2025/26 Strategic Risk Register allowing Members to review Strategic Risk Management arrangements and Performance.

The Safety, Risk and Insurance Manager explained to the Committee that these reports were provided on a six monthly basis with the last one brought to the April 2025 meeting.

The content of the current risk register has not changed since the last report and continues to have 9 strategic risks. This was detailed within the April report, SR503 was refocused and given a new title focussing on delivering housing growth targets. The content of the 2025/26 risk register having been agreed by SLT.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Committee noted the report and highlighted any issues of concern relating to the Strategic Risk Register.

30 CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND POLICY REVIEW

The Committee considered the report from the Safety, Risk and Insurance Manager informing Members of the updated Corporate Risk Management Strategy and Policy.

The Safety, Risk and Insurance Manager advised that the policy required a review and that changes had been made to the document shown in red. After reviewing in accordance with the Council's Constitution and to send to Cabinet for final approval.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Committee noted the report and highlighted any issues of concern relating to the Corporate Risk Management Strategy and Policy Review.

31 AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS (GOVERNANCE) COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee considered the report from the Business Manager for Financial Services of the activity undertaken by the Audit and Governance Committee between 25 September 2024 and 2 July 2025.

The report provided a summary of the activities, to then be taken to March's Full Council.

AGREED (unanimously) that Members noted the report.

32 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT 2025/26

The Committee considered the report from Philip Lazenby, Director of Audit (TIAA), who attended the meeting in person alongside colleague Fiona Roe, providing a summary of Internal Audit work undertaken during 2025/26 against the agreed audit plan.

The Audit Plan for 2025/26 was tabled at the Audit & and Governance Committee in February 2025 and throughout the year reports on the progress made and changes to the plan are taken to the newly named Audit & Accounts Committee.

The Chair welcomed the Responsive Repairs & Voids Manager to the Committee meeting to update the committee on progress against the action plan. Councillor Wendels highlighted that limited assurance was a concern, and how much of this was relevant to the implementation of the new Housing Management System. The action plan referred to scrutiny through PPIC and whether a report should be tabled at that committee to update on progress of the implementation.

Philip Lazenby, Director of Audit (TIAA) advised the Committee that he would speak to the Responsive Repairs & Voids Manager the following day in order to provide evidence to support the update. The Chair will raise concerns with the Director for Housing, Health and Wellbeing regarding PPIC to then take a plan to the next Committee.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Audit & Accounts Committee considered and

commented upon the latest internal audit progress report and noted its content.

33 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT 2025/26

The Committee considered the report from the Assistant Business Manager for Financial Services to provide an update on the Council's Treasury Activity and Prudential Indicators for the first half of 2025/26.

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2025/26 was approved by Full Council on 6 March 2025. There are no suggested policy changes to the TMSS within this report; the details in this report update the position in the light of the updated economic position and capital budget changes approved throughout the year.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- a) the Treasury Management activity be noted and recommended to Full Council on 10 February 2026; and
- b) the Prudential Indicators detailed in Section 6 & 7 of the report be noted.

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

The Committee considered the report from the Business Manager for Financial Services updating Members with the forecast outturn position for the 2025/26 financial year for the Council's General Fund and Housing Revenue Account revenue and capital budgets. The report showing performance against the approved estimates of revenue expenditure and income.

The report was provided to Members having already been to Cabinet.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- a) the Committee noted the General Fund projected favourable outturn variance of £0.062m;
- b) the Committee noted the Housing Revenue Account projected unfavourable outturn variance of £0.201m to the Major Repairs Reserve;
- c) the Committee noted the Capital Programme revised budget and financing of £46.823m; and
- d) the Committee noted the Prudential indicators at Appendix A.

35 UPDATE ON THE LGA NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL CYBER 360 REPORT

The Committee considered the report from the Business Manager for ICT & Digital Services providing the updated results of LGA Newark and Sherwood District Council

Cyber 360 Report.

The Corporate Information Governance Group (CIGG) to continue the review of the Cyber360 action plan and provide updates. As of December 2025, 92% of the action plan is complete, with only 2 out of 24 tasks remaining.

The Cyber 360 Action Plan is not in the public area of this open report for security reasons and is held in the exempt version of the report.

AGREED (unanimously) that Members reviewed, commented upon and noted the update on the LGA Newark and Sherwood District Council Cyber 360 Report.

36 WORK PROGRAMME FOR AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

The Committee received the Work Programme from the Business Manager for Financial Services for consideration.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Work Programme be noted.

37 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

38 LGA NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL CYBER 360 REPORT

The Committee considered the exempt report from the Business Manager for ICT & Digital Services providing an update on the LGA Newark and Sherwood District Council Cyber 360 Report.

39 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 4 MARCH 2026

Meeting closed at 7.23 pm.

Chair

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

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## NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Licensing Committee** held in the Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY on Thursday, 11 December 2025 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor L Tift (Vice-Chair)

Councillor N Allen, Councillor A Brazier, Councillor L Brazier, Councillor S Michael, Councillor D Moore, Councillor S Saddington and Councillor P Taylor

APOLOGIES FOR Councillor D Darby and Councillor T Wildgust  
ABSENCE:

In the absence of the Licensing Committee Chair, Councillor L Tift – Vice-Chair, chaired the meeting.

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

The Chair advised that the proceedings were being recorded by the Council and that the meeting was being livestreamed and broadcast from the Civic Suite, Castle House.

64 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

NOTED that no Member or Officer declared any interest pursuant to any statutory requirement in any matter discussed or voted upon at the meeting.

65 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 JUNE 2025

Councillor S Saddington informed the Committee that she had submitted her apology for the previous Licensing Committee Meeting.

AGREED that the minutes from the meeting held on 19 June 2025 were agreed as a correct record subject to the above amendment and signed by the Chair.

66 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE TRAILERS SECTION IN THE POLICY FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE & PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

The Committee considered the report of the Environmental Health & Licensing Manager which proposed an amendment to the Trailer Section of the Policy for Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Vehicles.

The following amendment to the Trailers Section of the Operational Policy was proposed as follows:

- a) Parts vii & viii be deleted from the policy;

b) Insert the following:

- I. 'Trailers must be serviced every 6 months to ensure their continued safe operation, with evidence of this service being supplied within 7 days to the Licensing Team.
- II. Servicing must be undertaken at an NTTA approved supplier with a minimum 4-star rating.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Licensing Committee approve the amendment of the Trailer Section of Newark & Sherwood District Council's Operational policy in order to facilitate the use of trailers on licensed vehicles.

67 JOINT AUTHORISATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF LICENSED VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT

The Committee considered the report of the Environmental Health & Licensing Manager which sought approval for authorisation of officers from the City of Wolverhampton Council to undertake compliance functions under Section 68 and 73 of the Local Government Act (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, as amended.

Officers requested that the Licensing Committee provide the same limited authorisation to named officers working for Wolverhampton, permitting these officers to take positive action on vehicles/drivers licensed by Newark and Sherwood District Council as a reciprocal arrangement to the authorisation already provided to the Licensing Team. These authorisations may be revoked at any time in writing by the Council.

A letter of authorisation for each named officer would be provided and this can be shown to licensees. Copies of the licence conditions and relevant policies would be exchanged, as well as information on enforcement action.

All licensees in the Newark and Sherwood area would be written to, advising of the joint authorisation.

Members supported this recommendation subject to a six-monthly review and asked that the Wolverhampton Policy be forwarded to Members of the Committee, including details of operators living in Newark & Sherwood district but licensed at Wolverhampton.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- (a) the Licensing Committee approve a specified list of officers working for the City of Wolverhampton be given delegated authority to undertake compliance functions under Section 68 and 73 of the Local government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, as amended, subject to a six-month review; and
- (b) the Wolverhampton Policy be forwarded to Members of the Licensing Committee, including details of operators living in Newark & Sherwood district but licensed at Wolverhampton.



68     MINUTES OF LICENSING HEARING SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2025

NOTED            the minutes of the Licensing Hearing Sub-Committee held on 22 September 2025 – The Fishing Lodge, Maythorne, Southwell, NG25 0RS.

69     UPDATE ON PERFORMANCE MATTERS

The Committee considered the report of the Environmental Health & Licensing Manager which provided details of the various activities undertaken by the Licensing Team in relation to the different types of licensing matters covered by the Licensing Act 2003; Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers, Private Ambulance Drivers, House to House and Street Collections. The report covered the period from 1 July to 30 September 2025.

NOTED            (unanimously) the types and volumes for licences processed in the previous quarter.

70     EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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 1 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

71     UPDATE ON ENFORCEMENT MATTERS

The Committee considered the exempt report of the Environmental Health & Licensing Manager which provided the details of the enforcement activities undertaken by the Licensing Enforcement Officers in relation to the different types of licensing matters covered by the Licensing Act 2003; Hackney Carriage/Private Hire and Private Ambulances, for the period 1 July to 30 September 2025.

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

Meeting closed at 6.32 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 December 2025 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor P Peacock (Chair)

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

36 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.

37 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no declarations of interest.

38 MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2025

The minutes from the meeting held on 9 September 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

39 ACTIVE4TODAY PERFORMANCE - QUARTER 2

The Business Manager- Healthy Places was in attendance to present the performance report for the period 1 April- 30 September 2025. Performance remained strong with and the company was forecast to achieve the target reserve position.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Executive Shareholder Committee note the performance of Active4Today for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 (Period 6).

Reasons for Decision:

To ensure that the shareholder has assurance and oversight of the company's performance ensuring that the company continues to deliver the outcomes required by the Council as aligned to the Council's Community Plan.

Options considered:

None, this report presents performance for Active4Today.

The Non-Executive Director and the Managing Director- Arkwood Developments were in attendance to present the performance information for Quarter 2. Members heard updates on progress at sites including Cambridge, Wirksworth and Long Bennington. Members also considered the land pipeline in detail, and an overview of the Companies Strategic Priorities.

Members discussed the presentation and performance, citing recent site visits which had been very impressive, and the positive way which the Company worked with the local community. It was acknowledged that the Company had worked through some challenging times recently but Members were reassured with progress and the pipeline for sites.

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.

Reasons for Decision:

To ensure appropriate review of the Performance of the Councils wholly owned Housing Development Company (Arkwood).

Options considered:

None

Meeting closed at 6.21 pm.

Chair