



**Castle House
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Friday, 23 May 2025

**Chair: Councillor M Pringle
Vice-Chair: Councillor N Ross**

Members of the Committee:

**Councillor A Brazier
Councillor C Brooks
Councillor A Freeman
Councillor J Hall
Councillor S Haynes
Councillor R Holloway
Councillor R Jackson**

**Councillor D Moore
Councillor P Rainbow
Councillor K Roberts
Councillor M Spoors
Councillor T Thompson
Councillor T Wendels**

Substitutes

**Councillor N Allen
Councillor D Darby
Councillor P Harris
Councillor S Michael
Councillor L Tift**

MEETING:	Policy & Performance Improvement Committee
DATE:	Monday, 2 June 2025 at 6.00 pm
VENUE:	Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY
<p>You are hereby requested to attend the above Meeting to be held at the time/place and on the date mentioned above for the purpose of transacting the business on the Agenda as overleaf.</p> <p>If you have any queries please contact Helen Brandham on helen.brandham@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk.</p>	

AGENDA

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| 1. | Apologies for Absence | |
| 2. | Declaration of Interest by Members and Officers | |
| 3. | Notification to those present that the meeting will be recorded and streamed online | |
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Reports and Presentations

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| 6. | Yorke Drive Development Update | 24 - 26 |
| 7. | Presentation by Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Performance & Finance | 27 - 31 |
| 8. | Attendance at Committee Meeting on 30 June 2025 by Cabinet Member without Portfolio | |

Councillor Jack Kellas, Leader of the Conservative Group and Cabinet Member without Portfolio will be in attendance at the next meeting of the Committee on 30 June 2025. Members are requested to put forward any specific topic they would like Councillor Kellas to address in his report.

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 9. | Appointment of PPI Committee Representatives to: | |
| | a) Tenant Engagement Board (three Members required)
2024/2025 Members were:
Councillors: Alice Brazier; Penny Rainbow; and Neil Ross
<i>The Tenant Engagement Board is the forum through which the Council's tenants can hold the Council to account for the quality of their homes and the services they received from the Council.</i> | |
| | b) Planning Policy Board (four* Members required)
2024/2025 Members were:
Councillors: Linda Dales; Mike Pringle; and Karen Roberts
<i>To provide a detailed oversight and advise on the process of the Local Development Framework production.</i> | |

**Previously only 3 representatives had been appointed but this was increased to 4 at Annual Council on 20.05.25. PPIC can appoint representatives from the whole of the Council.*

Reports from Working Group

- | | | |
|-----|--|---------------|
| 10. | Update on Life Chances for Girls Working Group | Verbal Report |
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| 13. | Provisional Items for Future Agenda | |
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| | Health & Community Development Annual Update | |
| | Budget Strategy 2026/2027 | |
| | Provisional Financial Outturn Report to 31 March 2025 | |
| | Changes to National Recycling Policies Update | |
| | Q4 Community Plan Performance Report | |
| | Attendance at Committee by Cabinet Member without Portfolio | |
| | Attendance at Committee by Representatives of DWP | |
| | Annual Update Report on Compliance – Corporate Estate | |

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, 14 April 2025 at 6.00 pm.

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

Councillor N Allen, Councillor A Brazier, Councillor C Brooks, Councillor A Freeman, Councillor J Hall, Councillor R Jackson, Councillor D Moore, Councillor P Rainbow, Councillor K Roberts and Councillor T Wendels

IN ATTENDANCE:

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor R Holloway, Councillor M Spoors and Councillor T Thompson

95 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.

96 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no declarations of interest.

97 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 MARCH 2025

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

98 NEWARK TOWN CENTRE MASTER PLAN

The Committee considered the presentation jointly delivered by the Business Manager and Strategy Manager – Economic Growth & Visitor Economy and the Senior Planner, Planning Policy which sought to update Members on the Newark Masterplan and Design Code.

The presentation set out the timeline of the Masterplan to-date and provided a summary of the results of the survey which had been undertaken. The structure of the Masterplan was outlined and the six key themes therein, namely: a market town; a skilled and creative town; a riverside town; a thriving town; an active and accessible town; and a town of discovery. Within the town there were nine character areas listed as: The Medieval Core; Friary; Barnby Gate; the College Quarter; North Gate Station Quarter; North Gate; Mill Gate and Sconce; Riverside; and London Road.

A summary of the design code was noted as a set of simple, concise and illustrated design requirements and that it provided clear rules and standards for new development in each of the aforementioned character areas. It was

also noted that the code was mandatory and struck a balance between providing clear rules but not restricting high quality creative design. The code was supplemented by looser 'guidance' should coding not be possible. The design code would be taken forward as a supplementary planning document and would be a material consideration in planning decisions.

Stage 2 was a consultation of the Masterplan and the Design Code which would run for a period of 6 weeks in May and June 2025. There would also be an exhibition, explaining how the Masterplan had been developed together with an explanation of the Design Code process. The next steps after Stage 2 would be to finalise the documents in the summer of 2025 with reports being presented to the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee and Cabinet in September 2025 with implementation by the end of the year.

The Chair of the Committee thanked the Officers for their presentation noting the importance of maximising tourist provision in the town.

AGREED that the presentation be noted.

99 ATTENDANCE AT COMMITTEE BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

The Committee considered the report of the Transformation & Improvement Officer which sought Members approval for the change in approach for Portfolio Holders when attending Committee. A summary of the attendance by Portfolio Holders during the 2024/2025 municipal year was detailed in the report with paragraph 2 listing the proposed change in approach and the timetable for Portfolio Holders attendance.

In considering the report, the Chair asked Members of the Committee to put forward any areas they would wish to particularly scrutinise within the portfolio areas so that these could be communicated with the Portfolio Holder, enabling them to prepare a presentation for their attendance at Committee.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- a) the changes to the approach that Portfolio Holders take when attending Committee be approved; and
- b) the proposed schedule of attendance by Portfolio Holders, subject to their availability, be noted.

100 PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

The Committee considered the joint report of the Transformation & Service Improvement Manager and the Senior Transformation & Service Improvement Officer which sought to provide Members with an update on the Performance Framework and indicators that would be used to monitor and measure performance against the refreshed Community Plan. The report also shared the results of the recent Assurance Review of Performance Management, which were attached at Appendix 3 to the report.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- a) the Corporate Planning, Performance Management and Assurance Framework and the refreshed performance indicators be noted; and
- b) the findings of the recent assurance review of performance management be noted.

101 POLICY & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2025/2026

The Committee considered the report of the Democratic Services Officer which sought to provide Members with an outline of the Committee's Work Programme for the 2025/2026 Municipal Year.

Details of the topics discussed at the Committee's workshop held on 10 March 2025 and which had been put forward for inclusion in the work programme were listed at paragraph 1.2 of the report. The current work programme was appended to the report with a proposal that the items detailed in paragraph 1.2 be included. Members were also requested to consider any further topics they may wish to discuss at a future meeting.

In presenting the report, the Director – Customer Services & Organisational Development suggested that an invitation be extended to the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) to attend a future meeting of the Committee to enable Members to better understand the DWP's decision in relation to provision in the Ollerton area.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- a) the topics listed for inclusion in the Work Programme, as listed in paragraph 1.2 of the report, be approved; and
- b) an invitation to attend a future meeting of the Committee be extended to the Department for Work & Pensions, as detailed above.

102 CABINET FORWARD PLAN - APRIL TO JULY 2025

NOTED the Forward Plan of the Cabinet for the period April to July 2025.

103 MINUTES OF CABINET (PERFORMANCE) MEETING HELD ON 11 MARCH 2025

NOTED the Minutes of the Cabinet (Performance) meeting held on 11 March 2025.

104 PROVISIONAL ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

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

Meeting closed at 6.27 pm.

Chair



Report to: Policy & Performance Improvement Committee – 2 June 2025

Director Lead: Matthew Finch, Director - Communities & Environment

Lead Officers: Matthew Norton, Business Manager – Planning Policy & Infrastructure
Nick Law, Ecology & Biodiversity Lead Officer

Report Summary	
Report Title	Nottinghamshire & Nottingham Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation
Purpose of Report	To inform members of the production and consultation on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy by Nottinghamshire Council and to endorse the District Council's proposed response.
Recommendation	That the proposed consultation response at Appendix B be considered and forwarded to Cabinet for approval as the Council's consultation response.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Environment Act 2021 established a requirement to produce Local Nature Recovery Strategies for “areas” within England and that these strategies should cover the whole of England. The core purpose of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), as defined by DEFRA, is to help reverse the ongoing decline of nature and biodiversity in England through coordinated, practical and focused action.
- 1.2 Nottinghamshire County Council was formally appointed as the Responsible Authority for preparing, publishing, reviewing and re-publishing the LNRS for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 26 June 2023. Newark & Sherwood District Council, along with the other local authorities in Nottinghamshire, the East Midlands Combined County Authority and Natural England are identified as supporting authorities in the legislation.
- 1.3 The LNRS must be evidence based, locally led and collaborative. It must include a statement of biodiversity priorities and a local habitat map. The statement covers:
 - the existing biodiversity
 - opportunities and priorities, in terms of habitats and species, for recovering or enhancing biodiversity; and
 - proposals for potential measures relating to the agreed priorities.
- 1.4 The LNRS must be published and be publicly available, with the evidence base against which it has been formulated, in accordance with the format prescribed by Government. It must then be reviewed and republished as part of an ongoing cycle of appraising what the strategy has achieved and identifying what further work is needed for nature to recovery.

- 1.5 The County Council has worked with the SAs and a wide range of stakeholders to produce a draft LNRS for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham, in accordance with the Regulations and Guidance. This has included both in-person and online events and workshops to inform development of the Priorities and Measures and the subsequent Mapping of Measures. Stakeholders engaged through events and workshops have included planners, ecologists, environmental and land-based NGOs, organisations that operate at landscape scale, green space and partnership groups, parish councils, farmers and landowners, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University. This stakeholder input has informed the production of the consultation draft of the LNRS and the accompanying digital mapping of Measures.
- 1.6 The process for adoption of the LNRS is set out in the Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023 which came into effect on 13 April 2023. Under the Regulations, the County Council must provide a consultation draft LNRS to the District Council and other SAs, prior to undertaking a wider public consultation. Supporting Authorities have 28 days to raise an objection, which would be referred to the Secretary of State.
- 1.7 The County Council carried out this consultation in March and April 2025. The District Council in reviewing the document raised a number of issues with the County Council, but ultimately though officers decided that the matters raised could be addressed as part of any updates to the LNRS and therefore did not object. The Council's letter and a summary of these issues addressed in the March and April 2025 consultation can be found at **Appendix A**.
- 1.8 No objections were received from SAs, and the County Council is now undertaking a public consultation on the draft LNRS for a period of 6 weeks. The consultation runs from 6th May to 16th June 2025. The Statement of Biodiversity Principals and the Local Habitat Map area available to view on the County's LNRS website: [Notts Nature Recovery](#)
- 1.9 Following the close of consultation, the County Council will consider the consultation response and finalise the LNRS. This is followed by a further 28-day period for the SAs to comment on the final version (and as at the pre-consultation stage can object to its publication) before notification can be given to the Secretary of State and the final version of the LNRS can be published.

2.0 Proposal/Options Considered

- 2.1 The County Council has engaged the District Council at various points during the production of the LNRS. Officers gave the County Council a detailed review of an earlier version of the mapped measures which had been provided. A number of issues were raised and as can be seen from the letter in **Appendix A** the County Council has attempted to address some of the concerns the Council has raised. Our continued concerns relate the suitability of some of the measures that have been set out for grassland and wet woodland and the usability of certain other mapped measures.

2.2 Ensuring the LNRS is appropriate is important not only in its own right but because of the influence it has on the planning process and wider land management policies. Under Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006, as a local authority, the District Council has a duty to have regard, in the exercise of our functions, to conserve and enhance biodiversity. This duty was further extended by amendments arising from the Environment Act 2021. This duty means that NSDC must have regard to the LNRS as this will define local priorities via locations for the protection, enhancement and creation of important biodiversity features.

2.3 The Government has provided guidance¹ as to how that ‘regard’ should be translated in terms of the plan making process:

“Local planning authorities should be aware of those areas mapped and identified in the relevant Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the measures proposed in them and consider how these should be reflected in their local plan. In doing so, they should consider what safeguarding would be appropriate to enable the proposed actions to be delivered, noting the potential to target stronger safeguarding in areas the local planning authority considers to be of greater importance. This will enable local planning authorities to support the best opportunities to create or improve habitat to conserve and enhance biodiversity, including where this may enable development in other location.”

2.4 Consequently, the LNRS will become an important component of the plan making process and will influence decision made on the location of new development and the policies and proposals in the new Local Plan. It should also be noted that once the LRNS is published it will replace the District Council’s interim [Mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain Strategic Significance Policy](#) (which was agreed by Cabinet in January 2024) and will be used to inform Biodiversity Net Gain considerations on new planning applications.

2.5 Beyond the planning process the LNRS has the potential to influence land management funding schemes and the emerging market for habitat banks, this is because most of the proposals in the LRNS will be delivered on private land holdings.

2.6 Following consideration of the Draft LNRS officers have drafted the Council’s proposed consultation response which is attached at **Appendix B** (to follow) for consideration by the Committee, before going on Cabinet on 10 June. The results of the discussion and decisions will be reported verbally to Cabinet. The proposed Council response has also been considered by Planning Policy Board on 28 May 2025. Alongside the response officers are preparing more detailed suggestions for potential additional areas for grassland measures to be applied to.

¹ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2018-2021), and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. *Guidance – Natural Environment*. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment>

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.

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.

[Mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain Strategic Significance Policy](#)

Catherine Mayhew
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Nottinghamshire County Council
County Hall
West Bridgford
Nottingham NG2 7QP

Telephone: 01636 650000
Email: matthew.norton@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk

Our ref:9-4-25 lttr NCC LNRS

Sent by email to: LNRSNN@nottsc.gov.uk

9 April 2025

Dear Catherine

RE: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE & NOTTINGHAM LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY – PROVISION OF CONSULTATION DRAFT TO SUPPORTING AUTHORITIES

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), prior to the commencement of public consultation. We do not wish to raise any objection to the LNRS going out to public consultation.

As you know we have had opportunity to raise a number of issues with you before this formal stage on various aspects of the LNRS and the proposals contained within it. We are pleased to see that the issues which we discussed have been addressed to the extent that they can be at this stage and look forward to addressing some of the more detailed issues as the LNRS is progressed. Please find attached our current observations on the LNRS based on our previous conversations and areas of the document where we believe further issues need to be addressed.

We look forward to working together on finalising the LNRS.

Yours Sincerely

Matthew Norton
Business Manager – Planning Policy & Implementation

Newark & Sherwood District Council – Current Observations on the Draft LNRS

The District Council provided a detailed response to your initial consultation in our report dated February 2025. This was then followed up with a TEAMS meeting on 07 March 2025.

The following summarises the Council's current position to highlight areas we consider are still of some concern, and which we consider will need addressing before final publication to enable a recommendation to be put before Cabinet for approval. The first part deals with the issues raised in our February response, the second part considers other issues arising from your most recent consultation.

1. Overlap with sites allocated for development in the relevant local plan

- Subsequent amendments have mostly addressed our initial concerns.

2. Overlap with existing built development

- This mainly involves the buffering approach that has been taken for measures relating to watercourses. This remains as mapped, and we still consider this does not look good visually.

3. Overlap with the Laxton Conservation Area

- This has been addressed by removal of measures from within the conservation area.

4. Poor Representation of Grassland Measures

- As agreed, we are re-evaluating this layer and anticipate suggesting additional areas. These will be provided in a further response with the hope that our suggestions will be accepted and included in the public consultation mapping.

5. Application of Mapping Methodology

- We still have concerns regarding this based on our comments below regarding the Wet Woodland layer.

6. Wet Woodland Layer

Whilst there seems to have been some amendment to this layer, this is still showing many areas where we consider it unlikely that creation of this habitat type would be feasible. On that basis it remains unclear as to how mapped areas have been fully assessed using the mapping methodology and appears to have just been an imported data set. Therefore we continue to have concerns.

7. Strategy Document

Section 1.9 Page 14 states that “...*there is a requirement to review every 3-10 years*”. We consider that this needs to be set period (e.g., every 5 years) so that this can be taken into consideration when plan making.

9 April 2025



**Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Local Nature
Recovery Strategy (LNRS)**

**NSDC Response to the public consultation on the
draft LNRS**

May 2025

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1. In February 2025 we commented on a pre-public consultation in our document titled *NSDC Response to consultation on initial draft mapping of “Areas that Could Become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity”* which, for context, should be read in conjunction with these comments. Many of the concerns we raised were subsequently addressed in advance of the public consultation. Where we still have concerns or matters requiring clarification these have been brought forward into this, our comments on the draft LNRS.
- 1.2. Sections 2.0 to 7.0 below reconsiders the points previously raised. In Section 8.0 we provide additional comments on the published draft LNRS.

2.0 Overlap with sites allocated for development in the relevant local plan

- 2.1. We previously raised concerns that the mapping process had not taken due account of allocated sites in Newark & Sherwood Local Development Framework Allocations & Development Management Development Plan Document¹ or the strategic growth areas.
- 2.2. Our earlier concerns have largely been addressed in the public consultation version of the Habitat Map. Where overlaps remain in the Newark Area Policy 2 (NAP2) area, this is considered acceptable and proportionate in respect of anticipated delivery of biodiversity enhancements within the strategic sites.

3.0 Overlap with existing built development

- 3.1. Again, mindful that a buffer approach had been taken with ‘rivers’ habitat, we noted that aside from this habitat, there were numerous instances where ‘Areas that Could Become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity’ (ACBs) had been mapped over existing built development. We had not examined the extent of these the same as we had done for allocated sites due to their frequency but considered this required further consideration as it seemed illogical to have ACBs that cover existing built development.
- 3.2. The extent to which this continues to occur is much reduced in the public consultation Habitat Map but still occurs frequently in relation to the mapped measures C/M6, C/M7 and C/M9:
 - *C/M6_ Establish a mix of shading conditions along watercourses to reduce water temperatures, through management of existing trees and establishment of new trees and woodland;*
 - *C/M7_ Undertake favourable management of the riparian zone, including by minimising the impacts of mechanical vegetation clearance and establishing marginal vegetation where absent, where appropriate; and*
 - *C/M9_ Renaturalise watercourses where appropriate, including by de-channelising, removing redundant hard engineering, reinstating meanders and braiding (if*

¹ Newark and Sherwood District Council. (2013). *Newark & Sherwood Local Development Framework Allocations & Development Management Development Plan Document – Adopted July 2013*.
<https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/nsdc-redesign/documents-and-images/your-council/planning-policy/supplementary-planning-information/allocations-and-development-management-dpd/Allocations-and-Development-Management-Development-Plan-Documents.pdf>

feasible), and creating backwaters and allowing existing natural processes to continue.

- 3.3. This has arisen from the fact that a buffering approach has been taken in relation to watercourses, with a 50m buffer either side of a watercourse applied. Invariably, this process has likely been influenced by the fact that once a watercourse has been mapped, the process of applying such a buffer can be automated within the Geographic Information System (GIS) used for the mapping.
- 3.4. We still consider that it is illogical to have mapped measures covering existing built development, particularly when, as is the case here, that the mapped measures have no relevance in the context of existing built development. The exception might be C-M9 where future redevelopment might create opportunities to de-culvert watercourses, but this would be better considered as an overarching measure. However, we make this comment acknowledging that the process to refine the mapping for these mapped measures would likely be time-consuming.
- 3.5. This overlap also occurs with the overarching potential measure A/M2 '*Target habitat enhancement and creation in areas where this will reduce fragmentation and increase ecological connectivity, through the creation of linkages, corridors and stepping stones*'. This mapped measure covers several settlements. However, in this instance as this covers wide generic areas and has a more generic objective it is more intuitive for the mapping to be similar in nature and to incorporate settlements. Consequently, we are more comfortable when overlap occurs with this measure.

4.0 Overlap with the Laxton Conservation Area

- 4.1. This has been addressed prior to the public consultation by removal of the measures within the conservation area.

5.0 Grassland

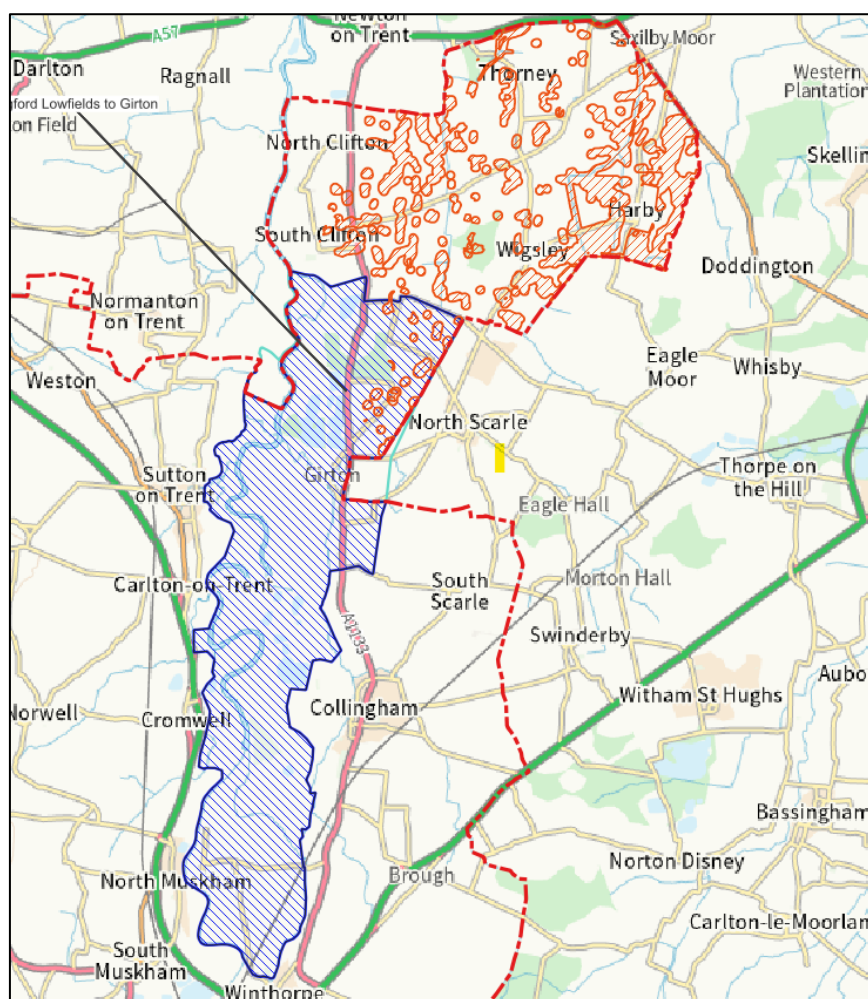
- 5.1. Following our concerns that grassland habitats appeared to be poorly represented in key areas of the Newark and Sherwood District, particularly in the Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping (BOM) 'Mercia Mudwoods Focal Area' and 'The Dumbles Focal Area', it was agreed that NSDC would propose additional areas to be mapped under the relevant grassland measures.
- 5.2. As part of the process leading to the consultation stage we had unsuccessfully tried to promote some grassland areas using the LNRS mapping methodology. So in this instance we have taken a simple, and we consider logical, method for selection of additional areas to be mapped. This is based on the designated Local Wildlife Site system. Where grassland habitat is noted as a feature of the designation, and there appears from aerial imagery to be the potential for expansion of the habitat on adjacent land, either through creation of new species-rich grassland or enhancement of existing grassland, we have mapped those areas. We will then leave it to the LNRS team to decide whether these are acceptable in terms of the methodology, but request that an explanation is provided for each area as to why it has not been carried forward to the final published Habitat Map.
- 5.3. These additional areas have been provided separately as a GIS layer.

6.0 Application of Mapping Methodology

- 6.1. We have previously raised concerns regarding the mapping methodology. The example we used to highlight this was associated with the mapped measures for wet woodland. It was consequently acknowledged by the LNRS team, that there were particular problems with an imported third-party data set used for that habitat. Whilst this provided a reasonable explanation to our specific query, this wet woodland layer continues to be of concern as discussed in the following section.

7.0 Wet Woodland Layer

- 7.1. In our previous comments we highlighted concerns regarding the 'wet woodland layer' provided as part of the early consultation stages with supporting authorities. As noted above, the LNRS team acknowledged that there were issues with the underlying dataset.
- 7.2. To illustrate our concerns, one of the areas we focussed on was a large area at the north of the district in the Clifton, Thorney, Harby area. This is shown as brown hatched areas on the extract below which we included in our comments. The blue hatched area is the BOM Langford Lowfields to Girton Focal Area.



- 7.3. In the public consultation draft, these brown hatched areas are now mapped as B/M5 Strategic habitat creation as part of large-scale development, creating more habitat and better ecological connectivity at a landscape-scale. They also form part of B/M4

Installation and retrofitting of features to reduce fragmentation caused by roads and railways, including underpasses and green bridges at key locations.

- 7.4. From a strategic plan making process, the general location, geography and current land-use for this area is such that large-scale development is extremely unlikely in this area. The one exception might be solar array developments, but in that case the creation of woodland habitat as part of the development is usually very limited because of the need to avoid shading of the solar panels. Also, this is not an area where we would consider that there has been significant fragmentation caused by transport links. Consequently, the mapping of these measures in this area, on the basis that they have, seems illogical and counter-intuitive to the need for measures to be ‘...*practical, realistic and deliverable*’ as set out in the draft Statement of Biodiversity Priorities. Consequently, we continue to have concerns for how these measures have been mapped in this area, as it seems to be at odds with the key principles of the LNRS, which then has the potential to influence overall confidence in the mapping procedure.

8.0 Relationship with Biodiversity Net Gain

- 8.1. The draft Statement of Biodiversity Priorities outlines the relationship with the LNRS and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). The main effect will be that the published LNRS will, through legislation, determine how the ‘strategic significance’ multiplier must be set when undertaking BNG calculations using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric (SBM).
- 8.1. The Draft Statement of Biodiversity Priorities states how “...*a purpose of the LNRS is to help to influence the location of BNG that is delivered at off-site locations.*” However, the LNRS will also determine how the strategic significance multiplier must be used when calculating the baseline habitat assessment and the post-development onsite biodiversity values. How this should be done is set out in the relevance guidance² and is summarised in Table 7 of that guidance which is reproduced below.

² DEFRA. (2024). *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide – July 2024*.
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/669e45fba3c2a28abb50d426/The_Statutory_Biodiversity_Metric_-_User_Guide_23.07.24_.pdf

Table 7 Biodiversity metric strategic significance categories and score applied in the metric where an LNRS has been published

Category	Score	Description
High (Formally identified in local strategy)	1.15	<p>This category can be applied when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the location of the habitat parcel has been mapped in the Local Habitat Map as an area where a potential measure has been proposed to help deliver the priorities of that LNRS; and the intervention is consistent with the potential measure proposed for that location <p>If your project delivers the mapped potential measure set out in the LNRS you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> record strategic significance as low in the baseline record strategic significance as high in post-intervention sheets record that you have applied the published LNRS in your gain plan
Medium	1.10	This category cannot be applied.
Low (Area / compensation not in local strategy)	1	<p>Where the definitions for high strategic significance are not met.</p> <p>Even if your project is an area mapped with a potential measure, if it does not deliver the specific actions outlined for your location you should record strategic significance as low.</p>

- 8.2. Consequently, this is where this aspect of the LNRS will be mostly used in terms of mandatory BNG. This is of particular importance and concern to us, as this will potentially have a major impact for the Local Planning Authority (LPA) who are now having to review many hundreds of submitted metric calculations annually, as opposed to a very small number of calculations (measured in single figures) for calculations associated with off-site habitat banks.
- 8.3. If a SBM calculation supporting a development proposal considers that something happening on site constitutes a mapped measure for that location they can then apply the 'high' category, which will then generate a higher value than would otherwise have been the case, thereby reducing the number of biodiversity units required to meet the mandatory minimum 10% measurable net gain. For this reason, it is inevitable that SBM calculations will, wherever possible, attempt to justify that what is being provided meets a mapped measure in that location. To ensure that the objectives of the LNRS are met, we consider it important that the LNRS guides the use of the mapped potential measures in SBM calculations with clarity and lack of ambiguity. This is also important to ensure that the LPA and applicants do not have to engage in protracted

discussions regarding whether the strategic significance multiplier has been applied appropriately or not.

- 8.4. On face value, application of the correct strategic significance multiplier should be straightforward; simply cross reference habitats being used in the SBM calculation with the LNRS Habitats Map, and then cross-reference the proposed habitat creation and/or enhancement being proposed with the relevant mapped potential measures for that habitat type. We consider it will be far from simple.
- 8.5. Each section of the broad habitat type and potential measures section starts with a statement of which priority habitats are covered, and which other habitats are covered as shown in the extract below for the Grassland Priorities and Potential Measures:

F - Grassland Priorities and Potential Measures	
Priority Habitats covered:	Lowland calcareous grassland, lowland meadows (lowland neutral grassland)
Other habitats covered:	Other semi-improved grassland
Related habitats:	N/A

- 8.6. The SBM utilises the UKHab habitat classification system. Therefore, when undertaking a SBM calculation there is a need to translate the UKHab habitats being used within the calculation with the habitat types used within the LNRS. And it is here that there is potentially problem which we discuss below using Grassland habitat as an example.
- 8.7. The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) descriptions^{3,4} for lowland calcareous grassland highlight which National Vegetation Classification (NVC) communities the habitat encompasses and close associations with these NVC communities is considered a prerequisite for the UKHab g2a 'lowland calcareous grassland' habitat type⁵. However, there is also the UKHab g2c 'other calcareous grassland' habitat type, with the UKHab definition noting that this is "...calcareous grassland that does not meet the definition of either g2a or g2b..." and which also needs to meet other criteria.
- 8.8. The SBM has just two types of calcareous grassland 'lowland calcareous grassland' and 'upland calcareous grassland'. So, only one type (the former) would be applicable in the LNRS area. So if a development SBM calculation is dealing with g2c 'other calcareous grassland' is this a grassland type that the LNRS considers is applicable to the Grassland Mapped Measures? There is then a further complication in that it could be argued that this would need to be entered into the SBM as 'lowland calcareous grassland' but this is a high distinctiveness habitat, as it represents the lowland calcareous grassland priority habitat (i.e. Habitat of Principal Importance), which g2c isn't. Therefore, is g2c considered by the LNRS to be 'other semi-improved grassland'.

³ UK Biodiversity Group. (1998). *UK BAP Habitat Action Plan – Lowland Calcareous Grassland*. <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20110303150119/http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=12>

⁴ BRIG, (Ed. Ant Maddock). (2008). *UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat Descriptions – Updated December 2011*. <https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/2728792c-c8c6-4b8c-9ccd-a908cb0f1432/UKBAP-PriorityHabitatDescriptions-Rev-2011.pdf>

⁵ UKHab Ltd. (2023). *UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0*. <https://www.ukhab.org/>

8.9. The term semi-improved grassland arose as part of the Phase 1 habitat classification and methodology published by the Nature Conservancy Council in 1990 with subsequent minor updates⁶. For calcareous grassland there were two categories for semi-improved; poor semi-improved and good semi-improved. Within the technical data sections of the SBM there is a table that translates the JNCC Phase 1 habitat types to the relevant SBM habitat types which for our example are:

- Semi-improved calcareous grassland (Good quality) > 'Grassland – lowland calcareous grassland' (which is a priority habitat of 'high' distinctiveness); and
- Semi-improved calcareous grassland (Poor quality) > 'Grassland – modified grassland' (which is a grassland of 'low' distinctiveness).

8.10. The LNRS only references 'other semi-improved grassland'. Because 'modified grassland' (which is g4 'modified grassland' in the UKHab classification system) is considered to include 'poor semi-improved' grassland, and species-poor regularly mown amenity grassland typical of public open space areas, it could be argued that the creation of 'modified grassland' represents a grassland habitat type that is covered by the potential measures for grassland. When one then looks at the potential measures it can be seen that it would have to include 'modified grassland' as this is a specific grassland type that measures F/M2⁷, F/M3⁸ and potentially H/M2⁹ appear to target given that 'modified grassland' includes amenity grassland.

8.11. We have used lowland calcareous grassland as the primary example here simply because it is the first habitat listed under Grassland. Within the LNRS area, most grassland habitat within SBM calculations will concern neutral grassland, but the same situation occurs with this.

8.12. We assume that 'lowland neutral grassland' has been provided in parenthesis after lowland meadows to ensure that the LNRS is an accessible document to all as without this the lay reader would not be aware that 'lowland meadow' priority habitat encompasses neutral grassland communities distinct from calcareous and acid grassland communities.

8.13. Lowland meadow priority habitat is similarly defined by NVC communities and is represented in the UKHab habitat classification system by g3a 'lowland meadows' and within the SBM by 'lowland meadows' habitat. So this should be clear and unambiguous. But the potential measures also cover 'other semi-improved grassland'.

8.14. Like calcareous grassland the SBM provides a suggested translation as follows:

⁶ JNCC. (2010). *Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey – a technique for environmental audit*. <https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/9578d07b-e018-4c66-9c1b-47110f14df2a/Handbook-Phase1-HabitatSurvey-Revised-2016.pdf>

⁷ F/M2 - *Bring unmanaged and neglected grasslands back into favourable management to increase species diversity, including field margins, buffer strips along watercourses, road verges, railways and amenity grasslands.*

⁸ F/M3 - *Increase the value of grasslands in public open space, and in other areas such as golf courses and cemeteries, including by relaxing mowing regimes and increasing species richness.*

⁹ H/M2 - *Carry out wildlife-friendly management of public green spaces (including parks, allotments, churchyards and cemeteries, road verges, walkways, watercourses, wetlands and woodlands), including by relaxing mowing regimes, establishing wildflower grasslands, planting native trees and shrubs, and creating ponds.*

- Semi-improved neutral grassland (Good quality) > 'Grassland – other neutral grassland' (which is a priority habitat of 'medium' distinctiveness); and
- Semi-improved neutral grassland (Poor quality) > 'Grassland – modified grassland' (which is a grassland of 'low' distinctiveness).

8.15. Also, the aforementioned mapped measures F/M2, F/M3 and H/M2 will apply to modified grassland that is neutral in nature.

8.16. This means that when LPA ecologists are reviewing submitted SBM calculations for **each habitat parcel** they will need to:

- a) Check each habitat parcel on the pre-development baseline, and for the post-development scenario to see if it is a habitat type that potentially correlates with an LNRS habitat type for which there are mapped measures at that location.
- b) If there are mapped measures for the habitat type, to then decide if proposed habitat creation and/or enhancement and the target habitat condition correlates with the relevant mapped measure. Here there is likely to be numerous differences of opinions between the reviewing LPA ecologist and whoever prepared the SBM arising from simple differences of professional opinion and the fact that it will be advantageous for the development to try and demonstrate that it is delivering mapped measures because this will then reduce the amount of BNG units needed.

8.17. This potential issue was taken into consideration by NSDC when it prepared and subsequently adopted its document¹⁰, and associate Focal Areas Plan¹¹, that sets out how it considered the strategic significance multiplier should be used in SBM calculations during the interim period before the LNRS was published. This provides a clear reference as to what UKHab habitats apply. Whilst there is probably little that can be done to alleviate the inevitable additional burden that will be placed on LPA ecologists reviewing SBM calculations in respect of whether proposed delivery of mapped measures are acceptable or not, we consider that there is potential to partially mitigate this burden by the addition of an Appendix to the LNRS linked to the Priority Habitats and Other Habitats, listed for each broad habitat type, similar to that used in the NSDC document, which provides a clear definition of which UKHab and SBM habitat are applicable.

8.18. This issue is then further compounded by the Overarching Priorities and Potential Measures which are stated to cover all Priority Habitats and all Other Habitats, which could reasonably be interpreted as being any habitat. Whilst there are fewer potential measures than for the broad habitat types, we anticipate that A/M2 *"Target habitat enhancement and creation in areas where this will reduce fragmentation and increase ecological connectivity, through the creation of linkages, corridors and stepping stones"* is likely to become a particular focus of attention, with habitat creation and enhancement measures proposed in a way that it was most likely not intended by the

¹⁰ <https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/nsdc-redesign/documents-and-images/your-council/planning-policy/other-planning-policy-information/biodiversity-and-landscape/Mandatory-Biodiversity-Net-Gain---Strategic-Significance-Policy.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/nsdc-redesign/documents-and-images/your-council/planning-policy/other-planning-policy-information/biodiversity-and-landscape/Mandatory-Biodiversity-Net-Gain---Strategic-Significance---Focal-Areas-Plan.pdf>

LNRS, and which are no more than 'token gestures', but which LPA ecologists will find difficult to argue against.

8.19. Therefore, in summary. We consider that the lack of correlation in the terminology for habitats used in the Priorities and Potential Measures with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric and the UKHab habitat classification system will result in additional burdens for ecologists preparing BNG calculations, and for the local planning authority when reviewing calculations. We also consider that this will lead to developments being able to include 'token measures' towards the delivery of mapped measures with the benefit of a reduced number of BNG units being needed by the development.

8.20. Section 2.3 of the draft Statement of Biodiversity Priorities states that:

"This effectively means that less BNG needs to be provided if off-site provision is on a site identified in the LNRS (where the relevant habitat is being created or enhanced) and will incentivise developers to focus their off-site BNG in the places where it will have the biggest impact for nature recovery.

We consider this is misleading. The effect for offsite habitat banks is that this means more BNG units can be delivered per unit of area. It has no effect on the amount of BNG units required offsite by a development proposal.



Report to: Policy & Performance Improvement Committee – 2 June 2025

Director Lead: Suzanne Shead, Housing, Health & Wellbeing

Lead Officer: Cara Clarkson, Business Manager - Regeneration & Housing Strategy

Report Summary	
Report Title	Yorke Drive Regeneration Scheme - Update
Purpose of Report	To provide a cover report for the Committee on progress within the Yorke Drive Regeneration Scheme, with a presentation to be delivered on the night.
Recommendations	That progress within the Yorke Drive Regeneration Scheme is noted.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Yorke Drive Regeneration Scheme achieved reserved matters planning approval in January 2025. The scheme is now entering a mobilisation phase to deliver a start on site later this year.

2.0 Key Updates to be covered in presentation

- 2.1 Please see a presentation attached to this report which will be delivered on the night.
- 2.2 In addition, presentation boards will be available for viewing and discussion with Officers, in the Civic Suite in advance of the meeting, from 5pm.

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.

3.1 Financial Implications (FIN25-26/3598)

There are no financial implications arising as a result of this update report. The budget for the Yorke Drive Regeneration Project was approved by Cabinet on 10 December 2024.

3.2 Legal Implications

There are no additional legal implications arising as a result of this update report.

3.3 Human Resources Implications

There are no additional Human Resource implications arising as a result of this update report.

3.4 Equality Implications

There are no additional Equality implications arising as a result of this update report. An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken at the outset of the project to ensure that no one group of people would be unduly negatively impacted by the project.

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.

2024

[Cabinet meeting 4 November 2024 \(PDF File, 669kb\)](#)

2022

[Homes and Communities Committee 14 March 2022 \(PDF File, 967kb\)](#)

2021

[Homes and Communities Committee 18 January 2021 \(PDF File, 847kb\)](#)


[Policy and Finance Committee 22 February 2021 \(PDF File, 975kb\)](#)

[Policy and Finance Committee 25 November 2021 \(PDF File, 755kb\)](#)

2019

[Policy and Finance Committee 28 November 2019 \(PDF File, 909kb\)](#)

[Policy and Finance Committee 28 November 2019 Appendix A \(PDF File, 1,006kb\)](#)




Yorke Drive Regeneration


Presentation to Policy and Performance Improvement Committee

2nd June 2025


Cara Clarkson, Business Manager, Regeneration and Housing Strategy



1




What we will cover




- The journey so far...
- Design and Planning
- Resident Engagement and Offer
- Estate Management
- Funding
- Legal
- Risk
- Programme and next steps

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2




The journey so far




- Yorke Drive Neighbourhood Study
- Accelerated construction funding 2017
- Outline Planning Approval 2019
- Developer Procurement
- Reserved Matters – challenges and outcomes
- RM Approval January 2025

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3




Design and Planning




- Outline – 320 Homes/ 100 Affordable
- RM – 207 Homes/ 74 Affordable
- New access road onto Lincoln Road
- Pavilion – sports hall, kitchen, 4x changing rooms, official changing and storage
- 3 x Full Size, 2x Junior football pitches
- Play Area (Loca Equipped Area of Play x 1, Local Area Play x 3)
- Trim Trail

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Resident engagement and offer




- All residents who wish to stay on Yorke Drive have been offered a new home
- Residents to only move once (as far as practically possible)
- Those wishing to move off the drive will be supported with priority to move
- Compensation is payable for home loss and disturbance payments to cover costs associated with move
- Involvement through design and procurement
- Regular communications including newsletter and resident panel

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Estate management




- Void management
- ASB on Yorke Drive
- Investing in the wider estate

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Finances and Legal



Finance


- Homes England
- Cabinet @ Newark and Sherwood District Council 10.12.2024

Legal


- Shared Equity
- Compulsory Purchase Order

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7




Risk



- Loss of community support
- Loss of political support
- Security on site – before and during development
- Global economics/ politics – impacting on costs of materials, interest rates and availability of mortgages
- Communications

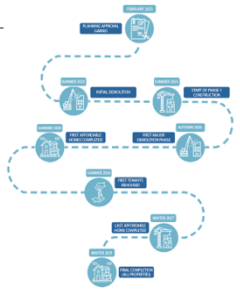
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Programme and Next Steps

Supporting images



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Report to: Policy & Performance Improvement Committee: 2 June 2025

Director Lead: Deborah Johnson, Director – Customer Services & Organisational Development

Lead Officers: Neil Cuttall, Business Manager - Economic Growth & Visitor Economy
Mark Randle, Transformation & Improvement Officer

Report Summary	
Report Title	Presentation by the Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Performance & Finance
Purpose of Report	Update on the Portfolio for Strategy, Performance & Finance
Recommendations	That the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee note the contents of the report.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 At the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee (PPIC) meeting held on 29 January 2024, Members agreed a process for Portfolio Holders to be invited to meetings of the Committee. This enabled the Portfolio Holder to brief the Committee on their remit and current and future plans and projects. It would also offer the Committee opportunity to ask focussed questions of the Portfolio Holder. This process ran from March 2024 to March 2025.
- 1.2 At the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee meeting held on 1^h April 2025, Members agreed to a change in the process for Portfolio Holders attending Committee.
- 1.3 The new change in process requested that Portfolio Holders report back on 'specific areas' of their Portfolio, which will be requested by the Committee. Portfolio Holders are asked to produce a short report in answer to these specific areas. They will present back to the Committee and then take questions.

2.0 Proposal/Options Considered

- 2.1 This report relates to the Strategy, Performance & Finance Portfolio, this is the Portfolio of the Leader of the Council, Cllr Paul Peacock.

The Committee requested:

- An update on the Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) Action Plan
- An update of the following Capital Projects.
 - 32 Stodman Street
 - Ollerton and Clipstone Regeneration
 - Newark Town Centre Masterplan

3.0 Update on the Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) Action Plan

- 3.1 In February 2025 the Cabinet approved the formation of a cross-party working group that were tasked with developing an action plan designed to deliver on the peer team's observations. The working group reviewed in full the team's recommendations and through several meetings worked with officers to produce the action plan which will be presented publicly via our website in June.
- 3.2 Throughout this process, opportunities to implement the changes, recommended in the report were taken, so we are well underway in delivering change. An example of this can be seen in the review of the Community Plan which is now complete. The results of which are being presented to full Council on 20 May 2025.
- 3.3 The delivery of the action plan is a collective responsibility of all council officers, preparing it collaboratively with members, has enhanced efforts to align existing programmes and initiatives. Lead officers have been assigned accordingly, and progress will be driven and monitored through established governance structures.
- 3.4 These officers are tasked with ensuring the advancement of actions, facilitating wider staff involvement, and reporting on milestone achievements through established corporate performance monitoring frameworks. Regular updates on the action plan will be received by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) with a full progress update expected in September 2025. In the longer term, the LGA will return to NSDC for their progress review, offering council officers and elected members the opportunity to share successes and challenges with peers and to thoroughly evaluate progress against the CPC recommendations.

4.0 Update on Capital Projects

The Stodman Street Project

- 4.1 As Members are aware the Stodman Street project forms one of the Newark Towns Fund projects, as captured in the [Newark Town Investment Plan 2020](#) (TIP). The Council have received various reports on the project over its lifetime, from the rationale for its strategic acquisition in 2019 to plans for its repurposing to provide smaller in-demand retail units and higher quality town centre living. The scheme is intended to address market-failure, utilising public sector grant and investment as a catalyst for other landowners and investors. For completeness, previous reports to this Committee and Cabinet are captured below. Members will note that the project has had unanimous support for its delivery across this and the previous administration of this Council, from this and the previous Government in funding the scheme, and from all organisations who made up the original Town Fund Board.
- 4.2 The development of the Stodman Street scheme also required a Full Green Book Business Case to be developed and approved by both the Council, Town Board and Government. This was completed and agreed in February 2022. This outlined what the project would deliver, what outputs and outcomes would be achieved and a value for money assessment referred to as a Benefit Cost Ratio.

4.3 As with all capital projects of scale which are being promoted due to the need for grant given market failure delivery of the scheme has taken time. The timescale for delivery has slipped from that originally envisaged principally due to inflationary cost challenges within the construction market. Indeed, Members will be aware of the need for this project to negotiate further grant than originally allocated from the Newark Towns Fund with associated revisions to the Capital program. The scheme remains on track for completion in Spring 2026, with the Council having secured Arkwood to rent the residential units. The retail units are to be presented to market shortly.

4.4 Previous reports to the Council:

- February 2020 – [32 Stodman Street February 2020](#) (Policy & Finance Committee)
- November 2020 - [Newark Town Fund November 2020](#) (Policy & Finance Committee)
- January 2021 - [Newark Town Fund January 2021](#) (Economic Development Committee)
- January 2021 - [Stodman Street January 2021](#) (Economic Development Committee)
- April 2021 - [Newark Town Fund April 2021](#) (Policy & Finance Committee)
- April 2021 - [Stodman Street Delivery Vehicle April 2021](#) (Policy & Finance Committee)
- June 2021 - [Newark Town Fund June 2021](#) (Economic Development Committee)
- June 2021 - [Stodman Street BLF June 2021](#) (Economic Development Committee)
- June 2021 - [Newark Town Fund June 2021](#) (Policy & Finance Committee)
- September 2021 - [Newark Town Fund September 2021](#) (Policy & Finance Committee)
- November 2021 - [Newark Town Fund November 2021](#) (Policy & Finance Committee) *at the meeting the full green book business case was approved for Stodman Street.*
- January 2022 - [Newark Town Fund January 2022](#) (Policy & Finance Committee)
- June 2022 - [Newark Town Fund June 2022](#) (Cabinet)
- October 2022 - [Newark Town Fund October 2022](#) (Cabinet)
- November 2022 - [Newark Town Investment Plan and Town Deal](#) (Planning Performance & Improvement Committee)
- February 2023 - [Stodman Street February 2023](#) (Cabinet)
- June 2023 - [Newark Town Investment Plan and Town Deal](#) (Planning Performance & Improvement Committee)
- September 2023 - [Newark Town Fund September 2023](#) (Cabinet)
- May 2024 - [Newark Town Fund May 2024](#) (Cabinet)
- July 2024 - [Stodman Street July 2024](#) (Cabinet)
- September 2024 - [Newark Town Fund September 2024](#) (Cabinet)
- November 2024 – [Newark Town Fund Update](#) (Planning Performance & Improvement Committee)
- February 2025 – [Newark & Sherwood Funding Update](#) (Cabinet)

4.5 Various updates have also been presented to the Newark Town Fund Board. Board Papers can be found here: [Newark Town Board Agendas and Minutes.](#)

Levelling Up Fund 2 – Ollerton and Clipstone

- 4.6 The 'Shaping Sherwood's Rival Scheme' comprises both Ollerton and Clipstone regeneration projects, following an award of £20m in Levelling-Up 3 funding from the UK Government. The scheme was identified by the Council and key partners as a local strategic priority in 2021/2022 and the award of £20m follows a funding submission for LUF 2 grant in July 2022, however, previously unsuccessful at that time due to the then-Government changing the assessment criteria after the submission of our bid. In October 2023, the Government announced that the scheme had been identified as a successful project for LUF 3 grant, subject to a number of due diligence checks and a robust validation process.
- 4.7 Following a pause in the UK LUF programme relating to the change in UK Government, the formal approval of funding via an MoU was delayed until January 2025, with an extension to the funding deadline to March 2028, recently granted in April 2025. Whilst both projects have progressed over the last 3 years, activity was restricted due to these delays, and the absence of LUF funding.
- 4.8 The Ollerton Town Centre Regeneration project proposes to connect Forest Road, Rufford Avenue and Sherwood Drive, through the demolition of The Forest Centre and the former Lloyds Bank. The scheme is expected to provide a new public services hub, 3-screen cinema, retail units including food and beverage, commercial offices, public realm improvements and residential units.
- 4.9 Through delivery of the Ollerton Town Centre Regeneration Scheme, residents will receive enhanced access to key public services, increased social and cultural opportunities through access to leisure, hospitality and entertainment and an improved destination offer for visitors of the Town. The project is currently operating in RIBA Stage 3 (design stage), in preparation for planning application submission, expected late Summer 2025. The project is currently forecasted to complete Spring/Summer 2028, subject to planning approval.
- 4.10 The Clipstone Regeneration Scheme, located on Mansfield Road, includes 3 core delivery phases:
1. **Phase 1** involves the development of 30 Commercial units at the Clipstone Holdings Site, creating employment opportunities and unlocking local economic growth, with expected completion, September 2026, following Planning approval in March 2025.
 2. **Phase 2** of the Clipstone scheme is led by the Clipstone Miners Welfare Trust (CMWT) as project delivery partner, to provide enhanced sports and leisure facilities for the local community including new 3G pitches, parking and a sports pavilion. Public consultation was undertaken in July 2024, and discussions are ongoing with CMWT to finalise designs and delivery arrangements, with an expected completion date of Summer 2025.
 3. **Phase 3** of the Clipstone Regeneration Scheme surrounds an improved cultural, education and visitor offer at Vicar Water country park, considering connectivity between phases 2 and 3, and improvements and expansion of the current visitor centre. The project is intended to provide an improved offer for local residents and visitors of the park, through an enhanced educational space and visitor centre cafe. This part of the scheme, is expected to complete March 2028, subject to planning approval.

Newark Town Centre Masterplan

- 4.11 An update on the Newark Town Centre Masterplan was presented to the last PPIC meeting, including updates on timetable and targeted adoption date.
- 4.12 The Masterplan will provide a long-term vision for the Town, offering confidence on what will be supported and resisted and identifying opportunity areas for future interventions and managing physical or spatial change. It will inform landowner and investor decisions and can inform future interventions of this Council or potentially future grant-funding opportunities, building upon town centre interventions already made such as 32 Stodman Street, Newark Buttermarket and the former Robin Hood Travelodge.
- 4.13 The Design Code will be the first of its type in a historic setting as rich as varied as Newark, hence the partnering with Historic England. It will enable the positive management of physical change, something that any town centre will need to content with in the coming years. Both the Masterplan and Design Code have been informed by significant engagement, as captured here: [Newark Masterplan Website](#)

5.0 Implications

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

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

- **PPIC Report 29 January 2024** - Attendance by Portfolio Holders to Future Meetings of the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee
- **PPIC Report 14 April 2025**- Attendance by Portfolio Holders to Future Meetings of the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee

Forward Plan

For the Period May 2025 - August 2025



What is the Plan?

This Forward Plan sets out all of the Key Decisions that are expected to be taken during the period referred to above.

The Council has a statutory duty to prepare this document, in accordance, with the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended). The Plan is published monthly and will be available on the [Council's Website](#).

What is a Key Decision?

The decisions listed in this plan are 'Key Decisions'. A Key Decision is one that is likely to:

- (a) Result in the Council spending or making savings of over £150,000 revenue or £300,000 in capital, or;
- (b) Where the impact of the decision would be significant in terms of its impact on communities living or working in two or more Wards.

Under the Council's Constitution, Key Decisions are made by the Cabinet, Portfolio Holders, or officers acting under delegated powers.

Exempt Information

The plan also lists those 'Exempt' Key Decisions which are going to be taken over the next four months. Exempt Key Decisions are those decisions which have to be taken in private. This is because they involve confidential or exempt information which cannot be shared with the public.

Agenda papers for Cabinet meetings are published on the Council's website 5 working days before the meeting [here](#). Any items marked confidential or exempt will not be available for public inspection.

Any background paper listed can be obtained by contacting the Responsible Officer. Responsible officers can be contacted on 01636 650000 or customerservices@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk

Decision to be taken / Report title and Summary	Decision maker	Date Decision to be taken	Responsible Portfolio Holder	Responsible Officer	Exempt y/n and Grounds for exemption	Date decision can be implemented
Stodman Street Phase 2 - St Marks	Cabinet	10 Jun 2025	Leader - Portfolio Holder Strategy, Performance & Finance	Neil Cuttall, Business Manager- Economic Growth & Visitor Economy Neil.Cuttall@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk, Kevin Shutt, Housing Development Manager HRA kevin.shutt@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk	Part exempt	
Purchase of Vehicles for the Rollout of Kerbside Food Waste Collection Service	Cabinet	10 Jun 2025	Leader - Portfolio Holder Strategy, Performance & Finance	Andrew Kirk, Business Manager - Environmental Services Andrew.Kirk@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk	Part exempt	
Solar Energy Supplementary Planning Document	Cabinet	10 Jun 2025	Portfolio Holder - Sustainable Economic Development	Matthew Norton, Business Manager - Planning Policy and Infrastructure matthew.norton@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk	Open	

Decision to be taken / Report title and Summary	Decision Maker	Date Decision to be taken	Responsible Portfolio Holder	Responsible Officer	Exempt y/n and Grounds for exemption	Date decision can be implemented
Plan for Neighbourhoods Update	Cabinet	10 Jun 2025	Portfolio Holder - Sustainable Economic Development	Matt Lamb, Director - Planning and Growth Matt.Lamb@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk	Open	
Rural England Prosperity Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund Grants 2025-26	Cabinet	10 Jun 2025	Portfolio Holder - Sustainable Economic Development	Sarah Husselbee sarah.husselbee@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk	Open	
Review of the Council's Carbon Net Neutral Target	Cabinet	10 Jun 2025	Portfolio Holder - Climate and the Environment	Carl Burns, Transformation and Service Improvement Manager carl.burns@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk	Open	
Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Cabinet	10 Jun 2025	Portfolio Holder - Climate and the Environment	Matthew Norton, Business Manager - Planning Policy and Infrastructure matthew.norton@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk, Nick Law nick.law@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk	Open	

Decision to be taken / Report title and Summary	Decision Maker	Date Decision to be taken	Responsible Portfolio Holder	Responsible Officer	Exempt y/n and Grounds for exemption	Date decision can be implemented
Newark Lorry Park Improvements	Cabinet	8 Jul 2025	Leader - Portfolio Holder Strategy, Performance & Finance	Steven Chitty, Major Capital Projects Delivery Manager steven.chitty@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk	Part exempt	
Development Plot Adjacent to Newark Lorry Park	Cabinet	8 Jul 2025	Leader - Portfolio Holder Strategy, Performance & Finance	Steven Chitty, Major Capital Projects Delivery Manager steven.chitty@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk	Part exempt	
Management of Open Spaces on new Developments and Fernwood Open Space	Cabinet	8 Jul 2025	Portfolio Holder - Climate and the Environment	Matt Lamb, Director - Planning and Growth Matt.Lamb@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk	Open	

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, 1 April 2025 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor P Peacock (Chair)

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

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor S Crosby

258 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.

259 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillor L Brazier declared an Other Registerable Interest in Agenda Item No. 6 – Levelling Up 3 - Programme Update – as a Member of Ollerton & Boughton Town Council.

260 MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11 MARCH 2025

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

261 LEVELLING UP 3 - PROGRAMME UPDATE (KEY DECISION)

The Director – Planning & Growth presented a report which provided Cabinet with an update on the Levelling Up Fund 3 (LUF 3) programme and proposed key recommendations to the Cabinet regarding the delivery of the Ollerton and Clipstone regeneration projects. Following the update report presented to the Cabinet in December 2024, officers had continued to discuss the developments associated with the 'Shaping Sherwood's Revival Scheme' with the government and had continued to seek the necessary extension of the LUF 3 funding period to March 2028, following a pause of the national programme in 2024, and the prolonged confirmation of the £20m grant for the local scheme.

It was reported that in January 2025, the Council and government successfully formalised the £20m LUF 3 commitment to Sherwood through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU provided further assurance relating to the future funding in addition to the release of an initial draw down of LUF 3 grant of £1,264,211. However, it was noted that the essential deadline extension to March 2028 remained unconfirmed by the government at the current time.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

- a) notes the updates associated with the LUF 3 Programme, including the recent execution of the Government Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), and the initial payment of LUF 3 grant to the Council, as detailed in paragraph 1.2 of the report.

Ollerton Town Centre Regeneration Scheme

- b) approves the reallocation of £450,000 of the capital budget of £500,000 approved by Cabinet on 10 December 2024, to revenue budget, as detailed in paragraph 2.5 of the report, funded by the LUF 3 grant;
- c) approves the addition of £68,000 within the Capital Programme, financed by grant, as detailed in paragraphs 1.5 and 1.6 of the report; and
- d) approves the addition of a £322,000 revenue budget, financed by grant, as detailed in paragraphs 1.5 and 1.6 of the report.

Clipstone Regeneration Scheme

- e) approves the reallocation of the capital budget of £200,000 approved by Cabinet on 10 December 2024, to revenue budget, as detailed in paragraph 2.6 of the report, funded by the LUF 3 grant; and
- f) notes the additional £40,000 revenue budget, funded by Government granted LUF 3 capacity funding, as detailed in paragraph 1.13 of the report.

Reasons for Decision:

The recommendations within the report aim to prevent further delays of both Ollerton and Clipstone projects, supporting the scheme to meet an anticipated March 2028 LUF 3 spend deadline. Without the provision of additional funding to progress key workstreams, the ability to meet a March 2028 spend deadline is further compromised and would present a subsequent risk regarding potential loss of funding.

Options Considered:

Consideration has been given as to whether both Ollerton and Clipstone should be placed into a secondary paused status, until the outstanding risks and matters noted in this report are resolved. This approach is not recommended at this stage, as by pausing both projects again, it is unlikely that either scheme will be able to defray the LUF 3 funds by March 2028, preventing transformational change to be delivered to the Ollerton and Clipstone communities. Furthermore, the budgets requested within this report are required to finalise the outstanding matters detailed in this report, and therefore progression is not possible without additional funding.

262 STRATEGIC HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The Business Manager – Planning Policy & Infrastructure presented a report which presented the draft Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) methodology and sought approval of the document for public consultation. The National Planning Policy Framework required all local authorities to prepare a SHELAA to identify a sufficient mix of sites for housing and employment. In order to assess each site, it was necessary for a methodology document to be prepared. This was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. The draft methodology document had been considered by the Planning Policy Board in February who had recommended it to the Cabinet for approval.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet approve:

- a) the proposed contents of the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability (SHELAA) Assessment Methodology at Appendix 1 to the report; and
- b) undertaking the public consultation for a period of six weeks with relevant stakeholders on the proposed Methodology.

Reasons for Decision:

To allow the District Council to consult on the draft SHELAA Methodology.

Options Considered:

There is no formal requirement to consult on SHELAA methodology, but it is considered that by doing so it will ensure the site assessment process is robust.

263 BASSETLAW, NEWARK & SHERWOOD COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY (KEY DECISION)

The Business Manager – Public Protection presented a report which sought approval for a new Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood Community Safety Partnership Strategy. Each Community Safety Partnership (CSP) was required to have in place a Strategy and a delivery plan setting out key themes within the CSP. The Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood CSP was attached as Appendix 1 to the report, with the delivery plan at Appendix 2. The key themes in the Strategy were: serious violence against women and girls and domestic abuse; anti-social behaviour; vulnerability and contextual safeguarding; community cohesion; and neighbourhood crime. It was noted that the Strategy had been formally adopted by Bassetlaw District Council.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet approve the adoption of the new Community Safety Strategy.

Reasons for Decision:

To ensure Newark and Sherwood District Council meet the requirement from the Community Safety Partnership by adopting the strategy. This directly links to the reduction of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Objective from the Community Plan.

Options Considered:

Community Safety Partnerships are required to have a strategy in place. This document has been adopted by Bassetlaw. There are no other alternative options.

264 DOMESTIC ABUSE POLICY (KEY DECISION)

The Business Manager – Public Protection presented a report which sought approval for a four-week public consultation period on a draft Domestic Abuse Policy, prior to formal approval. It was noted that every local authority in Nottinghamshire had committed to seek accreditation through the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance which was being supported and funded by Nottinghamshire County Council. The draft policy was attached as Appendix 1 to the report and this set out what people could expect when contacting the Council and how the Council would support those impacted by domestic abuse. The draft policy would be shared with the Tenant Engagement Board, Engaged Tenants and key stakeholders, alongside the proposed public consultation.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- a) approval be given for a four-week period public consultation for the draft Domestic Abuse Policy; and
- b) delegated authority be given to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection & Community Relations in consultation with the Director - Communities & Environment to approve any amendments resulting from the consultation.

Reasons for Decision:

- To ensure compliance with the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation;
- To continue to seek improvements for those facing Domestic Abuse; and
- The recommendations link directly to the Community Plan Objectives of Reducing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.

Options Considered:

A Domestic Abuse Policy is required to be in place in order to ensure compliance with the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation, there are no alternative options.

265 COMMUNITY PLAN REFRESH (KEY DECISION)

The Transformation and Service Improvement Officer presented a report which proposed a refreshed Community Plan for 2023-27 for recommendation to Full Council. The Community Plan was the key direction setting document used to outline the priorities and vision of the Council for a four-year term. The current Plan had been in place formally since December 2023 and senior Members and Portfolio Holders had been reviewing progress against the Plan and challenging what was outstanding as a priority and account for any emerging priorities which had arisen since the development of the Plan. The refreshed Community Plan was attached as Appendix 1 to the report, with the changes being highlighted in Appendix 2.

As part of the refresh, it was proposed to adapt and broaden out the action which described the Motion for the Ocean, to instead to outline the Council's ambition to work in conjunction with statutory authorities to promote good river and waterway health. The refreshed Community Plan had been presented to the Policy and Performance Improvement Committee at their meeting held on 10 March 2025, at which they recommended approval.

AGREED (with 6 votes for and 1 abstention) that:

- a) the refreshed Community Plan 2023-2027 be referred to Full Council for approval and adoption;
- b) the £45,000 budget that was allocated towards activities for Motion for the Ocean as part of the 2025/26 revenue budget setting, be re-allocated into the Flooding Defence Reserve to fund a further Community Resilience Grant Scheme in 2025/26; and
- c) the transfer of £10,000 from the Cleaner, Safer, Greener reserve to Environmental Services to allow the organisation of day-to-day activities around the commitment to grow ocean literacy (Motion for the Ocean) be approved.

Reasons for Decision:

The Community Plan 2023-2027 is the key document which will set the vision and direction of the Council during a four-year term. As such it is necessary that this document is refreshed throughout the four year term, to ensure the plan reflects the projects and initiatives which are ongoing or yet to be delivered.

Options Considered:

To not refresh the Community Plan for 2023-2027.

266 MANSFIELD CREMATORIUM REDEVELOPMENT (KEY DECISION)

The Assistant Director – Legal & Democratic Services presented a report which sought approval of the resolution by the Mansfield and District Joint Crematorium Committee (of which the Council is a constituent member) to redevelop Mansfield Crematorium and to approve the financial arrangements for the Council's contribution to the cost of redevelopment.

The Crematorium required either significant refurbishment or replacement, as was detailed in the exempt appendix to the report. The Joint Committee had carefully considered the available options and on 24 February 2025 unanimously resolved to endorse refurbishment, subject to approval by each constituent authority. It was reported that both Mansfield and Ashfield District Council's had resolved to endorse refurbishment and approve the applicable capital expenditure arrangements.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet approve:

- a) Option C the high level refurbishment of Mansfield Crematorium as detailed in Exempt Appendix A to the report, and commencement of the refurbishment project;

- b) the allocation of the Usable Reserves to partially cover the VAT liability on the development, limiting the financial impact on each authority area for the refurbishment programme, as set out in Annex A within Exempt Appendix A to the report;
- c) the remaining total contribution by the Council, to pay the remaining VAT liability and year one deficit, as set out in paragraphs 2.45, 2.46 and Annex A within Exempt Appendix A to the report; and
- d) an increase to the Capital Programme by £211,900, funded by the Change Management Reserve, to fund the Council's contribution towards the high-level refurbishment works as suggested in Option C.

Reasons for Decision:

To ensure ongoing performance, viability and reputation of the Mansfield Crematorium.

Options Considered:

The Mansfield and District Joint Crematorium Committee has considered alternatives including new build, sale, closure and a lower-level refurbishment. These are all explored in detail in the exempt appendix to the report.

Meeting closed at 7.25 pm.

Chair