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Monday, 6 July 2026

Chair: Councillor D Moore
Vice-Chair: Councillor D Darby

To all Members of the Council:

MEETING: Full Council

DATE: Tuesday, 14 July 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 Tel: 01636 655243 Email: Nigel.hill@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk

AGENDA

	<u>Page Nos.</u>
1. Notification to those present that the meeting will be recorded and streamed online	
2. Apologies for absence	
3. Declarations of Interest by Members and Officers	
4. Minutes from the meeting held on 19 May 2026	4 - 21
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. Political Composition of the Council and Allocation of Seats on Committees	22 - 25
9. Policy & Performance Improvement Committee Annual Report 2025-26	26 - 67
10. Treasury Management Outturn Report 2024-25	68 - 78
11. Notices of Motion	79 - 81
In accordance with the Rule No. 3.4.3, the following motions are to be considered:	
Motion 1 - A46 Newark Bypass Scheme	
Motion 2 - The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council and the 1 SRA Only Rule	
12. Minutes for Noting	
(a) Cabinet - 9 June 2026	82 - 92
(b) Policy & Performance Improvement Committee - 1 June 2026	93 - 98
(c) Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee - 18 June 2026	99 - 101
(d) Planning Committee - 7 May 2026	102 - 110
(e) Planning Committee - 4 June 2026	111 - 117
(f) Licensing Committee - 11 June 2026	118 - 122

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, 19 May 2026 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 S Forde, Councillor A Freeman, Councillor J Hall, Councillor P Harris, Councillor S Haynes, Councillor R Holloway, Councillor M Home, Councillor J Kellas, Councillor J Lee, Councillor K Melton, Councillor S Michael, Councillor D Moore, Councillor P Peacock, Councillor C Penny, Councillor P Rainbow, Councillor K Roberts, Councillor N Ross, Councillor S Saddington, Councillor M Shakeshaft, Councillor K Smith, Councillor T Smith, Councillor M Spoors, Councillor P Taylor, Councillor T Thompson and Councillor T Wendels

APOLOGIES FOR Councillor M Pringle and Councillor T Wildgust
ABSENCE:

1 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.

2 ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR 2026/2027

Councillor S Michael moved and Councillor P Rainbow seconded that Councillor R Jackson to be elected as Chair of Newark & Sherwood District Council for the 2026/27 municipal year.

Councillor P Peacock moved and Councillor S Forde seconded that Councillor D Moore to be elected as Chair of Newark & Sherwood District Council for the 2026/27 municipal year.

Given there were two nominations for the position of Chair a recorded vote, in accordance with Procedure Rule No. 5.4, was taken as follows:

Councillor	Roger Jackson	David Moore	Abstention
Neil Allen	✓		
Alice Brazier		✓	
Lee Brazier		✓	
Celia Brooks		✓	
Irene Brown	✓		
Rowan Cozens		✓	
Susan Crosby		✓	
Linda Dales	✓		

Debbie Darby		✓	
Phil Farmer	✓		
Simon Forde		✓	
Andy Freeman		✓	
Jean Hall			✓
Peter Harris		✓	
Simon Haynes	✓		
Rhona Holloway	✓		
Michelle Home	✓		
Roger Jackson	✓		
Jack Kellas	✓		
John Lee	✓		
Keith Melton		✓	
Sylvia Michael	✓		
David Moore		✓	
Paul Peacock		✓	
Claire Penny		✓	
Penny Rainbow	✓		
Karen Roberts			✓
Neil Ross		✓	
Sue Saddington	✓		
Maurice Shakeshaft		✓	
Kay Smith	✓		
Tom Smith	✓		
Matthew Spoors	✓		
Paul Taylor		✓	
Tina Thompson		✓	
Linda Tift		✓	
Timothy Wendels	✓		

Councillor R Jackson 17 votes

Councillor D Moore 18 votes

(2 abstentions)

AGREED that Councillor D Moore be elected Chair of Newark & Sherwood District Council for the 2026/27 municipal year.

3 CHAIR TO SIGN DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor D Moore signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and received the Chain of Office from the retiring Chair.

Councillor D Moore presented the past Chair's badge to Councillor L Tift.

(As the newly elected Chair, Councillor D Moore took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.)

4 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL 2026/2027

Councillor S Michael moved and Councillor P Rainbow seconded that Councillor R Jackson be elected as Vice-Chair of Newark & Sherwood District Council for the 2026/27 municipal year.

Councillor P Peacock moved and Councillor T Thompson seconded that Councillor D Darby to be elected as Vice-Chair of Newark & Sherwood District Council for the 2026/27 municipal year.

Given there were two nominations for the position of Vice-Chair a recorded vote, in accordance with Procedure Rule No. 5.4, was taken as follows:

Councillor	Roger Jackson	Debbie Darby	Abstention
Neil Allen	✓		
Alice Brazier		✓	
Lee Brazier		✓	
Celia Brooks		✓	
Irene Brown	✓		
Rowan Cozens		✓	
Susan Crosby		✓	
Linda Dales	✓		
Debbie Darby		✓	
Phil Farmer	✓		
Simon Forde		✓	
Andy Freeman		✓	
Jean Hall		✓	
Peter Harris		✓	
Simon Haynes	✓		
Rhona Holloway	✓		
Michelle Home	✓		
Roger Jackson	✓		
Jack Kellas	✓		
John Lee	✓		
Keith Melton		✓	
Sylvia Michael	✓		
David Moore		✓	
Paul Peacock		✓	
Claire Penny		✓	
Penny Rainbow	✓		
Karen Roberts			✓
Neil Ross		✓	
Sue Saddington	✓		
Maurice Shakeshaft		✓	
Kay Smith	✓		
Tom Smith	✓		
Matthew Spoors	✓		
Paul Taylor		✓	
Tina Thompson		✓	

Linda Tift		✓	
Timothy Wendels	✓		

Councillor R Jackson 17 votes

Councillor D Darby 19 votes

(1 abstention)

AGREED that Councillor D Darby be elected Vice-Chair of Newark & Sherwood District Council for the 2026/27 municipal year.

5 VICE-CHAIR TO SIGN DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor D Darby signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and received the Vice-Chair's Chain of Office.

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no declarations of interest from Members and Officers and the Council noted the interests previously declared by Members in Agenda Item No. 19 – Minutes for Noting.

7 MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 5 MARCH 2026 AND THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 31 MARCH 2026

Councillor N Ross advised of an inaccuracy in the minutes from the meeting held on 5 March 2026 which were showing that he had voted for the 2026/27 Revenue Budget when he was absent from the meeting. The error being that this should have read as Councillor K Roberts.

AGREED (with 33 votes for and 4 abstentions) that the minutes from the meeting held on 5 March 2026 and the extraordinary meeting held on 31 March 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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

The Chair thanked the Council for his election, and congratulated Councillor L Brazier on being elected as the Mayor for Ollerton & Boughton Town Council, and Councillor J Kellas on being elected as Deputy Mayor for Newark Town Council.

The Chief Executive advised Members of correspondence he had received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government in respect of LGR in Nottinghamshire. This correspondence invited the Council to give views on certain factors ahead of the Structural Change Order being made by 16 June 2026. There was also a second deadline of 17 August 2026 to provide final proposed warding arrangements for the new unitary councils.

The Leader of the Council referred to some of the political changes which were being made throughout this meeting which would deliver stable decision making ahead of

the transition to a unitary Council. He also referred to some of the Council's achievements over the past 12 months. The Deputy Leader also reflected on some of the Council's successes.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing placed on record his thanks to all those staff and colleagues who had provided the support for the recent inspection by the Regulator for Social Housing.

The Portfolio Holder for Public Protection & Community Relations advised of the success of the Knife Angel visiting Newark, and the impactful engagement with the community this had provoked. He also advised that all Members were to receive an invitation in due course to visit the new CCTV control room.

(Councillor M Shakeshaft left the meeting during the communications made by Portfolio Holders).

9 POLITICAL COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES TO POLITICAL GROUPS

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive which sought to consider the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules. A revised matrix had been circulated which reflected proposed changes in Chairs of Committees.

Section 15 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 required the Council to consider the political composition of the Council. The Act, together with the Local Government (Committees & Political Groups) Regulations 1990, required the Council to allocate seats on committees on a proportional basis in accordance with the number of seats held on the Council by each political group. The revised matrix also reflected the change in political composition following notice given by Councillor R Cozens on 9 March 2026 that she had joined the Labour Group on the Council.

AGREED (with 34 votes for and 2 against) that the allocation of seats to political groups (as set out as Appendix A to these minutes) be approved.

10 LEADER'S APPOINTMENTS

The Council considered the report of the Leader of the Council which informed Members of the executive appointments and sought approval for an additional budget given the creation of an additional portfolio for Corporate Services.

Councillor P Peacock proposed and Councillor R Cozens seconded the report recommendations that Council:

- a) note the appointments of the Executive Leader; and
- b) approve an additional budget of £2,100 to be funded from the Corporate Contingency budget in relation to the creation of the new Corporate Services Portfolio.

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

Councillor	Vote
Neil Allen	Against
Alice Brazier	For
Lee Brazier	For
Celia Brooks	For
Irene Brown	Abstain
Rowan Cozens	For
Susan Crosby	For
Linda Dales	Against
Debbie Darby	For
Phil Farmer	Against
Simon Forde	For
Andy Freeman	For
Jean Hall	For
Peter Harris	For
Simon Haynes	Against
Rhona Holloway	For
Michelle Home	Against
Roger Jackson	Against
Jack Kellas	Against
Johno Lee	Against
Keith Melton	For
Sylvia Michael	Against
David Moore	For
Paul Peacock	For
Claire Penny	For
Penny Rainbow	Against
Karen Roberts	For
Neil Ross	For
Sue Saddington	Against
Kay Smith	Against
Tom Smith	Against
Matthew Spoors	Abstain
Paul Taylor	For
Tina Thompson	For
Linda Tift	For
Timothy Wendels	Against

AGREED (with 20 votes for, 14 votes against with 2 abstentions) that Council:

- a) note the appointments of the Executive Leader; and
- b) approve an additional budget of £2,100 to be funded from the Corporate Contingency budget in relation to the creation of the new Corporate Services Portfolio.

11 TO ALLOCATE CHAIRS, VICE-CHAIRS AND MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

The Council were circulated with a proposed schedule of appointments to the Council's Committees, including the positions of Chairs and Vice-Chairs and substitute Members. These appointments were proposed by Councillor P Peacock and seconded by Councillor R Cozens.

In accordance with Rule 4.6.1, Councillor J Kellas proposed and Councillor T Wendels seconded an amendment to the proposed allocation of Chairs and Vice-Chairs to Committees as follows:

Committee	Chair	Vice-Chair
Policy & Performance Improvement	Councillor T Wendels	Councillor S Haynes
Governance, General Purposes & LGR	Councillor K Smith	Councillor P Rainbow
Licensing	Councillor S Saddington	Councillor T Wildgust
Audit & Accounts	Councillor S Michael	Councillor N Allen

In accordance with Procedure Rule No. 5.4 a recorded vote on the amendment was taken as follows:

Councillor	Vote
Neil Allen	For
Alice Brazier	Against
Lee Brazier	Against
Celia Brooks	Against
Irene Brown	Absent for vote
Rowan Cozens	Against
Susan Crosby	Against
Linda Dales	For
Debbie Darby	Against
Phil Farmer	For
Simon Forde	Against
Andy Freeman	Against
Jean Hall	Against
Peter Harris	Against
Simon Haynes	For
Rhona Holloway	Against
Michelle Home	For
Roger Jackson	For
Jack Kellas	For
John Lee	Absent for vote
Keith Melton	Against
Sylvia Michael	For
David Moore	Against
Paul Peacock	Against
Claire Penny	Against
Penny Rainbow	For

Karen Roberts	Against
Neil Ross	Against
Sue Saddington	For
Kay Smith	For
Tom Smith	For
Matthew Spoors	Abstain
Paul Taylor	Against
Tina Thompson	Against
Linda Tift	Against
Timothy Wendels	For

This proposed amendment on being put to the vote was declared lost with 13 votes for, 20 votes against with 1 abstention.

The Council voted on the substantive motion on the appointment of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs on Committees and the appointment of other Members to Committees etc. as set out in the schedule circulated. In accordance with Procedure Rule No. 5.4, a recorded vote was taken as follows:

Councillor	For
Neil Allen	Against
Alice Brazier	For
Lee Brazier	For
Celia Brooks	For
Irene Brown	Against
Rowan Cozens	For
Susan Crosby	For
Linda Dales	Against
Debbie Darby	For
Phil Farmer	Against
Simon Forde	For
Andy Freeman	For
Jean Hall	For
Peter Harris	For
Simon Haynes	Against
Rhona Holloway	For
Michelle Home	Against
Roger Jackson	Against
Jack Kellas	Against
Johno Lee	Against
Keith Melton	For
Sylvia Michael	Against
David Moore	For
Paul Peacock	For
Claire Penny	For
Penny Rainbow	Against
Karen Roberts	For
Neil Ross	For

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

AGREED (by 20 votes for, 15 votes against and 1 abstention) that the appointments of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs on Committees and the appointment of other Members to Committees etc. (as set out in the schedule attached as Appendix B to these minutes) be approved.

At the conclusion of this item, the Chair indicated that the meeting duration had expired, therefore, in accordance with Rule 2.7.2 a motion to continue for a further hour was put to the meeting and agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 9.05pm and recommenced at 9.15pm.

12 UPDATES TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

The Council considered the report of the Monitoring Officer which sought approval of amendments to the Constitution. As part of its work programme for 2025/26 the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee had considered a number of changes to parts of the Council's Constitution in a Working Group convened for that purpose. This Group reviewed the Social Media Protocol for Members; the Protocol for Member/Officer relations; the Local Code on Corporate Governance and proposals to change the Tenant Engagement Board.

AGREED (with 35 votes for and 1 against) that:

- a) the amended Social Protocol for Members be approved;
- b) the amended Protocol for Member/Officer relations be approved;
- c) the amended Local Code of Corporate Governance be approved;
- d) the amendments to the Tenant Engagement Board and associated terms of reference be approved;
- e) authorisation be given to the Monitoring Officer to make the necessary changes to the Constitution to give effect to the Council's decision; and
- f) authorisation be given to the Monitoring Officer to update the Local Code of Corporate Governance between annual reviews to give effect to any in year changes to governance arrangements.

13 DESIGNATION OF SECTION 151 OFFICER

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive advising of the appointment to the new post of Director of Finance, Revenues & Benefits and to designate the role of the Section 151 Officer as from 1 July 2026.

Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 required the Council to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of their officers had responsibility for that purpose. The current Section 151 Officer was due to leave the Council on 30 June 2026 and as part of the wider staffing proposals ahead of LGR, a Chief Officers Appointments Panel was convened to make an appointment into the new post of Director - Finance, Revenues & Benefits with effect from 1 July 2026. This new post was also to be designated as the Council's Section 151 Officer which was a decision reserved to the Council.

AGREED (unanimously) that Council:

- a) note the appointment of Nick Wilson to the post of Director of Finance, Revenues & Benefits with effect from 1 July 2026;
- b) designate the postholder as the Section 151 Officer; and
- c) note that the newly appointed Section 151 Officer would consider the appointment to the post of Deputy Section 151 Officer.

14 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL - REPORT ON MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

The Council considered the report of the Director – Customer Services & Organisational Development which presented the final report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel following their review of Special Responsibility Allowances.

The review of Special Responsibility Allowances was required following changes to the committees which took place in July 2025. The scope of the review was to consider Members SRA's in light of those changes, but the panel was also tasked with a wider review of SRA's to address any anomalies. The final report and recommendations of the Panel, which was attached as appendix to the report, was received by the Council on 4 March 2026.

In presenting the report, the Leader of the Council proposed an additional recommendation to those set out in the report that the SRA for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Licensing Committee be retained at the previous rate for the former Licensing & General Purposes Committee which were £3,808.00 and £949.00 respectively.

Councillor P Farmer proposed and Councillor S Haynes seconded an amendment to the report recommendation b) as follows: That Council approves the report recommendations as changes to the current Scheme of Members Allowances, ~~subject to no clawing back of Special Responsibility Allowances payments from those Members who have seen changes in their allowances (as set out in paragraph 2.7 of~~

~~the report) and the~~ **with an** implementation date of 15 July 2025 for the new SRA's.

In addition, the proposer of the amendment clarified that the proposed additional recommendation proposed by the Leader in relation to the SRA's for the Licensing Committee was not supported.

Following the debate on the amendment, in accordance with Procedure Rule No. 5.4 a recorded vote was taken as follows:

Councillor	Vote
Neil Allen	For
Alice Brazier	Against
Lee Brazier	Against
Celia Brooks	Against
Irene Brown	For
Rowan Cozens	Against
Susan Crosby	Against
Linda Dales	For
Debbie Darby	Abstain
Phil Farmer	For
Simon Forde	Against
Andy Freeman	Against
Jean Hall	Abstain
Peter Harris	Abstain
Simon Haynes	For
Rhona Holloway	Abstain
Michelle Home	For
Roger Jackson	For
Jack Kellas	For
Johno Lee	For
Keith Melton	Abstain
Sylvia Michael	For
David Moore	Against
Paul Peacock	Against
Claire Penny	Against
Penny Rainbow	For
Karen Roberts	Abstain
Neil Ross	Against
Sue Saddington	For
Kay Smith	For
Tom Smith	For
Matthew Spoors	Against
Paul Taylor	Against
Tina Thompson	Against
Linda Tift	Against
Timothy Wendels	For

The amendment was declared lost with 15 votes for, 16 against and 6 abstentions (the Chair having used his casting vote to vote against the amendment).

Following further debate, a vote was taken for the substantive motion, as amended, by the Leader.

AGREED (with 20 votes for, 13 against and 3 abstentions) that the Council:

- a) note the final report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel; and
- b) approve the Panel Final Report recommendations, subject to one change in that Chair and Vice-Chair of the Licensing Committee retaining the previous SRA payable to the former General Purposes & Licensing Committee of £3,808.00 and £949.00 respectively, as changes to the current Scheme of Members Allowances, subject to no clawing back of Special Responsibility Allowances payments from those Members who have seen changes in their allowances (as set out in paragraph 2.7 of the report) and the implementation date of 15 July 2025 for the new SRA's.

During consideration of this item, the Chair indicated that the meeting had been in progress for a further hour. Therefore, in accordance with Rule 2.7.2 a motion to continue for a further hour was put to the meeting and agreed with 35 votes for and 1 against.

(Councillor R Jackson left the meeting following this item).

15 NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion One – Adult Social Services – Newark Hospital

In accordance with Rule No. 3.4.3 Councillor L Dales moved and Councillor S Crosby seconded a motion to the following effect:

“This Motion seeks the support of this Council in writing to Nottinghamshire County Council’s Adult Social Services in support of Sherwood Forest Hospital Trust, asking that an Adult Social Service resource be returned to Newark Hospital in order to address the complex discharge delays that are caused by its absence”.

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

Motion Two – One Earth Solar Farm

In accordance with Rule No. 3.4.3 Councillor L Dales moved and Councillor A Freeman seconded a motion to the following effect:

“This Motion seeks the support of this Council in writing to the Secretary of State regarding the One Earth Solar Farm application, to seek their assurance that, should their recommendation be one of approval, this decision will have been made only

after fully considering all information necessary to reach a safe recommendation and that there is a clear and transparent audit trail. We ask this as there remains information outstanding from key statutory bodies.

It further asks this Council to request a cross-agency review meeting with NSDC including EA, DWI, DEFRA, Fire & Rescue Service, and DEFRA”.

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

16 MINUTES FOR NOTING

Given the time, the Council did not review the Minutes for Noting as set out on the agenda, but the Leader of the Council advised that if any Members wished to ask specific questions on the content of any minute to the relevant Committee Chair or Portfolio Holder a written response would be provided, and if required, published as an appendix to the minutes.

16a CABINET - 24 FEBRUARY 2026

16b CABINET - 24 MARCH 2026

16c CABINET - 21 APRIL 2026

16d POLICY & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - 23 FEBRUARY 2026

16e POLICY & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - 16 MARCH 2026

16f POLICY & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - 13 APRIL 2026

16g GOVERNANCE, GENERAL PURPOSES & LGR COMMITTEE - 16 APRIL 2026

16h PLANNING COMMITTEE - 12 MARCH 2026

16i PLANNING COMMITTEE - 9 APRIL 2026

16j AUDIT & ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE - 4 MARCH 2026

16k AUDIT & ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE - 22 APRIL 2026

16l LICENSING COMMITTEE - 19 MARCH 2026

16m TRUSTEE BOARD OF THE GILSTRAP AND WILLIAM EDWARD KNIGHT CHARITIES - 9 MARCH 2026

16n EXECUTIVE SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE - 24 MARCH 2026

Meeting closed at 10.30 pm.

Chair

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	5	2	1		1	1				15
Licensing	5	5	1	1	1		1			1	15
Audit & Accounts*	3	2	1	1	1					1	9
Governance, General Purposes & LGR	3	3	2	1	1	1			1		12
Board of Gilstrap Trustees+	2	1				1		1			5
Total Seats by Group	22	20	9	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 will include non-voting co-opted Members from Newark Wards

MEMBERS APPOINTMENTS – 2026/27

Chair of the Council
Vice Chair of the Council

Councillor David Moore
Councillor Debbie Darby

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Strategy Performance and Finance

Heritage, Culture & the Arts

Climate and the Environment
Sustainable Economic Development
Housing
Health, Wellbeing & Leisure
Public Protection & Community Relations
Corporate Services

Councillor Paul Peacock
(Leader of the Council)
Councillor Rowan Cozens
(Deputy Leader of the Council)
Councillor Simon Forde
Councillor Claire Penny
Councillor Lee Brazier
Councillor Susan Crosby
Councillor Paul Taylor
Councillor Peter Harris

CONSERVATIVE GROUP

Leader
Deputy Leader

Councillor Jack Kellas
Councillor Roger Jackson

LABOUR GROUP

Leader
Deputy Leader

Councillor Paul Peacock
Councillor Lee Brazier

INDEPENDENTS FOR NEWARK & DISTRICT

Leader

Councillor Simon Forde

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP

Leader
Deputy Leader

Councillor Peter Harris
Councillor Keith Melton

NEWARK & SHERWOOD DISTRICT INDEPENDENTS

Leader

Councillor Debbie Darby

REFORM

Leader

Councillor Kay Smith

Note Paragraph 1.1 of the Constitution

1.1 Appointment and Term of Office

- 1.1.1 The Leader is elected by the Council and holds office for a four-year period starting on the day of their election as Leader at an Annual Meeting of the Council, unless their term of office as a Councillor is shorter, in which case the term of office as Leader will be the same as their term of office as a Councillor.
- 1.1.2 The Leader's period of office will cease at an earlier date if they
- i. resign from the office; or
 - ii. are no longer a Councillor; or
 - iii. are removed from office by resolution of the Council.
- 1.1.3 If there is a vacancy in the position of Leader, the Council will elect a Leader at the first meeting following such vacancy.

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

POLICY & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE						
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. K. Melton	1. D. Darby	1. M. Home	
2. S. Michael	2. L. Tift					
PLANNING COMMITTEE						
CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	INDEPENDENTS FOR NEWARK & DISTRICT	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS	N&S INDS	REFORM	IND - NON-ALIGNED / GREEN
1. N. Allen	1. A. Brazier	1. S. Forde	1. K. Melton		1. M. Home	1. M. Spors
2. L. Dales	2. C. Brooks	2. D. Moore (V/C)				
3. P. Rainbow	3. A. Freeman (C)					
4. S. Saddington	4. M. Shakeshaft					
5. T. Wildgust	5. L. Tift					
LICENSING COMMITTEE						
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 (V/C)		1. J. Lee
2. R. Jackson	2. L. Brazier					1. M. Spors
3. S. Michael	3. R. Cozens					
4. S. Saddington	4. P. Taylor					
5. T. Wildgust	5. L. Tift					
AUDIT & ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE*						
CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	INDEPENDENTS FOR NEWARK & DISTRICT	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS	N&S INDS	REFORM	IND - NON-ALIGNED / GREEN
1. N. Allen	1. M. Shakeshaft	1. S. Forde	1. K. Melton (C)	1. D. Darby		1. J. Lee
2. S. Michael	2. L. Tift (V/C)					
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. S. Crosby	1. P. Harris	1. T. Thompson	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. S. Forde	1. K. Melton	1. D. Darby	1. M. Home	
2. T. Wildgust	2. M. Shakeshaft					
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 INFLUENCE & ASSURANCE BOARD

Membership to comprise of the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for housing and three representatives to be appointed by the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee (with relevant tenant and officer representation, in accordance with the Terms of Reference).

PLANNING POLICY BOARD

Membership to comprise of the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for planning policy and four representatives to be appointed by the Planning Committee and four representatives to be appointed by the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee.

Notes

1. C = Chair

2. VC = Vice-Chair

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

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

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



Report to: Meeting of the Full Council: 14 July 2026

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

Director Lead: John Robinson, Chief Executive

Lead Officer: Nigel Hill, Head of Elections & Democratic Services

Report Summary	
Report Title	Political Composition of the Council and Allocation of Seats on Committees
Purpose of Report	To inform the Council of the political composition of the Council following the resignation of Cllr S. Crosby from the Independents for Newark & District Group and to amend the allocation of seats to committees accordingly.
Recommendations	That the Council approve: a) the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with Appendix A to the report; and b) note the subsequent changes to the membership of Committees (as at paragraph 1.8 of the report).
Reason for Recommendation	To ensure the Council complies with Section 15 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees & Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Section 15 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 requires the Council to consider the political composition of the Council. The Act, together with Local Government (Committees & Political Groups) Regulations 1990, require local authorities to allocate seats on Committees of a local authority on a proportional basis, in accordance with the number of seats on the Council held by each political group.
- 1.2 As Members are aware, the political composition of the Council was considered at the Annual Meeting held on 19 May 2026, however Councillor Crosby notified the Chief Executive on 22 June 2026 that she was no longer a member of the Independents for Newark & District Group on the Council and wished to be considered as an independent non-aligned Member, which required a change to the allocation of seats on committees.

- 1.3 Following this change, the seats held by each political group on the Council are now as follows:

Political Group	Membership	Percentage of Council
Conservative	12	30.77
Labour	11	28.20
Independents for Newark & District	4	10.26
Liberal Democrats	3	7.69
Newark & Sherwood Independents	2	5.14
Reform	2	5.14
Green	1	2.56

- 1.4 This now leaves four independent non-aligned Members on the Council:

Independent Non-Aligned Members	Percentage of Council (rounded)
Cllr Brown	2.56
Cllr Crosby	2.56
Cllr Holloway	2.56
Cllr Lee	2.56

- 1.5 Under the Leader / Executive model of governance, only certain committees are required to reflect the political balance. There are a total of 71 seats on committees which must comply with political balance rules as follows:

Committee	No. of Members
Policy & Performance Improvement Committee	15
Planning Committee	15
Licensing Committee	15
Audit & Accounts Committee	9
Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee	12
Board of Gilstrap Trustees	5
Total	71 seats

- 1.5 Based on these arrangements the following calculations can be made in terms of allocation of seats on committees:

			<u>Rounded</u>
Conservative	71 x 30.77%	21.84	22
Labour	71 x 28.20%	20.02	20
Independents for Newark & District	71 x 10.26%	7.27	7
Liberal Democrats	71 x 7.69%	5.46	5
N&S District Independents	71 x 5.14%	3.65	4
Reform	71 x 5.14%	3.65	4
Green (Spoors)	71 x 2.56%	1.84	2
Ind N/A (Brown)	71 x 2.56%	1.84	1
Ind N/A (Crosby)	71 x 2.56%	1.84	2
Ind N/A (Holloway)	71 x 2.56%	1.84	2
Ind N/A (Lee)	71 x 2.56%	1.84	2
			71

- 1.6 The effect of the change is that the allocation of seats to the Independents for Newark & District Group falls from nine to seven, with these two seats going to Cllr Crosby, but the allocation of seats to independent non-aligned Members is at the discretion of the Full Council.
- 1.7 The revised matrix at **Appendix A** to the report, sets out the proposed allocation of seats to political groups with the change being the Independents for Newark & District Group losing one seat on the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee and one seat on the Audit & Accounts Committee, with these being allocated to Cllr Crosby. If Cllr Crosby does not wish to take both seats the Council will need to determine how to allocate these.
- 1.8 Cllr Crosby was already on the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee and if approved, she would take the seat previously held by Cllr Forde on the Audit & Accounts Committee.
- 1.9 The Council may wish to note that further changes to the matrix may be required at the next scheduled meeting of the Council given the impending planning reforms which will require a smaller Planning Committee going forward.

2.0 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	N/A	Equality & Diversity	N/A
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	N/A

Legal Implications LEG2627/7287/LMI

- 2.1 Full Council is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report. There is no legal requirement for non-aligned Independent Members to be allocated Committee seats.

Background Papers and Published Documents

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

None

APPENDIX A

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 - Crosby	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	5	2	1		1	1					15
Licensing	5	5	1	1	1		1				1	15
Audit & Accounts*	3	2		1	1				1		1	9
Governance, General Purposes & LGR	3	3	1	1	1	1			1	1		12
Board of Gilstrap Trustees+	2	1				1		1				5
Total Seats by Group	22	20	7	5	4	4	2	1	2	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 include non-voting co-opted Members from Newark Wards



Report to: Meeting of the Full Council: 14 July 2026

Committee Chair: Councillor Mike Pringle, Policy & Performance Improvement Committee

Director Lead: Deborah Johnson, Director of LGR

Lead Officer: Mark Randle, Transformation & Service Improvement Officer

Report Summary	
Report Title	Policy & Performance Improvement Committee (PPIC) Annual Report 2025-2026
Purpose of Report	To present the PPIC Annual Report for 2025-26 for endorsement and publication
Recommendations	That Council endorse the PPIC Annual Report 2025-2026 and agree to it being publish on the Council's Website
Reasons for Recommendation	In line with the Constitution, PPIC to report annually to Full Council on the discharge of its functions

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Policy & Performance Improvement Committee's (PPIC) role is to fulfil the 'scrutiny' function required in the Cabinet model, as well as serving as an integral role in improving the work of the Council. It is an open meeting, meaning public and press can attend, and the Committee meets at least five times a year.
- 1.2 Since June 2025 and there have been 9 committee meetings and 3 working groups in this time. PPIC have been involved in developing and shaping Council policies and strategies, questioning the Council's performance, and driving improvement to services. During the year PPIC received information in the form of presentations, updates, and reports.
- 1.3 Every year there is an Annual Report summarising the work of the Committee. This will be the fourth Annual Report of the PPI Committee since the introduction of the Cabinet system and sets out a review of the work, carried out and completed by the committee during 2025/26 (June 2025 to April 2026).

2.0 Proposal/Options Considered

- 2.1 This report, attached as an **appendix**, sets out an overview of NSDC, including the area and services that we cover, and provides an overview of the roles and responsibilities of PPIC as well as the members that have been involved. It then sets out the work PPIC have been doing in the last 12 months, separated into the 4 key areas:

1. Working groups
2. Shaping policy and strategy
3. Driving service improvement
4. Scrutinising and questioning performance

The report provides an overview of the work of the Committee over 2025/26 and will be available internally for officers and Members via the Intranet and externally to tenants and residents via the NSDC Website.

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.

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

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 Annual Report 2022-23
- PPIC Annual Report 2023-24
- PPIC Annual Report 2024-25

2025 / 2026



POLICY AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26



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INTRODUCTION TO NEWARK AND SHERWOOD

Newark and Sherwood District Council (NSDC) are one of seven District Councils in Nottinghamshire. We are the middle layer of local government in this area with Nottinghamshire County Council covering the whole County and 77 Parish and Town Councils sitting within the NSDC area.

Our area

Our district is the largest in Nottinghamshire and covers a third of the county with an area of over 250 square miles. Below is a map of the district showing the main urban areas and key transport connections.



Our Residents (2021 Census):

A resident population of **122,956** made up of **50.8% female** and **49.2% male**. Newark and Sherwood is the largest district in Nottinghamshire with an area of 251 square miles (or 651 Sq. kilometres).

Newark and Sherwood has an ageing population. **6.2%** of the district's population are between 70 and 74. This is **1.2% higher** than the English average.

In 2011, **19.2%** of the district's population was over 65. This has risen by **3.4%** and in 2021, with **22.6%** of the district's population being over 65. This is predicted to rise further, with **27.7%** of the district's population set to be 65 or above by 2040.

17.1% of the district's population are schoolchildren and full-time students. There are **53,331** dwellings, of which around 10% are owned by the District Council (social housing).

Our services

For every £1 a resident pays in Council Tax, 7.4p is allocated to NSDC, with the remaining funds going to Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottinghamshire Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue and Parish/Town Councils.

We deliver a wide range of services for our residents, and the diagram below summarises these.



We are also a landlord to over 5,500 Council homes and in this role we conduct all housing management functions such as allocating tenancies, undertaking repairs and maintenance, maintaining housing estates and collecting rent.

FOREWORD

I am delighted to share this report, which outlines the efforts of the Policy and Performance Improvement Committee. Within this report, you'll find details about the work carried out by Councillors throughout the last year, along with an emphasis on the outcomes those actions have achieved.

Over the past year, the Committee has worked in close collaboration with officers to facilitate the Council's business. Initiatives such as the introduction of Council Tax Support for Terminally Ill Residents and Simpler Recycling have highlighted the Committee's commitment to addressing key issues. The Committee has provided constructive input aimed at improving outcomes for residents, while consistently offering valuable challenges and recommendations to the Cabinet.

The impact of Local Government Reform (LGR) is increasingly evident in the reports and presentations received by the Committee, as well as in the questions directed to officers and portfolio holders. This will remain a significant aspect of the Committee's work in the year ahead.

The Committee continues to prioritise the enhancement of tenants' quality of life. Efforts include boosting tenant engagement and implementing policies designed to strengthen compliance and safety within our tenants' homes, including two gas safety policies and a new policy for passenger lifts, stair lifts, and hoists.

I would also like to thank the Councillors who took part in the working groups, especially the 'Life Chances for Girls' group. Their input generated strong recommendations that officers will take forward over the coming year.

I sincerely thank the officers who support this Committee for their ongoing energy and enthusiasm. I also want to acknowledge my Vice Chair, Cllr Neil Ross, for his support throughout the past year, along with all the officers and partners who have made presentations to the Committee.

I look forward to another year on this Committee, working to achieve better results for all customers, residents, and businesses in Newark and Sherwood.



Cllr Mike Pringle
Chair of the Policy & Performance
Improvement Committee



Cllr Neil Ross
Vice-Chair of the Policy & Performance
Improvement Committee

OVERVIEW OF THE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (PPIC)

Our Policy and Performance Improvement Committee (PPIC) fulfils the 'scrutiny' function required in the Cabinet model, as well as serving as an integral role in improving the work of the Council. All meetings are streamed live and are 'open meetings,' meaning public and press can attend. The Committee meets at least six times a year.

PPIC itself is not a decision-making body, it offers recommendations to the relevant Portfolio Holder's. These recommendations help improve policies, services, and their implementation. PPIC also contributes to policy and strategy development and oversees partnership work with regular input from the Nottinghamshire Police Authority, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), and Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

PPIC may also choose to look at a specific issue, decision, or topic by adding a review to the work programme. For example, they may review a service pilot, scrutinise progress of a key project or review an area where performance is not as expected. This can be done after a decision has been made or they may choose to feed into the decision making by reviewing the topic to ensure a decision is well made.

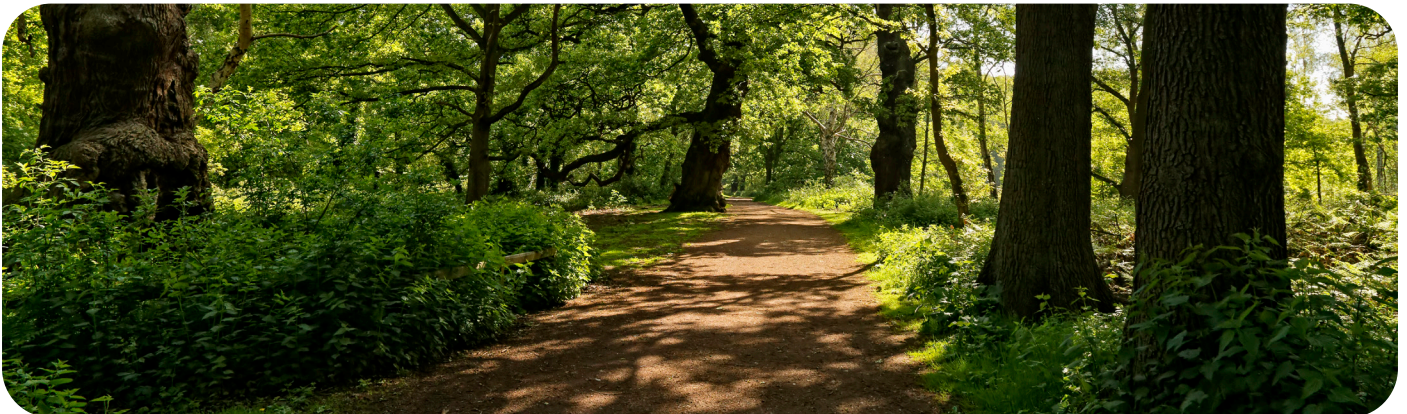
Where more detailed work is required, such as the development of a policy or the detailed review of a service area, a working group is set-up to undertake this work. Working Groups meet 3 to 5 times, listen to evidence, and examine data, then develop recommendations which are forwarded for a relevant decision.

PPIC also has statutory powers to scrutinise decisions that Cabinet is planning to take and those that have already been taken. In practice much of their work is a form of scrutiny, including inviting Portfolio Holders to present at PPIC.

Composition of membership

PPIC consists of 15 Councillors, including a chair and vice chair, who are appointed by full Council, which reflect the political balance of the Council. The Committee has had a busy year examining a broad range of issues affecting the Council, its services, and Local people. PPIC has also had a watching brief of all items going to Cabinet for decision, raising queries as appropriate and providing comments. This has led to a variety of topics being reviewed, both in Committee and by working groups. Any Councillors can submit a topic to be examined, and apart from Cabinet members, any Councillor can request to join a working group.

A work programme is developed for the year but has suitable capacity to ensure issues can be considered as they arise.



2025/26 in numbers

Committee Member - 15



Substitute Members - 7



Meetings - 9



Reports/presentations - 68



Working groups - 3



Councillors attended PPIC or Working Groups - 33 out of 39 Councillors



REVIEW OF WORK

PPIC have been involved in developing and shaping Council policies and strategies, questioning the Council's performance, and driving improvement to services. During the year PPIC received information in the form of presentations, updates, and reports. Reported below is a snapshot of the work PPIC have been doing in the last 12 months, separated into the 4 key areas that demonstrate PPIC's responsibilities:

1. Working groups
2. Shaping policy and strategy
3. Driving service improvement
4. Scrutinising and questioning performance.



1. Working groups

Working groups are set up to conduct detailed pieces of work, such as a piece of development or a review, outside of the main Committee agenda. So that this can happen, any working group must have a clear aim as part of its setup. The aims must:

- Improve the quality of life of residents, or
- Enable value for money of local services.

The topic of a working group can be proposed by the Committee or by any of our 39 Councillors completing a 'Topic Request Form.' This form will be considered by officers who will add further information as required before being considered by PPIC.

Working groups consist of up to nine Councillors (excluding Cabinet Members) who volunteer, with the final membership agreed by the Chair of PPIC. Each working group will be chaired by a member of the Committee. Working groups can be put in place to develop a policy or strategy, undertake a piece of development work such as shaping a bid, or undertake a review of an area experiencing poor performance.

Three working groups were completed in **2025-26**.

Out of remit activities (Dec 2025)

The Out of Remit Activities Working Group was established following a topic request submitted in January 2025, driven by concerns regarding increasing pressure on Council resources, staff workload, and findings from the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge.

The review was guided by the approved Review Initiation Document and sought to define and identify activities delivered beyond the expected remit of a District Council, focusing on mapping non-statutory services and testing the principle of "if we didn't provide this service, who would?."

The objectives of the working group were to:

- Define what is 'out of our remit'.
- Map all activities/commitments within the Community plan (and wider where applicable).
- Scrutinise all commitments that fall within this category.

Across a series of sessions, the group reviewed the Community Plan and undertook detailed "deep dives" into flood resilience and public health, exploring both the Council's statutory responsibilities and the extent of its wider discretionary and community leadership role, including the financial and operational implications of these activities.

The working group, informed by the key findings across all four sessions, made four key recommendations:

- 1. The Leader of the Council to formally write to the Mayor of the East Midlands Combined County Authority regarding flooding.**
- 2. Invite the Environment Agency to attend PPIC to clarify priorities and partnership working.**
- 3. Ensure continuity of public health services by appointing the Senior Health Improvement Officer to the LGR implementation group.**
- 4. Invite Planning Infrastructure colleagues to present to PPIC on areas where activity extends beyond typical district council responsibilities.**

Life Chances for Girls (Jan 2026)

In February 2025, PPIC received a topic request form concerning 'Life Chances for Girls'. A report by the charity Plan International highlighted that Newark and Sherwood was among the bottom 20% of places in the UK to be a girl. The statistics found that women and girls in the district spend 10 fewer years in good health, 25% of girls leave school without achieving good GCSE results, one in three live in poverty, and women earn 23% less than men.

The objectives of the working group were to:

- Collate data from Plan International and other sources to understand the extent of the issue for Newark and Sherwood, including any specific challenges or disadvantages.
- Complete a scoping exercise to understand the extent of the activities currently being provided by the Council and partners, including signposting and promotion.
- Explore if and how there can be changes, or work in this area that can be done differently to intervene, improve, and advocate the life chances for girls and young women in the district by the Council and by our partners.

The working group convened on five occasions between April and September 2025 drawing together insight and expertise from officers across the Council and external partners. The variety of attendees allowed the group to gain perspective and a deeper understanding of the district, recognising that the strength of local support networks and access to services can directly affect quality of life and determine whether individuals can fully realise their rights. The developed recommendations are organised under four main themes:

- 1. Feelings of safety**
- 2. Health and wellbeing**
- 3. Empowerment and future prospects**
- 4. Communication and Engagement**

PPIC endorsed the recommendations in January 2026 and forwarded it to Cabinet. In January 2026, Cabinet endorsed the recommendation from the working group.

Since the recommendations were endorsed, work has continued to maintain momentum and drive delivery. This has included partner meetings to support action owners and the development of website and intranet materials to make progress visible and accessible.

Regular contact with partners has supported more qualitative performance reporting and exploration of funding opportunities. Work is also under way with local schools to share materials and build future collaboration. A follow-up report on progress against the recommendations will be presented to PPIC in October 2026.



Estate Walkabouts (Apr 2026)

In June 2025, PPIC received a formal topic request form concerning a review of the 'Estate Walkabouts'. 'Estate Walkabouts' offer an excellent opportunity for Tenants to support NSDC's efforts in keeping our communities clean, well-maintained, and free from issues. During these walkabouts, Tenants have the chance to connect with fellow Tenants, staff, and representatives from agencies dedicated to upholding high standards in our neighbourhoods.

Estate Walkabouts are designed to foster a strong sense of community, ensure transparency in the Council's processes, and involve residents in the decisions that affect their living environment.

The objectives of the working group were to:

- Review the existing walkabout process.
- Identify key issues and areas to improve the current approach.
- Develop and agree a consistent, standardised process.

The working group convened on three occasions between January and March 2026, incorporating input from Councillors, tenant champions, and relevant officers from different teams across the Council. The key areas of discussion influencing the recommendations included delivery and documentation, resident and organisation engagement, accountability, and action tracking/feedback.

The collective contribution of the working group enabled the endorsement of the following recommendations and agreed the start of the new walkabout cycle with the revised approach.

- Endorse and agree with the re-naming of the estate walkabouts, to 'Community Walkabouts.'
- Endorse the reduction of the walkabout schedule.
- Review and endorse the newly developed supporting documentation.
- Endorse the introduction of a refined assurance pathway.
- Endorse the agreed timeline.

These recommendations were endorsed by PPIC in April 2026.

Following PPIC's approval of the Community Walkabouts in April 2026, staff have been trained on the new process and quality standards. Two pilot walkabouts have been completed successfully, and a full programme of 12 walkabouts has now been scheduled and communicated. Two Community Walkabouts have been completed in Clipstone and Hawtonville. Feedback has been positive, with the revised approach improving flexibility, targeting, partnership working, and local engagement.

The next stage will trial a new app to improve delivery, data capture, and overall service efficiency.



2. Shaping Policies and Strategies

Corporate Annual Budget Strategy for 2026/27 (June 2025)

The Committee reviewed a report from the Business Manager for Financial Services which detailed the proposed General Fund, Capital, and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Strategy for 2026/27. The report informed Councillors ahead of the detailed budgeting process. It outlined that this process would determine both the Council Tax and HRA rent levels for the year.

The strategy incorporated existing financial policies and budget principles, which had been reviewed and updated as needed. It also referenced the current Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), approved in March 2025, including a projected Council Tax increase of 1.94% for Band D properties.

Additionally, the report summarised the key assumptions underpinning the draft 2026/27 budget, such as staff costs, employer pension contributions, inflation, fees and charges, and interest rates.

Outcome

Councillors agreed to recommend Cabinet to approve the overall General Fund, Capital & HRA Budget Strategy for 2026/27, they also noted:

- The consultation process with elected Councillors.
- That Budget Officers continue to work on the assessment of various budget proposals affecting services for consideration in setting the Council's budget.
- That Budget Managers work with Finance Officers in identifying further efficiency savings, increasing income from fees and charges and in identifying new sources of income.
- Recommend to Cabinet that the policies and principles on Budgeting, Council Tax, Reserves & Provisions, Charging, Value for Money be reviewed with any recommendations being forwarded to Council for consideration.

Cabinet approved the overall General Fund on 8 July 2025 and agreed the recommendations made by PPIC.

Nottinghamshire & Nottingham Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation (June 2025)

The Committee reviewed the report from the Business Manager for Planning Policy & Infrastructure and the Ecology & Biodiversity Lead Officer, regarding the creation and consultation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) by Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC).

The report detailed NCC's appointment as the Responsible Authority by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, with NSDC and other local bodies acting as supporting authorities. The key requirements for the LNRS of being evidence-based, locally led, and collaborative, were outlined, along with the process for drafting and adopting the strategy.

Outcome

During a positive discussion, Councillors raised several points, including suggestions to expand mapped areas at Lowfield Lane's southern buffer zone, with assessments planned for potential inclusion of a grassland site. Further questions were posed about safeguards for maintaining mapped areas, especially those under private ownership and it was clarified that while landowners could request removal from mapping, protected and wildlife sites would remain safeguarded locally. The possibility of the Council purchasing land to enhance biodiversity was

also considered, with a review of current landholdings to follow.

The Chair requested ongoing updates to the Committee on the consultation's progress and the strategy's formal adoption.

Councillors agreed to recommend to Cabinet to approve the strategy as the Council's consultation response.

The strategy went to Cabinet on 14 October where they raised no objection to the proposed Nottinghamshire & Nottingham LNRS being published and that officers prepare any guidance necessary regarding usage of the LNRS in relation to planning development and the preparation of biodiversity net gain assessments.

Equality, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Review and Revised Strategy (Jan 2026)

The Committee received an update on the review and revision of the Council's Equality, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EEDI) Strategy. The revised Strategy was presented by the Business Manager for Transformation & Service Improvement.

The review was prompted by the need to comply with the Equality Act 2010 and to demonstrate the Council's ongoing commitment to fairness and inclusion. An audit indicated that, while statutory requirements were being met, some documentation in policies and procedures needed improvement.

A targeted action plan was developed and all actions within this plan have now been completed.

Outcome

During discussions, it was clarified that all Council buildings are accessible, some of the older properties had required retrofitting, such as the Palace Theatre, which now has lift access. In addition, signage for toilet facilities across the estate is now compliant with the latest Supreme Court ruling.

Councillors noted the changes made to the Council's EEDI approach and that the revised Strategy be endorsed and recommended to Cabinet for approval.

In February 2026, Cabinet approved the EEDI Strategy.



Newark Town Centre Masterplan and Design Code Update (Feb 2026)

The Committee reviewed a report, jointly presented by the Town Centre & Visitor Economy Manager and the Senior Planner, to update Councillors on the Newark Town Centre Masterplan and Design Code.

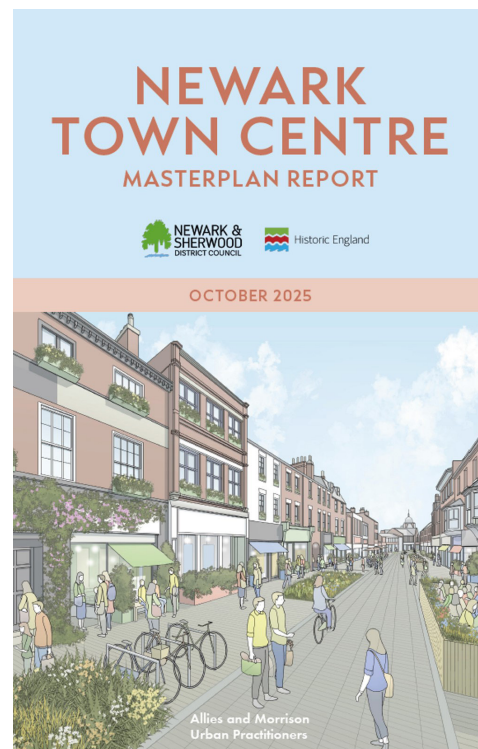
In Autumn 2023, NSDC partnered with Historic England to develop the Masterplan and Design Code, with Allies & Morrison, delivering the programme and overseeing public consultation. Having the same team develop both documents together provided consistency and efficiency.

The Masterplan is organised around six key themes:

1. **Revitalising the Market Place to create a safe and flexible space.**
2. **Supporting a strong economy and promoting town centre living.**
3. **Encouraging education, skills training, and creative industries.**
4. **Enhancing riverside leisure and improving flood resilience.**
5. **Improving walking, cycling, and public transport connections.**
6. **Celebrating Newark's history and cultural assets through interpretation and events.**

Outcome

Councillors recommended to Cabinet to adopt the Newark Town Centre Masterplan and Design Code (the latter through a revision to the Newark Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan). This was approved by Cabinet in February 2026.



Biodiversity Strategy & Biodiversity Report (March 2026)

The Committee reviewed a report from the Business Manager for Planning Policy & Infrastructure, which outlined a proposed Biodiversity Strategy and presented the legally required Biodiversity Report for 2026-2027, correcting an earlier reference to 2024-2025.

The Cabinet had previously approved the publication of the Biodiversity Report in June 2024, with a commitment that the final agreed actions would be submitted for Cabinet approval within three months of the report's publication.

The Council is legally required to publish a Biodiversity Report, with the first reporting period ending no later than 1 January 2026, and all reports must be published within 12 weeks following the end of each reporting period.

Outcome

Councillors endorsed the amended Council's Biodiversity Strategy and the publication of the proposed Biodiversity Report 2024-2025 and that future Biodiversity Reports will be published annually.

Customer Experience Strategy 2023/2027 Progress Report (Apr 2026)

The Committee received an update from the Business Manager for Customer Services on the progress of embedding the Customer Experience Strategy within the Council.

The report outlined the Strategy's integration into the Council's Community Plan, which allows performance monitoring of customer interactions. Key achievements included:

- Embedding the Strategy across Council operations and culture.
- Revitalising the Residents' Panel to better reflect community demographics for improved services.
- Expanding accessible online services, while maintaining phone and in-person options.
- Enhancing customer satisfaction measures through regular surveys.

NSDC's Performance Management Framework supports these efforts by tracking awareness, engagement, service delivery, and resolution to inform improvements. Upcoming actions involve further customer service training, setting service standards for different business units, and greater promotion of the Customer Promise.

Outcome

Councillors noted the ongoing work and the progress made of the delivery of the Customer Experience Strategy 2023/2027.



Heating & Gas Servicing Policy (April 2026)

The Gas Meter Make Safe Policy (April 2026)

Passenger Lifts, Stair Lifts & Hoists Policy (April 2026)

The Committee reviewed three reports from the Business Manager for Building Safety & Asset Management, who provided an update on the development of the Heating & Gas Servicing Policy, The Gas Meter Make Safe Policy and the Passenger Lifts, Stair Lifts & Hoists Policy.

These policies form part of a broader suite of compliance measures aimed at ensuring that NSDC adopts a robust approach to both regulatory compliance and customer safety. These Policies would align to current legislation, regulation, and industry best practice to ensure that services delivered were in line with the Policy and were both effective and efficient.

Outcome

During discussions, Councillors asked a number of questions including the circumstances under which it would be necessary to mechanically seal a gas meter. The Business Manager responded that any gas meter which had not received a service within the required timescale would be considered unsafe, and this would be treated as an emergency by the Council.

Councillors sought assurances that, should such a course of action be necessary, every effort would be made to consider the practicalities of leaving a property without a gas supply. In response, Councillors were advised that a very detailed assessment would be undertaken before such action was taken and that often the threat of the meter being capped was sufficient for the situation to be resolved.

Councillors noted and endorsed all three policies to ensure legal compliance and improve service delivery in line with legislation, regulation, and industry best practice and that it is recommended to Cabinet for approval.



3. Driving Service Improvement

Review of the Executive Forward Plan

It is a standard item that the Committee reviews the Council's Executive Forward Plan and the minutes from Cabinet. This enables the Committee to see what decisions are being made across the Council. To review and comment on progress & performance and to request more information and updates from officers as required.

Homelessness Prevention & Rough Sleeper Strategy and Delivery Plan (2024-2029) Annual Update Year one (June 2025).

The Committee reviewed a report on the first year's progress of the Council's Homelessness Prevention & Rough Sleepers Strategy 2024-2029 by the Business Manager for Regeneration & Housing Strategy and a Homeless Strategy Officer.

The report highlighted the statutory requirement for a homelessness review and strategy and the creation of a multi-agency delivery plan.

It set out the key activities completed so far:

- **Leading the Rough Sleeper Initiative.**
- **Working with the Safeguarding Adults Board.**
- **Piloting a homeless women's census.**
- **Developing a Prison Release Protocol.**
- **Hosting an event on homelessness prevention.**
- **Commissioning a supported housing needs assessment.**

Outcome

During discussion, Councillors enquired about the launch date for the Prison Release Protocol, the inclusion of timelines for outstanding actions, and opportunities for accelerating additional items in the plan.

Officers responded that timelines could be included in future updates and that further priorities would be considered as funding allowed. The Committee also discussed the distinct experiences of homelessness among women and noted that National rollout of a women's census initiative was forthcoming. The Chair of the Committee requested regular updates on delivery plan actions.

Councillors noted the progress against the delivery plan.

Simpler Recycling, National Policy Changes (Sept 2025)

The Committee reviewed a report from the Waste & Recycling Manager outlining NSDC's progress towards the new National recycling requirements and their anticipated impact. The report presented key elements of the 'Government's Simpler Recycling Strategy,' detailing phased implementation over two and a half years, with food waste collections delayed by an additional 18 months due to contractual reasons. The timelines and future changes for both commercial and domestic waste collection were summarised, as well as the financial implications.

Outcome

Councillors discussed the opportunity for cost savings and efficiencies, suggesting that food waste collections could be managed as a county-wide scheme, particularly given the forthcoming local government reorganisation. The Waste & Recycling Manager explained that the new collections would be implemented prior to reorganisation but confirmed that further efficiencies might be realised afterwards.

Councillors raised some concerns about safe disposal of batteries and vapes, with a request for clearer public guidance. NSDC collects batteries if they are left on the bin lids in carrier bags for safe disposal at the Veolia plant, but there is currently no provision for vape collection, which has led to incidents of fires in collection vehicles.

The Committee agreed that recycling processes should be made as simple as possible for residents. Queries about bin sizes for new properties highlighted ongoing challenges, including storage issues, and the Waste & Recycling Manager noted the need for a future review of waste composition.

In closing the debate, the Chair welcomed the report and requested that continued updates be provided to the Committee. Councillors noted the current status of the project and that further update reports be provided to the Committee.

Since the report went to the Committee, the introduction of simplified recycling has been effective, with notable increases in commercial recycling and a significant reduction in domestic recycling contamination rates. Efforts are ongoing to standardise food waste collection across the county, and discussions about implementing a vape drop-off point are in progress, although a decision is yet to be reached.



UK Shared Prosperity Fund & Rural England Prosperity Fund Update (Oct 2025)

The Committee received a presentation from the Business Manager for Economic Growth & Visitor Economy, the Economic Development Grants & Programmes Manager and the Economic Growth Officer. They outlined the progress, delivery, and future of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF).

The update covered a variety of projects supported across the District, including grant funding and business assistance, with a focus on ensuring long-term sustainability after the initial funding period.

It was noted that the UKSPF and REPF programme is scheduled to conclude in March 2026. Any remaining functions and funds will be transferred to EMCCA. Councillors were receptive to the report and specifically requested information about green and eco projects that had received support.

Outcome

Councillors noted the updates and achievements to date, highlighting the opportunities linked to potential future UKSPF/REPF investment, while acknowledging the ongoing uncertainty around programme funding beyond March 2026, as outlined in this report.



Affordable Housing Delivery Report 2024/25

The Committee received an update from the Business Manager for Healthy Places and the Senior Housing Strategy & Development Officer who outlined the affordable housing delivery across the district for the 2024/25 financial year and progress on the five-year Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Development Programme was detailed.

Key points included the collaborative design of affordable housing with Planning Officers to ensure developments are both acceptable and desirable for future residents. An Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is being prepared to guide future design and planning decisions. The Council now retains 100% of receipts from these developments.

Outcome

The Committee discussed the Section 106 (S106) agreement process. While the process can be challenging, particularly regarding scheme viability, Councillors recognised the substantial community benefits these agreements can deliver.

Councillors noted the affordable housing delivery report and the progress with the Council's five-year HRA development Programme.

Annual Outturn, Health Improvement & Community Development Teams (Oct 2025)

The Senior Health Improvement Officer and the Senior Community Relations Officer presented an overview of the Health Improvement & Community Development Teams' delivery for 2024-25. Key activities included running grant schemes, responding to the cost of living crisis, engaging under-represented groups, and organising events such as the Newark and Sherwood Community and Sports Awards and Volunteer Thank You week.

All primary schools in the District were invited to participate in the school uniform scheme, with 37 schools applying. Volunteer Thank You week was widely promoted, and Councillors were encouraged to provide further details for inclusion; the event timetable is typically set for June. The Committee showed strong support for initiatives benefiting veterans.

The Council is currently mapping defibrillator machines across the District to optimise their placement and ensure rational coverage.

Outcome

Councillors noted the report and presentation.

Council Tax Support for Terminally Ill Residents (Dec 2025)

The Committee reviewed a report from the Transactional Finance Manager and the Business Manager for Revenues & Benefits, outlining options to support terminally ill residents with discretionary council tax relief. The Council had previously endorsed developing a policy for council tax exemption for terminally ill residents and their household members under the local tax reduction scheme.

Four options were presented, with Option 3 recommended as the best fit. Option 3 is to 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 Newark & Sherwood district impacted by having a relative living in the household who has been diagnosed as receiving end-of-life care.

Additionally, a letter was sent to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government, urging consideration of a national policy for such exemptions.

Outcome

Councillors agreed to prioritise starting the scheme quickly, aiming for future expansion. The Transactional Finance Manager confirmed it could begin on 1 April 2026, pending Cabinet approval, with discussions with other organisations to follow.

Regarding Council Tax Relief (CTR), Councillors asked about the processing speed for terminally ill applicants. The Transactional Finance Manager explained that the SR1 form, used to fast-track benefits for people expected to live less than 12 months, would be submitted by the NHS to both the DWP and Council, with expedited measures for these claims.

Councillors agreed to endorse and recommend to Cabinet that approval be given to the preferred Option 3 as detailed in the report and that Officers be instructed to develop a Discretionary Council Tax Relief Scheme to support households facing the hardship of living with a terminally ill family member. Councillors also recommended that Officers be authorised to approach Nottinghamshire County Council, the Nottinghamshire Police & Crime Commissioner, and the Nottinghamshire & City of Nottingham Fire Authority in relation to expanding Option 3 – the Discretionary Council Tax Relief Scheme.

In January 2026 Cabinet approved Option 3 and approved the Discretionary Council Tax Relief Scheme to support households facing the hardship of living with a terminally ill family member.

The Policy came into effect in April 2026, as of May 2026 three households have received support via a top up to their Council Tax support, effectively reducing their 2026/27 liability to zero. The total support provided across the three households is £2,959.

Gender Pay Gap Report (March 2026)

The Committee reviewed the HR Business Partner's update on NSDC's gender pay gap (GPG), based on data from 31 March 2025. The report compares average earnings for men and women across all roles, including regular pay and certain allowances, but excludes overtime, redundancy, termination payments, and staff on reduced family or sick leave pay.

A positive GPG value means men are paid more on average, a negative value means women are paid more. Councillors asked about manual apprenticeships, such as in trade teams and environmental services. The HR Business Partner noted that although these opportunities exist, more men apply, but efforts are underway to attract more female applicants.

Outcome

Councillors noted the content of the report and the positive position of our gender pay gap.

Enhancing Tenant Engagement at Newark & Sherwood (March 2026)

The Committee considered the report presented jointly by the Business Manager for Housing Services and the Tenant Engagement Officer, which set out a series of measures to build on and strengthen the role and influence of tenants in the management of their homes and neighbourhoods.

A review had taken place of the effectiveness of the current arrangements, and this has been undertaken in conjunction with the Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS) and involved tenants offering their time, lived experience and skills, to feedback and support NSDC to improve housing services.

The aim has been to strengthen tenant influence and improve service outcomes, reflecting the Council's commitment to ensuring tenant insight shapes decision-making.

Outcome

Councillors discussed this report at length and whilst some Committee members endorsed the report 'as is,' a number required further clarification on a number of sections, and it was therefore agreed that the report would return to the Committee on the 13th April 2026 for further consideration. Please see below for the Outcome from PPIC in April 2026.

Revisiting – Tenant Engagement at Newark & Sherwood (Apr 2026)

The Committee revisited the report of the Business Manager for Housing Services on strengthening tenant engagement arrangements, which was re-presented following the meeting of 16 March 2026 to provide further clarification requested by Councillors.

The report described the review of current arrangements undertaken with the aim of increasing tenant influence and improving service outcomes. During consideration of the report and accompanying Terms of Reference, Councillors sought clarification on the process for removing a Board Member, the appointment of a Vice-Chair, the timing of Board meetings, and the distinction between a Tenant Champion and a Tenant Scrutineer

Officers advised that the Vice-Chair could be any Board member, meetings would be arranged at times mutually convenient to Councillors, and that Scrutineers would be assigned specific areas to review. Councillors also discussed the proposed approach to recognition and incentivisation, with differing views expressed, officers clarified the remuneration available to involved tenants.

In response to questions on district-wide engagement, Councillors were advised that Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS), were supporting recruitment and that existing community link groups would assist engagement, and that Champions and Scrutineers would be allocated areas to target and did not need to live in those areas.

The Director of Housing, Health & Wellbeing advised that it would not be possible to capture every removal scenario within the Terms of Reference and recommended that the removal provision remain, with further detail set out in a supporting document.



Outcome

The progression of tenant engagement arrangements and the clear service improvements resulting from tenant insight and involvement was noted by the Councillors and that the refresh of the current Tenant Engagement Board, in the following ways, be endorsed:

- Increase the number of tenant representatives from three to five.
- Reallocate the Chair of the Board to a tenant representative.
- Rename the current Tenant Engagement Board to Tenant Influence & Assurance Board.

Councillors also noted and endorsed:

- The Tenant Engagement Framework and proposed programme of recruitment.
- The proposed recognition and incentivisation to widen the participation and representation of tenants as Tenant Engagement Champions with five places on the Tenant Influence & Assurance Board.

The report progressed to Cabinet on 21 April 2026 for decision on the recognition of the scheme be noted, where it was approved by Cabinet.

The amended report progressed to the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee on 16 April 2026 with a recommendation for endorsement and an onward recommendation to Full Council on in May 2026 for approval of the proposed changes to the constitution be noted.



Planning & Infrastructure – Presentation (Apr 2026)

The Committee considered a report and presentation from the Director for Planning & Growth and the Business Manager for Planning Policy & Infrastructure. They updated Councillors on NSDC's involvement in planning and infrastructure matters, including the complexity of the infrastructure landscape and examples of "out of remit" work beyond traditional district council responsibilities.

Councillors had requested this presentation, following the work of the 'Out of Remit' working group, which would explain what is meant by infrastructure and how the Council is involved directly and indirectly? The presentation also highlighted that England's infrastructure system is fragmented across multiple providers and regulators, making change difficult. It was noted that without the Council's involvement, strategic infrastructure may not be delivered.

Outcome

Councillors queried whether the creation of the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) had made lobbying more efficient and were advised by officers that EMCCA was still establishing itself as Transport Authority and that the Mayor had undertaken extensive consultation on the Transport Plan.

Councillors also raised concerns about whether sufficient resources existed to sustain out-of-remit work. Officers confirmed that NSDC had an Infrastructure Lead Officer role but noted challenges in engaging with large external organisations and that delivery of some projects would ultimately sit with external bodies. The Chair concluded that ongoing engagement with external organisations and development of a district-wide vision remained vital.

Councillors noted the report and presentation.



4. Scrutinising and Questioning Performance

Performance Reporting

It is also the role of the Committee to review how the Council is performing in three key areas:

- **Financial performance**
How the Council is performing against the Medium-Term Financial Plan.
- **Service performance**
How the Council is performing against its Community Plan.
- **Customer feedback**
How the Council is performing in complaint handling.

The Committee regularly receives quarterly reports assessing the Council's performance. Each quarter, Councillors thoroughly examine these reports, ask questions, and seek additional details or updates from officers about areas that need improvement. Officers then report this information back to the Committee, allowing progress to be tracked and monitored.

Yorke Drive Development Update (June 2025).

Councillors received a report and presentation from the Business Manager for Regeneration & Housing Strategy and the Senior Regeneration Officer, outlining the project's progress and milestones, which included the neighbourhood study, accelerated construction funding in 2017, outline planning approval in 2019, procurement, and reserved matters work culminating in approval in January 2025.

Outcome

Councillors queried the impact on local school places, with officers advising that any population increase would be mitigated through Section 106 funding. Councillors also questioned the projected completion date of winter 2031, officers explained the extended timescale reflected a commitment that residents would only need to move once.

Officers confirmed confidence in meeting phased dates as permissions and funding were in place. The Chair highlighted the need to understand delivery status of capital projects in light of local government reorganisation and requested ongoing progress updates.

Councillors noted the progress of the York Drive Regeneration Scheme.



Newark & Sherwood Community Lottery annual update (July 2025)

The Committee considered a report from the Business Manager for Regeneration & Housing Strategy, which provided an annual update on the Newark and Sherwood Community Lottery Scheme.

The report set out the scheme's impact since launch, including the number of registered 'good causes' receiving financial support through ticket sales, and noted that while the number of supporters had fallen, ticket sales had increased and income rose from £34,569.00 (year 3) to £39,405.60 (year 4).

Outcome

During discussion, Councillors raised concerns about gambling and asked whether the demographic profile of supporters was measured. The Business Manager said she would report back on whether that information was available. Councillors agreed that the report be noted.

Local Government Social Care Ombudsman Annual Report (Sept 2025)

Councillors considered a report from the Business Manager for Customer Services who provided information on the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) Annual Review Letter.

The report explained that the LGSCO's annual letter summarises the number, type, and outcomes of complaints for each authority. The appendix to the report showed 16 complaints and decisions relating to Council services (compared with 11 complaints and nine decisions in 2023/24).

The report also outlined the Council's complaints handling process and included a table setting out complaint categories and decision outcomes.

Outcome

Councillors noted the contents of the report be noted.



Housing Ombudsman Complaint Handling Code Self-Assessment (Sept 2025)

The Committee considered a report from the Business Manager for Customer Services updating Councillors on completion of the Housing Ombudsman Complaint Handling Code self-assessment.

The report explained that the Code sets best practice for landlords' complaint handling and has been a statutory duty since 1 April 2024, with the Housing Ombudsman responsible for ensuring compliance.

It noted the requirement for an annual self-assessment submission and reported that the Council's self-assessment (covering nine sections) had been completed and reviewed by the Tenant Engagement Board, with the Council compliant in all but one area due to an issue with reports being submitted to the appropriate Committee, of which the Housing Ombudsman was aware.

Outcome

Councillors endorsed the completed Housing Ombudsman Complaint Handling Code Self-Assessment and that it be recommended to the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee for approval and that it be published on the Council's website. This was approved by the Governance, General Purposes and LGR Committee in September 2025 and was published on the NSDC Website.

Corporate estate, annual compliance update (Sept 2025)

The Committee considered a report from the Development Manager for Corporate Property updating Councillors on compliance management across the corporate estate, including both corporate and tenanted properties, and providing a high-level overview of key compliance activity.

Councillors were advised that the 2025/26 corporate compliance budget was £291,760 to deliver statutory compliance servicing across 22 sites, covering areas such as fire, gas and electrical safety, legionella, asbestos, air conditioning, lifts and lifting equipment, and fall arrest systems, with additional information included on service improvements, tenant compliance monitoring, and future work.

Outcome

Councillors raised concerns about poor performance by an external contractor in relation to gas inspections and the protections in place. Officers advised that contractors are subject to interview and references prior to contract award. The Chair requested that future reports include further information on how the Council engages with external contractors.

Councillors noted the content of the report and the work being undertaken across the corporate estate.

Compliance Update, Housing Performance Q1 (Sep 2025)

The Committee considered a report from the Compliance Manager for Housing Maintenance & Asset Management, who set out the housing compliance performance position as of 30 June 2025 (Q1) and provided an update on service activity.

The report explained the performance rating approach recommended by external auditors and the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) and included details on damp and mould cases. It identified and explained a number of compliance exceptions, including domestic gas servicing, fire safety checks and fire door inspections, asbestos, water safety, stair lifts, EICR certification, and solid fuel and oil servicing.

Outcome

Councillors commented on the report, and the Chair thanked officers for ongoing work relating to damp and mould cases. Councillors noted the exceptions to performance of the housing service compliance functions. They also noted the interim arrangements for monitoring damp and mould ahead of the introduction of Awaab's Law and the ongoing actions to improve and maintain performance.

Nottinghamshire & Nottingham Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) (Oct 2025)

The Business Manager for Planning Policy & Infrastructure, and the Ecology & Biodiversity Lead Officer attended to update Councillors on the production and consultation on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) by Nottinghamshire County Council and to endorse the District Council's proposed response at the final consultation stage prior to publication of the strategy.

Outcome

Councillors welcomed the report, noting the positive impact the team were having in the District and across the County. They approved the proposed recommendations to Cabinet and the Council's response to the final consultation prior to publication of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Cabinet approved the Strategy in November 2025 and asked Officers to prepare any guidance necessary regarding usage of the LNRS in relation to planning development and the preparation of biodiversity net gain assessments.

Housing Compliance Assurance Report (March 2026)

The Committee considered the Quarter 3 (as of 31 December 2025) Housing Compliance Assurance report from the Business Manager for Building Safety & Asset Investment, outlining performance against the Council's legal and regulatory landlord responsibilities across key building safety areas (including fire, gas, asbestos, electrical and water) and highlighting any exceptions outside target parameters.

Councillors were advised that the performance summary is shared with SLT, the Housing Portfolio Holder and the Tenant Engagement Board, and is reported through PPIC and quarterly to Cabinet to ensure appropriate oversight. The report noted improving compliance for solid fuel servicing (90%) and oil servicing (97.87%), with ongoing work to improve asset data.

Outcome

During discussion, Councillors raised that it appeared that two properties lacked valid hoist

certificates, as in the previous year, and requested confirmation whether these were the same two properties or just a coincidence.

Councillors noted the exceptions to performance of the housing service compliance functions and the interim arrangements for monitoring damp and mould ahead of introduction of Awaab's Law. They also noted the ongoing actions to improve and maintain performance.

Review of HRA Business Plan assumptions (Dec 2025)

The Committee considered a report from the Business Manager for Financial Services outlining the key assumptions required to produce the Council's 30-year Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan.

The report explained the purpose of the HRA Business Plan and how external assumptions would be used alongside internal factors (such as rent setting, capital investment, and revenue services) to inform the plan, which would then underpin the HRA budget and rent-setting process.

Outcome

Councillors endorsed the assumptions presented and to be utilised in the update of the 30-year HRA Business Plan.



SCRUTINY ROLE

Scrutiny is a statutory requirement for local authorities which operate a Leader and Cabinet (Executive) model of decision making. PPIC does not make decisions but instead monitors, influences and makes recommendations on the work of Cabinet. The overview and scrutiny role, conducted by PPIC Councillors, is designed to support the work of the Council and its Cabinet, and ensure there is the opportunity for checks and balances. The Committee also looks to constructively scrutinise the work of our partners and how we deliver better when we deliver together.

Attendance at the Committee by Representatives of the Department for Work & Pensions (June 2025)

The Chair welcomed the Senior Partnership Manager and Partnership Manager from the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) to discuss DWP services in the Ollerton area. The representatives explained their roles and responded to Councillors' questions, including clarifying that education is not within the DWP's remit and that their focus is on benefit claimants and removing barriers to employment through work coaching, employer engagement, and vocational training.

They outlined the support for deprived areas, including work coaches, escalation to national programmes after six months of unemployment, specialist support for people with disabilities, and a forthcoming voluntary initiative for economically inactive people.

Outcome

Councillors asked how DWP priorities are set and were informed that they were driven by individual needs with an element of localism. Councillors raised concerns about the removal of a Level 7 qualification and the skills "gap" between lower-level qualifications and levels 6–7. DWP agreed to raise this issue and report back if a response is received.

Councillors also discussed support for hard-to-reach families via family hub-based community work coaches and the accessibility of contact methods. DWP stated that they offer a digital/telephone Universal Credit process, a willingness to run outreach events following the closure of the Ollerton facility, and the option of video calls and home visits where needed.

The Chair welcomed partnership working and requested further information, particularly for Ollerton and asked that details be provided to Ollerton Councillors by email, especially for residents unable to access digital services.

Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood CSP progress & performance update and review of priorities (Sept 25)

The Committee received an update from the Business Manager for Public Protection and the Chief Inspector who oversees Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood (Nottinghamshire Police) on the work of the Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood Community Safety Partnership, including crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) performance for January to July 2025 compared with the previous year.

Outcome

Councillors questioned detection/charge outcomes and were advised that detection rates were 34% in Newark and Sherwood (July–August 2025) compared with 26.4% countywide.

Councillors also discussed CCTV capability, the timescales covered by Domestic Homicide Reviews, whether further investment was needed given Newark and Sherwood remained the third highest in the county for ASB, despite reductions and how public perception is measured.

Councillors noted the performance information from the Community Safety Partnership.

Presentation by the Environment Agency (Dec 2025)

The Chair welcomed the Partnership & Strategic Overview Team Leader for Notts. & Tidal Trent, from the Environment Agency (EA) to present on flooding in the district.

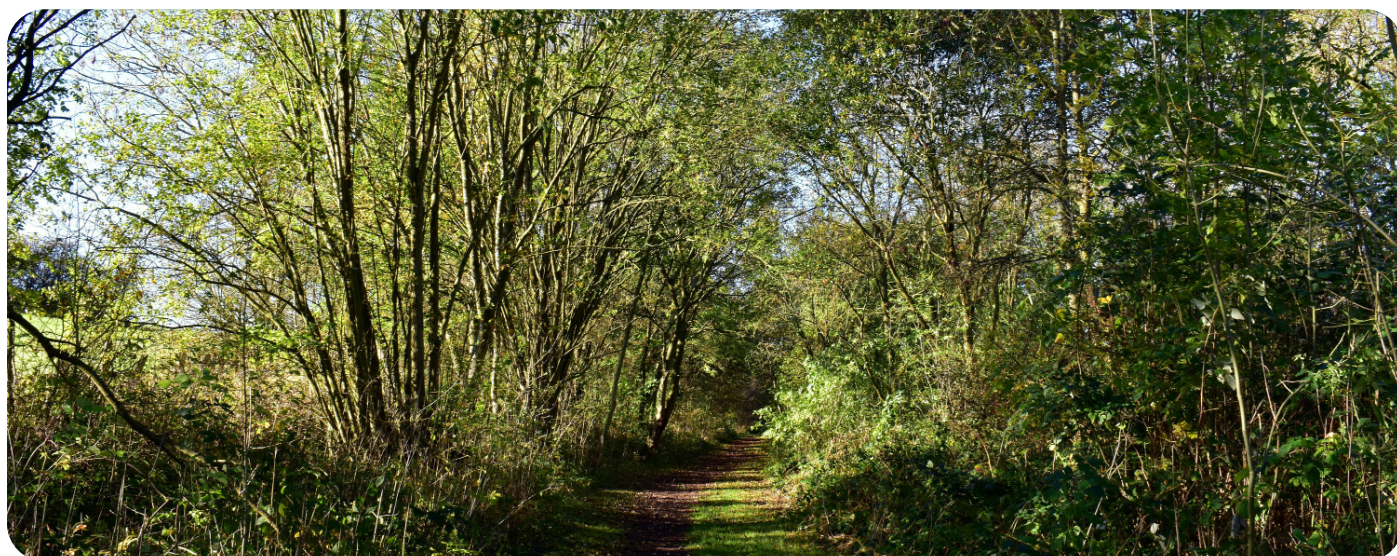
The presentation outlined the EA's remit (flood risk on main rivers and environmental responsibilities across all watercourses), the range of organisations involved (including Nottinghamshire County Council, Severn Trent Water, and the Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board), and the key challenges such as climate change and storm impacts, alongside current maintenance activity, and future projects.

Outcome

In discussion, Councillors raised ward-specific issues including improving communication between flood groups and the EA. With the EA noting that surface water flooding sits outside the EA's remit, but information sharing would support a coordinated response, the adequacy of EA's input at the housing development stage, with an emphasis on pre-application engagement and constraints of the National planning policy, flooding factors at Middlebeck, concerns about potentially outdated flood mapping and reliance on anecdotal evidence and partnership working with Severn Trent Water.

Councillors received clarification on responsibilities for ditch maintenance, which is generally Nottinghamshire County Council unless privately owned and noted residents can carry out some repairs and it was noted that development can take place in Flood Zone 1.

The Chair thanked the representative from the EA and the Committee welcomed and noted the presentation.



Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood CSP progress and performance update and review of priorities (Mar 2026)

The Committee considered the report presented by the Business Manager for Public Protection and the District Commander for Newark and Sherwood to provide an update on the work undertaken by the Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood Community Safety Partnership. Councillors were provided with a 6 monthly update, including:

- The current status for Performance, of the Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood CSP Action Plan 26-27.
- DAHA.
- Domestic Homicide Reviews and Community Safety Activities.
- Situational Crime Funding.
- Hotspot Funding Patrols.
- Enforcement Activities.
- ASB Panel.
- CCTV and Diversionary Activities/Education Programmes.

Outcome

Councillors noted the Community Safety Partnership performance information.

Presentations by Portfolio Holders

To enable the Cabinet Portfolio Holders to brief the Committee on their remit, present actions and offer an opportunity to ask focused questions. Committee members requested that Portfolio Holders be invited to PPIC meetings.

The Portfolio Holders attended between June 2025 and April 2026 in the following order:

Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Performance & Finance (June 2025)

The Committee considered the update from the Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Performance & Finance covering the progress on the Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan and updates on three capital projects:

1. 32 Stodman Street, setting out the rationale, funding to date, the delays, and the need for extra grant
2. Ollerton & Clipstone regeneration, including the Levelling Up Fund 2 funding, the delays, and changes since being prioritised)
3. Newark Town Centre Masterplan and design code, including the long-term vision guiding what will be supported and resisted, identifying opportunity areas, informing investors and potential future bids.

Councillors asked a number of questions and the Chair requested ongoing updates on Stodman Street retail units and anticipated support relating to local government reorganisation.

Cabinet Member without Portfolio, Leader of the Opposition (June 2025)

The Leader of the Opposition attended the Committee to explain their role, emphasising the need for constructive challenge to Council policies and the development of alternatives.

Their aim is to be fair, whilst challenging Cabinet, stating that challenges are not always accepted, citing the Kidney Stones decision as example. They raised concerns that Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) could reduce Councillors influence over the capital programme, though he felt officers and Cabinet were preparing as well as possible, and linked this to why he supported separating the Audit & Governance Committee.

They also suggested scrutiny could be stronger, specifically Councillors need more autonomy, and the role of the opposition on Committees. The Chair thanked the Councillor for his candid contribution.

Portfolio Holder for Public Protection & Community Relations (Sept 2025)

The Portfolio Holder for Public Protection & Community Relations briefed the Committee in response to four questions, focusing mainly on tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB).

They highlighted the multi-agency enforcement work including how ASB and Community Protection Officers (CPO) teams' triage and signpost complaints, safeguarding work, and reported that the 'Safer Streets' initiative delivered a 40% reduction in recorded ASB.

Key challenges are the volume and complexity of cases, often linked to issues such as mental health, and stressed the importance of strong partnership working with Police, including early intervention through schools.

They noted Sherwood area incidents are handled the same way as elsewhere, while acknowledging Newark's additional funding is based on crime data. He advised a budget bid would be submitted for more diversionary work and potentially for domestic homicide review investigations (currently funded from reserves). Councillors also raised the delayed mobilisation of a new contractor for Fixed Penalty Notices.

On protests and flags on lighting columns, they reported that there has been no significant local impact on ASB figures and warned that flags can be unsafe. The Police added that protests may reduce into autumn and that community cohesion is a challenge. Knife crime was described as rare locally, with Police continuing schools-based education.

The Chair asked to be kept informed of relevant events.

Portfolio Holder for Climate & the Environment (Oct 2025)

The Portfolio Holder for Climate & the Environment updated the Committee answering six pre-submitted questions.

They outlined progress against the Climate Change Action Plan including solar panels, air-source heat pumps at Blidworth Leisure Centre and electric vehicles/equipment.

Next year's priorities are around bin collections and green spaces/play areas, with funding sought including £10k for environmental education and a Cabinet report on biodiverse greening at community entrances. Councillors noted stronger than expected income from kerbside glass collection and high uptake of garden waste. On food waste collections, he said works at Brunel Drive are on time and in budget and a pilot with and without biodegradable liners is planned.

On biodiversity, he reported 20,000+ trees had been planted since 2020/21, there is a drought impact review underway with potential to add five communities per year for biodiverse entrance planting. On carbon reduction, the Council has achieved about a quarter of the Carbon Trust ten year target, with future progress potentially for the new authority post LGR (2028).

They suggested LGR could streamline responsibilities and help coordinated public transport but would need local sub-structures. They raised concerns about the Open Space Strategy not always being implemented and said the budget process should focus on what resident's value most, including seeking income to offset costs.

There were a number of questions put to the Portfolio Holder where they agreed to provide a written replies to the Committee.



Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Economic Development (Jan 2026)

The Committee considered the report and verbal responses from the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Economic Development, addressing six pre-submitted questions

NSDC has aligned its growth strategy with the East Midlands Combined County Authority, securing £4.25 million in funding from two successful bids. The Council's approach to town centres is evolving, moving away from a retail-only focus to incorporate leisure, community, residential, and hospitality uses, addressing issues brought by the cost-of-living crisis and Covid. Support for town centres includes free planning advice, rate relief, capital investment, promotions, grants for historic shopfronts, business forums, and improved footfall tracking.

Tourism initiatives are robust, featuring projects like the Rebel Rangers Tour, enhancements to green spaces, the Castle Gatehouse Project, and the 'Happy Families' campaign, all backed by the Tourism Action Group. The Shopper's Gift Card has also seen success. Efforts to help residents with health issues into work or training are largely delivered through partners, with NSDC supporting and funding these activities, including the Future First Expo for connecting young people to employers.

Planning reforms and housing delivery have increased digitisation and prompted a review of the Council's internal processes. The current local plan, submitted two years ago, remains unapproved, leading to the start of a new 36-month plan and the likelihood of speculative housing applications due to the absence of an approved plan and five-year housing strategy. The Council faces difficulties in influencing developers to release homes to the market.

Ensuring residents' voices are heard in planning remains challenging, especially post-reorganisation. Suggestions include encouraging parishes to develop neighbourhood plans and creating community advocate roles for planning applications. Councillors queried the Shopper's Gift Card's performance, tourism promotion, and the availability of non-digital visitor information. The Portfolio Holder confirmed a district-wide remit, ongoing discussions about balancing print and digital information, limited funding allocations, and officer capacity for supporting parish neighbourhood plans, with negotiations underway with external organisations.

The Chair thanked them for attending and requested that tourism updates be brought to future meetings.



Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing & Leisure (Feb 2026)

The Committee considered the report presented by the Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing & Leisure. The Portfolio Holder had been invited to attend Committee to respond verbally to three specific questions.

The first question was whether Active4Today would adopt the Life Chances for Girls working group's recommendations and what the next steps are. Active4Today has included these recommendations in its 2026–2029 Business Plan, now under review. The Sport and Active Lifestyles team is researching district needs to make evidence-based decisions for women and girls. Next steps include using diverse local images, sharing programme success stories, and improving reporting on female participation.

The second question focused on whether there is a budget for maintaining closed cemeteries and if it is adequate. NSDC is legally obligated to care for closed cemeteries transferred from churches, which involves tasks like mowing grass, maintaining pathways, attending to trees, and checking headstone safety. At present, eight cemeteries fall under the Council's management, however the yearly budget of £5,000 does not cover long-term maintenance needs. Even with limited funds, NSDC must continue this responsibility and is required to secure additional resources should significant health or safety concerns arise.

The final question addressed the utilisation of data in understanding health inequalities and determining project focus areas. NSDC relies on local data sources, including the Index of Multiple Deprivation and anonymised GP practice records, to inform decision-making and prioritisation related to health disparities. Through this data-driven approach, NSDC identifies communities and population groups most impacted by poor health outcomes and disadvantage. Consequently, resources and interventions are strategically directed towards neighbourhoods with the greatest need, targeting specific health concerns such as chronic illness, mental health, obesity, smoking prevalence, and low vaccination uptake.

In closing the debate, the Chair thanks them for their attendance and detailed responses to the queries raised.



Portfolio Holder for Housing (March 2026)

The Committee considered the report presented by the Portfolio Holder for Housing. The Portfolio Holder had been invited to attend Committee to respond verbally to three questions.

NSDC is preparing for a forthcoming Regulator of Social Housing inspection, gathering documents to prove compliance with consumer standards. The inspection will centre on quality, safety, transparency, accountability, and tenant focus. The regulator will examine governance and evidence of tenant and councillor involvement. NSDC will showcase initiatives like the TPAS reengineering project, which boosts tenant participation, and the increased number of tenant board members, underscoring its commitment to inclusive engagement.

NSDC has been recognised for its tenant engagement efforts in the Yorke Drive regeneration, maintaining strong communication and focusing on key service areas such as repairs, complaints, and anti-social behaviour. Supported by the Foundation Five campaign and a new Housing Management System, NSDC is making improvements in service delivery and transparency. This period of external scrutiny is helping drive further enhancements and reinforces a customer-centred approach.

In preparation for LGR, NSDC is working with neighbouring authorities to safeguard housing services and ensure safe, compliant operations. The focus is on aligning services, sharing resources, and improving strategies, such as the Supported Housing Strategy and new competency standards. NSDC is also considering cross-district tenant engagement, maintaining essential services throughout the transition, and learning from other LGR experiences. Initiatives like the PPIC working group on Estate Walkabouts, demonstrate a continued commitment to placing tenants at the heart of decision making.

They noted that while housing repairs and empty property turnaround times are still below target, recent restructuring and increased resources, including new management and a dedicated Damp & Mould team, are already yielding positive changes. Improved performance is expected in the next financial year, despite some short-term setbacks as empty homes are addressed and relet.

They described NSDC's approach to improving housing services, highlighting the Strategic Improvement Plan, which is closely monitored with transparent, ambitious but realistic targets. Property surveys show council homes are in good condition, and EPCs are completed when homes are empty. The meeting also discussed how Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are set, with a written update to follow. Concerns about increasing tenant arrears, mainly due to universal credit, were noted, with more information promised from officers.



Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Culture & the Arts (Oct 2024)

The Committee considered the report and verbal presentation given by the Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Culture & the Arts. The Portfolio Holder had been invited to attend Committee to respond to three questions.

They explained that the new Equality, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Strategy (2025–2029) is being implemented through an Equalities Steering Group and the introduction of equalities advisors in key departments, helping embed inclusion into day-to-day decision-making and improve consistency in equality-related decisions.

The Castle Gatehouse project has prioritised accessibility and inclusive engagement during the build phase, ensuring residents and visitors can participate. Measures include accessible facilities, audio and visual aids, information in braille, and sensory-friendly options, all aimed at making the new visitor offer welcoming and usable for everyone once opened.

The Heritage & Culture Business Unit (H&CBU) is well positioned for future development, especially with LGR on the horizon. They highlighted that the formation of a unitary authority could enable the creation of a network of cultural hubs with neighbouring districts, leveraging substantial Arts Council England funding. This reorganisation presents opportunities for a unified cultural strategy, aiming to strengthen local identity, health, wellbeing, and community resilience. Ongoing efforts include raising NSDCs national profile and advocating for better transport links to improve access to heritage and cultural sites across the expanded authority area.

Councillors commended the team involved in the Castle Gatehouse project for their enthusiasm and expertise, noting this positive attitude extended to both Council officers and contractors, such as the stonemasons. The discussion highlighted the health and wellbeing benefits of heritage and cultural activities, with outreach efforts being tailored to groups in need and links established with GP surgeries. Praise was given for the Hard Hat Tour of the Castle, and there was support for future collaboration among the county's heritage and cultural assets, including the idea of a single ticket granting access to all venues.

In closing the debate, the Chair thanked the Portfolio Holder for her presentation and the ongoing work within the Heritage & Culture Business Unit.



Future Work

Officers and Councillors collaborate with Committee members to create a work programme for 2025–26.

However, we know for certain that over the next 12 months PPIC will continue to:

- Review and challenge the performance of the Council.
- Hold Cabinet to account as a critical friend.
- Consider topics raised by Councillors.
- Scrutinise the budget and review performance.
- Undertake reviews and develop strategies and policies.
- Scrutinise large-scale projects such as the Newark Town Investment Plan.

PPIC will also continue to work alongside its key public sector partners and key stakeholders within the Council.



Appendix One: Policy & Performance Improvement Committee Members

Councillor Mike Pringle (Chair)	Ward: Ollerton
Councillor Neil Ross (Vice-Chair)	Ward: Devon
Councillor Alice Brazier	Ward: Ollerton
Councillor Celia Brooks	Ward: Edwinstowe & Clipstone
Councillor Andy Freeman	Ward: Edwinstowe & Clipstone
Councillor Jean Hall	Ward: Balderton South
Councillor Simon Haynes	Ward: Farndon & Fernwood
Councillor Rhona Holloway	Ward: Bilsthorpe
Councillor Roger Jackson	Ward: Dover Beck
Councillor David Moore	Ward: Beacon
Councillor Penny Rainbow	Ward: Southwell
Councillor Karen Roberts	Ward: Southwell
Councillor Kay Smith	Ward: Balderton North & Coddington
Councillor Tina Thompson	Ward: Rainworth South & Blidworth
Councillor Tim Wendels	Ward: Lowdham

Amendments to membership

Councillor Matthew Spoor	Ward: Devon
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Substitutes

Councillor Neil Allen	Ward: Farndon & Fernwood
Councillor Debbie Darby	Ward: Bridge
Councillor Peter Harris	Ward: Southwell
Councillor Michelle Home	Ward: Castle
Councillor Sylvia Michael	Ward: Sutton-on-Trent
Councillor Emma Oldham	Ward: Balderton North & Coddington
Councillor Maurice Shakeshaft	Ward: Farnsfield
Councillor Linda Tift	Ward: Rainworth North & Rufford

Officer Support

Deborah Johnson – Director of Customer Services & Organisational Development
Carl Burns – Business Manager – Transformation and Service Improvement
Helen Brandham – Democratic Services Officer
Mark Randle – Transformation & Service Improvement Officer

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Report to: Meeting of the Full Council – 14 July 2026

Relevant Committee Chair: Councillor Keith Melton, Audit & Accounts Committee

Director Lead: Nick Wilson, Director Finance, Revenues & Benefits and Section 151 Officer

Lead Officer: Andrew Snape, Head of Financial Services, Ext. 5523

Report Summary	
Report Title	Treasury Management Outturn Report 2024-25
Purpose of Report	To update Members on the Treasury Management activity and confirm that the Council complied with its Prudential Indicators for 2025/26.
Recommendations	That Council note: a) the Treasury Management Outturn report following consideration by the Audit and Accounts Committee on 8 July 2026; and b) that in 2025/26 the Council complied with its Prudential Indicators which were approved by Full Council on 6 March 2025.
Reason for Recommendation	To allow Members to consider the Treasury Outturn position.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 In January 2010 the Council formally adopted the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management which requires that the Council receives regular reports on its treasury management activities including, as a minimum, an annual strategy and plan in advance of the year, a mid-year review and an annual report after its close.
- 1.2 The Council delegates responsibility for the implementation and regular monitoring of its treasury management policies and practices to the Audit & Accounts Committee and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the Section 151 Officer, who will act in accordance with the Council's policies and practices.
- 1.3 At their meeting held on 8 July 2026, the Audit & Accounts Committee considered the Treasury Management Outturn report for 2025/26. A copy of the report and appendix considered by the Committee are attached as **Appendices 1 and A**.

2.0 **Implications**

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

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

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

None



Report to: Audit & Accounts Committee Meeting 8 July 2026

Director or Business Manager Lead: Nick Wilson, Director Finance, Revenues and Benefits and Section 151 Officer

Lead Officer: Andrew Snape, Head of Service – Financial Services ext. 5523

Report Summary	
Report Title	Treasury Management Outturn Report 2025/26
Purpose of Report	To give Members the opportunity to review the Annual Treasury Outturn report, which will be presented to Council on 14 July 2026.
Recommendations	That the Treasury Outturn position for 2025/26 be considered.
Reason for Recommendation	To allow Members to consider the Treasury Outturn position.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 In January 2010 the Council formally adopted the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management which requires that the Council receives regular reports on its treasury management activities including, as a minimum, an annual strategy and plan in advance of the year, a mid-year review and an annual report after its close.
- 1.2 The Council delegates responsibility for the implementation and regular monitoring of its treasury management policies and practices to the Audit & Governance Committee and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the Section 151 Officer, who will act in accordance with the Council's policies and practices.
- 1.3 The Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2025/26 was approved by Full Council on 6 March 2025, and the Outturn report is the last report for the financial year, as required by the Code. It has been prepared based on the draft final accounts, which appear elsewhere on the agenda. If there are significant changes resulting from the audit of the accounts, they will be reported at the next meeting of this Committee.

2.0 Summary of Treasury Balances as at 31 March 2026

2.1 Below is a summary of the Councils borrowing position as at 31 March 2026. Further detail can be found in appendix A at section 4.

Balance on 01/04/2025 £m		Balance on 31/03/2026 £m
109.799	Total Borrowings	104.923
5.169	Total Other Long Term Liabilities	6.297
114.968	Total External Debt	111.220

2.2 Below is a summary of the Councils investment position as at 31 March 2026. Further detail can be found in appendix A at section 5.

Balance on 01/04/2025 £m		Balance on 31/03/2026 £m
36.528	Total Short Term Investments	25.640
12.500	Total Long Term Investments	12.500
49.028	Total Investments	38.140

2.3 There have been no breaches of the approved prudential indicators during 2025/26. Further information can be found at section 6 of appendix A.

3.0 Implications

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

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

Nil.

ANNUAL TREASURY REPORT 2025/26

1. Background

- 1.1 This Council is required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2025/26. This report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, (the Code), and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, (the Prudential Code).
- 1.2 Treasury management is defined as: 'The management of the local authority's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.'
- 1.3 Overall responsibility for treasury management remains with the Council. No treasury management activity is without risk; the effective identification and management of risk are integral to the Council's treasury management strategy.

2.0 Economic Background

UK Economy

- 2.1 As with 2024/25, UK inflation has proved somewhat stubborn throughout 2025/26. Having started the financial year at 3.5% y/y (April), the CPI measure of inflation peaked at 3.8% from July to September, before dipping to 3% in January and February. Core inflation picked up to 3.2% in February, from 3.1%, and the recent upward pressure on energy costs could see CPI inflation breach 4.5% later this year.
- 2.2 Against this backdrop, the continued lack of progress in ending the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the potentially negative implications for global growth as a consequence of the implementation of US tariff policies, Bank Rate reductions look limited for the remainder of 2026 (as they do in the euro-zone). Bank Rate currently stands at 3.75%.
- 2.3 Moreover, borrowing has becoming more expensive in 2025/26. Gilt yields have risen materially in March 2026, more than reversing the falls earlier in the financial year. Additionally, the public finances have remained under pressure. The higher-than-expected public net sector borrowing of £14.3bn in February was £2.2bn above last February's outturn. But that borrowing overshoot was mainly due to timing effects relating to the £13.0bn government debt interest payment. That came in as the highest payment since June 2025, causing a 12.3% y/y jump in spending. On the flip side, sitting at £8.1bn, tax revenues were also higher than last February, largely on the back of solid growth in self-employment incomes in 2024/25, boosting self-assessment income tax receipts and stronger capital gains tax receipts.
- 2.4 However, the combination of some energy price support and pressures from higher inflation amid the ongoing energy price shock, higher interest rates and a weaker economy will ultimately put borrowing on an upward trend. With the rise in energy prices possibly pushing

the Retail Prices Index inflation up to a peak of 5.7%, debt interest repayments will increase by about £10bn. A weaker growth profile, higher inflation, higher interest rates and gilt yields could erode about £11bn of the Chancellor's £23.6bn headroom.

- 2.5 The loosening in the labour market continues to bear down on wage growth. The 3myy growth rate of average earnings including bonuses slowed from 4.2% in December to 3.9% in January. Meanwhile, excluding bonuses, private earnings growth continued to fall from 3.4% to 3.3%.
- 2.6 The table below provides a snapshot of the conundrum facing central banks: inflation pressures remain, labour markets are still relatively tight by historical comparisons, and central banks are also having to react to a fundamental re-ordering of economic and defence policies driven largely by the US administration.

	UK	Eurozone	US
Bank Rate	3.75%	2.0%	3.5%-3.75%
GDP	0.1%q/q Q4 (1.0%y/y)	+0.2%q/q Q4 (1.2%y/y)	0.7% Q4 Annualised
Inflation	3.0%y/y (Feb)	1.9%y/y (Feb)	2.4%y/y (Feb)
Unemployment Rate	5.2% (Jan)	6.2% (Jan)	4.4% (Feb)

- 2.7 The Bank of England sprung no surprises in their March meeting, leaving Bank Rate unchanged at 3.75% by a vote of 9-0, but suggesting rates may need to rise if inflation picks up markedly. The vote could best be described as moderately hawkish. The MPC stated it “stands ready to act as necessary” and “is alert to the increased risk of domestic inflationary pressures through second-round effects in wage and price-setting”. Even so, we suspect the committee is likely to put equal weight on higher inflation and weaker growth, particularly the poor macroeconomic backdrop prior to the energy shock, keeping interest rates at 3.75% this year.
- 2.8 10-year Gilt yields have been exceptionally volatile in the final weeks of 2025/26, troughing at around 4.23% in late February before shooting up to 5.00% (and well through that on an intraday basis). That spike was driven by the outbreak of war in the Middle East, which prompted a dramatic reassessment of investors' Bank of England policy rate expectations. Having been pricing in rate cuts in late-February, as many as four rate *hikes* were discounted by late-March. The 10-year yield ended the quarter at 4.92% with around 65bp of rate hikes priced in over the coming year. In addition to more hawkish monetary policy expectations, part of this increase in yields probably reflected an increase in term premia amid concerns that the government may react by loosening the fiscal purse strings.
- 2.9 As for equity markets, the FTSE 100 experienced another volatile quarter, surging to an all-time high of around 10,900 in late February, leaving it up 10% from the start of 2026, before giving back most of those gains in March after the outbreak of the Middle East conflict. That pullback leaves the index at around 10,176 at the end of the quarter. For context it was at 8,582 at the start of April. The £ has stayed relatively resilient also at \$1.33, strengthening from \$1.29 back in April.

US Economy

- 2.10 Despite a weak finish to 2025, the US economy has generally been the strongest among the developed economies, but with uncertainties growing surrounding President Trump's central economic tenet of being able to apply tariffs on an ad-hoc basis, and bend the FOMC Fed Funds rate decision-making to his will, there is something of a stalemate in place at present over when, and if, rates will be cut further in 2026.
- 2.11 Inflation is currently stuck at around 2.5%, unemployment is only a little above 4%, and tax refunds are in the process of being facilitated for many households. But will those refunds be – at least partially – offset by higher gasoline prices?
- 2.12 The S&P500 started April 2025 at 5,633 and finished March 2026 at 6,528 having peaked at just over 7,000. The 10-year Treasury yield finished March at 4.30% having been 4.17% back at the start of April, and during the year has been both above 4.50% and below 4.00%.

EZ Economy

- 2.13 The Eurozone economy has run pretty much in parallel with that of the UK. A slightly stronger finish to 2025 (GDP of 0.2% q/q) than that of the UK cannot hide the fact that the economy has been negatively impacted by German economic stagnation until late in 2025. France has also struggled against a difficult political backdrop but managed to post GDP growth of 0.3% q/q for October to December.
- 2.14 With Eurozone headline inflation close to 2%, the ECB has been able to reduce its Deposit Rate to 2%. Whether it rises from that low point will very much be driven by how energy prices trend over the coming months. The Euro has appreciated against the dollar from 1.08 at the start of April 2025 to 1.16 at the end of March.

3.0 Local Context

- 3.1 During 2025/26, the Council maintained an under-borrowed position. This meant that the capital borrowing need, (the Capital Financing Requirement), was not fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow was used as an interim measure. This strategy was prudent as although near-term investment rates were equal to, and sometimes higher than, long-term borrowing costs, the latter are expected to fall back through 2026/27 as inflation concerns are dampened.
- 3.2 A cost of carry remained during the year on any new long-term borrowing that was not immediately used to finance capital expenditure, as it would have caused a temporary increase in cash balances; this would have incurred a revenue cost – the difference between (higher) borrowing costs and (lower) investment returns.
- 3.3 The policy of avoiding new borrowing by running down spare cash balances, has served well over the last few years. However, this was kept under review to avoid incurring higher borrowing costs in the future when the Council may not be able to avoid new borrowing to finance capital expenditure and/or the refinancing of maturing debt.

- 3.4 The Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) at 31 March 2026 was £158.603m, while usable reserves and working capital which are the underlying resources available for investment were £67.444m.
- 3.5 The Council has an increasing CFR over the next 2 years of £51.551m, due to the borrowing requirement of £62.390m (GF £24.035m / HRA £38.355m) for financing the capital programme over the forecast period. The CFR reduces when Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) are made and the repayment of debt, over the forecast period there are loans due for repayment with a combined total value of £10.839m.

4.0 **Borrowing Strategy**

4.1 Borrowing Activity in 2025/26

	Balance 1/4/25 £m	New Borrowing £m	Debt Maturing £m	Balance 31/3/26 £m
CFR	147.046			158.603
Short Term Borrowing	36.442	4.419	-4.254	36.607
Long Term Borrowing	73.357	0.000	-5.041	68.316
Total Borrowing	109.799	4.419	-9.295	104.923
Other Liabilities – Finance Lease Liability	5.169	1.298	-0.170	6.297
Total External Debt	114.968	5.717	-9.465	111.220
Increase/(Decrease) in Borrowing £000				-3.748

- 4.2 **Refinancing:** As interest rates remained higher than anticipated levels for the coming year, the Council continued to make use of short-term borrowing. This approach enabled the Council to retain flexibility and avoid committing to longer-term borrowing until rates are considered more favourable. The table below sets out the loans refinanced during the year and compares the rates available at the time.

Description	Balance 1/4/25 £m	Old Rate	Balance 31/3/26 £m	New Rate
PWLB Maturity	17.000	4.63%	17.000	4.10%
PWLB Maturity	10.000	4.95%	10.000	4.15%
LOBO*	3.500	3.75%	3.500	4.06%
Total	30.500		30.500	

- 4.3 **LOBOs:** At the start of 2025/26, the Council held £3.5m of LOBO (Lender's Option Borrower's Option) loans. During the year, the lender exercised its option to propose an increase to the interest rate. As the proposed rate was 5.70%, which is significantly higher than the rate available from PWLB, the loans were repaid and refinanced with a PWLB maturity loan as above.

- 4.4 The Council's primary objective when borrowing has been to achieve an appropriate balance between minimising risk, securing low interest costs, and providing certainty over borrowing costs for the period in which funds are required. A secondary objective has been to retain flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Council's longer-term plans change.
- 4.5 The Council has an increasing CFR due to the capital programme and an estimated borrowing requirement as determined by the Liability Benchmark, which also takes into account usable reserves and working capital. Having considered the appropriate duration and structure of the Council's borrowing need based on realistic projections, it was decided not to take any long term borrowing due to the high interest rates.
- 4.6 **Debt Rescheduling:** The premium charge for early repayment of PWLB debt remained relatively expensive for the loans in the Council's portfolio and therefore unattractive for debt rescheduling activity. No rescheduling activity was undertaken as a consequence.

5.0 Investment Activity

- 5.1 The Council's investment policy is governed by DLUHC investment guidance, which has been implemented in the annual investment strategy approved by the Council on 6 March 2025. The policy sets out the approach for choosing investment counterparties and is based on credit ratings provided by the three main credit rating agencies, supplemented by additional market data, (such as rating outlooks, credit default swaps, bank share prices etc.). During 2025/26 the Council's investment balances have ranged between £36.280m and £68.406m.

	Balance 1/4/25 £m	New Investments £m	Investments Redeemed £m	Balance 31/3/26 £m
Short Term Investments	36.528	190.812	-201.700	25.640
Long Term Investments	12.500	0.000	0.000	12.500
Total Investments	49.028	190.812	-201.700	38.140
Increase/(Decrease) in Investments £000				-10.888

- 5.2 Security of capital remained the Council's main objective. This was maintained by following the Council's counterparty policy as set out in its Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2025/26.
- 5.3 Counterparty credit quality is assessed and monitored by MUFG, the Council's treasury advisors, with reference to credit ratings; credit default swap prices, financial statements, information on potential government support and reports in the quality financial press. MUFG provide recommendations for suitable counterparties and maximum investment periods.

6.0 Compliance with Prudential Indicators

- 6.1 The Council has complied with its Prudential Indicators for 2025/26, which were set on 6 March 2025 as part of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement.

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

	Approved Limit for 2025/26 %	Maximum during 2025/26 £m
<u>Fixed Rate</u>		
Borrowing	100%	99.18%
Investments	75%	20.98%
<i>Compliance with Limit</i>		Yes
<u>Variable Rate</u>		
Borrowing	20%	0.82%
Investments	100%	79.02%
<i>Compliance with Limit</i>		Yes

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

	Upper Limit %	Fixed Rate Borrowing 31/03/26 £m	Fixed Rate Borrowing 31/3/26 %	Compliance?
Under 12 months	15%	14.111	13.45%	Yes
12 months to 2 years	15%	23.006	21.93%	Yes
2 years to 5 years	30%	19.295	18.39%	Yes
5 years to 10 years	100%	1.146	1.09%	Yes
10 years and above	100%	47.365	45.14%	Yes

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

Price Risk Indicator	Limit 2025/26	Actual 31/03/26	Compliance?
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£15m	£12.5m	Yes

- 6.5 **Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for External Debt.** The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council to set an Affordable Borrowing Limit, irrespective of their indebted status. This is a statutory limit which should not be breached. The Operational Boundary is based on the same estimates as the Authorised Limit but reflects the most likely, prudent but not worst-case scenario without the additional headroom included within the Authorised Limit. The s151 Officer confirms that there were no breaches to the Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary during 2025/26.

	Approved Operational Boundary 2025/26 £m	Authorised Limit 2025/26 £m	Actual External Debt 31/03/26 £m
Borrowing – incl Finance Leases	178.954	183.954	111.220
Other Long Term Liabilities	2.000	2.000	0.000
Total	180.954	185.954	111.220

- 6.6 In compliance with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice this report provides members with a summary of the treasury management activity during 2025/26. A prudent approach has been taken in relation to investment activity with priority being given to security and liquidity over yield.
- 6.7 The Council also confirms that during 2025/26, it complied with its Treasury Management Policy Statement and Treasury Management Practices.

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR FULL COUNCIL

See [Part D of the Council's Constitution – Council Procedure Rules](#) – for the rules on motions

Title of Motion:	A46 Newark Bypass Scheme
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Date of Council meeting:	14 July 2026
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Proposer of Motion: (Name, and signature if hard copy submitted)	Councillor Jack Kellas
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Seconder of Motion: (Name, and signature if hard copy submitted)	Councillor Simon Haynes
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Background/supporting information (maximum 300 words):

The A46 Newark Bypass Scheme has been cancelled by the Government. This decision will have long-lasting impacts for the communities Newark and Sherwood District Councillors are elected to represent and is a significant setback both locally and regionally as recognised by the Mayor of the East Midlands and political representatives of various persuasions.

It is clear that Councillors at Newark and Sherwood District Council must stand united in their opposition to the Government's position on defunding and cancelling the dualling of the A46 bypass between Farndon and Winthorpe. This motion therefore seeks Council's support in resolving to write to the current Transport Secretary and the new Prime Minister and to continue the publicity of this Council's strong opposition to the cancellation of this project, and to encourage our residents, businesses and stakeholders to make their opposition to this cancellation clear to Government too.

Motion to be proposed (active section):

That Newark and Sherwood District Council resolves to:

1. Write to the Secretary of State for Transport to make clear that the Government's proposal of defunding and cancelling the A46 Newark Bypass Scheme is unacceptable, must be reversed without delay, and that the Government should fully commit to completing these vital improvements to our local and regional infrastructure without any delay due to the Government's most recent announcements;
2. Write to the new Prime Minister to stress the importance of the A46 Newark Bypass Scheme and lobby for the Prime Minister's full commitment to this scheme, explaining that the proposal of defunding and cancelling the A46 Newark Bypass Scheme is unacceptable, must be reversed without delay, and that the Government should fully commit to completing these vital improvements to our local and regional infrastructure without any delay due to the Government's most recent announcements;
3. Continue to publicise the Council's strong opposition to the cancellation of this scheme;
4. Encourage local residents, businesses and stakeholders to make their views known to Government in opposing the cancellation of this most important scheme.

Date and time received: (for completion by Democratic Services)	05.07.26 23:16
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NOTICE OF MOTION FOR FULL COUNCIL

See [Part D of the Council's Constitution – Council Procedure Rules](#) – for the rules on motions

Title of Motion:	The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council and the 1 SRA Only Rule
Date of Council meeting:	14 July 2026
Proposer of Motion: (Name, and signature if hard copy submitted)	Councillor Jack Kellas
Seconder of Motion: (Name, and signature if hard copy submitted)	Councillor Neil Allen

Background/supporting information (maximum 300 words):

During Newark and Sherwood District Council's Full Council meeting on Tuesday 19 May 2026, Councillors considered the Independent Remuneration Panel's report on members' allowances. One of the recommendations adopted by Council was the adoption of the 1-SRA only rule. The report, on agenda page 105 said:

"Reinstituting the 1-SRA only rule. 74. The 2003 Regulations do not prohibit the payment of multiple SRAs to Members. However, since SRAs are not insignificant sums, Councils typically have adopted the '1-SRA only' rule. In other words, regardless of the number of remunerated posts individual Members may hold they can only be paid one SRA. By allowing Members to receive multiple SRAs it obscures the real level of remuneration received by Members therefore lacking transparency."

During said Full Council meeting, a question was raised as to whether the Council's newly elected Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council would claim both their allowances as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council as well as the special responsibility allowances for their other committee positions. A different councillor stated that the 1-SRA only rule prevented the councillors from doing so; however, following clarification from Democratic Services, it was confirmed that the 1-SRA only rule would not be applied to the allowances payable to the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council as those payments are made outside of the Members' Allowances Scheme.

This discussion has highlighted a loophole whereby the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council could receive two additional allowances on top of their basic allowance, despite a 1-SRA only rule. This motion resolves to correct this position.

Motion to be proposed (active section):

That further to the 1 SRA payable rule being adopted by the Council on 19 May 2026, it is proposed that the Council move to apply a principle of no more than one role specific allowance (excluding basic allowance) being payable per Member irrespective of the number of constituted roles they perform. Thereafter presenting a more equitable position, whereby no councillor can be paid more than one additional allowance for the constituted roles they undertake. Where this principle applies, the relevant Member will receive the highest allowance payable. This principle is to apply as from 14 July 2026 for the specific allowances paid to the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council.

Date and time received: <i>(for completion by Democratic Services)</i>	05.07.26 - 23:16
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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 June 2026 at 6.00 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 N Allen, Councillor J Hall, Councillor S Haynes, Councillor
S Michael, Councillor P Rainbow and Councillor K Smith

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor P Harris

386 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.

387 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no declarations of interest.

388 MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 21 APRIL 2026

The minutes from the meeting held on 21 April 2026 were agreed as a correct record
and signed by the Chair.

389 HEATING AND GAS SERVICING POLICY (KEY DECISION)

The Business Manager - Building Safety & Asset Investment presented a report which
sought approval for a Heating and Gas Servicing Policy which was attached as an
appendix to the report. This policy was one of a suite of policies that covered all
aspects of compliance which were designed to ensure that the Council had a robust
approach to compliance and customer safety.

The Cabinet questioned the wording in Section 5.3 of the proposed policy and sought
clarity as to the extreme circumstances in which a tenants' gas supply would be
mechanically sealed.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet approve the Heating & Gas Servicing Policy to
ensure legal compliance and improved service delivery in line with
legislation, regulation and industry best practice, subject to delegated
authority being given to the Portfolio Holder for Housing to re-word the
policy in relation to mechanically sealing gas supplies.

Reasons for Decision:

The Policy has been developed to align with organisational responsibilities, legislation and industry standards.

Options Considered:

No other option considered as this is a legal duty.

390 GAS METER MAKE SAFE POLICY (KEY DECISION)

The Business Manager - Building & Safety & Asset Investment presented a report which sought approval for a Gas Meter Make Safe Policy which was attached as an appendix to the report. This policy was one of a suite of policies that covered all aspects of compliance which were designed to ensure that the Council had a robust approach to compliance and customer safety.

The Cabinet requested that the numbers of properties where capping the gas supply were captured in the compliance report considered at performance meetings and sought clarification of the officer sign-off process and the reporting to the Portfolio Holder as required.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet approve the Gas Meter Make Safe Policy to ensure legal compliance and improved service delivery in line with legislation, regulation and industry best practice.

Reasons for Decision:

The Policy has been developed to align with organisational responsibilities, legislation and industry standards.

Options Considered:

No other option considered as this is a legal duty.

391 PASSENGER LIFTS, STAIR LIFTS AND HOISTS POLICY (KEY DECISION)

The Business Manager - Building & Safety & Asset Investment presented a report which sought approval for a Passenger Lifts, Stair Lifts & Hoists Policy which was attached as an appendix to the report. This policy was one of a suite of policies that covered all aspects of compliance which were designed to ensure that the Council had a robust approach to compliance and customer safety.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet approve the Passenger Lifts, Stair Lifts & Hoists Policy to ensure legal compliance and improved service delivery in line with legislation, regulation and industry best practice.

Reasons for Decision:

The Policy has been developed to align with organisational responsibilities, legislation and industry standards.

Options Considered:

No other option considered as this is a legal duty.

392 QUALITY & SAFETY STANDARD- HOUSING ASSET MANAGEMENT UPDATE

The Business Manager - Building Safety & Asset Management presented a report which provided Cabinet with an update on housing related functions and how these would inform the new Asset Management Strategy to ensure all homes were safe and decent. The report set out the year end performance against the Council's legal and regulatory landlord responsibilities for a range of asset management measures including the condition and safety of its stock, the energy rating of homes and compliance with the Decent Homes Standard,

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet note the current performance of the Council's housing and the forward plan for service delivery for the Asset management functions of Stock Condition; Decent Homes; Energy Performance; and the Housing Health & Safety Rating System (HHSRS).

Reasons for Decision:

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

Options Considered:

Not applicable, the report provides performance information.

393 HOUSING COMPLAINTS COORDINATOR AND COMPLAINTS UPDATE (KEY DECISION)

The Housing Regulatory Compliance Manager presented a report which set out the challenges facing housing services in relation to complaints and put forward proposals for improving the complaints handling service. It was reported that since the revised Housing Ombudsman Complaint Handling Code came into effect on 1 April 2024 there had been a continual increase in complaints, particularly in relation to time taken to complete repairs. This had impacted on the ability of officers to handle complaints in accordance with the Code. In addition, during 2023/24 the Government launched a 'Make Things Right' Campaign to raise greater awareness amongst social housing tenants of how they could make a complaint which had also resulted in increased numbers of formal complaints.

The proposals to manage the increased number of complaints were set out in the report and it was considered that having dedicated officers for complaints would improve the customer experience as they would have fewer points of contact and it would eradicate the need to repeat the same issue multiple times.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

- a) make the existing Housing Complaints Coordinator role permanent;
- b) approve the additional roles of a Complaints and Learning / Improvement Officer (1FTE) on a permanent basis and a Complaints Coordinator (1 FTE) for a fixed term period of 1 year, with a further review to consider if this second role needs to be permanent;

- c) approve the required budget for 2026/27 of £119,450 to be funded from the HRA Service Improvement reserve;
- d) note the annual budget required (c. £100k) for future years will be added into the base budget at budget setting for 2027/28 onwards; and
- e) note the recruitment of temporary support until the above roles are approved and recruited (for approx. 6 months from April 2026).

Reasons for Decision:

To allow the Council to meet its obligations under the Housing Ombudsman Complaint Handling Code and provide an excellent complaint handling service for our customers.

Options Considered:

There has been close monitoring of complaints volumes and performance during the last 12 months, which is the basis of the recommendations and therefore no alternative options are being considered at this point.

394 HOUSING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM RESOURCES

The Director - Housing, Health & Wellbeing presented a report which sought approval for additional resources to manage the demand, challenges and opportunities within the Housing, Health & Wellbeing directorate. The report proposed the position of Digital Solutions being renamed Housing Systems Manager and the creation of two data analyst posts which were essential for managing and cleansing large datasets, identifying and resolving data quality issues, and generating tailored reports to inform decision-making across services.

In addition, the report proposed a Housing Systems Adoption Officer which would provide a supportive role to develop comprehensive training programmes and materials, deliver refresher courses, and support staff in using specialist software platforms.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet approve:

- a) the creation of two additional Data Analyst posts for Housing Directorate systems managed within the Housing Systems Analyst team;
- b) the creation of a Housing Systems Adoption Officer reporting to the Assistant Director - Housing Strategy & Service Development; and
- c) the release of £82,900 from the HRA Service improvement reserve for 2026/27, with the full year cost being added into the base budget from 2027/28 onwards.

Reasons for Decision:

To increase the system adoption and training, improve the Council's data quality and reporting leading to strong assurance for the Council and Regulator of Social Housing on the quality of services being delivered.

Options Considered:

Do nothing is not a viable option, due the amount of data and training asks from across the directorate and dictated by the regulator and supplier. Officers within the housing analyst team are at capacity and therefore no capacity to take on these additional duties.

Temporary resourcing will not address the merging of systems and data that will come from local government reorganisation, in addition, the market for DDaT (Digital, Data and Technology) professionals is volatile.

395 GETTING TO KNOW YOU (GTKY) VISITS PROGRAMME

The Director - Housing, Health & Wellbeing presented a report which provided the Cabinet with an update on the progress and outcomes arising from the Getting to Know You (GTKY) visits programme undertaken by Housing Services. The programme commenced in October 2021 in response to increasing sector emphasis on landlords proactively knowing their tenants. The report provided full details of the success of the programme which had progressed to 81% of all properties visited, with a 15% failed access rate.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

- a) note the progress and outcomes and feedback on the GTKY visits programme to March 2026;
- b) support the continued delivery of the GTKY programme as a key assurance and tenancy sustainment mechanism;
- c) note the link to the Tenant Census planned for 2026;
- d) support the risk-based approach to determine whether tenancy enforcement action is progressed regarding failed access; and
- e) note the onward progression of the report to Local Influence & Assurance Board.

Reasons for Decision:

This vital activity aligns with several Community Plan 2023 – 27 Ambitions as detailed in the report.

Options Considered:

None, GTKY visits are an essential activity to ensure we know our tenants and that they are safe in their homes.

(Councillor L. Brazier left the meeting following this item of business).

396 LOCAL REGENERATION FUND UPDATE (KEY DECISION)

The Business Manager - Economic Growth & Visitor Economy presented a report which provided an update, and sought various approvals, for projects within the Local Regeneration Fund (LRF) programme. The report gave specific updates in relation to 32 Stodman Street, Newark; Newark Cultural Heart Market Place improvement; Newark Castle Gatehouse; and the Ollerton and Clipstone regeneration schemes.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

- a) note the updates associated with the LRF projects, as detailed throughout this report;

Stodman Street Re-Development

- b) approve a revenue budget from the Change Management Reserve as detailed in the exempt appendix to the report;

Castle Gatehouse

- c) approve an additional capital budget of up to £1,500,000, funded by the Change Management Reserve, as detailed in section 1.5 of the report; and

Ollerton Regeneration

- d) agree to commit £500,000 capital monies (fully funded by the LRF grant and NSDC committed Reserves) within the existing approved programme and add this to the proposed capital budget for 2026/27 to progress essential enabling works ahead of the completion of legal agreements and confirmation of planning consent, as set out in section 1.7 of the report.

Reasons for Decision:

The projects detailed within this report deliver on the LRF strategic objectives set by the UK Government, as well as the ambitions set out within the Community Plan. This includes driving improved health and wellbeing through the creation of community infrastructure and cultural/leisure opportunities as well as and opportunities for local people through skills and employment-based interventions and unlocking long-term sustainable economic growth.

Options Considered:

There remains an option not to proceed with the delivery of the projects within the LRF programme. This is not recommended as it would present a missed opportunity to deliver transformational and impactful change for the local community and to accelerate local economic growth.

397 NEWARK & SHERWOOD LOCAL PLAN - SCOPING CONSULTATION (KEY DECISION)

The Assistant Director - Planning & Economy presented a report which sought approval for the scoping consultation which was required ahead of the process for making a Local Plan. The requirements for the scoping consultation were prescribed under Regulation 20(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 and the proposed approach to this consultation, including the framework, was set out in the report.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

- a) note the report;
- b) approve the scoping consultation proposals contained in Appendix 1 to the report;
- c) delegate authority to the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Economic Development to agree the final Scoping Consultation document in consultation with the Planning Policy Board ready for consultation in July 2026; and
- d) delegate authority to the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Economic Development to amend the proposed timetable for the Local Plan Scoping consultation, should this be necessary if the Council receive the Inspectors Report on the Amended Allocations and Development Management DPD.

Reasons for Decision:

To allow the Scoping Consultation in line with the agreed Newark & Sherwood Local Plan timetable.

Options Considered:

It was considered that the Scoping Consultation could be delayed, however this will have knock on consequences to the agreed timetable. Furthermore, additional government funding requires the Council to progress through Gateway 1 by the end of October 2026, which would be difficult if the scoping consultation was pushed into August and September 2026.

398 SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS (KEY DECISION)

The Assistant Director - Planning & Economy presented a report which advised of the results of the consultation on the Draft Interim Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and the Draft Developer Contributions & Planning Obligations SPD and sought approval for a course of action for both.

In respect of the Interim Affordable Housing SPD, it was proposed that officers would prepare informal advice at a later date once local and national policy had become formalised. For the Draft Developer Contributions & Planning Obligations SPD, this had been amended to address comments raised during the consultation and was attached as an appendix 2 to the report for approval and adoption.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

- a) agree the results of the consultation and the Council's proposed responses contained in Appendix 1;
- b) agree the proposed approach to affordable housing SPD set out at paragraph 2.5 of the report; and
- c) approve the adoption of the Developer Contributions & Planning Obligations SPD as set out at Appendix 2 as a Supplementary Planning Document.

Reasons for Decision:

To allow the District Council to adopt the Developer Contributions & Planning Obligations SPD.

Options Considered:

As Cabinet had agreed to prepare and consult on the two SPDs careful consideration was given to next steps following the receipt of the consultation responses. It was concluded that the proposed approach set out in the report is the only feasible approach.

399 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

AGREED (unanimously) that, under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

400 LOCAL REGENERATION FUND UPDATE (KEY DECISION) - EXEMPT APPENDIX

The Cabinet considered the exempt appendix in relation to the Local Regeneration Fund Update.

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

401 RECHARGE OF SEWERAGE PLANT MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING (KEY DECISION)

The Cabinet considered the exempt report in relation to the recharge of sewerage and plant maintenance and cleaning.

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

Meeting closed at 8.27 pm.

Chair

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

Document is Restricted

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Policy & Performance Improvement Committee** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY on Monday, 1 June 2026 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor N Ross (Vice-Chair)

Councillor A Brazier, 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 Shakeshaft (substitute), Councillor K Smith, Councillor L Tift (substitute) and Councillor T Wendels

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor N Allen and Councillor R Cozens

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor M Pringle (Chair), Councillor C Brooks and Councillor T Thompson

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

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

229 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no declarations of interest.

230 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 APRIL 2026

The minutes from the meeting held on 13 April 2026 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Vice-Chair.

231 ANNUAL REPORT - HOUSING SERVICES

The Committee considered the report presented by the Director – Housing, Health & Wellbeing which sought to provide Members with an overview of the performance of Housing Services for the year 2025/2026.

The report set out the remit of Housing Services and summarised the outcomes, satisfaction with services, service delivery by diversity strand and identified both areas of strength and those requiring improvement. The report supported regulatory assurance against several consumer standards co-regulated with the Regulator of Social Housing and provided clear internal governance and scrutiny of how the Council's services met those standards.

In considering the report Members welcomed the reported improvements in the service commenting on the work undertaken in supporting tenants back into the workplace together with improvements to the performance in relation to performance in homelessness and temporary accommodation.

Concern was expressed surrounding the average time taken to re-let a council property which stood at 77 days compared to the target of 28 days, commenting that this would appear to be the main area requiring improvement. It was noted that the delays were sometimes exacerbated by the high percentage of major works required to improve the quality and safety of homes before a property was available to relet.

In relation to the investment of c£500,00 to improve the temporary accommodation at Wellow Green, a Member queried whether consideration had been given to a rebuild rather than a programme of improvements to the existing building. The Director advised that a full options appraisal had been carried out and reported to Cabinet with a determination that the proposed improvements to Wellow Green were the most cost-effective way to proceed. She added that LGR and the mapping of other similar facilities in neighbouring authorities had also been considered which had confirmed the decision to invest in the current assets as the best option.

AGREED that the performance of the Housing Services Business Unit be noted.

232 ANNUAL REPORT - HOUSING REPAIRS & EMPTY HOMES

The Committee considered the report presented by the Business Manager – Housing Repairs & Empty Homes which sought provide the year end overview of performance across responsive repairs, including damp and mould and empty homes. Included within the report was information in relation to areas of strength, improvement and underperformance together with actions taken to maintain assurance and service grip.

The report set out that the 2025/2026 financial year had been a period of significant transition for the responsive repairs and empty homes service. It noted that the implementation of the new housing management system in May 2025 had introduced fundamental changes to workflows, data structures and reporting across repairs, empty homes and customer contact.

In considering the report, Members welcomed the work the Business Manager had undertaken to-date to improve the service delivery within his team and the ongoing preparations and action plans for further improvements and legislative changes.

Concern was expressed in relation to the average length of time it took to answer a call, suggesting that improvements to that would also likely have a beneficial effect on the results of Tenant Satisfaction Measures. In acknowledging the comments, the Business Manager advised that he was looking to restructure his team internally and that the waiting time as reported had already been reduced by 2 minutes. The Business Manager and Director advised that they would review the procedures in place with a view developing an Action Plan to make improvements.

In relation to issues with damp and mould in properties, a Member queried whether these were reported by tenants or whether it had been found during inspections. In response, the Director – Housing, Health & Wellbeing advised that action was taken once notification of an issue with damp and mould had been received. She added that the Council were actively checking for any issues at a property when carrying out visits. Members were advised that future reports would include a fuller explanation of the data reported to provide a better understanding of the ongoing works and issues within the business unit.

A Member referred to the aforementioned checking for issues at properties, querying whether there was sufficient resource to deal with any issues which may be found. The Director advised that the checks were part of a Health & Safety Survey, complimented by a Stock Condition Survey, and that it was not a continuous programme of inspections. She added that changes to the regulatory regime had impacted all landlords with ongoing increases in their responsibilities.

In acknowledging the agenda item on Performance Framework, a Member commented that the proposed amendments to targets in relation to telephone call waiting times to report a repair and reletting properties appeared to be unambitious, suggesting that Cabinet be recommended to leave unchanged the existing targets. In response, the Business Manager acknowledged the Member's concerns and advised that the whole of his team continued to be focused on improving the service they provided.

AGREED that:

- a) the year-end performance position for the service be noted;
- b) the progress achieved in the second half of the year, evidenced through validated Q3-Q4 performance data and improved tenant satisfaction outcomes be acknowledged; and
- c) the services forward readiness activities, including horizon scanning and preparations for emerging regulatory requirements such as future phases of Awaab's Law and Decent Homes 2025 be noted.

233 LOCAL OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

The Committee considered the report presented by the Business Manager – Transformation & Service Improvement which sought to provide Members with an update on recent developments related to the local government outcomes framework. The report outlined the implications on the operations of the Council with particular emphasis on its performance framework.

The report provided Members with a summary of the Local Outcomes Framework (LOF) providing further detail in relation to purpose; framework metrics; and public presentation. The LOF is underpinned by nationally defined outcome indicators spanning key domains such as economic development, health, community, safety, environment and service efficiency. The impacts of the LOF on Newark & Sherwood District Council were provided at paragraph 3 of the report and included: integration; overlaps and enhancements; operational changes; reporting; and strategic alignment.

In considering the report, a Member queried how the performance indicators would be monitored. The Business Manager advised that the usual quarterly performance reports would continue to be presented separately to those of the LOF. He added that the LOF was a standardised protocol for performance reporting across all local authorities and was assessed at central government.

AGREED that the likely impact of the Local Outcome Framework outlined throughout the report be noted.

234 PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK 2026/2027

The Committee considered the report and presentation delivered by the Senior Transformation & Service Improvement Officer which sought to provide Members with an update on the Performance Framework and indicators that were used to monitor and measure the Council's performance against the Community Plan. The report also provided the Corporate Planning, Performance Management & Assurance Framework and the refreshed performance indicators.

In considering the report Members referred to comments made previously during discussions on the Housing Repairs & Empty Homes Annual report, specifically in relation to the length of time it took to answer the telephone. It was suggested that rather than reducing the targets, further work should be undertaken as to how improvements could be made to ensure the current targets were met. In order to provide clarity for Members, the Director – LGR advised that incoming calls to the Council were dealt with by two separate teams. The Customer Services team received general calls to the main Council telephone number. The Housing Repairs team received calls from tenants who wished to report an issue at their property.

In relation to personal appraisals, Members queried whether they were standardised across all business units and also sought assurances that they were carried out and recorded. In response, Members were advised that new standard forms had recently been introduced and that all appraisals undertaken were reported online to ensure that Personnel could monitor progress.

In referring to KPI Code ECG007B – Newark Town Centre Footfall Count, a Member queried whether this would be expanded to include other areas with footfall counters, namely Ollerton and Southwell. The Senior Transformation & Service Improvement Officer advised that she would raise this with the relevant Business Manager.

In relation to the delivery of homes by Arkwood Development, a Member queried how the targets were set given the variances year to year. In response, Members were advised that delivery of homes was largely dependent on external factors, e.g. land availability.

In acknowledging the above comments, the Business Manager – Transformation & Service Improvement advised that Business Plans were developed annually. Business Managers discussed and agreed targets with their relevant Directors. Business Plans were then presented to the Senior Leadership Team for approval. Targets were then incorporated into performance reports which were then presented to PPIC for scrutiny and onward to Cabinet for approval. However, the Transformation & Service Improvement team continued to hold conversations with Business Managers throughout the year to monitor the targets within their plans.

In closing the debate, the Vice-Chair suggested that the comments made throughout the meeting in relation to telephone waiting times and the re-letting of council houses be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration by the report author. He further suggested that the concerns of the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee around the proposed easing of current targets or performance indicators be reported to Cabinet with a recommendation that Action Plans be developed to improve the service provision in both areas.

AGREED that:

- a) the Corporate Planning, Performance Management & Assurance Framework and refreshed performance indicators be noted; and
- b) the comments and recommendations raised by this Committee be included in the future report presented to Cabinet when considering the Performance Framework 2026/2027.

235 APPOINTMENT OF PPI COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES TO:

AGREED that the following Members be appointed to:

- a) Tenant Engagement Board
Councillors: Alice Brazier; Penny Rainbow; and Neil Ross
- b) Planning Policy Board
Councillors: Linda Dales; Rhona Holloway; and Mike Pringle
Remaining vacancy left unfilled at present.

236 UPDATES FROM WORKING GROUPS

i) Heritage & Culture Working Group

NOTED the verbal update of the Chair of the Working Group, Councillor David Moore.

ii) Estates Walkabout Working Group

NOTED the verbal update of the Chair of the Working Group, Councillor Penny Rainbow.

237 CABINET FORWARD PLAN - MAY TO AUGUST 2026

NOTED the Forward Plan of the Cabinet for the period May to August 2026.

238 MINUTES OF CABINET MEETING HELD ON 21 APRIL 2026

NOTED the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 21 April 2026.

239 PROVISIONAL ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

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

Meeting closed at 7.51 pm.

Chair

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Governance, General Purposes & Local Government Reorganisation Committee** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY on Thursday, 18 June 2026 at 6.00 pm.

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

Councillor S Crosby, Councillor J Kellas, Councillor D Moore, Councillor P Peacock, Councillor K Smith, Councillor T Thompson and Councillor T Wildgust (substitute)

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor S Forde and Councillor N Allen

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor A Freeman, Councillor P Harris, Councillor S Haynes and Councillor M Pringle

38 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.

39 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillor Paul Peacock declared an Other Registerable Interest in Agenda Item No. 7 – Code of Conduct Complaints Update.

40 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 APRIL 2026

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2026 were a correct record and signed by the Chair.

41 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN NOTTINGHAM & NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

The Committee considered the report and presentation delivered by the Chief Executive which advised Members of the latest position in respect of local government reorganisation following the submission of the Final Proposal to Government in November 2025.

The presentation provided Members with an indicative timetable of the preparation and journey through Parliament for the Structural Changes Order (SCO), noting that the draft SCO was expected before the summer parliamentary recess. Details relating to the establishment and work programme of Joint Committees were provided, noting that these would be formed no later than 14 days after the SCO came into force, and dissolved the day after the first meeting of the Shadow Council.

Reflecting on discussions held at the previous meeting of the Committee on 16 April, Members were asked to consider the proposed role and scope of a LGR Working Group – Newark & Sherwood's Legacy which would be structured around three clear stands: Community & Residents; Members; and Staff.

In considering the report and presentation, Members welcomed the update provided. In relation to the Working Group they agreed that they would wish this to be formed from the whole membership of the Committee excluding substitutes with its focus as detailed in paragraph 4 of Appendix 1 to the report. They also agreed that they would wish for informal meetings of the Committee to be held to discuss the points noted in the presentation as to what, as a local authority, they could influence.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- a) the progress updated provided in respect of local government reorganisation be noted;
- b) the proposed scoping document for the establishment of the Local Government Reorganisation Working Group – Newark & Sherwood’s Legacy be approved; and
- c) the Working Group’s membership be comprised of the 12 members of the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee and no substitutes.

42 UPDATE TO REGISTER OF INTERESTS REQUIREMENTS

The Committee considered the report presented by the Monitoring Officer which sought to raise awareness of changes to the requirements to provide home addresses on registers of interest forms.

The report set out that the Localism Act 2011 (“the Act”) provided that relevant authorities were required to establish and maintain a Register of Interests for their members and co-opted members with the district council also maintaining the register for parish councils.

The Act also required that the Register of Interest must include details of interests that were disclosable pecuniary interests. These included any beneficial interest in land that a member or co-opted member held within the authority’s area, therefore requiring the disclosure of home addresses when there was a beneficial interest in the property within the district or parish boundary. As the Act required that Register of Interest were published and available for public inspection, home addresses had been publicly available. It was reported that changes to the Act would come into effect on 29 June 2026 which removed the requirement for publication of home addresses, unless a member opted-in to the publication of their home address.

Committee were advised that changes to the registers of interests for district and parish councillors was underway and addresses removed unless councillors opted-in to publication of their home address.

AGREED that the report and changes to the Localism Act 2011 be noted.

43 CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS UPDATE

The Committee considered the report presented by the Council's Monitoring Officer which sought to provide an update for Members on the current position in relation to Code of Conduct Complaints.

The report set out the current situation with the number of ongoing complaints at the time the agenda was published, noting that this was 27. Appendix 1 listed those complaints, provided detail of when the complaint was made, whether it was in relation to NSDC or a parish, whether it was made by a Councillor or Non-Councillor and the current status. Appendix 2 listed those complaints that had been completed since the last meeting of the Committee. Appendix 3, which was exempt, provided a summary of matters concluded where no breach had been found.

In considering the report, a Member suggested that it would be beneficial if more detail could be provided in relation to the nature of complaints to enable any emerging patterns to be revealed.

AGREED that the report be noted.

44 PROPOSED COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

NOTED the Work Programme for the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee.

Meeting closed at 6.55 pm.

Chair

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Planning Committee** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY on Thursday, 7 May 2026 at 4.00 pm.

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

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor N Allen, Councillor K Smith and Councillor S Michael

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor T Smith and Councillor L Tift

140 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.

141 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

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

Councillor D Moore declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest regarding Agenda Item 8 – Land to the East of Hockerton Road, Upton – 26/00382/PIP, as he was known to one of the speakers.

Councillor S Saddington declared a Personal Interest regarding Agenda Item 6 – Land at Foxholes Farm, Bathley Lane, North Muskham – 22/01983/FULM, as she represents that Ward and is known to her constituents.

142 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 APRIL 2026

AGREED that the minutes from the meeting held on 9 April 2026 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

143 REVIEW OF THE PROTOCOL FOR PLANNING COMMITTEE AND THE PLANNING COMMITTEE SCHEME OF DELEGATION TO OFFICERS

The Committee considered the report of the Director for Planning & Growth regarding the review of the Protocol for Planning Committee and the Planning Committee scheme of Delegation to Officers.

It was proposed that a comprehensive review of the Protocol and the Scheme be deferred until such a time that the Planning Regulations had been published. That would save any abortive work and allow for the full review of both the Protocol and the Scheme alongside the changes to the Council's constitution which aligned with the requirements of the Regulations.

Throughout the year, Officers kept the Scheme and Protocol under review, noting any issues that may arise that did not require immediate action for full review with Members on an annual basis. Officers had reviewed the Protocol and Scheme and were content that there were no changes required to either document.

AGREED that:

- (a) no changes are currently required to the Protocol for Planning Committee or the Planning Scheme of Delegation: and
- (b) there will be a review of the Protocol and Scheme alongside any required updates to the Council's constitution following the publication of The Town and Country Planning (Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions) (England) Regulations 2026.

144 LAND AT FOXHOLES FARM, BATHLEY LANE, NORTH MUSKHAM (22/01983/FULM)

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought the construction of a Solar farm with associated works, equipment and necessary infrastructure.

A site visit had taken place prior to the commencement of the Planning Committee for Members, for the following reasons: that there were particular site factors which were significant in terms of the weight attached to them relative to other factors if they would be difficult to assess in the absence of a site inspection. There were specific site factors and/or significant policy or precedent implications that needed to be carefully addressed; and the proposal was particularly contentious, and the aspects being raised could only be viewed on site.

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

A schedule of communication had been circulated prior to the meeting in accordance with the Planning Committee Protocol, to all Members which included two additional public comments of objection.

Mr P William, objector, spoke against the application.

Councillor L Johnson, representing Norwell Parish Council, spoke against the application.

Mr C Calvert, the Agent spoke in support of the application.

Members considered the application and the Chair commented that the site visit undertaken that morning was extremely useful. Members had walked to the brow of the hill which clearly showed the impact of this solar farm, which was contained in the Officer report. The local Ward Member commented that the fields would be covered

in solar panels having an adverse effect and the loss of good agricultural land when solar panels could be located on roof tops. They would have an impact on the heritage of the village and the surrounding area. The onset of large vehicles as a consequence of the proposal would have a huge impact on the residents who liked to walk, cycle and horse ride. The widening of the road was also considered of no benefit to the local residents and out of character for the area. The solar panels would be a block on the landscape for forty years and they would be hard to dispose in the future. This proposal would cause harm and have an impact on the Norwell conservation area and heritage assets within it such as the church and windmill tower.

Other Members commented on the cumulative impact from other solar farms in the area and felt that there was no community benefit from this development in spite of the impact it would have on local residents. This application site would have an impact on more heritage assets than another local proposal near Kelham which only impacted on one. Members commented on the proposed screening of the site including 4m fencing and hedges being ineffective and an erosion of the local setting. Due to the elevations of the site, it would be impossible to screen the proposal from the village and would mean a fundamental change to Norwell. 90% of the village was considered in a Conservation Area and this application would change the village of Norwell for forty years. Concerns were raised on the impact of the scheme on the identified listed buildings and Conservation Area. The application was considered inappropriate for a development of this nature.

A vote was taken and lost for approval with 0 votes For and 13 votes Against.

AGREED Moved Councillor A Freeman and Seconded Councillor L Dales (unanimously) that contrary to Officer recommendation Planning Permission be Refused, for the following reason:

- (i) Adverse impact on the setting of the Listed Building's, notably Grade I Church and windmill and major adverse impact on the Conservation Area etc outweighed the benefits.

The wording to be delegated to the Business Manager – Planning Development in consultation with the Planning Committee Chair and Vice-Chair.

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
S Forde	For
A Freeman	For
P Harris	For
M Home	For
K Melton	For
D Moore	For
P Rainbow	For

S Saddington	For
M Shakeshaft	For
M Spoors	For
T Wildgust	For

145 LAND TO REAR OF MILL LANE, CAUNTON (25/01952/FUL)

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought the erection of four bungalows.

A site visit had taken place prior to the commencement of the Planning Committee for Members, for the following reasons: that there were particular site factors which were significant in terms of the weight attached to them relative to other factors if they would be difficult to assess in the absence of a site inspection. There were specific site factors and/or significant policy or precedent implications that needed to be carefully addressed; the impact of the proposed development was difficult to visualise.

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

Ms K Veitch, objector, spoke against the application.

Councillor S Routledge, representing Caunton Parish Council, spoke against the application.

Mr G Machin, the Agent spoke in support of the application.

Members considered the application, and the local Ward Member informed the Committee that during the last two major storms the village had flooded, the main street had become a river as the Beck had overflowed, and 39 houses and gardens were flooded. It was commented that the village drains, and sewage system were inadequate. The soakaways and the soil being clay were not sufficient in absorbing the excess water. Concern was also raised regarding this being in the Conservation Area and the footpath running through the site was considered dangerous for pedestrians.

The Senior Planning Officer confirmed that the drainage agreement was referred to as a Section 106 Drainage Agreement which was different to the usual s106 Agreement to secure planning obligations. All new developments would be required to enter into a drainage agreement with Severn Trent.

Other Members commented that the proposed site would be damaging to the ecology outside of the boundary. There would be a loss of high-grade agricultural land and a similar application had been previously dismissed at appeal by the Planning Inspectorate.

A vote was taken and lost for approval with 2 votes For and 11 votes Against.

AGREED Moved Councillor M Spoors and Seconded Councillor S Saddington (with 11 votes For and 2 votes Against) that contrary to Officer recommendation Planning Permission be Refused for the following

reasons:

- (i) Unsustainable location contrary to DM8,
- (ii) The development would be in the open countryside contrary to policy,
- (iii) Back land development,
- (iv) Concerns regarding surface water run-off,
- (v) adverse impact on setting of Conservation Area

The wording to be delegated to the Business Manager – Planning Development in consultation with the Planning Committee Chair and Vice-Chair.

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	For
S Forde	For
A Freeman	Against
P Harris	For
M Home	For
K Melton	For
D Moore	For
P Rainbow	For
S Saddington	For
M Shakeshaft	For
M Spoors	For
T Wildgust	For

146 LAND TO THE EAST OF HOCKERTON ROAD, UPTON (26/00382/PIP)

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought the permission in principle for proposed residential development of a minimum of 1 dwelling and a maximum of 5 dwellings.

A site visit had taken place prior to the commencement of the Planning Committee for Members, for the following reasons: that there were particular site factors which were significant in terms of the weight attached to them relative to other factors if they would be difficult to assess in the absence of a site inspection; and the proposal was particularly contentious, and the aspects being raised could only be viewed on site.

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

Mr M Trueman, objector, spoke against the application.

Ms R Holloway, Parish Clerk, representing Upton Parish Council, spoke against the application.

Mr G Machin, the Agent spoke in support of the application.

Members considered the application, and it was felt that this was infill due to the adjacent cricket pavilion, but in the open countryside. Five properties would not be in keeping with the rest of the village and the site was considered out of the village. The location was incongruous with the village of Upton and would cause harm to the character of the Conservation Area, noting the fields surrounding the village made a special contribution to the Conservation Area. It was also considered an unsustainable location.

Other Members commented that the proposal continued the line of the village and was book ended and allowed the village to grow, which was a natural progression.

A vote was taken and lost for approval with 6 votes For and 7 votes Against.

AGREED Moved Councillor K Melton and Seconded Councillor P Harris (with 7 votes For and 6 vote Against) that contrary to Officer recommendation Permission in Principle be Refused for the following reasons:

- (i) Concerns about location and sustainability (DM8);
- (ii) impact on the special character and appearance of the Conservation Area, noting importance of historic fields in this part of the Conservation Area.

The wording to be delegated to the Business Manager – Planning Development in consultation with the Planning Chair and Vice-Chair.

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
S Forde	Against
A Freeman	Against
P Harris	For
M Home	For
K Melton	For
D Moore	For
P Rainbow	For
S Saddington	For
M Shakeshaft	Against
M Spoors	For
T Wildgust	Against

Councillor P Harris left the meeting at this point.

The Planning Committee 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.

147 LAND ADJACENT APPLE COTTAGE, BILSTHORPE ROAD, EAKRING (26/00377/PIP)

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought permission in principle for proposed residential development of a minimum of 1 dwelling and a maximum of 4.

A site visit had taken place prior to the commencement of the Planning Committee for Members, for the following reason: that there were particular site factors which were significant in terms of the weight attached to them relative to other factors if they would be difficult to assess in the absence of a site inspection.

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

Mr G Machin, the Agent spoke in support of the application.

Members considered the application, and it was commented that Apple Cottage was an attractive period building at the entrance to the village, the technical submission needed to be carefully designed to form an enhanced approach to the village. There were no concerns raised regarding the position and quantum. The Business Manager - Planning Development confirmed the Agent was present at the meeting and would be listening to Member comments and agreed that there was a slight incline to the site. He also commented that the setting of the Conservation Area was a powerful policy in the NPPF, any technical submission needed to be carefully addressed with the Poplar trees taken into consideration and perhaps a soft and sensitive proposal fitting into the landscape.

AGREED (with 10 votes For and 2 votes Against) that Permission in Principle be approved.

148 LAND SOUTH-EAST OF CAUNTON ROAD, HOCKERTON NG25 0LP (26/00448/PIP)

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

A site visit had taken place prior to the commencement of the Planning Committee for Members, for the following reasons: that there were particular site factors which were significant in terms of the weight attached to them relative to other factors if they would be difficult to assess in the absence of a site inspection. There were specific site factors and/or significant policy or precedent implications that needed to be carefully addressed; the impact of the proposed development was difficult to visualise.

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

Mr G Machin, the Agent spoke in support of the application.

Members considered the application, and concern was raised regarding the already approved permission in principle on a piece of land to the south of this site, it was commented that if that development did not take place this site could be left in isolation. The cumulative impact and scale of village of 59 houses was also commented upon.

AGREED (with 7 votes For, 4 votes Against and 1 Abstention) that Permission in Principle be approved.

149 FOREST CENTRE INDOOR MARKET AND FORMER LLOYDS BANK, FOREST ROAD, OLLERTON (26/00235/ADV)

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought four hoardings to existing windows.

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

Members considered the application acceptable, although concern was raised regarding the use of Foamex as that product was suggested to be hard to dispose after its usage and a more sustainable material was preferred. The Business Manager Planning Development informed the Committee that those comments would be fed back to the Design Team.

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 half an hour.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- (a) Advert Consent be approved, subject to the conditions contained within the report; and
- (b) the comments regarding the use of Foamex be fed back to the Design Team.

150 ANNUAL REPORT DETAILING THE EXEMPT REPORTS CONSIDERED BY PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive which detailed the exempt business considered by the Committee for the period 6 June 2025 to date.

AGREED (unanimously) that the report considered at the 2 October 2025 Planning Committee, during exempt business, entitled: Land North of Main Road, Kelham – 23/01837/FULM. The information would now be open.

151 APPEALS LODGED

AGREED that the report be noted.

152 APPEALS DETERMINED

AGREED that the report be noted.

Meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

Chair

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Planning Committee** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY on Thursday, 4 June 2026 at 4.00 pm.

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

Councillor N Allen, Councillor A Brazier, Councillor L Dales, Councillor S Forde, Councillor M Home, Councillor P Rainbow, Councillor S Saddington, Councillor M Shakeshaft, Councillor L Tift and Councillor T Wildgust

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor C Brooks, Councillor K Melton and Councillor M Spoors

1 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.

Further to the changes to the Planning Committee membership, the Chair thanked Councillor P Harris and Councillor T Smith for their work and commitment to the Planning Committee and welcomed Councillor A Brazier and Councillor N Allen to the Planning Committee.

2 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 Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board.

Councillor A Brazier declared an other registerable interest regarding Agenda Item 6 – Land at Rufford Avenue, Ollerton – 25/01999/FULM, as she was a Member of Ollerton and Boughton Town Council and took no part in the debate or vote.

Councillor D Moore declared an other registrable interest regarding Agenda Item 9 – First Floor, The Buttermarket, Middle Gate, Newark – 26/00477/LBC, as he was a Member of Newark Town Council.

The Director of Planning & Growth declared an other registrable interest on Agenda Item No. 6 – Land at Rufford Avenue, Ollerton – 25/01999/FULM, as he was acting on behalf of the applicant and developer and left the room when the application was considered.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 MAY 2026

AGREED that the minutes from the meeting held on 7 May 2026 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought a proposed residential development.

A site visit had taken place prior to the commencement of the Planning Committee for Members, for the following reasons: that there were particular site factors which were significant in terms of the weight attached to them relative to other factors if they would be difficult to assess in the absence of a site inspection. There were specific site factors and/or significant policy or precedent implications that needed to be carefully addressed.

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

A schedule of communication had been circulated prior to the meeting in accordance with the Planning Committee Protocol, to all Members which included a correction to the Committee Report from the Planning Case Officer.

Mr M Peet, objector, spoke against the application.

Mr G Sharman, the Agent spoke in support of the application.

Members considered the application and it was commented that the housing mix was excellent including the affordable housing on this allocated site and that existing bungalows would not be overlooked. The buffer zone was good but needed to be correctly managed. The development however was over intensive, would put a strain on the services within Rainworth including doctors, dentists and schools who were already stretched to capacity. It was commented on that although the site formed part of an allocated site, the quantum proposed was too high and a considerable uplift to original allocation number. It was noted that six plots did not meet parking standards and it was a step back having on-road parking for those six properties. It was commented on that the access roads were inadequate and weren't built for this level of development. It was felt that a number of plots should be removed from the plan to provide adequate space for car parking, which would also alleviate pressure onto the access roads. The foul sewage system was also raised as a current problem. Concern was raised regarding the lack of access to open land North and North-West of the development and whether that was public open land.

The Principal Planning Officer confirmed that six properties did not meet the parking standards as they had a tandem parking arrangement, although each plot had three car parking spaces and had designated on-street parking within the plan. It was confirmed that the on-street parking would not hinder large and refuse vehicles, which had been agreed with NCC Highways. The Committee was advised that if the layout was reconfigured that could have an impact on the open-space and landscaping, a balance which would need to be taken on board. NCC Highways had also undertaken an evening assessment regarding the junction with Nightjar Way and were satisfied with the movements at that junction. The developer had also engaged with Severn Trent water who had confirmed that there was capacity in the system to cope with this development. The Section 106 process could address the Management Company or Council management arrangements for public open space. It was further

confirmed that comments from the NHS had confirmed that improvements were required and the money from this development would be invested in either of the two existing facilities. It was confirmed that the land to the North of the site was public open space. The developer had informed the Council that they had tried to engage with Rainworth Parish Council to provide access to the land to the north of the site, which had not been resolved.

AGREED (unanimously) that the application be deferred to the 2 July 2026 Planning Committee in order for further discussion to take place with the developer regarding the six plots that do not have adequate car parking and the access to the open land to the north.

5 LAND AT RUFFORD AVENUE, OLLERTON - 25/01999/FULM

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought the demolition of the Forest Centre 111 Forest Road, the Former Lloyds TSB Bank Forest Road and the Town Hall, Sherwood Drive, and the erection of a mixed use proposed development including: a cinema/ leisure use/ café building; retail (Class E(a)), customer service/office facilities (class E(c)) and ancillary/shared areas; commercial office units (Class E(c)); and associated infrastructure; landscaping; public realm areas; and the erection of three dwellings with access and parking.

A site visit had taken place prior to the commencement of the Planning Committee for Members, for the following reason: that there were particular site factors which were significant in terms of the weight attached to them relative to other factors if they would be difficult to assess in the absence of a site inspection.

Members considered the presentation from the Principal Planning Officer, which included photographs and plans of the proposed development. The recommendation contained within the report was also amended from a “unilateral undertakings” to “Planning Obligation” if the Planning Committee were minded to approve the application.

Ms E Buchanan, the Applicant spoke in support of the application.

Members considered the application and commented that this was of good design and a fantastic scheme. It was commented that permeable surface should be used for the driveways and may provide increased moveability on the driveways for parallel parking. The Principal Planning Officer confirmed that there was a hard and soft landscaping condition, permeable surfacing could be considered under that condition. Parking provision for users of the development was discussed and the agreement with Tesco for use of the carpark was clarified by the Principal Planning Officer, along with clarification that employee and Town Council spaces would be provided in the Council owned car park at the top of Sherwood Drive.

It was confirmed that increased CCTV would be provided around the site and that secure cycle parking would be provided for employees in the rear gated area and public cycle parking would be to the front of the development in the open area, which should be a deterrent for any potential theft.

AGREED (with 10 votes For and 1 Abstention) that Planning Permission be approved, subject to the amendment regarding Planning Obligation.

6 THE GRANGE, KIRKLINGTON ROAD, HOCKERTON, NEWARK ON TRENT, NG25 0PJ - 25/01982/OUT

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought outline planning for a residential development, all matters reserved except access.

A site visit had taken place prior to the commencement of the Planning Committee for Members, for the following reasons: that there were particular site factors which were significant in terms of the weight attached to them relative to other factors if they would be difficult to assess in the absence of a site inspection.

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

Mr P Wade, objector, spoke against the application.

Ms S Clark, the Agent spoke in support of the application.

Members considered the application, and concern was raised regarding the cumulative impact of this site and including other sites that had recently been granted planning permission in this area. The site was in the open countryside and considered perhaps one house too many for this field, although the development did not front the road. The bus service was considered non-existent and concerns were raised about reference to the church as an amenity when it was actually used as a jewellery workshop. Whilst there was a footpath along the road into Hockerton, it was considered not safe due to the high and fast volume of traffic travelling along the A617. It was commented that this application had been considered in the past and had been refused on appeal. Other Members felt that the proposed development sat well on the proposed site, which was removed from the main road and would not detract when driving into Hockerton. It was also felt that it was a good use of scrubland. It was commented that plot 3 however looked like it had been shoehorned in and the plan would be improved if this plot was removed.

AGREED (with 9 votes For and 2 votes Against) that Planning Permission be approved, subject to the conditions contained in the report.

7 LAND ADJACENT ORCHARD COTTAGE, KIRKLINGTON ROAD, HOCKERTON, NG25 0PJ - 26/00468/PIP

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

A site visit had taken place prior to the commencement of the Planning Committee for Members, for the following reasons: that there were particular site factors which were significant in terms of the weight attached to them relative to other factors if

they would be difficult to assess in the absence of a site inspection. There were specific site factors and/or significant policy or precedent implications that needed to be carefully addressed; and the impact of the proposed development was difficult to visualise.

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

A schedule of communication had been circulated prior to the meeting in accordance with the Planning Committee Protocol, to all Members which included consultation response received from Newark and Sherwood District Council Conservation Team.

Mr J Pope, the Agent spoke in support of the application.

Members considered the application and concerns were raised regarding the proposed development being in the open countryside, the cumulative impact this development would have on this part of Hockerton and that it was not in-keeping with the ribbon pattern. Concerns regarding safety were raised as there was no pavement on this side of a busy road and the site would need another access onto the A617. The loss of good quality agricultural land was also taken into consideration. It was commented that part of the site jutted out which was incongruous and taking the site right up to the edge of the public footpath. Location and quantum of development were considered to be the key issues, with Members feeling that too many were proposed and that this would be too intensive in this location and impact the character of the settlement.

A vote for approval was taken and lost with 4 votes For and 7 votes Against.

Councillor S Saddington arrived during the debate of this item and took no part in the vote.

AGREED Moved Councillor L Dales and Seconded Councillor P Rainbow (with 7 votes For and 4 votes Against) that contrary to Officer recommendation Permission in Principle be Refused, for the reason: DM5 location and quantum, DM8 open countryside and highway concerns – inappropriate location of access.

The wording for the reason for refusal to be delegated to the Business Manager – Planning Development in consultation with the Planning Committee Chair and Vice-Chair.

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

Councillor	Vote
N Allen	For
A Brazier	For
L Dales	For
S Forde	Against
A Freeman	Against

M Home	For
D Moore	For
P Rainbow	For
M Shakeshaft	Against
L Tift	For
T Wildgust	Against

The Chair indicated that the meeting duration had exceeded three hours, a motion was moved and seconded to continue the meeting with unanimous agreement for a further hour.

8 FIRST FLOOR, THE BUTTERMARKE, MIDDLE GATE, NEWARK ON TRENT, NG24 1BF - 26/00477/LBC

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought the creation of an internal office and storage spaces to first floor mezzanine.

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

Members considered the application acceptable and found no harm to the special character and appearance of the listed building subject to the proposed conditions.

AGREED (unanimously) that Planning be approved, subject to conditions.

9 93 MICKLEDALE LANE, BILSTHORPE, NG22 8RF - 26/00005/FUL

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought the installation of a dropped kerb and driveway.

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

Members considered the application acceptable.

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

10 NOMINATIONS TO THE PLANNING POLICY BOARD FOUR MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE TO BE NOMINATED TO THE PLANNING POLICY BOARD.

The Committee were asked to nominate four Members of the Planning Committee to sit on the Planning Policy Board.

AGREED (unanimously) that Councillors A Freeman (Chair), D Moore (Vice-Chair), M Home and K Melton be appointed as the Planning Committee representatives on the Planning Policy Board for 2026/27.

11 APPEALS LODGED

AGREED that the report be noted.

12 APPEALS DETERMINED

AGREED that the report be noted.

13 QUARTERLY PLANNING ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY UPDATE REPORT

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

The report provided Members with examples of cases that had been resolved, both through negotiation and via the service of notices and provided detailed and explanations of notices that had been issued during the period covered 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026.

The report was broken down into Schedule A to D. Schedule A outlined the enforcement activity for Q4 in terms of numbers of cases received, the reasons for cases being closed and response times. Schedule B included a small number of examples of where formal planning enforcement action had been taken (such as a notice being issued) in the quarter. Schedule C provided examples of cases where officers had managed to resolve the breaches through dialogue and negotiation during the quarter; and Schedule D provided examples of Notices having been complied with. The examples within the report showed considerable success that had been achieved by the enforcement team.

The Planning Committee Chair expressed his thanks to the Enforcement Team for their commitment and hard work.

AGREED that the contents of the report and the ongoing work of the planning enforcement team be noted.

Meeting closed at 7.44 pm.

Chair

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 June 2026 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor J Hall (Chair)
Councillor D Darby (Vice-Chair)

Councillor N Allen, Councillor R Jackson, Councillor S Michael,
Councillor K Roberts, Councillor P Taylor and Councillor T Wildgust

ALSO IN
ATTENDANCE:

APOLOGIES FOR Councillor L Tift, Councillor A Brazier and Councillor L Brazier
ABSENCE:

81 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.

82 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.

83 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 MARCH 2026

The minutes from the meeting held on 19 March 2026 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

84 ANNUAL REPORT DETAILING THE EXEMPT REPORTS CONSIDERED BY THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

The Principle Legal Officer presented a report which, in accordance with the Council's Constitution, set out the exempt reports considered by the Licensing Committee during the period 19 June 2025, to consider whether they could be released into the public domain. The Committee noted that all of the reports related to enforcement and it was recommended that they remain exempt, due to the nature of the information included.

AGREED (unanimously) That the report be noted, and all reports listed remain exempt.

85 MINUTES OF LICENSING HEARING HELD ON 23 APRIL 2026, WALESBY FOREST, BRAKE

ROAD, WALESBY, NG22 9NG

NOTED the minutes of the Licensing Hearing held on 23 April 2026, Walesby Forest, Brake Road, Walesby, NG22 9NG

86 UPDATE ON PERFORMANCE MATTERS

The Environmental Health & Licensing Manager presented a report which provided the Committee with 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 from 1 January – 31 March 2026. The report set out activities under the Licensing Act (including Temporary Event Notices); Hackney Carriage/Private Hire/Private Ambulances applications; Street Collections and House to House Collections.

AGREED that the types and volumes for licenses processed in the previous quarter be noted.

87 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

AGREED 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

88 UPDATE ON ENFORCEMENT MATTERS

The Committee noted the exempt report of the Environmental Health & Licensing Manager which provided details of enforcement activities carried out in the previous quarter.

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

89 MINUTES OF THE LICENSING HEARING SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 APRIL 2026

The Committee noted the exempt minutes from the Licensing Hearing Sub Committees held on 17 April 2026.

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

90 MINUTES OF THE LICENSING HEARING SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 APRIL 2026

The Committee noted the exempt minutes from the Licensing Hearing Sub Committees held on 17 April 2026.

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

Meeting closed at 6.59 pm.

Chair

By virtue of paragraph(s) 7 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 **Trustee Board of the Gilstrap and William Edward Knight Charities** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark NG24 1BY on Monday, 22 June 2026 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor I Brown, Councillor M Home, Councillor J Kellas and Councillor P Taylor

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor S Haynes

In the absence of an appointed Chair of the Board of Trustees the Clerk opened the meeting.

20 DECLARATION OF INTENTION TO RECORD THE MEETING

The Clerk to the Board of Trustees advised that the meeting was being recorded and streamed online in accordance with usual practice.

21 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

The Board of Trustees considered the report of the Clerk which sought nominations for the appointment of Chair of the Board for the 2026/2027 municipal year.

AGREED (by 2 votes for with 1 abstention) that Councillor Paul Taylor be appointed as Chair of the Board of Trustees.

22 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

NOTED that:

a) the following voting Trustees declared non-registerable interests as elected Members of Newark Town Council:

Councillor Irene Brown
Councillor Jack Kellas
Councillor Paul Taylor

b) the following non-voting Trustees declared an interest as elected Members of Newark Town Council:

Councillor Susan Crosby
Councillor David Moore
Councillor Neil Ross

c) Councillor Rowan Cozens, a non-voting Trustee, declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 7 – Applications for Funding (Friends of National Civil War Centre – Newark Museum) as the Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Culture & the Arts.

23 TRUST AUDITED AND DRAFT ACCOUNTS

The Board considered the report presented by the Assistant Business Manager – Financial Services which provided the Trustees with the financial accounts for the Gilstrap Endowment Fund for the financial year ended 31 March 2025 and 31 March 2026.

The report set out that as at 31 March 2026 the Gilstrap Charity had a total of £461,716 in uncommitted reserves. It was also reported that the W.E. Knight Charity had a remaining balance of £1,228.00 in their account, having previously made a financial contribution to the Newark Cricket club project in April 2022.

In considering the report a Board Member queried as to why there remained a balance in the W.E. Knight account. In response, the Assistant Business Manager advised that a residual balance had remained in the accounts to pay for any costs incurred associated with the winding up of the charity.

The Board requested that a further report on the costs likely to be incurred with the winding up of the charity be brought to the next scheduled meeting. It was suggested that if any monies remained after such costs were deducted, these would be designated as available funding.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- a) the audited financial accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025; be noted;
- b) the draft financial accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026 prior to submission to the auditors be noted; and
- c) a report be brought to the next scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees in relation to the costs associated with the winding up of the W.E. Knight Charity.

24 APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING

The Board considered the report presented by the Clerk to the Trustees which sought consideration of two applications made to the Gilstrap Charity for grant funding from the Friends of the National Civil War Centre – Newark Museum and the Assemble Church.

Details of the Gilstrap Charity's current approved criteria were provided in the report together with how grant applications would be considered by the Board of Trustees. A summary of each application was provided in the report with the full application forms attached as Appendices B and C respectively.

Friends of National Civil War Centre – Newark Museum

In considering the report and application form, Trustees sought further information as to how any necessary additional funding would be sourced to purchase the manuscript as referred to in the application form. It was agreed that the applicant be

invited to attend a future meeting of the Board of Trustees to provide further information.

Assemble Church

In considering the report and application form, Trustees again sought further information on the application as submitted to better fully understand the purpose that any funding awarded would be used for. It was again agreed that the applicant be invited to attend a future meeting of the Board of Trustees to provide further information.

- AGREED
- a) (unanimously) that an additional meeting of the Board of Trustees be convened following the meeting of Full Council on 14 July 2026;
 - b) (unanimously) that the applicants for Friends of the National Civil War Centre – Newark Museum be invited to attend the meeting to provide the Board of Trustees with additional information in relation to their application; and
 - c) (by 3 votes for with 1 vote against) that the applicants for Assemble Church be invited to attend the meeting to provide the Board of Trustees with additional information in relation to their application.

25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

NOTED that the next scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees was 21 September 2026 but that an additional meeting would be convened after Full Council which was to be held on 14 July 2026.

Meeting closed at 6.45 pm.

Chair