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10 June 2026

**Chair: Councillor R Holloway
Vice-Chair: Councillor P Rainbow**

Members of the Committee:

**Councillor S Crosby
Councillor A Freeman
Councillor P Harris
Councillor S Haynes
Councillor J Kellas**

**Councillor D Moore
Councillor P Peacock
Councillor M Pringle
Councillor K Smith
Councillor T Thompson**

Substitutes

**Councillor L Brazier
Councillor L Dales
Councillor D Darby
Councillor S Forde
Councillor M Home
Councillor K Melton
Councillor M Shakeshaft
Councillor T Wildgust**

| | |
|--|---|
| MEETING: | Governance, General Purposes & Local Government Reorganisation Committee |
| DATE: | Thursday, 18 June 2026 at 6.00 pm |
| VENUE: | Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY |
| <p>You are hereby requested to attend the above Meeting to be held at the time/place and on the date mentioned above for the purpose of transacting the business on the Agenda as overleaf.</p> <p>If you have any queries please contact Helen Brandham on Helen.brandham@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk.</p> | |

AGENDA

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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, 16 April 2026 at 6.00 pm.

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

Councillor D Darby, Councillor A Freeman, Councillor P Harris,
Councillor S Haynes, Councillor J Kellas, Councillor D Moore, Councillor
P Peacock, Councillor M Shakeshaft and Councillor K Smith

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor R Cozens and Councillor N Allen

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor M Pringle

29 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.

30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no declarations of interest.

31 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 FEBRUARY 2026

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2026 were a correct record and signed by the Chair.

32 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

The Committee considered the report presented by the Transformation & Service Improvement Officer which sought to update Members as to the latest position in respect of local government reorganisation following the submission to Government in November 2025 of the North-South Proposal (Option 1e).

The report set out that following the submission, Newark & Sherwood DC had worked with other councils, beginning to focus on the next phases of work and planning the steps required between now and the Government's decision. Details of the Government's statutory consultation were reported and how organisations and members of the public could engage in the process. The Chief Executive had undertaken drop-in sessions with staff and held online briefings with town and parish councils. It was reported that a virtual listening meeting had taken place on 27 February with councils and the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG). Members were also advised that arrangements were being made for a visit and tour by the MHCLG. Details of the LGR Programme were reported which included: the interim overarching structure; thematic workstreams; LGR principles;

internal arrangements; establishment of an LGR working group and guidance from MHCLG. The report also set out the timeline of the next steps leading up to vesting day in April 2028.

In considering the report Members raised a number of queries, one of which related to how the uncertainty of the changes were affecting staff and whether there was an increase in staff looking for alternative positions. In response, the Transformation & Service Improvement Officer advised that the Chief Executive had sought to reassure staff as much as possible. She added that the annual staff survey would be launched in the summer which would provide the opportunity to share views and concerns. A Member asked that specific questions be included in the survey so that a track of responses may be made.

In response to whether there was any budget provision for future redundancies, the Director – Housing, Health & Wellbeing, who was in attendance at the meeting, advised that any redundancies resulting from the reorganisation would be at the chief officer level. She added that in the interim the work of the Council needed to continue and that most likely, when appointed to the newly established unitary authority, the new Chief Executive and Chief Officers would determine the staffing structures.

In relation to the Thematic Workstreams, a Member queried when the democratic process would be conducted and how local members would be involved in that process. The Transformation & Business Improvement Officer advised that legal & governance and Information & data protection would all be considered.

In noting that the current list of thematic workstreams appeared to be inward facing, a Member queried as to whether outward facing workstreams would be considered. In response, Members were advised that the current 9 priorities would increase and that it was an iterative list.

In response to when work would commence to align services with other local authorities, Members were advised that the Council's Business Manager – ICT & Digital Services was joint lead on such issues with an officer from the County Council. They were currently setting a base line to enable work to commence as soon as the Government's decision was announced.

A Member referred to the issue of sensible geography for the unitary authority boundaries. He noted that the Council had followed Government guidance and had not attempted to amend the current district boundaries when formulating their submission, but that the Leader had included comment that the Council would wish for future consideration to be given to keeping the whole of the current Newark constituency within the proposed Sherwood Forest unitary boundaries. The Leader, who was a Member of the Committee, stated that he would expect to push for this consideration once the shadow council had been elected to, adding that any proposed change must be operationally effective. It was suggested that the issue of sensible geography be raised with the MHCLG at their visit and tour as referred to above.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee note the progress update provided in respect of local government reorganisation.

33 ENHANCING TENANT ENGAGEMENT - NEW ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Committee considered the report presented by the Business Manager – Housing Services which set out the proposed changes to the tenant engagement structure and sought Members endorsement of the proposals and onward recommendation to Full Council to amend the Constitution to reflect the changes.

The report set out that the current governance arrangements had been in place since 2021 and that following engagement with the Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS), a proposed new structure for tenant engagement had been co-designed, details of which were provided at paragraph 2 of the report.

In considering the report, a Member queried what measures would be put in place to ensure a balanced and wide representation. The Director – Housing, Health & Wellbeing, advised that the Board’s role was to take a strategic and generic view of issues and that officers of the Council would ensure that the Board were made aware of any under-represented people.

In relation to members of the Board, a Member sought clarity on whether officers would now be voting members, as this had not been the case in the past. The Director advised that it was not the intention and that the wording in the report required amendment to say that officers would attend in a supporting role only.

Members also sought clarity as to the use of the words Member and Councillor in relation to the intended membership of the Board. The Director advised that the wording would be amended to clarify the use of Member and Councillor.

AGREED (with 10 votes for and 2 abstentions) that:

- a) the proposed changes to the Council’s tenant engagement structure as set out in section 2 of the report be endorsed;
- b) the changes to the constitution be recommended for approval to Full Council on 19 May 2026; and
- c) the contents of Appendix A and the recognition proposals to Cabinet on 21 April 2026 for consideration be noted.

34 REVIEW OF MEMBER/OFFICER RELATIONS PROTOCOL

The Committee considered the report presented by the Council’s Monitoring Officer which sought to provide Members with an update on the work undertaken by the Working Group to update the Member/Officer Protocol.

The report set out that the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Working Group had been established to look at a number of documents, including the Member/Officer Protocol. The amended document had been circulated to members of the Working Group and no further amendments had been proposed.

In considering the report, a Member expressed his concern that no reference had been included to highlight that there was a duty on officers to ensure that information they give to Members was clear, accurate and followed through. The Monitoring Officer advised that she would insert additional text to reflect this.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee recommend the updated Member/Officer Protocol, subject to the inclusion of additional text to reflect that information given to Members by Officers was clear, accurate and followed through, to Full Council for adoption.

35 REVIEW OF THE LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Committee considered the report presented by the Council's Monitoring Officer which sought Members' approval to refer an amended Code of Corporate Governance to Full Council for adoption.

The report set out the background to the establishment of a Local Code of Corporate Governance based in CIPFA/SOLACE Guidance and the amendments necessary to accurately reflect the current governance arrangements of the Council. It was proposed that the document be reviewed annually but that interim in-year amendments be delegated to the Monitoring Officer.

In considering the report, a Member queried how a challenge could be made if the Constitution was not correctly followed. He added that an incorrect decision had been made by the Chair of a Committee but that it was not challenged. The Monitoring Officer advised that she would require further detail to advise on the issue and agreed to speak to the Member following the close of the meeting.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- a) the updated Code of Corporate Governance which forms part of the Councils Constitution, be recommended to Full Council for adoption;
- b) the Local Code of Corporate Governance would be reviewed annually going forward be noted;
- c) delegation from Council to the Monitoring Officer to make any necessary amendments to the document between annual reviews, if necessary, to reflect changes to governance arrangements be supported.

Councillor Jack Kellas left the meeting at 19:03 hours.

36 UPDATE OF CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS

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 20 in number. Appendix 1 listed those complaints, providing 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 a Non-Councillor and the current status. Appendix 2 of the report listed those complaints that had been completed since 5 February 2026. In presenting the report, the Monitoring Officer advised that she was unable to provide Appendix 3 as there were no concluded complaints where an informal resolution had been concluded.

In considering the report, Members agreed that complainants and the subject of the complaint be communicated with, so they were kept updated as to what was happening.

In response to a query as to how long the complainant and/or the subject of the complaint get to agree to an informal resolution, the Monitoring Officer advised that if no agreement was reached, consideration would be given to moving to an investigation in full. If the findings were in turn not accepted, the process would move on to a hearing. Should the outcome of the hearing not be accepted, it could potentially lead to a further breach of the code of conduct. The Monitoring Officer added, that on occasion a timeline for acceptance of a finding may be set, but this was not always the case.

A Member suggested that a change be made to who the complainant was. Rather than it saying Non-Councillor consideration be given to saying Member of the Public and Officer of the Council.

A Member queried whether it was possible to be informed as to the nature of the complaints made as this would enable Members to see any emerging patterns, perhaps by the use of a key or code. The Monitoring Officer advised that further information would be reported to the next meeting of the Committee as the information included in this meeting's agenda had only been compiled from February 2026.

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

37 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2026/2027 MUNICIPAL YEAR

NOTED the Work Programme for the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee for the 2026/2027 Municipal Year.

Meeting closed at 7.20 pm.

Chair



Report to: Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee – 18 June 2026

Director Lead: John Robinson, Chief Executive

Lead Officer: Carina Tona, Programme Manager – Transformation

| Report Summary | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Report Title | Local Government Reorganisation in Nottingham & Nottinghamshire |
| Purpose of Report | To enable the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee to consider the latest position in respect of local government reorganisation following the submission to Government in November 2025. |
| Recommendations | That the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) note the progress update provided in respect of local government reorganisation; and b) as outlined in section 2.3, agree the proposed scoping document and nominations from the committee to the LGR Working Group – Newark & Sherwood’s Legacy. |
| Reason for Recommendations | This is in line with the Committee’s role to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) oversee the plans for, and impact of, Local Government Reorganisation within Nottingham and Nottinghamshire; and b) liaise with and advise the Council’s Cabinet, Audit & Accounts Committee, Policy & Performance Improvement Committee and other committees so all Members are kept informed and provide an opportunity for them to input their views on LGR. |

1.0 Background

1.1 At a meeting on 26 November, Cabinet were asked to endorse the submission of a final proposal for a new unitary structure of Local Government for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. All Members of the Council were also invited to attend a presentation on the content of the Final Proposal held on 18 November 2025.

1.2 Newark & Sherwood District Council, along with Bassetlaw, Gedling and Mansfield submitted the north-south proposal to government on 28 November.

1.3 The north-south proposal (option 1e) would see the creation of two new unitary authorities:

- Sherwood Forest (North Nottinghamshire) – comprising Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Gedling, Mansfield and Newark & Sherwood.

- Nottingham and South Nottinghamshire (South Nottinghamshire) – comprising Broxtowe, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe.

1.4 There were two other proposals submitted in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

1.5 Full proposal, appendices and summaries are available here: [Proposals | LGR](#)

2.0 **Progress Update**

2.1 **MHCLG in person visit**

On 6 May 2026, representatives from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) undertook an in-person visit to Nottinghamshire as part of their consideration of LGR proposals. The visit was jointly coordinated by councils supporting Option 1e and Option 1b. Our Chief Executive and Business Manager – Planning Policy with officers from Bassetlaw District Council, Gedling Borough Council, Mansfield District Council (1e) Rushcliffe Borough Council and Nottinghamshire County Council (1b) facilitated a shared bus tour and group discussion and Q&A. The in-person format provided MHCLG with the opportunity to:

- See first-hand the geographical considerations relevant to both proposals.
- Engage directly with officers on the practical implications of reorganisation.

Overall, the visit formed part of MHCLG’s wider evidence-gathering and engagement. The day was received positively; and reflected a coordinated approach, while ensuring that both options were able to present their respective cases clearly. Bii had a separate visit with MHCLG on 29 April.

2.2 During this visit, MHCLG also advised colleagues that the Government will shortly issue a letter to councils. This letter was issued to Chief Executives on 19 May, and it outlined a number of questions that need a response to inform the draft Structural Changes Order (SCO).

By 16 June, views are requested on preferred governance arrangements for implementation, membership composition and political balance, and leadership roles. Input is also requested on the structure of the Implementation Team, arrangements for the first elections (including the Returning Officer), and whether parish council elections should be aligned with new unitary elections. Further detail is required on council naming, and any updated proposals or rationale for the number of councillors in each new authority.

At a later stage, once the Government’s decision is expected to have been received, we will be asked by 17 August to confirm proposed warding arrangements that best align with Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) guidance.

Councils are encouraged to work together to agree representations for each proposal and we can respond singly, jointly, or as a collective. The letter also reiterated that it is ultimately for the Secretary of State to decide what to include in the legislation.

At the time of preparing this report, consideration is being given to the response to MHCLG, and an update will be provided to Committee.

2.3 LGR Working Group – Newark & Sherwood’s Legacy

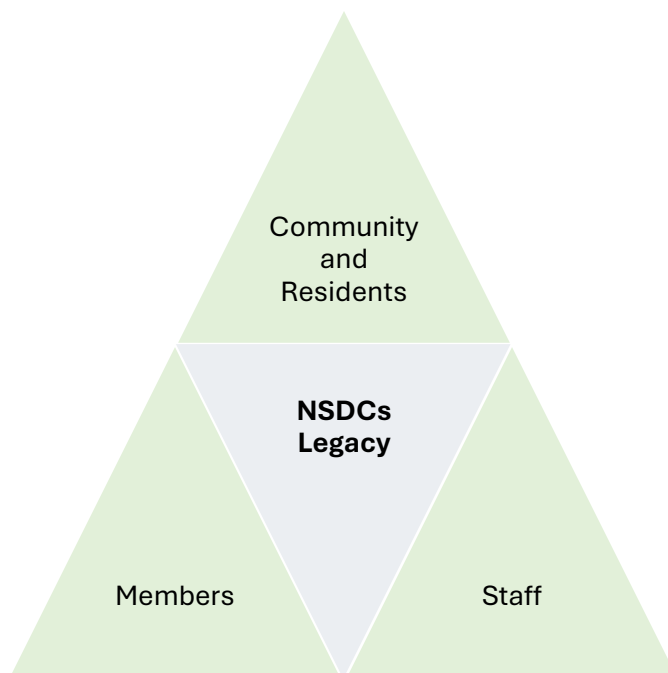
As set out at the last Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee, 16 April February 2026, a members and officers working group is to be established and include consideration of Newark & Sherwood District Council’s legacy as the authority transitions to a new unitary council in 2028.

The role and scope of the group is summarised as follows, with more detail available in **Appendix 1**.

- Recognise Newark & Sherwood District Council’s legacy ahead of LGR.
- Capture key learning, achievements and milestones from the Council’s 50-year history, including past administrations.
- Reflect how legacy is experienced by members and staff, including organisational identity and culture.
- Explore proportionate ways to mark, celebrate or record legacy.
- Develop recommendations that support a positive transition to new unitary councils.

It is proposed to convene the first meeting of the Working Group in September 2026, to explore this in more detail and share a report back with recommendations to this Committee early in 2027.

The working group will be structured around three clear strands, as outlined in the image below.



2.4 Strategic Risk

The Council has established a dedicated strategic risk for LGR to oversee the potential impacts of transition, including governance, service delivery, workforce, finance, digital and community outcomes. The risk has been developed with cross-directorate input and includes clearly defined triggers, impacts and mitigating actions. The LGR strategic risk is regularly reviewed to ensure issues are identified early and mitigations remain current.

A copy of the LGR strategic risk will also be shared with the Audit and Accounts Committee in July as part of wider assurance and oversight arrangements.

2.5 Nottingham and Nottinghamshire LGR programme

Councils continue to work collaboratively during this time of “no regret,” progressing activities that can be progressed ahead of the decision point and are not dependent on the option ultimately selected.

2.6 As set out previously, there are nine thematic workstreams that have been established so far. The Council has representation on each of the priority workstreams and is leading or co-leading two workstreams.

For this phase of work, the focus of these groups is baseline and discovery, including collating and sharing scoped data sets.

2.7 The existing Programme Management Office (PMO) structure and governance arrangements have been operating on an interim basis. As we move into the initial transition phase, agreement has been reached to establish more formalised partnership working and a Portfolio Management Office (PMO) that is ‘implementation ready’ in anticipation of the minded-to decision expected in July. This reset also includes refining the programme governance and the development of a comprehensive plan through to vesting day and beyond. The first wave of recruitment, covering 15 posts, is scheduled to be advertised internally week commencing 25 May.

3.0 The Timeline

3.1 The Committee may also wish to consider next steps in accordance with the timetable below:

| Key milestones: | By when |
|---|-----------------------------|
| All councils work on transition planning | November 2025 – vesting day |
| In person visit with MHCLG | 6 May 2026 |
| Minded to letter from MHCLG | End of May 2026 |
| Recruitment to partnership PMO | May – July 2026 |
| Decision by Government | By Summer recess 2026 |
| Structural changes order – Legislation laid in Parliament | Autum/winter 2026 |
| Legislation made, subject to Parliamentary approval | Early 2027 |
| Elections for shadow authority | May 2027 |
| Appointment of CEOs/Statutory Officers | June/July 2027 |
| New unitary authority vesting day | April 2028 |

4.0 **Implications**

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

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

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

[Cabinet 26 November: Local Government Reorganisation in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire – Final Proposal](#)

**Governance, General Purpose & Local Government Reorganisation (GGP&LGR)
Working Group: Scoping Document**

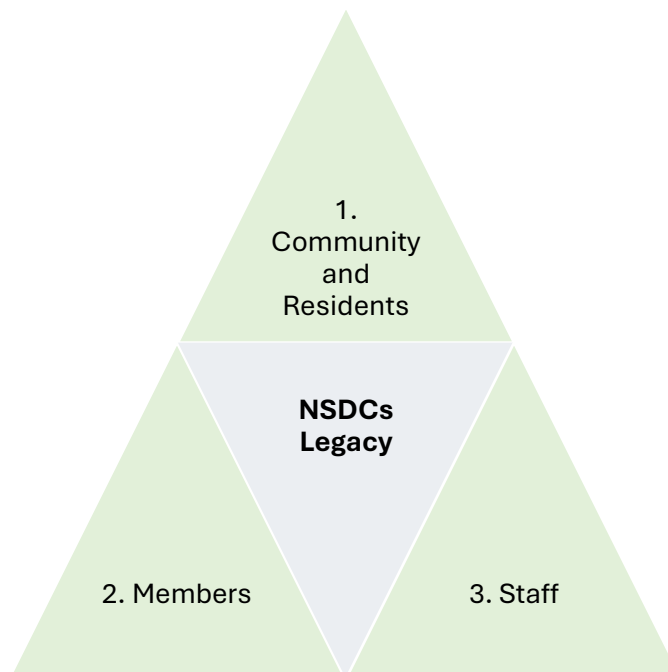
Name of Working Group: Newark & Sherwood District Council’s (NSDC) Legacy

1. Source and Summary of Review Referral

This working group is initiated in recognition of the forthcoming Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and the importance of acknowledging Newark & Sherwood District Council’s legacy as the authority transitions to a new unitary council in 2028. Key to ensuring the very best legacy for NSDC will be transferring the Council’s services and workforce in a well-managed way. It will also be important to ensure that residents have a voice that is heard within the new unitary arrangements, and that the service our residents receive continues to be excellent. Whilst these wider transition activities are not within the scope of this working group (they sit within the wider LGR programme), it is important to acknowledge them as part of the context for this work.

With 50 years of service to communities, residents, members and staff, it is timely to establish a working group to consider how legacy and identity for communities, residents, members and staff can be appropriately captured and celebrated during this period of change.

The working group will be structured around three clear strands, as outlined in the image below.



2. Ways of Working:

The working group will operate informally, with no formal reports presented, it will be an offline forum for discussion between officers and members. Meetings will encourage open and constructive dialogue, reflection, and idea-sharing. It will develop and shape recommendations and options for consideration through existing governance channels.

3. Budget:

There is no dedicated budget allocated to this working group. The role of the group is to explore ideas and develop recommendations and options for consideration. Should the recommendations include financial commitments these will be approved through the normal approval processes

4. Scoping

| In scope: | Out of scope |
|--|---|
| Identifying and recognising Newark & Sherwood District Council's legacy as it prepares for LGR. | Make decisions on the structure of the new unitary council(s). |
| Capturing learning, achievements and milestones from the Council's inception, 50 years ago, including from previous administrations, to ensure a balanced and reflective view of the Council's legacy over time. | Duplicate formal governance or implementation workstreams. |
| Consider how legacy is experienced by members and staff, including organisational identity and culture. | Re-open debates on LGR options already submitted and government decision. |
| Considering appropriate ways to mark, celebrate or record legacy (e.g. commemorative activities or outputs) | Any activity requiring substantial spend, new procurement or long-term financial commitment (e.g. major physical assets, memorials or installations). |
| Recommending proportionate legacy actions that support positive transition to new unitary councils. | |

5. Membership of the Working Group

The working group will be made up of 3 to 9 members (including the chair). Membership for this working group will be drawn from the GGP&LGR Committee and can include all or some of the members.

| | Role | Name |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Member Working Group | Chair | TBC |
| | Members | TBC |
| Officers supporting the Working Group | LGR Director | Deborah Johnson |
| | Transformation & Service Improvement – Head of Service | Carl Burns |
| | Programme Manager – Transformation | Carina Tona |
| | Communications & Marketing – Head of Service | Sarah Lacey |
| | Graduate Trainee - Transformation | TBC |

In addition to the key officers named above, there will also be a range of officers from parts of the Council invited to the meetings to discuss specific ways we can mark NSDCs legacy, for example community events.

6. Timeline

| No. | Milestone Description | Date to be delivered by |
|-----|--|-------------------------|
| 1 | Outline the scope and objectives to GGP&LGR Committee | 18 June |
| 2 | Nominations made form the GGP&LGR Committee | 18 June |
| 3 | Chair of GGP&LGR to sign off the scoping document | End of June |
| 4 | Meeting with working group Chair and development of agenda | July/ August |
| 5 | First meeting of the working group | September |
| 6 | Verbal update to GGP&LGR committee | 24 September |
| 7 | Second meeting of the working group | October |
| 8 | Third meeting of the working group | November |
| 9 | Report to GGP&LGR committee | 17 December |
| 10 | Report to Full Council with working groups recommendations | 9 February 2027 |

7. Partnership and Engagement

The working group will take an inclusive partnership approach, engaging members and staff to capture a wide range of perspectives on Newark & Sherwood District Council's legacy. This engagement will support reflection, shared learning and appropriate recognition as the authority transitions through LGR.

8. Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Alignment

A key principle for the working group will be to take account of any wider Nottingham and Nottinghamshire legacy activity, ensuring NSDC's approach is appropriate, proportionate, and supports a positive transition for staff, members, and residents.



Report to: Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee – 18 June 2026

Lead Officer: Monitoring Officer

| Report Summary | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Report Title | Update to Register of Interests Requirements |
| Purpose of Report | This report is to raise awareness of changes to the requirements to provide home addresses on registers of interest. |
| Recommendations | That the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee note the contents of the report. |
| Reason for Recommendations | The report outlines a change in the arrangements for recording member’s interests. The report is prepared to raise awareness and advise Committee of the changes to the process of publishing interests. |

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Localism Act 2011 (“the Act”) provides that relevant authorities are required to establish and maintain a Register of Interests for their members and co-opted members. For parish councils this register is maintained by the district council.
- 1.2 The Act also requires that the Register of Interests must include details of interests that are Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as defined by regulation. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) include any beneficial interest in land that a member or co-opted member holds within the authority’s area. Members and co-opted members have therefore been required to disclose their home address, where they have a beneficial interest in the property within the District or Parish boundary on their Register of Interests.
- 1.3 As the Act requires that Register of Interests are published and available for public inspection, members and co-opted members home addresses, where disclosed as a DPI have been publicly available. The only exception to this is where a member or co-opted member has asked and the Monitoring Officer has agreed that their address be recorded as a sensitive interest. Sensitive interests as set out in s.32 of the Act can be excluded from the Register of Interests where the disclosure of that interest could lead to violence or intimidation of a member, co-opted member or their family.
- 1.4 On 29 June 2026, changes to the Act will come into effect which change the position in relation to the publication of members and co-opted members home addresses where these are a DPI. Section 32A is being inserted into the Act by virtue of section 65 of the English Devolution & Community Empowerment Act 2026. Under this

provision, authorities are no longer required to publish home addresses of members and co-opted members in public registers of interests unless a member or co-opted member opts-in to the publication of their home address.

1.5 The changes to legislation have been implemented following growing concerns about the safety of members and the potential risks associated with publicly available information about home addresses. The non-publication of home addresses protects the privacy of members and co-opted members.

1.6 As a result of the changes to legislation, the Council has contacted all Councillors to advise them of the changes and specifically requested that any member or co-opted member wishing to publish their home address to provide their explicit consent. Members will still be required to disclose home addresses to the Council, and the Council will still be required to maintain a list of home addresses where they are DPIs, but the addresses will not be published without consent. The Council will also be updating register of interest forms to reflect the opt-in requirements in respect of home addresses. The same approach is being taken with parish councils with advice being issued to clerks.

2.0 Proposal/Options Considered

2.1 It is proposed that Members note the content of this report including the changes to process for DPIs in respect of land. The same approach will be taken with members and co-opted members of parish councils who will be advised to “opt-in” if they require their address to be published. This change is mandated by the Localism Act from 29 June 2026 so there are no alternative options to consider.

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations and amendments, 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 references to governance arrangements across all these areas are included in the Local Code of Corporate Governance amendments.

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

Implications (LGR)

3.1 It is a legal requirement as detailed within the report that changes to Register of Interests are made. Any publication of home addresses will now require explicit consent from a member or co-opted member and the aim is to safeguard any potential risks associated with the publication of members home addresses and protect members and co-opted members privacy.

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: Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee – 18 June 2026

Lead Officer: Francesca Whyley, Monitoring Officer

| Report Summary | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Report Title | <p>Update on Code of Conduct Complaints</p> <p><i>The exempt Appendix 3 to this report contains exempt information as defined under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, paragraph 1 which the Committee has the power to exclude the press and public if it so wishes.</i></p> <p><i>It is considered that the need to treat the information in Appendix 3 as exempt outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.</i></p> |
| Purpose of Report | To update Members on the current position in relation to Code of Conduct complaints |
| Recommendations | That the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee note the contents of the report |
| Reason for Recommendations | To keep Committee updated as to the volume, nature and outcome of Code of Conduct complaints |

1.0 Background

- 1.1 In February 2026, Committee agreed to some changes to the Council's arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints. One of the changes to the arrangements was that the outcome of code complaints, where there are potential breaches of the Code of Conduct identified at the initial assessment stage would be reported to Committee.
- 1.2 In April 2026 Committee received the first complaints update report and provided feedback on the format of the report. A request was made that officers who make complaints are distinguished from other members of the public. In some instances, this may be possible but not where the reference to an officer would reveal personal data, for example a small parish may have only one officer, in which case they would be identifiable. A request was also made for the nature of the breach to be reflected in the spreadsheets.
- 1.3 At the April meeting, the report reflected that there were 20 ongoing Code of Conduct complaints at the time of publication, in fact there were 21 as one complaint should have been recorded as two separate complaints made on the same day. Since the April meeting there have been 12 new complaints submitted. Since the April meeting, 6 complaints have concluded leaving a total of 27 outstanding complaints at the time of publishing.

1.4 **Appendix 1** sets out a list of the current ongoing complaints and **Appendix 2** provides information on the complaints concluded since the April Committee meeting. **Appendix 3** provides a summary of matters concluded where no breach was found and is exempt. AT the previous meeting two complaints had been completed with a recommendation for informal resolution at the initial assessment stage. It was hoped that the resolution could be resolved and an update provided to this Committee. At the time of publishing the informal resolution has not been finalised on either matter.

2.0 Proposal/Options Considered

2.1 It is proposed that Members note the current position with regard to volume and outcomes of complaints.

2.2 If there is any further information Members would wish to see in the update reports this can be provided going forward.

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 | Yes |
| Human Resources | NA | Human Rights | NA |
| Legal | Yes | Data Protection | NA |
| Digital & Cyber Security | NA | Safeguarding | NA |
| Sustainability | NA | Crime & Disorder | NA |
| LGR | NA | Tenant Consultation | NA |

Legal and HR Implications

3.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires appropriate arrangements to be in place for the handling of Code of Conduct complaints. The Act also places responsibility for the consideration of complaints against parish councillors with the Monitoring officer of Newark & Sherwood District Council.

Financial implications

3.2 There are no direct financial implications arising from the presentation of this report. There are, however, costs associated with the handling of complaints where they cannot be managed internally.

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

| No | Complaint Received | Council | Complainant | Status |
|-----|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. | May 2025 | NSDC | Councillor | Was on hold now re-opened and ongoing |
| 2. | 18/7/25 | NSDC | Councillor | Ongoing |
| 3. | 23/9/25 | NSDC | Councillor | Ongoing |
| 4. | 02/10/25 | NSDC | Councillor | Ongoing |
| 5. | 02/10/25 | NSDC | Councillor | Ongoing |
| 6. | 10/10/25 | NSDC | Non-Councillor | Ongoing |
| 7. | 23/10/25 | NSDC | Councillor | Ongoing |
| 8. | 28/10/25 | NSDC | Councillor | Ongoing |
| 9. | 10/12/25 | NSDC | Non-Councillor | Ongoing |
| 10. | 04/02/26 | NSDC | Non-Councillor | Ongoing |
| 11. | 05/02/26 | NSDC | Councillor | Ongoing |
| 12. | 09/02/26 | NSDC | Councillor | Ongoing |
| 13. | 01/03/26 | NSDC | Councillor | Ongoing |
| 14. | 23/02/26 | Blidworth Parish Council | Non-Councillor | Ongoing |
| 15. | 05/03/26 | NSDC | Councillor | Ongoing |
| 16. | 17/03/26 | NSDC | Councillor | Ongoing |
| 17. | 28/03/26 | Kneesall Parish Council | Non-Councillor | Ongoing |
| 18. | 12/04/26 | Blidworth Parish Council | Non-Councillor | Ongoing |
| 19. | 15/05/26 | NSDC | Non-Councillor | Ongoing |
| 20. | 20/05/26 | NSDC | Councillor | Ongoing |
| 21. | 25/05/26 | NSDC | Councillor | Ongoing |
| 22. | 26/05/26 | Blidworth Parish Council | Non-Councillor | Ongoing |
| 23. | 27/05/26 | NSDC | Non-Councillor | Ongoing |
| 24. | 28/02/26 | Blidworth Parish Council | Non-Councillor | Ongoing |
| 25. | 31/05/2026 | Balderton Parish Council | Non-Councillor | Ongoing |
| 26. | 22/05/26 | Blidworth Parish Council | Non-Councillor | Ongoing |
| 27. | 22/05/26 | Blidworth Parish Council | Non-Councillor | Ongoing |

| Complaint Received | Council | Complainant | Status | Summary (where potential breach) |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------|---|---|
| 19/10/2025 | Edwinstowe | Non-Councillor | Potential breach - Informal Resolution 26/5/26 | Councillor Parkin - issued a written apology to a member of the public for showing potential disrespect by saying to the member of the public “can you keep your mouth shut” when chairing a parish meeting in November. The original complaint was against three Councillors. No potential breach was found on the other two complaints. All complaints were from the same member of the public. |
| 14/02/2026 | Elston | Councillor | Potential breach – Informal Resolution 14/04/26 | Councillor Hargreaves– issued a public apology at a parish meeting in May to a fellow councillor and to the public, following an outburst at a November parish meeting which potentially amounted to disrespect and disrepute. The outburst involved shouting and banging on the table. |
| 06/05/2026 | Ollerton Town Council | Non-Councillor | Not valid complaint | |
| 06/10/2025 | NSDC | Councillor | No breach – No further action – 26/5/26 | |

| Complaint Received | Council | Complainant | Status | Summary (where potential breach) |
|--------------------|---------|------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 03/11/2025 | NSDC | Councillor | No breach found after Investigation | |
| 12/05/2026 | NSDC | Non - Councillor | Invalid – not acting in capacity | |

Work Programme for Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

Report Title/Topic

ANNUAL Local Government Social Care Ombudsman Report

ANNUAL Housing Ombudsman Review Update

ANNUAL Review of Housing Services and Complaints Report

ANNUAL Review of the Housing Ombudsman Complaint Handling Code

17 DECEMBER 2026

Report Title/Topic

15 APRIL 2027

Report Title/Topic

Annual Review of the Council's Constitution

Annual Whistleblowing Report

Annual Gifts & Hospitality Report

Annual RIPA Report

Annual Review of Exempt Reports