



*Castle House
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Newark
NG24 1BY*

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Monday, 5 December 2022

Chairman: Councillor S Saddington
Vice-Chairman: Councillor Mrs L Hurst

To all Members of the Council:

MEETING: Full Council

DATE: Tuesday, 13 December 2022 at 6.00 pm

**VENUE: Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road,
Newark, Nottinghamshire, 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

Page Nos.

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declarations of Interest by Members and Officers
3. Notification to those present that the meeting will be recorded and streamed online
4. Minutes from the meeting held on 18 October 2022 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 9 November 2022 4 - 10
5. Communications which the Chairman, Leader, Chief Executive or Portfolio Holders may wish to lay before the Council
6. In accordance with Rule No. 3.1 to receive the presentation or the debating of any Petitions from Members of the Council (if any)

A petition to keep open the foot crossing across the railway line at Thoresby Junction, Edwinstowe, to be presented by Councillor A. Freeman.
7. Questions from Members of the Public and Council

In accordance with Rule No. 3.3.2 the following question has been submitted to the Council from a member of the public, Rowan Cozens:
Will the Council support the local community to halt the progression of the current plans to build a housing development on the Lilley and Stone site in order to provide a realistic consultation period for other options to be explored which might better serve the people of Newark and surrounding area? MLN (Land and Properties) are acting as the agent to the trustees of the site and have already drawn up an initial proposal in conjunction with Broadgrove Planning for a development of more than 80 dwellings. Many local people are opposed to such an historic and vital green space in the centre of the town being used for more housing. Several well-attended public meetings have already taken place to discuss how these plans might be stopped and how the townspeople could be involved with alternative options, such as using the listed and other old school buildings as an educational and cultural centre, utilising the existing sports facilities for the townspeople and creating a park on the existing playing field which would provide a tranquil green space for local residents and a much-needed green corridor, linking the Library Gardens with Sconce Hills, for our wildlife. The support of the Council would be very much appreciated so that together we can preserve an extremely important piece of land in the centre of Newark and find a way to achieve the best possible outcome for the beneficiaries of the trust and for our town.
8. Proposed Schedule of Meetings 2023/24 11 - 17

9.	Audit & Governance Committee Annual Report	18 - 21
10.	Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2022/23	22 - 33
11.	Notices of Motion	

In accordance with Rule No. 3.4.3, Councillor A. Freeman will move and Councillor P. Peacock will second a motion to the following effect:

“That this Council is seriously concerned that the current proposals to introduce Voter ID requirements in order to vote at the 2023 local elections in England will be unable to be implemented fairly which could lead to thousands of voters being turned away and result in legal challenges to election results.

Just months before the first provisions of the Elections Act 2022 are set to be enacted in May 2023’s local elections, very little has been done to ease widespread concerns about the impact of this legislation and accordingly this Council supports the calls for an inquiry into the implementation of Voter ID by the cross-party Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee.

As such the Council will write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Chair of the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee requesting an inquiry into the implementation of Voter ID.”

12.	Minutes for Noting	
(a)	Cabinet - 1 November 2022	34 - 41
(b)	Policy & Performance Improvement Committee - 17 October 2022	42 - 44
(c)	Policy & Performance Improvement Committee - 28 November 2022	45 - 53
(d)	Planning Committee - 10 November 2022	54 - 59
(e)	Audit and Governance Committee - 23 November 2022	60 - 64
(f)	General Purposes Committee - 1 December 2022	To Follow
(g)	Licensing Committee - 1 December 2022	To Follow

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Full Council** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG24 1BY on Tuesday, 18 October 2022 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor S Saddington (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs L Hurst (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor R Blaney, Councillor L Brailsford, Councillor L Brazier, Councillor M Brock, Councillor Mrs B Brooks, Councillor S Carlton, Councillor Mrs R Crowe, Councillor R Crowe, Councillor D Cumberland, Councillor Mrs L Dales, Councillor A Freeman, Councillor K Girling, Councillor L Goff, Councillor P Harris, Councillor S Haynes, Councillor Mrs R Holloway, Councillor R Jackson, Councillor J Kellas, Councillor B Laughton, Councillor J Lee, Councillor Mrs S Michael, Councillor N Mison, Councillor M Pringle, Councillor Mrs P Rainbow, Councillor M Skinner, Councillor T Thompson, Councillor I Walker, Councillor K Walker, Councillor T Wendels and Councillor T Wildgust

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor M Cope, Councillor Mrs E Davis, Councillor D Lloyd, Councillor P Peacock, Councillor T Smith, Councillor R White and Councillor Mrs Y Woodhead

26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Prior to the meeting, the Council stood in silence in memory of the late HRH Queen Elizabeth II.

There were no declarations of interest from Members or Officers and the Council noted the interests previously declared by Members in Agenda Item No. 12 – Minutes for Noting.

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

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

28 MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 19 JULY 2022

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Andy Freeman to the Council following his success in the Edwinstowe and Clipstone Ward by-election held on 29 September 2022.

The Chairman informed the Council of her pride in reading the Proclamation on 11 September 2022 for His Majesty King Charles III following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The Chairman also advised the Council of that she had represented the Council at the Tour of Britain which passed through the District on 8 September 2022 and thanked those Members who had attended her Civic Service on 9 October 2022 at Southwell Minster, at which £970 had been raised for her nominated charity, Child Bereavement.

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Visitors, Councillor R Holloway reminded Members of the briefing event being ran by Highways England regarding the proposed A46 route on 24 October 2022.

30 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCIL

In accordance with Rule 3.3.3, Councillor L. Goff submitted a question to the Council. Details of the question put forward and the response given from Councillor R. Jackson are attached as Appendix A to these minutes.

31 EAST MIDLANDS DEVOLUTION DEAL

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive, regarding the devolution agreement that had been reached in principle between the Government and the four upper tier authorities across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. The East Midlands Devolution Deal was the first of a new type of combined authority, designed for two-tier areas, which would be established through new legislation by central government. The legislation would enable the formation of an East Midlands Mayoral Combined County Authority (EMMCCA).

The Devolution Deal was a 'level 3 deal', offering the most local powers and funding in return for a new elected mayor. Elections for the mayor were currently expected to take place in the Spring, 2024. The headlines for the deal were detailed in the report.

AGREED (with 29 votes for and 3 abstentions) that the East Midlands Devolution deal, to be agreed by the four upper tier authorities across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, be endorsed by the Council.

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

The Council considered the report of the Assistant Director – Legal & Democratic Services concerning the allocation of seats on Committees to Political Groups, following the by-election for the vacancy on the Edwinstowe & Clipstone Ward held on 29 September 2022. The proposed allocation of seats was set out in Appendix A to the report.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- (a) the allocation of seats to Political Groups in accordance with Appendix A to the report be approved; and
- (b) the following changes be made in Committee memberships:-

Licensing and General Purposes Committees – Councillor A Freeman replacing Councillor S Carlton.

Planning Committee – Councillor A Freeman replacing Councillor P Peacock.

33 TREASURY OUTTURN MANAGEMENT REPORT 2021/22

The Council considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive / Director – Resources and Section 151 Officer which provided an update on the Council’s Treasury Management activity and Prudential Indicators for 2021/2022. The report had been considered by the Audit & Accounts Committee at their meeting held on 27 July 2022 and recommended to the Council for approval.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- (a) the Treasury Management outturn report be approved; and
- (b) the Council compliance with the 2021/22 Prudential Indicators, which were approved by Full Council on 9 March 2022, be noted.

34 MINUTES FOR NOTING

34a CABINET - 4 OCTOBER 2022

34b POLICY AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - 26 SEPTEMBER 2022

34c PLANNING COMMITTEE - 11 AUGUST 2022

34d AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 27 JULY 2022

34e GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE - 22 SEPTEMBER 2022

34f LICENSING COMMITTEE - 22 SEPTEMBER 2022

34g PLANNING COMMITTEE - 6 OCTOBER 2022

Meeting closed at 6.34 pm.

Chairman

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND MEMBERS

In accordance with Rule No. 3.3.3 the following questions were submitted to the Council from Members:

Question from Councillor Laurence Goff

'I have received several complaints as an elected member for Newark Devon Ward.

Residents have been disrupted with parking issues from football teams each weekend, they would like to know what the District Council are going to do about the football teams taking over the mostly elderly residents' spaces around Valley Prospect. They are around the Sconce and Devon Park area outside the Tom Mann gate.

I want to know are the District Council planning to have more parking spaces inside the Sconce and Devon Park that would help in this matter. This is a nightmare for mostly elderly residents with blocked driveways from the many vehicles. They are also starting to stop buses and emergency vehicles having excess in the neighbourhood around the Valley Prospect area mostly over the weekend during the football season.

I would also like to know how we are going to resolve this matter in the public interest of health, wellbeing, and safeguard the residents?

I understand this is also a highway matter a Petition has been given to Cllr Keith Girling as a Nottinghamshire County Council elected member for Newark West Division.'

Reply from Councillor Roger Jackson – Portfolio Holder for Cleaner, Safer, Greener

"The Football Club work very hard alongside Newark & Sherwood District Council, the County Council and local residents in Valley Prospect and the surrounding roads of Sconce and Devon Park to reduce intrusion on football match days. The club supply a Marshall to assist with parking, and they pay this person out of the club funds. They place cones along the approach to the park and on the roads outside to restrict parking. Parents are directed to park further away and informed about the bus route. They use the overflow carpark for managers and officials and always leave the disabled parking spaces free.

The Club emailed all parents at the start of the season to ask them to walk, bike or park further away if possible and to not block driveways or double park as it is a bus route.

The NSDC Park Ranger monitors the situation on his weekend rota days and assists the club as best he can. It would be nice to provide additional formal parking areas, but this would come with a considerable cost and would involve the loss of valuable park land or sports pitches."

Supplementary Question from Councillor Laurence Goff

We have to reassure the local residents that we are doing our best to prevent this from happening.

Reply from Councillor Roger Jackson – Portfolio Holder for Cleaner, Safer, Greener

We will try and police this the best way we can, working with the Football Club and Highways Authority to try to alleviate these problems. It is also down to the Football Club to continue to encourage parents to park further away from the park.

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of **Full Council** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG24 1BY on Wednesday, 9 November 2022 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor S Saddington (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs L Hurst (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor R Blaney, Councillor L Brailsford, Councillor L Brazier, Councillor Mrs B Brooks, Councillor S Carlton, Councillor M Cope, Councillor Mrs R Crowe, Councillor R Crowe, Councillor D Cumberlidge, Councillor Mrs L Dales, Councillor A Freeman, Councillor K Girling, Councillor L Goff, Councillor P Harris, Councillor S Haynes, Councillor Mrs R Holloway, Councillor R Jackson, Councillor J Kellas, Councillor J Lee, Councillor Mrs S Michael, Councillor N Mison, Councillor P Peacock, Councillor M Pringle, Councillor Mrs P Rainbow, Councillor M Skinner, Councillor T Smith, Councillor T Thompson, Councillor I Walker, Councillor K Walker, Councillor T Wendels, Councillor R White, Councillor T Wildgust and Councillor Mrs Y Woodhead

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor M Brock, Councillor Mrs E Davis, Councillor B Laughton and Councillor D Lloyd

35 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no declarations of interest by Members or Officers.

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

The Chairman advised that the proceedings were being recorded and streamed online in accordance with the usual practice.

37 NEWARK & SHERWOOD PLAN REVIEW - AMENDED ALLOCATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENTATION

The Council considered the report, presented by Councillor R. Holloway, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development & Visitors, which sought approval for the publication of the Amended Allocations & Development Management Development Plan Document (DPD) for a period of public representation. This had been recommended by the Cabinet at their meeting held on 1 November 2022.

The report advised that the Council had been conducting a review of its Development Plan, with the first element being the completion of the Amended Core Strategy in March 2019. The second element of the Development Plan, the Allocations & Development Management DPD had now been finalised, ready for submission to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination.

The report detailed the four focussed elements together with information on the public consultations undertaken and the responses received therefrom. It was also reported that there had been significant work undertaken to develop a Gypsy & Traveller Pitch Delivery Strategy.

The DPD report provided, at Appendix 1, highlighted the amendments together with the proposed amendments to Allocations, the update to Development Management Policies and there was an addition of a new Chapter 8, which included updated affordable housing policies and policies for meeting Gypsy, Romany & Traveller housing needs.

In considering the report Members were supportive of the proposals and made reference to the importance of the document and the need for representations to be made by all parts of the community, including parish councils and individuals, as well as developers. General comments were made in relation to affordable housing, the need for the provision of bungalows for an aging population, national entry level constraints, provision of cemeteries, and the provision of carbon neutral housing. It was also noted that no new allocations had been included in the document.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman thanked all those Officers in the Planning Policy & Infrastructure Business Unit for their efforts with the review process, and those Members who had sat on the Local Development Framework Task Group.

AGREED (with 33 votes for and 1 against) that:

- (a) the proposals contained within Appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the report, subject to any minor modifications, form the basis of the Publication Amended Allocations Development Management DPD and amended Policies Map; and
- (b) the documents be published for a period of Public Representation, week commencing 14 November 2022.

Councillor M Skinner left the meeting at 6.10pm and did not take part in the debate or voting of the above item.

Meeting closed at 6.36 pm.

Chairman



Report to: Full Council – 13 December 2022

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor Keith Girling, Organisational Development & Governance

Director Lead: Sue Bearman, Assistant Director – Legal & Democratic Services

Lead Officer: Nigel Hill, Business Manager – Elections & Democratic Services, Ext. 5243

Report Summary	
Report Title	Proposed Schedule of Meetings 2023/24
Purpose of Report	To approve a Schedule of Meetings for the period from May 2023 to May 2024.
Recommendations	That the proposed Schedule of Meetings for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix A to the report be approved.
Reason for Recommendation	To ensure the Council has a full schedule of meetings in place ahead of the elections to be held in May 2023.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 A proposed draft Schedule of Meetings for 2022/23 is attached as **Appendix A** to the report.
- 1.2 The Schedule reflects the Council's new governance arrangements and the creation of the new Executive Shareholder Committee.
- 1.3 The schedule may be subject to change once the new Council is elected in May 2023, but it is necessary to get future meetings dates scheduled to enable the effective planning of Council business going into the next Municipal Year.
- 1.4 Members will note that there is a proposed change to the Annual Council Meeting date in May 2023. This is now scheduled to be held on Tuesday 23 May 2022 given the additional Bank Holiday proposed for Monday 8 May and the timing of the District Council Elections.

2.0 Implications

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

MAY 2023 – MAY 2024

2023	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
May	1 BANK HOLIDAY	2	3	4 DISTRICT & PARISH ELECTIONS	5
	8 BANK HOLIDAY	9	10	11	12
	15	16	17	18	19
	22	23 ANNUAL COUNCIL* See note	24	25	26
	29 BANK HOLIDAY	30	31		
June				1	2
	5	6 CABINET	7	8 PLANNING	9
	12	13	14 AUDIT & GOVERNANCE	15	16
	19	20	21	22 GENERAL PURPOSES & LICENSING	23
	26 POLICY & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT	27 CABINET (PERFORMANCE)/EXECUTIVE SHAREHOLDER	28	29	30
July	3	4	5	6 PLANNING	7
	10	11 CABINET	12	13	14
	17	18 COUNCIL	19	20	21
	24	25	26 AUDIT & GOVERNANCE	27	28
	31				

2023	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
August		1	2	3	4
	7	8	9	10 PLANNING	11
	14	15	16	17	18
	21	22	23	24	25
	28 BANK HOLIDAY	29	30	31	
September					1
	4	5	6	7 PLANNING	8
	11 POLICY & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT	12 CABINET (PERFORMANCE)/EXECUTIVE SHAREHOLDER	13	14 GENERAL PURPOSES & LICENSING	15
	18	19 CABINET	20	21	22
	25	26	27 AUDIT & GOVERNANCE	28	29
October	2	3	4	5 PLANNING	6
	9	10	11	12	13
	16	17 COUNCIL	18	19	20
	23	24	25	26	27
	30	31 CABINET			

2023/24	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
November			1	2	3
	6	7	8	9 PLANNING	10
	13	14	15	16	17
	20	21	22 AUDIT & GOVERNANCE	23	24
	27	28	29	30 GENERAL PURPOSES & LICENSING	
December					1
	4 POLICY & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT	5 CABINET (PERFORMANCE)/EXECUTIVE SHAREHOLDER	6	7 PLANNING	8
	11	12 COUNCIL	13	14	15
	18	19 CABINET	20	21	22
	25 BANK HOLIDAY	26 BANK HOLIDAY	27	28	29
January	1 BANK HOLIDAY	2	3	4	5
	8	9	10	11	12
	15	16	17	18 PLANNING	19
	22	23 CABINET	24	25	26
	29 POLICY & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT	30	31		

2024	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
February				1	2
	5	6	7	8	9
	12	13 COUNCIL	14 AUDIT & GOVERNANCE	15 PLANNING	16
	19	20 CABINET	21	22	23
	26	27	28	29 GENERAL PURPOSES & LICENSING	
March					1
	4 POLICY & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT	5 CABINET (PERFORMANCE)/EXECUTIVE SHAREHOLDER	6	7 COUNCIL (TAX)	8
	11	12	13	14 PLANNING	15
	18	19	20	21	22
	25	26	27	28	29 BANK HOLIDAY
April	1 BANK HOLIDAY	2 CABINET	3	4	5
	8	9	10	11 PLANNING	12
	15	16	17	18	19
	22	23	24 AUDIT & GOVERNANCE	25	26
	29	30			

2024	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
May			1	2 POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER / COMBINED AUTHORITY MAYORAL	3
	6 BANK HOLIDAY	7	8	9 PLANNING	10
	13	14 ANNUAL COUNCIL	15	16	17
	20	21	22	23	24
	27 BANK HOLIDAY	28	29	30	31

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

*Note – the Annual Council Meeting has been moved from the 16 May to 23 May 2023 given the additional Bank Holiday on Monday 8 May 2023 and the timing of the District Election.



Report to: Full Council Meeting - 13 December 2022

Relevant Committee Chairman: Councillor Sylvia Michael, Audit & Governance Committee

Director Lead: Sanjiv Kohli - Director – Resources and Section 151 Officer

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

Report Summary	
Report Title	Audit & Governance Committee Annual Report
Purpose of Report	To inform Members of the activity undertaken by the Audit and Accounts/Audit and Governance Committee during the 2021/22 financial year.
Recommendations	That Members note the report.
Reason for Recommendation	To ensure that the Council discharges its responsibilities as per its delegated authority within the Council’s constitution.

1.0 Background Information

1.1 As part of the bi-annual review of the effectiveness of the Audit Committee which was undertaken during July 2019, an action plan was presented to the Audit & Accounts Committee at the meeting in November 2019. One of the actions identified within that plan was to produce an annual report of the activity of the Audit & Accounts Committee.

1.2 Part 2 of the constitution sets out the remit of the Committee which is:

- To approve the Authority’s statement of accounts
- To review the Council’s corporate governance arrangements
- To receive reports/presentations from the Council’s internal audit manager
- To receive and consider the external auditor’s opinion and reports
- To ensure that there are effective relationships between external and internal audit
- Consider the effectiveness and adequacy of the authority’s risk management arrangements, the control environment and associated anti-fraud and anti-corruption arrangements
- Be satisfied that the authority’s assurance statements properly reflect the risk environment and any controls in place to manage it

- Ensure effective scrutiny of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and Policies.

2.0 Activity Undertaken During the Year

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

28 July 2021.

2.2 Assurance Lincolnshire presented their Annual Audit report for the year 2020/21. The report detailed the four areas that the Head of Internal Audit offers an opinion on being:

Governance

Risk

Internal Control

Financial Control

2.3 All areas were referenced as having an improving direction of travel. The opinion on Financial Control and Risk had improved compared with the last financial year to now stand at Performing Well, whilst Governance and Internal Control were still assessed as Performing Adequately.

2.4 Within the year there had been a 37% increase in substantial assurance reports compared with the previous year and a 62.1% reduction in limited assurance reports. 92% of the revised plan had been delivered albeit a number of reports were in progress at 31 March 2021, these were however duly completed.

2.5 The Treasury Management Outturn report was presented for 2020/21. As the Committee responsible for overseeing the Council's treasury activities, it reviewed the report and noted that no breaches to the approved prudential indicators were made during 2020/21. The report was therefore recommended to Council for approval.

2.6 The Business Manager – Financial Services presented a report relating to the Going Concern status of the Council. This report supports the production of the Statement of Accounts in that it assesses the financial position of the Council, based on the Balance Sheet at 31 March 2021, together with the experience of the previous financial year and the forecast from the Medium Term Financial Plan going forward. Based on all of these influences it was felt that the Council was a Going Concern and as such Members were asked to note this assessment for the purposes of the production of the Statement of Accounts.

2.7 The Committee also received the draft Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement for the year 2020/21. As in the previous year, the publication of the draft and audited set of accounts had been relaxed from the pre-pandemic requirements, and as such the approval of the audited set of accounts was not required at this meeting. Members were asked to note the draft Statement of Accounts and agree for them to be submitted to the external auditors for audit.

- 2.8 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) introduced a new Financial Management Code of Practice which came into effect from 2021/22. The FM code is designed to support good practice in financial management and to assist local authorities to demonstrate their financial sustainability.
- 2.9 The FM code sets out 17 standards which should be met, for which the Council self-assessed themselves against. It found that 15 were at green status with 2 at Amber status. Actions were then outlined in order to improve the assessment of the 2 standards identified as Amber.
- 2.10 The Committee also received reports on:
- A training programme and arranging dates for the bi-annual review of the effectiveness of the Committee and the Internal Audit function;
 - Underlying pension and Property, Plant and Equipment valuation assumptions to be used for the production of the Statement of Accounts;
 - A progress report from Internal Audit
 - The External Auditors audit strategy for the audit of the Statement of Accounts for 2020/21.

29 September 2021

- 2.11 The Committee began with a training session provided by Emma Bee (Internal Audit Manager) and Sue Bearman – Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services. The session focussed on the governance framework and the role of the Audit Committee.
- 2.12 The Committee received the External Auditors Audit Completion report for 2020/21. Although the deadline for the publication deadline for the audited accounts was 30 September, the Committee were informed that the date to publish would now have to be 31 October. Mazars confirmed that this was not due to any management delay and that all Nottinghamshire Districts were affected with the delay by Grant Thornton with respect to the County Council audit of the Nottinghamshire pension fund.
- 2.13 Due to this, the Chair and the S151 Officer were given delegated authority to sign and date the letter of representation once the Statement of Accounts were finalised.
- 2.14 The next item reported was the Statement of Accounts which portrayed the updated version based on the amendments set out in the Audit Completion Report. Again, the Chair and the S151 Officer were given delegated authority to sign the accounts at the appropriate time.
- 2.15 The Committee also received reports on:
- The annual report for the Committee itself;
 - The Internal Audit Charter

1 December 2021

- 2.16 The Committee received a report detailing the assessment of the effectiveness of the Committee and the Internal Audit function. The panel had felt that based on its review of both areas were working effectively. An action plan was also put into place in order to further improve effectiveness of the Committee.

- 2.17 The Committee reviewed the Council's Strategic Risk Register to update Members on the current status of the risk register. Members noted that there were 14 strategic risks identified, each that was owned by a Director. The risks were scored by the risk owners and Members had the ability to challenge the report author to ensure that risks were scored appropriately.
- 2.18 The Committee also received reports on:
- An update to the External Auditors Audit Completion Report for the 2020/21 financial year;
 - An Internal audit progress report;
 - Treasury Management mid-year report;
 - Counter fraud activities for the half year to September 2021;
 - Appointment of External Auditors from 2023/24

2 February 2022

- 2.19 The Committee received an audit report from Homes England regarding compliance against its grant programme as part of the Council 5-year HRA development programme. The Committee noted the Green score of its findings.
- 2.20 The External Auditor brought a supplementary letter to the Audit Completion Report which gave details of the unqualified opinion on the Council's financial statements for 2020/21. Together with the External Auditors Letter (which was also on this agenda) this brought the end to the Statement of Accounts for 2020/21.
- 2.21 The Committee considered three financial reports on:
- Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23
 - Capital Strategy 2022/23
 - Investment Strategy 2022/23

These reports were then recommended to Council for approval.

- 2.22 The Committee also received another report on:
- Review of significant issues identified in the Annual Governance Statement.

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 As can be seen from the account of the year, the Committee has discharged its responsibilities as per the Constitution.
- 3.2 The Committee has added value to the organisation, by recommending to Council and appointing an Independent member to the committee. This will add skills to the Committee which will benefit the whole organisation as further scrutiny over the reports presented to the committee will be achieved.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Nil.



Report to: Full Council – 13 December 2022

Relevant Committee Chairman: Councillor Sylvia Michael, Audit & Governance Committee

Director Lead: Sanjiv Kohli, Director – Resources and S151 Officer

Lead Officer: Andrew Snape, Assistant Business Manager Financial Services, Ext. 5323

Report Summary	
Report Title	Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2022/23
Purpose of Report	This report provides an update on the Council’s treasury activity and prudential indicators for the first half of 2022/23. This was reported to the Audit & Governance Committee on 23 November 2022.
Recommendations	That the Full Council note: (a) the treasury management activity; and (b) the Prudential Indicators detailed in Section 9 of the report.
Reason for Recommendation	To allow Full Council to note the Treasury Management Activity and Prudential Indicators.

1.0 **Background Information**

- 1.1 This report has been written in accordance with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy’s (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised 2017). The primary requirements of the Code are as follows:
- 1.2 Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement which sets out the policies and objectives of the Council’s treasury management activities. Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives. Receipt by the full council of an annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement - including the Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy - for the year ahead, a Mid-year Review Report and an Annual Report, (stewardship report), covering activities during the previous year.

Delegation by the Council of responsibilities for implementing and monitoring treasury management policies and practices and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions.

- 1.3 Delegation by the Council of the role of scrutiny of treasury management strategy and policies to a specific named body. For this Council the delegated body is the Audit and Governance Committee.
- 1.4 This mid-year report has been prepared in compliance with CIPFA’s Code of Practice on Treasury Management, and covers the following:
- An economic update for the first part of the 2022/23 financial year;
 - A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy;
 - The Council’s capital expenditure, as set out in the Capital Strategy, and prudential indicators;
 - A review of the Council’s investment portfolio for 2022/23;
 - A review of the Council’s borrowing strategy for 2022/23;
 - A review of any debt rescheduling undertaken during 2022/23;
 - A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2022/23.
- 1.5 Treasury Management is defined as: “The management of the local authority’s borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks”.
- 1.6 The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the Council’s capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, essentially the longer term cash flow planning to ensure the Council can meet its capital spending operations. This management of longer term cash may involve arranging long or short term loans, or using longer term cash flow surpluses, and on occasion any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet Council risk or cost objectives.

2.0 Summary of Treasury Balances as at 30 September 2022

2.1 Below is a summary of the Councils borrowing position as at 30 September 2022, further information is available at section 4.

Balance on 01/04/2022 £m		Balance on 30/09/2022 £m
97.070	Total Borrowings	97.537
5.233	Total Other Long Term Liabilities	5.233
102.303	TOTAL EXTERNAL DEBT	102.770

2.2 Below is a summary of the Council’s investment position as at 30 September 2022, further information is available at section 5.

Balance on 01/04/2022 £m		Balance on 30/09/2022 £m
46.790	Total Short Term Investments	56.470
12.500	Total Long Term Investments	12.500
59.290	TOTAL INVESTMENTS	68.970

2.3 Below is a summary of the Councils capital expenditure position as at 30 September 2022, further information is available at section 3.

Capital Expenditure	2022/23 Initial Capital Budget £m	2022/23 Revised Estimate £m	2022/23 Current Expenditure £m
General Fund Expenditure	57.603	42.459	6.368
HRA Expenditure	29.543	24.650	5.502
Total Capital Expenditure	87.146	67.109	11.870

2.4 **Prudential Indicators**, during the first half of the financial year there was no breach in the prudential indicators. However, there was a breach of a treasury investment strategy limit. The approved strategy sets out that the maximum investment with one organisation is £15m. For a period of 66 days this limit was breached by £2m. This was due to a new Environmental, Social and Governance investment being taken with an existing counterpart. Once the existing investment had come to maturity, this was redeemed in order to return the total group investment to within the limit of £15m.

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

2.5 The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2022/23 was approved by Full Council on 8 March 2022. There are no suggested policy changes to the TMSS within this report; the details in this report update the position in the light of the updated economic position and capital budget changes approved at Policy and Finance throughout the year.

3.0 The Council's Capital Position

3.1 This part of the report is structured to update:

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

- 3.2 The table below shows the revised estimates for capital expenditure and the changes since the Capital Programme was agreed within the Capital budget on 8 March 2022.

Capital Expenditure	2022/23 Original Budget Approved 9 March 2022 £m	2022/23 Revised Budget as at 30 September 2022 £m	Actual Spend as at 30 September 2022 £m
General Fund Expenditure	57.603	42.459	6.368
HRA Expenditure	29.543	24.650	5.502
Total Capital Expenditure	87.146	67.109	11.870
Financed By:			
Capital Receipts	3.643	5.013	
Capital Grants	23.700	23.976	
Capital Reserves	21.194	15.835	
Revenue	3.670	3.795	
Total Financing	52.207	48.619	
Borrowing Requirement	34.939	18.490	

- 3.3 The financing of the Capital Programme will be determined by the S151 Officer at the year-end based on best use of resources.

The decrease from the Budget approved 8 March 2022 relates to approved capital carry forward requests and approved variations to the capital programme as shown in the table below.

Original Capital Budget Approved 22/23	£87.146m
Capital Slippages Carried Forward	£16.696m
Cabinet Approvals 4.10.22	(£13.847m)
Cabinet Variations requested 6.12.22	(£22.885m)
New Revised Budget	£67.109m

4.0 Borrowing Strategy

- 4.1 At 30 September 2022 the Council held £97.761m of loans, as part of its strategy for funding previous years' borrowing within those capital programmes.

- 4.2 Borrowing Activity in 2022/23:

	General Fund		HRA	
	Balance on 01/04/2022 £m	Balance on 30/09/2022 £m	Balance on 01/04/2022 £m	Balance on 30/09/2022 £m
Short Term Borrowing	0.110	0.592	6.491	6.476
Long Term Borrowing	8500	8.500	81.969	81.969
Total Borrowing	8.610	9.092	88.461	88.445
Other Long Term Liabilities	5.233	5.233	0.000	0.000
Total External Debt	13.843	14.325	88.461	88.445
CFR	70.912	72.883	138.162	137.541
Under / (over) borrowing	57.070	58.559	49.701	49.095

- 4.3 As the Council is in a significant under borrowed position, as per the table in 5.2, there may be a requirement during the remainder of the financial year where new borrowing is required. Any new borrowing will be within the approved Treasury Management Borrowing Strategy framework and will have been reviewed by the S151 Officer for cost effectiveness as whether to borrow shorter term or long term in relation to interest rate forecasts.
- 4.4 **LOBOs:** The Council holds £3.5m of LOBO (Lender's Option Borrower's Option) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Council has the option to either accept the new rate or to repay the loan at no additional cost. All of the £3.5m of LOBOS had options during the last 6 months, none of which were exercised by the lender. The Council acknowledges there is an element of refinancing risk even though in the current interest rate environment lenders are unlikely to exercise their options.
- 4.5 **Internal borrowing:** For the Council, the use of internal resources in lieu of borrowing has continued to be the most cost effective means of funding of capital expenditure that has not been funded from grants and other resources. This has lowered overall treasury risk by reducing both external debt and temporary investments. However, this position will not be sustainable over the medium to longer term as the Council needs to use reserves for the purpose they were set aside for, and external borrowing may need to be undertaken.
- 4.6 **Debt rescheduling:** The premium charge for early repayment of PWLB debt remains relatively expensive for the loans in the Council's portfolio and therefore unattractive for debt rescheduling activity. No rescheduling activity was undertaken or is proposed during the rest of the financial year as a consequence.

5.0 Investment Activity

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

5.2 Investment Activity in 2022/23

Type of Investment	Balance on 01/04/2022 £m	Balance on 30/09/2022 £m	Average Interest Rate
Short term Investments			
<i>Fixed Term Deposits:</i>			
Santander	5.000	5.000	0.63%
Lloyds 95 Day Notice	5.000	5.000	0.20%
Close Brothers	2.000	2.000	0.75%
Goldman Sachs International Bank	5.000	5.000	1.65%
Standard Chartered Sustainable Deposit	3.000	11.000	3.31%
<i>Money Market Funds:</i>			
Goldman Sachs	7.900	10.000	1.89%
Deutsche Bank	0.000	4.230	1.77%

Invesco	12.000	12.000	1.08%
CCLA	2.240	2.240	1.22%
<i>Bank Call Account:</i>			
Handelsbanken	4.650	0.000	0.07%
Total Short Term Investments			
Long term Investments			
CCLA Property Fund	7.000	7.000	4.00%
CCLA Diversified Income Fund	5.500	5.500	3.00%
Total Long Term Investments			
TOTAL INVESTMENTS			
Increase/ (Decrease) in Investments		9.680	

5.3 Both the CIPFA Code and government guidance require the Council to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its treasury investments before seeking the optimum rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.

6.0 Non-Treasury Investments

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

Breakdown below of current Non-Treasury Investments held;

Counterpart	Balance at 30/09/2022 £m
Growth Investment Fund	0.002
Loans to Housing Associations	0.015
Loans to Parish Councils	0.013
Loans to Arkwood	3.997
Loans to RHH Ltd	0.761

6.2 These investments are due to generate £0.261m of investment income for the Council after taking account of direct costs, representing a rate of return of 5.46%.

6.3 **Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing.** This indicator is to limit large concentrations of fixed rate debt needing to be replaced at times of uncertainty over interest rates.

	Upper Limit %	Actual at 30/9/22 £m	Actual at 30/9/22 £m	Compliance
Under 12 Months	15%	3.500	24.14%	Yes
12-24 Months	15%	12.500	53.73%	Yes
2-5 Years	30%	4.021	0.00%	Yes
5-10 Years	100%	21.838	0.00%	Yes
Over 10 Years	100%	48.610	0.00%5	Yes

Limits to Investing Activity

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

Credit Risk Indicator	Target	Actual	Compliance
Portfolio average credit rating	A	AA	Yes

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

Total Cash Available Within;	Limit	Actual 30/09/22
3 Months	100%	78%
3-12 Months	80%	9%
Over 12 Months	40%	13%

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

7.0 Limits to Capital Activity

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

	2022/23 Original Estimate £m	2022/23 Revised Estimate £m
CFR – non housing	24.233	26.546
CFR – housing	114.004	110.994
Total CFR	138.238	137.541
Estimated Net Movements in CFR		-0.697

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

	2022/23 Original Estimate £m	2022/23 Revised Estimate £m
General Fund		
Financing Costs	-0.254	-0.767
Proportion of net revenue stream	-1.28%	-3.86%
Housing Revenue Account		
Financing Costs	27.949	28.089
Proportion of net rental stream	57.08%	56.79%

8.0 Economic Background/Interest Rate Forecast

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

Nil.

3.1 Economics update

- The second quarter of 2022/23 saw:
 - GDP revised upwards in Q1 2022/23 to +0.2% q/q from -0.1%, which means the UK economy has avoided recession for the time being;
 - Signs of economic activity losing momentum as production fell due to rising energy prices;
 - CPI inflation ease to 9.9% y/y in August, having been 9.0% in April, but domestic price pressures showing little sign of abating in the near-term;
 - The unemployment rate fell to a 48-year low of 3.6% due to a large shortfall in labour supply;
 - Bank Rate rise by 100bps over the quarter, taking Bank Rate to 2.25% with further rises to come;
 - Gilt yields surge and sterling fall following the “fiscal event” of the new Prime Minister and Chancellor on 23rd September.
- The UK economy grew by 0.2% q/q in Q1 2022/23, though revisions to historic data left it below pre-pandemic levels.
- There are signs of higher energy prices creating more persistent downward effects in economic activity. Both industrial production (-0.3% m/m) and construction output (-0.8% m/m) fell in July 2022 for a second month in a row. Although some of this was probably due to the heat wave at the time, manufacturing output fell in some of the most energy intensive sectors (e.g., chemicals), pointing to signs of higher energy prices weighing on production. With the drag on real activity from high inflation having grown in recent months, GDP is at risk of contracting through the autumn and winter months.
- The fall in the composite PMI from 49.6 in August to a 20-month low preliminary reading of 48.4 in September points to a fall in GDP of around 0.2% q/q in Q3 and consumer confidence is at a record low. Retail sales volumes fell by 1.6% m/m in August, which was the ninth fall in 10 months. That left sales volumes in August just 0.5% above their pre-Covid level and 3.3% below their level at the start of the year. There are also signs that households are spending their excess savings in response to high prices. Indeed, cash in households’ bank accounts rose by £3.2bn in August, which was below the £3.9bn rise in July and much smaller than the 2019 average monthly rate of £4.6bn.
- The labour market remained exceptionally tight. Data for July and August provided further evidence that the weaker economy is leading to a cooling in labour demand. Labour Force Survey (LFS) employment rose by 40,000 in the three months to July (the smallest rise since February). But a renewed rise in inactivity of 154,000 over the same period meant that the unemployment rate fell from 3.8% in June to a new 48-year low of 3.6%. The single-month data showed that inactivity rose by 354,000 in July itself and there are now 904,000 more inactive people aged 16+ compared to before the pandemic in February 2020. The number of vacancies has started to level off from recent record highs but there have been few signs of a slowing in the upward momentum on wage growth. Indeed, in July, the 3my/y rate of average earnings growth rose from 5.2% in June to 5.5%.
- CPI inflation eased from 10.1% in July to 9.9% in August, though inflation has not peaked yet. The easing in August was mainly due to a decline in fuel prices reducing fuel inflation from 43.7% to 32.1%. And with the oil price now just below \$90pb, we would expect to see fuel prices fall further in the coming months.

- However, utility price inflation is expected to add 0.7% to CPI inflation in October when the Ofgem unit price cap increases to, typically, £2,500 per household (prior to any benefit payments). But, as the government has frozen utility prices at that level for two years, energy price inflation will fall sharply after October and have a big downward influence on CPI inflation.
- Nonetheless, the rise in services CPI inflation from 5.7% y/y in July to a 30-year high of 5.9% y/y in August suggests that domestic price pressures are showing little sign of abating. A lot of that is being driven by the tight labour market and strong wage growth. CPI inflation is expected to peak close to 10.4% in November and, with the supply of workers set to remain unusually low, the tight labour market will keep underlying inflationary pressures strong until early next year.
- During H1 2022, there has been a change of both Prime Minister and Chancellor. The new team (Liz Truss and Kwasi Kwarteng) have made a step change in government policy. The government's huge fiscal loosening from its proposed significant tax cuts will add to existing domestic inflationary pressures and will potentially leave a legacy of higher interest rates and public debt. Whilst the government's utility price freeze, which could cost up to £150bn (5.7% of GDP) over 2 years, will reduce peak inflation from 14.5% in January next year to 10.4% in November this year, the long list of tax measures announced at the "fiscal event" adds up to a loosening in fiscal policy relative to the previous government's plans of £44.8bn (1.8% of GDP) by 2026/27. These included the reversal of April's national insurance tax on 6th November, the cut in the basic rate of income tax from 20p to 19p in April 2023, the cancellation of next April's corporation tax rise, the cut to stamp duty and the removal of the 45p tax rate, although the 45p tax rate cut announcement has already been reversed.
- Fears that the government has no fiscal anchor on the back of these announcements has meant that the pound has weakened again, adding further upward pressure to interest rates. Whilst the pound fell to a record low of \$1.035 on the Monday following the government's "fiscal event", it has since recovered to around \$1.12. That is due to hopes that the Bank of England will deliver a very big rise in interest rates at the policy meeting on 3rd November and the government will lay out a credible medium-term plan in the near term. This was originally expected as part of the fiscal statement on 23rd November but has subsequently been moved forward to an expected release date in October. Nevertheless, with concerns over a global recession growing, there are downside risks to the pound.
- The MPC has now increased interest rates seven times in as many meetings in 2022 and has raised rates to their highest level since the Global Financial Crisis. Even so, coming after the Fed and ECB raised rates by 75 basis points (bps) in their most recent meetings, the Bank of England's latest 50 basis points hike looks relatively dovish. However, the UK's status as a large importer of commodities, which have jumped in price, means that households in the UK are now facing a much larger squeeze on their real incomes.
- Since the fiscal event on 23rd September, we now expect the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to increase interest rates further and faster, from 2.25% currently to a peak of 5.00% in February 2023. The combination of the government's fiscal loosening, the tight labour market and sticky inflation expectations means we expect the MPC to raise interest rates by 100bps at the policy meetings in November (to 3.25%) and 75 basis points in December (to 4%) followed by further 50 basis point hikes in February and March (to 5.00%). Market expectations for what the MPC will do are volatile. If Bank Rate climbs to these levels the housing market looks very vulnerable, which is one reason why the peak

in our forecast is lower than the peak of 5.50% - 5.75% priced into the financial markets at present.

- Throughout 2022/23, gilt yields have been on an upward trend. They were initially caught up in the global surge in bond yields triggered by the surprisingly strong rise in CPI inflation in the US in May. The rises in two-year gilt yields (to a peak of 2.37% on 21st June) and 10-year yields (to a peak of 2.62%) took them to their highest level since 2008 and 2014 respectively. However, the upward trend was exceptionally sharply at the end of September as investors demanded a higher risk premium and expected faster and higher interest rate rises to offset the government's extraordinary fiscal stimulus plans. The 30-year gilt yield rose from 3.60% to 5.10% following the "fiscal event", which threatened financial stability by forcing pension funds to sell assets into a falling market to meet cash collateral requirements. In response, the Bank did two things. First, it postponed its plans to start selling some of its quantitative easing (QE) gilt holdings until 31st October. Second, it committed to buy up to £65bn of long-term gilts to "restore orderly market conditions" until 14th October. In other words, the Bank is restarting QE, although for financial stability reasons rather than monetary policy reasons.
- Since the Bank's announcement on 28th September, the 30-year gilt yield has fallen back from 5.10% to 3.83%. The 2-year gilt yield dropped from 4.70% to 4.30% and the 10-year yield fell back from 4.55% to 4.09%.
- There is a possibility that the Bank continues with QE at the long-end beyond 14th October or it decides to delay quantitative tightening beyond 31st October, even as it raises interest rates. So far at least, investors seem to have taken the Bank at its word that this is not a change in the direction of monetary policy nor a step towards monetary financing of the government's deficit. But instead, that it is a temporary intervention with financial stability in mind.
- After a shaky start to the year, the S&P 500 and FTSE 100 climbed in the first half of Q2 2022/23 before falling to their lowest levels since November 2020 and July 2021 respectively. The S&P 500 is 7.2% below its level at the start of the quarter, whilst the FTSE 100 is 5.2% below it as the fall in the pound has boosted the value of overseas earnings in the index. The decline has, in part, been driven by the rise in global real yields and the resulting downward pressure on equity valuations as well as concerns over economic growth leading to a deterioration in investor risk appetite.

APPENDIX B

Interest rate forecast

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

The latest forecast on 27th September sets out a view that both short and long-dated interest rates will be elevated for some little while, as the Bank of England seeks to squeeze inflation out of the economy, whilst the government is providing a package of fiscal loosening to try and protect households and businesses from the ravages of ultra-high wholesale gas and electricity prices.

The increase in PWLB rates reflects a broad sell-off in sovereign bonds internationally but more so the disaffection investors have with the position of the UK public finances after September's "fiscal event". To that end, the MPC has tightened short-term interest rates with a view to trying to slow the economy sufficiently to keep the secondary effects of inflation – as measured by wage rises – under control, but its job is that much harder now.

Our PWLB rate forecasts below are based on the Certainty Rate (the standard rate minus 20 bps, calculated as gilts plus 80bps) which has been accessible to most authorities since 1st November 2012.

Link Group Interest Rate View 27.09.22												
	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25
BANK RATE	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.75	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.75	2.50
3 month ave earnings	4.50	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.80	3.30	3.00	2.80	2.80	2.50
6 month ave earnings	4.70	5.20	5.10	5.00	4.60	4.10	3.90	3.40	3.10	3.00	2.90	2.60
12 month ave earnings	5.30	5.30	5.20	5.00	4.70	4.20	4.00	3.50	3.20	3.10	3.00	2.70
5 yr PWLB	5.00	4.90	4.70	4.50	4.20	3.90	3.70	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.20
10 yr PWLB	4.90	4.70	4.60	4.30	4.10	3.80	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.20
25 yr PWLB	5.10	4.90	4.80	4.50	4.30	4.10	3.90	3.70	3.60	3.60	3.50	3.40
50 yr PWLB	4.80	4.60	4.50	4.20	4.00	3.80	3.60	3.40	3.30	3.30	3.20	3.10

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Cabinet** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY on Tuesday, 1 November 2022 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor K Girling, Councillor Mrs R Holloway, Councillor R Jackson, Councillor P Peacock and Councillor T Wendels

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Mrs B Brooks, Councillor L Goff, Councillor J Lee, Councillor Mrs S Michael, Councillor Mrs P Rainbow and Councillor Miss R White

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor D Lloyd (Chairman)

34 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no declarations of interest.

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

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

36 MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 4 OCTOBER 2022

The minutes from the meeting held on 4 October 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

37 CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

The Deputy Leader and Chairman reflected on the recent news regarding Robert Woodhead Construction Limited which had ceased trading and extended his sympathies to all those affected. He advised that Robert Woodhead had been working with the Council building 39 homes across 7 sites, all of which were at various stages of completion and he confirmed the Council had plans in place to make sure those homes were completed with minimal disruption. In addition, Arkwood Developments had been working with Robert Woodhead on their housing development at Bowbridge Road, Newark and they were in the process of appointing a new contractor to complete the remaining homes.

38 EXECUTIVE SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Organisational Development and Governance presented a report which sought to establish an Executive Shareholder Committee which would have oversight of the two Council owned companies, Active4Today and Arkwood Developments. The Committee would have the same composition as the Cabinet, meeting approximately once per quarter. The remit and Terms of Reference for the Committee were detailed in the report.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet establish an Executive Shareholder Committee in accordance with the proposals contained in Section 2 of the report.

Reasons for Decision

To ensure appropriate decision making in respect of the two Council wholly owned companies.

Options Considered

The Cabinet could have taken decisions in relation to the two companies within their usual meetings, but it was considered having a separate committee for this would enable full and proper consideration of company matters separate from other Council business.

39 COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME AWARDS

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Organisational Development and Governance presented a report detailing recommendations made by relevant Portfolio Holders in respects of grant applications submitted under the District Council's Community Grant Scheme and recommendations for the extant awards under the former Parish and Town Council's Initiative Fund.

It was noted that following the launch of the new Community Grant Scheme, 21 applications were received for the first round and 20 were approved by the Cabinet at their meeting held on 12 July 2022, with the awards totalling £73,543. A further 14 applications had been received for this second round of the scheme, which totalled £55,959 which would effectively create an overspend of £29,902.

Each application had been considered by the relevant Portfolio Holder based on the primary focus of the proposals, and the recommendation for each submission was presented to the Cabinet for approval. In considering the applications the Portfolio Holders were mindful of the available budget and made a number of partial awards towards projects which reduced any overspend to £2,619.

AGREED (with 4 votes for an 1 abstention) that:

- (a) the recommendations of the Portfolio Holders as detailed in Appendices A and B of the report be agreed in order that the proposed projects can proceed;
- (b) the extant awards under the former Parish and Town Council Initiative Fund in Appendix A are approved as recommended; and the recommendations of the Portfolio Holders detailed in Appendix B be approved as proposed; and
- (c) officers be requested to consider and report back to the Cabinet on what additional support we could offer to community groups.

Reasons for Decision

The schemes have been assessed by Portfolio Holders and Members in respect of alignment to the Council's wider 'Community Plan' objectives and each will provide community value and benefit when delivered.

The extant awards approved under the former Parish and Town Council's Initiative Fund remain important community projects, therefore offering an extension of time to deliver the projects is appropriate.

The schemes submitted under Round 2 of the Community Grant Scheme as recommended will deliver valuable community benefits aligned to the current approved Community Plan objectives.

Options Considered

That the awards as recommended are increased which would require further additional budget provision or the awards are further reduced proportionately to meet the available budget.

40 SHERWOOD LEVELLING UP FUND UPDATE - OLLERTON TOWN CENTRE AND MANSFIELD ROAD, CLIPSTONE (KEY DECISION)

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development & Visitors presented a report which provided an update on the Sherwood Levelling Up Fund (LUF) submission and sought approval to proceed with plans to redevelop the Clipstone Holdings site and to seek financial commitments towards the further development of the Ollerton and Clipstone LUF proposals.

The Sherwood LUF prospectus, developed in association with the Sherwood Steering Board and a range of partners, was submitted to the Government on 25th July 2022. The proposals sought £20m of grant funding across projects in Ollerton Town Centre and Mansfield Road, Clipstone as detailed in the report. It was envisaged the outcome of LUF Round 2 bids would be known in October/November 2022. The report recommended that work on the Ollerton and Clipstone proposals continued and in the absence of any LUF funding the Council utilises the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan funding.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

- (a) note and support the updates with respect of the Sherwood Levelling Up Fund proposals submitted to Government as part of the Sherwood Constituency LUF Round 2;
- (b) authorise the Director - Planning & Growth, in consultation with the Sherwood Steering Board and Portfolio Holders for Strategy, Performance & Finance and Economic Development & Visitors, to continue to develop plans for the Clipstone and Ollerton projects, subject to additional budget of £60k to be forward-funded pending the approval of the NSDC UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan, subject to endorsement by the Newark & Sherwood Place Board; and

- (c) authorise the Business Manager - Corporate Property to progress redevelopment plans for the Clipstone Holdings site to provide for a low carbon, low-running cost modern industrial scheme, including securing necessary planning permission and contractor(s) within the Maximum Budget envelope contained within the exempt appendix, which shall be added to the Council's Capital Programme.

Reason for Decision

The Sherwood Levelling Up proposals continue to represent an opportunity to act as catalysts for transformational change in tackling ongoing challenges of creating new employment opportunities, health inequality, lower pay, raising aspiration, and transport connectivity, in line with the Council's Community Plan and Sherwood LUF submission.

Options Considered

It remains an option to pause the progression of the Sherwood Levelling Up propriety projects in Clipstone and Ollerton. This has been discounted on the basis that irrespective of the outcome or timings of the LUF announcements there remains merit in continuing to engage with the partners involved to develop the schemes further such that they are funding ready.

The Council could also decide not to redevelop the Clipstone Holdings site at the current time, albeit as detailed separately in the main report and exempt appendix the redevelopment of this site is needed in order to provide modern, low carbon, low running-cost facilities to meet a significant unmet demand, allowing businesses of various scales to establish, relocate, expand, stabilise, and flourish.

41 NEWARK & SHERWOOD PLAN REVIEW - AMENDED ALLOCATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT PUBLICATION (KEY DECISION)

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development & Visitors presented a report which sought approval from the Full Council of the publication of the Amended Allocations & Development Management Development Plan Document (DPD) for a period of public representation. The report provided an update progress on the Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Pitch Delivery Strategy and also proposed an amendment to the Plan Review timetable and the Local Development Scheme.

The Cabinet thanked the officers involved for their work in completing the document, particularly in light of the various legislative changes that had taken place during its production.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- (a) the proposals contained within Appendix 1 form the basis of the Publication Amended Allocations & Development Management DPD and amended Policies Map;

- (b) approval be sought from Full Council (at the Extraordinary Meeting to be held on 9 November 2022) for this document be published for a period of Public Representation week commencing 14 November 2022;
- (c) the latest position on the Gypsy Roma Traveller Pitch Delivery Strategy be noted; and
- (d) the amendment to the Plan Review timetable (Local Development Scheme) as set in Section 4 of this report, to come into force on 8 November 2022 be adopted.

Reason for Decision

To approve the DPD for public representation, and to agree an amendment to the timetable so that the Local Development Scheme can be updated to comply with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and appropriate regulations.

Options Considered

As set out in Section 1 of the report, the District Council has considered a range of options as part of the Plan Review engagement and consultation process.

42 ECONOMIC GROWTH STRATEGY ACTION PLAN - ANNUAL UPDATE 2022

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development & Visitors presented a report which updated Members on the progress of the interventions and activities identified in the Economic Growth Strategy 2021-2026. The second annual review of the Strategy provided an opportunity to reflect on the five priorities set given the changes and factors affecting the national and local economy. Two of the five priorities were recommended for change as follows:

Priority One - A focus on infrastructure and accessibility to areas across the District with poorest connectivity and or potential for impactful growth with the local economy; and

Priority Five - A prioritisation of work activity initially on Newark, Ollerton & Edwinstowe in 2023 for the district with a focus on key areas of deprivation.

These changes followed the resident survey and consultation on the Sherwood LUF bid where access and infrastructure were identified as poor and town centre regeneration was seen as a priority.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet note and support the updates provided, the progress achieved and the direction of travel for 2023 in delivering the Economic Growth Strategy for the District's Businesses and Residents.

Reason for Decision

The delivery of economic growth is a central priority in the Newark & Sherwood Community Plan. To ensure the delivery of the Community Plan and Economic Growth Strategy, it is key an action plan on 'how' the Council seeks to implement the Strategies created, structured, delivered, and monitored and evaluated.

Options Considered

The Council has a number of options for delivery of economic growth, these include:

- 1) Not undertaking a local economic growth strategy; this has been discounted as NSDC has identified the need to support the economy through the resident survey and Community Plan.
- 2) To provide a reduced, modified or outsourced service for economic growth; This has been discounted as the level of investment is yielding results and comparably more successful to other local authorities in delivering projects and activities, securing external funding, and having a positive impact on the local business community.

43 NEWARK AND SOUTHWELL CONSERVATION AREA BOUNDARY CHANGES AND ADOPTION OF APPRAISAL DOCUMENTS (KEY DECISION)

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Visitors presented a report which sought approval of the proposed boundary changes to Newark and Southwell Conservation Areas and to agree the adoption of the associated Appraisal document which explained what was special about the areas, including management proposals which sought to preserve and enhance the character and appearance of the conservation areas.

The Council had a legal duty to review existing Conservation Areas in accordance with Section 69(2) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. In September 2018, the Economic Development Committee granted the Conservation Team delegated authority to proceed with a three-year plan to review a number of Conservation Areas within the District focussing on Edwinstowe, Newark, Ollerton, and Southwell. The work on these areas was summarised in the report.

The report and appendices detailed the consultees and responses which had shaped the reviews in Newark and Southwell, as well as the final proposals.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

- (a) approve the designation of boundary changes to Newark and Southwell Conservation Areas;
- (b) adopt the Newark and Southwell Conservation Area Appraisal documents; and
- (c) give delegated authority to the Business Manager, Planning Development, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development & Visitors to implement the designation of the boundary changes and publication of the Appraisal documents.

Reason for Decision

To enable officers to carry out the Council's legal duty in respect of Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, and to provide clarity to landowners, residents, and potential investors on the heritage importance of defined areas within Newark and Southwell.

Options Considered

Officers consider that the proposed boundary changes accord with a rigorous methodology for assessing the special interest of existing and proposed conservation areas, as well as being subject to extensive public consultation and engagement. Alternative options have been considered and discounted throughout this process, ranging from making no changes through to a range of different amendments to the current boundary.

44 PROPOSAL FOR A KERBSIDE GLASS RECYCLING SERVICE IN NEWARK & SHERWOOD

The Portfolio Holder for Cleaner, Greener, Safer, presented a report which set out the recommendations of the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee in relation to the implementation of a kerbside glass collection scheme. The Policy & Performance Improvement Committee had recommended that any future service be based on a 140 litre bin on an 8 weekly collection cycle, with the service not being provided in the areas that were being served by Recycling Ollerton & Boughton which was a charity providing work-based training placements to adults with learning difficulties. The Committee had proposed a period of public consultation on their recommended service option.

The report considered by the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee at their meeting held on 17 October 2022, was attached as appendix and this detailed the costs associated and logistics of glass collections and processing for any future scheme.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- (a) revenue and capital costs identified within the proposed methodology for the scheme are included in the Council's budget proposals for 2023/24;
- (b) a period of public consultation is undertaken in relation to the implementation of the scheme and recommended service option;
- (c) a market research company is commissioned to undertake a consultation exercise at a maximum cost of £15k funded from existing budgets; and
- (d) a further report is brought to Cabinet on 21 February 2023 in order for a final decision to be made taking into account consultation responses.

Reason for Decision

The kerbside collection of glass has been identified as a priority in recent resident surveys, and based on the National Waste Strategy, we can expect that the introduction of kerbside glass will become a statutory requirement in the future. If the Council already have a service, this can be shaped to be compliant to the nuances of any legislation.

Options Considered

These are detailed in the report to the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee attached as Appendix A to the report.

It remains an option for the Council not to progress implementation of a scheme; however it is proposed to allocate budget in this financial year on the basis of strong support in the Residents' Survey, in order to ensure implementation in the financial year 2023/4 if the final decision is to proceed.

Meeting closed at 6.44 pm.

Chairman

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, 17 October 2022 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor R White (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs P Rainbow (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor L Brailsford, Councillor L Brazier, Councillor Mrs B Brooks, Councillor M Cope, Councillor D Cumberlidge, Councillor Mrs L Dales, Councillor P Harris, Councillor S Haynes, Councillor Mrs L Hurst, Councillor J Kellas, Councillor N Mison and Councillor M Pringle

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor L Goff

APOLOGIES FOR Councillor S Carlton (Committee Member)

ABSENCE:

31 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no declarations of interest.

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

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

33 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2022

Councillor N. Mison advised that in the minutes he was shown as being present, when in fact he had sent his apologies.

AGREED that having noted that Councillor Mison had not been present, the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2022 were a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

34 KERBSIDE GLASS COLLECTION: OPTIONS APPRAISAL

The Committee considered the report delivered by the Director - Communities & Environment and the Environmental Services Business Manager presenting the PPIC with the different options for, and implications of, implementing a kerbside glass collection, and for PPIC to consider and endorse the Officer recommendations.

The report reminded the Committee that at the September meeting of the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee a presentation had highlighted the results of the Residents' Survey, from this and listening to feedback from residents, officers investigated the options available to the council to be able to deliver a kerbside glass recycling service. The report also outlined options for the implementation of a kerbside glass service, to then be able to establish which was the most effective and value for money option.

The report looked at the current service, the wider considerations, type of collection, the frequency of collection, options for the recycling of the glass, income from selling the glass that is recycled and next steps.

The appendices to the report also provided the Committee with glass recycling rates for other councils in Nottinghamshire as well as recycling figures.

The Committee discussed with the Officers in more detail the options for consideration in the report including that of further consultation with residents on the specific proposal for kerbside glass recycling that was being recommended which the Members thought would be beneficial.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee recommended to Cabinet that if a kerbside glass collection service is to be introduced that:

- a) an eight weekly collection frequency be adopted;
- b) a 140 litre bin is used in the collection methodology;
- c) the Council does not provide the service in the ROB area as it may have a detrimental impact upon the objects of a long-established charity, but;
- d) the Council works alongside ROB to try to improve knowledge of the ROB service; its take up in the communities it serves; and the furtherance of its charitable objects;
- e) revenue and capital costs identified with the proposed methodology are recommended to Cabinet for inclusion in the budget for 23/24, however;
- f) before a final decision is undertaken, Members of PPIC wish to recommend to the Cabinet that consideration be given to a period of public consultation on the recommended service option given the significant capital and revenue costs involved and the need to effectively interface with ROB and the communities it serves, and;
- g) furthermore, that a market research company is commissioned to undertake a consultation exercise at a maximum cost of £15,000 funded from existing budgets.

Councillor M Cope joined the meeting at 6.07 pm – part way through the above item and therefore did not participate in the unanimous vote.

35 REVIEW OF THE TOWN CENTRES STRATEGY

The Committee considered the Topic Request Form proposed by Councillor P Harris and seconded by Councillor M Brock to request a review of the Town Centres Strategy.

The Chairman advised the Committee this proposal would not go ahead as information relating to this was already in the public domain.

36 REVIEWING OUR CUSTOMER COMMUNICATION

The Committee considered the report presented by the Director - Customer Services & Organisational Development providing Members with additional detail on the proposed working group for development of a Customer Strategy. This included pertinent elements from the recent Residents' Survey and the need for a Customer Strategy.

It was recommended at the meeting that a working group be set up, with the Chairman of the Committee asking which Member would be interested in chairing the group. Councillor P. Harris put his name forward for the role of Chairman and Councillor Mrs L. Hurst for the role of Deputy Chairman.

The Chairman and Deputy Chairman will work with Officers to produce a scope, then offer it out to other Members who want to be part of the working group.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- a) Members set-up a working group to review Customer Communication experiences and feed those reflections into the development of the Customer Strategy; and
- b) Members add a review of the Communications Strategy to the Committee Work Programme to ensure the Strategy appropriately considers/responds to resident feedback.

Meeting closed at 6.38 pm.

Chairman

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, 28 November 2022 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor R White (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs P Rainbow (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor L Brazier, Councillor Mrs B Brooks, Councillor S Carlton,
Councillor Mrs L Dales, Councillor P Harris, Councillor S Haynes,
Councillor Mrs L Hurst, Councillor J Kellas, Councillor M Pringle,
Councillor L Goff and Councillor T Wildgust (Substitute)

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor D Lloyd

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor M Cope (Committee Member), Councillor D Cumberlidge (Committee Member) and Councillor N Mison (Committee Member)

37 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Agenda Item No. 8 – Newark & Sherwood District Council’s Tree Strategy
Councillor Carlton raised a personal interest as a Director of Sherwood Forest Trust

Agenda Item No. 9 – Community Plan Performance A2
Councillor Carlton raised a personal interest as a Director of Active4Today.

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

The Chairman 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.

39 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 OCTOBER 2022

AGREED that the minutes from the meeting held on 17 October 2022 were a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

40 NEWARK TOWN INVESTMENT PLAN AND TOWN DEAL

The Committee considered the report of the Director – Planning & Growth which sought to update Members of the following: the work undertaken in developing the Town Investment Plan (TIP); the delivery of identified priority projects in the TIP through the Newark Town Deal (NTD); the report on the assurance of the Towns Fund and Levelling UP Fund Round 1; and related future interventions and opportunities.

The report set out the process for creating the Newark Town Investment Plan (TIP), together with details of the identified 10 priority projects and noted that there was also a list of some 30 potential future projects which may emerge and/or be priorities beyond the initial 10, setting a possible 30-year time frame for activity and focus. The financial position of the projects was detailed in the report together with project outputs and risks with paragraph 2 setting out the next steps for the projects.

In considering the report, Members raised a number of queries. In relation to the 78 students having progressed through the Construction College, Members queried how many had secured subsequent employment. Officers advised that some of the courses on offer were sponsored by industry and the students undertaking the courses were on work placement. Officers advised that a report would be brought to a future meeting providing further information.

In relation to the high-speed fibre broadband, a Member noted that fibre broadband had been installed in Newark some 15 years previously but had not been rolled out to some villages in the district. In response, the Director acknowledged that some previous aspirations for fibre broadband had not been realised but there was potential to lobby to have provision in other areas of the district.

In response to what action might be taken should apprentices at the YMCA not complete their courses, the Director advised that there would be regular monitoring and evaluation meetings which would enable any worrying trends to be spotted and corrected, if necessary. Further details on numbers would be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee.

The Member also queried as to whether any other qualification would be included in the prospectus for the Air & Space Institute, specifically those which did not require further or higher education, that could be done either part-time or by attending night-school. The Director advised that there would be pathways to alternative education routes, both higher and further education which could be undertaken either full or part-time. He advised he would speak with the Programme Manager and project sponsors about the issue raised.

In relation to the 20 Minute Cycle Town, a Member queried as to the current usage figures. The Business Manager – Economic Development & Visitors advised that there were currently 3 docks in the town with a 4th one planned and there were approximately 267 users. Discussions were being held with Brompton Bikes' marketing team to target local employers who may want to partner with the scheme. It was noted that advanced discussions were also being held with Newark Hospital. Members would be kept informed of numbers as the project progressed.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- (a) the process followed in the development of the Town Investment Plan be noted; and
- (b) the progress made in the delivery assurance and monitoring of the Town Deal and other proposals within and related to the Town Investment Plan be noted and welcomed.

41 CLIMATE EMERGENCY UPDATE

The Committee considered the report and presentation of the Environmental Policy & Projects Officer which sought to provide an update to Members on the progress of the Climate Emergency Strategy and associated Action Plan.

The report set out the background to the declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019 and the work undertaken since that time resulting in the Council's agreed target for carbon reduction and the development of the Action Plan to deliver the vision outlined in the Climate Emergency Strategy. Details were provided in relation to the initiatives which the Council were committed to which included: the Green Rewards App; Carbon Reduction Support; Solar PC Installation; Decarbonisation Plan; Brunel Drive Master Plan; Climate Awareness Training; LAD2 Energy Efficient Improvements to Homes; and Tree Planting. Paragraph 3 of the report provided detailed information as to the monitoring and measuring of the Council's carbon emissions and how this would assist in being accountable to residents. It also enabled identification of areas with high carbon emissions suitable for targeted action.

In considering the report, a Member queried whether anything was being done to enable the recycling of milk carton lids and what incentives were in place to encourage residents to recycling glassware. The Environmental Policy & Projects Officer advised she would confirm this with Environmental Services that milk carton lids could go in the grey recycling bin.

In relation to the Green Awards app., a number of Members queried how this had been advertised and whether it could be promoted again in an attempt to encourage additional people to sign up. In response, Members were advised that it had been promoted on social media and a promotional stall had been present at an event held at Sherwood Forest. There was also cross promotion with other local authorities. She added that there was a target of 100 per quarter for people to sign-up. Members suggested this was promoted through parish councils who could assist with encouraging take-up of the App.

A Member queried what lessons had been learned from the use of electric vehicles by the Council's Community Protection Officers. He advised that this issue had formed part of discussions at the ASB Review Working Group around whether electric or hybrid vehicles would be a better solution. In response, the Officer advised that the charging points at Castle House were not sufficiently powerful to quickly charge the existing vehicles and acknowledged that a hybrid vehicle would be a better option in some situations. She added that the next procurement cycle was in 2025/2026 and all relevant information about electric vehicles would be fed into the Brunel Drive Master Plan.

In relation to tree planting and access to free trees by residents, Members queried how many residents had already expressed an interest. In response they were informed that 441 residents had already signed up for a free tree. These sign-ups were as a result of the offer for a free tree for those who completed the residents survey. This was in addition to the usual annual promotion of the scheme which would be undertaken early next year.

A Member queried whether any data was available in relation to the LAD2 scheme to enable comparisons to be drawn as to whether the programme of works had resulted in energy efficiencies. The Environmental Policy & Projects Officer advised she would speak with the relevant Officer and ask for a written response to be provided.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- (a) the inclusion of Southwell Leisure Centre and new Council services in our net carbon neutral target and incorporated into the annual carbon footprint calculation going forwards be endorsed; and
- (b) the progress on the action plan and its key targets be noted.

42 NEWARK & SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL'S TREE STRATEGY

The Committee considered the joint report of the Director – Communities & Environment and Development Manager – Environmental Services which provided Members with the opportunity to review the Tree Strategy and the implications thereof.

The Leader of the Council was in attendance at the meeting and presented the report to Committee, endorsing the recommendations that they forward the report to Cabinet for consideration. He provided a summary of the background to the development and proposal to adopt the Tree Strategy and the options considered together with the financial implications as detailed in paragraph 3 of the report. He added that it would be the intention to consult with key partners (Sherwood Forest Trust; RSPB; Woodland Trust; and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust) prior to releasing the strategy to the public for consultation.

In considering the report, Members agreed that it was a document that the Council could take pride in. It provided information as to the importance of trees both nationally and within the Newark & Sherwood district; what the current situation was locally; how the Council protected the trees within its district; clear objectives for tree planting in the district; how local communities would be engaged; and how the Council maintained its tree stock.

In relation to existing working partnerships and joint working, a Member queried whether partnership working was the 'direction of travel' for the Council and whether this was cost effective. In response, Officers advised that the Council were looking to become part of existing well-established partnerships with private landowners and that a proportion of the work undertaken to-date had been grant funded.

A Member raised issues surrounding planning developments and what, if anything, could be done to ensure that developers did not damage or remove trees during their works. Officers advised that other than planning regulations there was nothing further that the Council do. The Leader advised that there had been an increase in Tree Protection Orders to protect trees from developers, but that help was also needed from the community to identify trees at risk.

In relation to the damage mature trees could do to public pavements, it was noted that these had been planted many years previously and that the lessons learned was that the right tree must be planted in the right place. In acknowledging the right tree in the right place comment, a Member suggested that future public engagement must include information to ensure that communities knew the importance of that statement. Officers advised that a Green Champion Scheme would hopefully be launched in the new year and that the Council would be seeking to identify Green Ambassadors.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet be recommended to:

- (a) support the Council's green ambitions to 'enhance and protect the district's natural environment' as stated in the Community Plan;
- (b) support the release of the Tree Strategy to the public for consultation via the Council's website; and
- (c) support and approve the proposal to fund the increase in budget for essential tree survey and maintenance work.

Councillor Harris left the meeting and did not participate in the remainder of the meeting.

43 COMMUNITY PLAN PERFORMANCE Q2

The Committee considered the report presented by the Transformation & Service Improvement Officer which sought to present to Members the Quarter 2 Community Plan Performance Report (July-September 2022). Members were asked to review the Community Plan Performance Report attached as Appendix 1 together with supplementary documents (Appendices 2-4) which highlighted customer feedback and also to consider the Council's performance against its objectives.

In response to questions submitted, the Transformation & Service Improvement Officer advised that:

The Newark & Sherwood Community Lottery, whilst experiencing a slight decline, was still performing well. It continued to be promoted on social media and nationally by the promoter;

Repairs undertaken at first visit had declined by 10% but work was ongoing to improve the efficiency of tradesmen; reactive repairs had improved from the previous year but were still above target. It was reported that the way in which priorities were listed had been amended;

The length of time taken to answer a call had risen by 17 seconds in comparison to the previous year. This was noted as being partly due to the increase in the number of calls being received which was a direct result of queries relating to energy rebate grants, household support fund and the first council tax recovery run of the financial year.

In noting the contents of the Performance Report, Members welcomed the inclusion of Southwell Leisure Centre into the facilities run by Active4Today. They also thanked residents for organising their own litter picks, thereby contributing to the cleanliness of their communities. Members also welcomed the improvement of visitors to the National Civil War Centre and the Palace Theatre.

In noting the previous comment about the Community Lottery, a Member queried whether it was possible to widen the way in which a ticket could be purchased as, at present, this could only be done by committing to a monthly direct debit. In response, it was advised that this method of purchasing a ticket had been adopted following advice from Gambling Aware but enquiries as to possible changes would be made.

In relation to fly tipping, a Member queried whether a trial had been run at the Newark Household Waste Recycling Site that permitted the use by small vans and what the outcome of that trial had been. The Officer advised he would refer the request to the Waste – Environment Team for a written response.

In noting the 6.8% of Town Centre retail premises vacant across the district being better than the 9% target, a Member requested that, if possible, comparable data with other similar town centres be included in future reports.

The Member also queried what measures could be put in place to better communicate with tenants the process that has to be followed in relation to reactive repairs and that the Council's response time was improving. The Director – Housing, Health & Wellbeing, who was in attendance at the meeting, advised that repairs would be an area of focus during the next financial year and that the Tenant Annual Report would have a 'spotlight' on all services.

In relation to the improvement of health and wellbeing of local residents, specifically those residents that smoked, a Member queried what measures were being carried out to promote a reduction in the current numbers. The Director advised that Cabinet were to receive the updated Health & Wellbeing Strategy for consideration in December and that the Council had signed-up to a non-smoking proposal, together with the work undertaken with businesses who had a prevalence of employees who were smokers.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Community Plan Performance report and supplementary documents be noted.

44 GAS SERVICING UPDATE

The Committee considered the verbal report of the Director – Housing, Health & Wellbeing which sought to update Members on the latest position with the gas safety programme for Council owned housing.

The Director advised that at the end of September the percentage of compliant properties was 87.96%, which had led the Council to refer themselves to the Regulator of Social Housing. The Regulator had found the Council to be in breach of the acceptable level but were now content with progress to remedy the issue. The Council were to undertake an audit of the service and refer this to the Regulator for scrutiny. When the findings of the audit were accepted by the Regulator the Order would be removed. The Director assured Members that the issue remained her top priority and that she would continue to hold daily and weekly meetings until it was satisfactorily resolved.

In considering the update, Members welcomed the progress made in increasing the percentage of compliant properties to 98.96%. They queried whether it was possible to put a clause in tenancy agreements which required the tenant to allow the Council into their property to carry out such safety checks. The Director advised that such a clause was already included but that work was ongoing to strengthen it and also to widen it to include electrical safety checks.

The Director further advised that the Tenant Engagement Board were looking, in depth, at the issue in an attempt to understand the barriers and reluctance of tenants to allow Council contractors access to carry out such checks.

AGREED (unanimously) that the verbal report be noted.

45 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT Q2

The Committee considered the report of the Director – Resources/Deputy Chief Executive which sought to update Members on the forecast outturn position for the 2022/2023 financial year for the Council’s General Fund and Housing Revenue Account revenue and capital budgets. The report also provided Members with information as to the performance against the approved estimates of revenue expenditure and income and on major variances from planned budget performance, in accordance with the Council’s Constitution.

Details were provided as to the current position (as at 30 September 2022): variances. Table 1 showed the General Fund Revenue Outturn with a projected unfavourable variance against the revised budget of £0.655m on service budgets. Table 2 provided an overview of projected Housing Revenue Account Outturn for 2022/23 with an unfavourable variance against the revised budget of £0.194m. Details were also provided as to the Capital Programme.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Committee note the following:

- (a) the General Fund projected unfavourable outturn variance of £0.655m on services;
- (b) the Housing Revenue Account projected unfavourable outturn variance of £0.194m on services; and
- (c) the capital outturn position of £67.109m.

46 REVIEW OF HRA BUSINESS PLAN ASSUMPTIONS

The Committee considered the report of the Director – Resources/Deputy Chief Executive which sought to provide Members with an overview of the key assumptions made within the production for the 30-year Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan.

The report set out the background to the development and maintenance of the HRA Business Plan, setting out some of the key assumptions which would affect the Plan from an external perspective. These external factor assumptions would then be considered when looking at internal factors e.g. setting of rent, capital improvements or revenue services. The agreed assumptions would then be fed into the overall HRA Business Plan which in turn would form the basis of the HRA Budget and Rent Setting report.

AGREED (unanimously) that the assumptions presented to be utilised in the update of the 30-year HRA Business Plan be endorsed.

Councillor Goff did not participate in the above vote as he had temporarily left the meeting room.

47 MEMBERS DIGITAL TOOLS WORKING GROUP

The Committee considered the joint report of the Director – Resources and Director – Customer Services & Organisational Development which sought to provide Members with a summary of the review undertaken by the Members Digital Tools Working Group.

The report was presented by the Chairman of the Working Group, Councillor Simon Haynes, who provided Members with a brief outline of the work undertaken by the Group which had led to the recommendations set out in paragraph 3 of the report, that following the District/Parish Elections in May 2023, all Members would be offered a laptop as standard, or a windows tablet as an alternative option, on request.

AGREED (unanimously) that the recommendations of the Working Group in relation to the provision of hardware, software and training for the new cohort of Members elected in May 2023 be endorsed, for a final decision to be taken by the Portfolio Holder for Organisational Development and Governance.

48 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REVIEW MEMBER WORKING GROUP

The Committee considered the report of the Director – Communities & Environment which sought to present to Members the findings of the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Working Group.

The report was presented by the Chairman of the Working Group, Councillor Ronnie White, who provided Members with a brief outline of the detailed work undertaken by the Group which had led to the recommendations as reported in paragraph 4.0, with details of the financial implications, should the recommendations be endorsed, being provided in paragraph 5.0.

In considering the report a Member commented that in the past he recalled that speakers had been attached to columns e.g. lampposts or CCTV cameras, in areas such as parks. This enabled the CCTV operator to speak to an individual who may be acting in an anti-social way in an attempt to deter them. In response, the Business Manager – Public Protection advised that he could not recall the use of speakers. He added that replacing existing cameras was being considered and as part of that such things as flashing blue lights were included. He advised he would raise the Members' query but noted that continued use of any deterrent would eventually lose its impact.

In noting that many individuals who participated in ASB had existing mental health problems, a Member queried what could be done to help them. The Director – Organisational Development & Governance advised that most known individuals would have existing mental health support. For anyone who did not, then they would be signposted to the most appropriate source of help.

In relation to the range of mileage that an electric vehicle could travel and whether their use was appropriate for Community Safety Officers, the Business Manager advised that current mileage was approximately 150 but this did not account for variable speeds, traffic conditions, idling in traffic etc. so a figure of 90 miles was used before the vehicle required charging.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- (a) the proposed recommendations as summarised in paragraph 4.0 of the report that aim to reduce ASB and ultimately help make residents feel safer in the district be endorsed; and
- (b) the recommendations of the Working Group be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration.

49 CUSTOMER STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

NOTED that the Membership of the Customer Strategy Working Group as follows:

Councillor Peter Harris (Chairman)
Councillor Lydia Hurst (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Betty Brooks
Councillor Rita Crowe
Councillor Donna Cumberlidge
Councillor John Lee
Councillor Mike Pringle

Dale Shaw (Tenant Engagement Board Representative)

50 CABINET FORWARD PLAN (NOVEMBER 2022 TO FEBRUARY 2023)

NOTED the Forward Plan of the Cabinet for the period November 2022 to February 2023.

51 MINUTES OF CABINET HELD ON 4 OCTOBER 2022

NOTED the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 4 October 2023.

52 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

NOTED the items listed for future meetings.

Meeting closed at 8.13 pm.

Chairman

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Planning Committee** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, Notts, NG24 1BY on Thursday, 10 November 2022 at 4.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor R Blaney (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs L Dales (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor R Crowe, Councillor A Freeman, Councillor Mrs R Holloway, Councillor Mrs P Rainbow, Councillor M Skinner, Councillor T Smith, Councillor I Walker, Councillor K Walker, Councillor T Wildgust and Councillor Mrs Y Woodhead

ALSO IN
ATTENDANCE:

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor M Brock (Committee Member), Councillor L Goff (Committee Member) and Councillor S Saddington (Committee Member)

51 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillor R V Blaney on behalf of the Planning Committee Members declared Non-Registerable Interests regarding Application No. 22/01328/FUL, 94 North Gate, Newark On Trent, and Application No. 22/01591/FUL, 77C Eton Avenue, Newark On Trent, as the Council was the applicant for both applications. Application No. 22/01876/FUL, 1-3 Lombard Street, Newark On Trent, as the Council had a lease interest in the site.

Councillors L Dales, I Walker and K Walker declared Non-Registerable Interests as appointed representatives on the Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board.

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

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

53 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 OCTOBER 2022

AGREED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

54 LAND ADJACENT TO FOSSE ROAD, FARNDON, NG24 3UB - 22/01331/FUL

The application was deferred and would be considered at a future Planning Committee.

55 FEATHERSTONE HOUSE FARM, MICKLEDALE LANE, BILSTHORPE - 22/01573/FULM

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning

Development, which sought the erection of a new packing building.

Members considered the presentation from the Senior 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 the conditions contained within the report, following the expiry of the consultation period and subject to any additional consultation responses not raising new material planning consideration.

56 94 NORTH GATE, NEWARK ON TRENT, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, NG24 1HF - 22/01328/FUL

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought the conversion to five flats. The remodelling of outbuildings and new secured bin storage, communal garden area and seven parking spaces.

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

A schedule of communication was tabled at the meeting, which detailed correspondence received from the Planning Case Officer. An additional informative note was also proposed to the applicant to advise them of the change to the CA boundary:

The Applicant is advised that following the publication of the accompanying Committee Report to this decision, the Newark Conservation Area boundary has been amended to include the application site. Given the site falls within the Conservation Area there are limitations that are now applicable. For example, trees in Conservation Areas are afforded special protection by legislation. Should you wish to lop, top or fell any tree on this site, you may require the prior consent in writing of Newark and Sherwood District Council and are advised to contact the Planning Department of the Council on 01636 650000 to discuss the matter.

The Business Manager – Planning Development noted the wording in the Schedule of Communication, paragraph three which as presented to Members read ‘This would be contrary to the provisions of s.72 of the Listed Building and Conservation Areas Act’. This was required to be amended to ‘This needs to be considered in the context of the general duty of s72 of the Listed Building and Conservation Areas Act 1990 which requires special attention to be given to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of the conservation area’ rather than as being contrary to this section of the Act.

Members considered the application acceptable.

AGREED (unanimously) that planning permission be approved, subject to the conditions contained within the report and the informative as detailed

above and in the Schedule of Communication.

57 PLOT NUMBERS 6, 7 AND 8, LAND NORTH OF RICKET LANE, BLIDWORTH, NG21 0NG - 22/01769/FULM

The application was withdrawn from the agenda.

58 77C ETON AVENUE, NEWARK ON TRENT, NG24 4JH - 22/01591/FUL

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought the development of five bungalows and associated external works including the installation of new dropped kerbs. A site visit had taken place by the Planning Committee.

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

A schedule of communication was tabled at the meeting, which detailed correspondence received from the Planning Case Officer, which informed the committee of an error on the officer report at paragraph 9.0, remove the reference to Core Policy 12 and replaced by Core Policy 10 (Climate Change) of the Amended Core Strategy.

Members considered the application acceptable.

AGREED (unanimously) that planning permission be approved, subject to the conditions contained within the report.

59 STOKELEY, CROSS LANE, BLIDWORTH, NG21 0LZ - 22/01712/FULM

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought the demolition of a single storey element on the southern elevation of the dwelling. Extension and replacement roof of a single storey element on the western elevation of the dwelling.

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

Members considered the application and some Members considered the proposed alterations as modest change which would not have any impact on the buildings surrounding s. The Business Manager-Planning Development advised that if the Planning Committee were minded to approve the application they would need to demonstrate the very special circumstances for approval.

AGREED (with 10 votes For and 2 votes Against) that planning permission be refused for the reason set out within the report.

60 1-3 LOMBARD STREET, NEWARK ON TRENT, NG24 1XG - 22/01876/FUL

The Committee considered the report of the Business Manager – Planning Development, which sought the installation of an externally mounted roaster flue.

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

A schedule of communication was tabled at the meeting, which detailed correspondence received from Newark Town Council, stating that no objection was raised to the application.

Members considered the application acceptable.

AGREED (unanimously) that planning permission be approved, subject to the conditions set out within the report.

61 PLANNING APPLICATION VALIDATION CHECKLIST

The Business Manager - Planning Development provided an update on the review of the adopted Planning Application Validation Checklist prior to the undertaking of the consultation process.

Members were informed that legislation set out that a local list was required to be published on a Council's website and reviewed every two years. The report therefore sought to start the process of the review to ensure it was up-to-date and could be relied upon for the submission of relevant information.

The checklist, attached at Appendix 1, to the report was the same as the current one, although had been updated to provide further clarification where necessary and also provided some information for additional requirements that would come into effect before the checklist was reviewed once again, relating to biodiversity net gain.

It was proposed the amended checklist was consulted upon for a minimum of eight weeks with Members, Parish and Town Councils and statutory consultees. Details would be provided on the Council's website enabling developers and interested stakeholders to respond as well as applicants and their agents, residents through planning application receipt and notification letters.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- (a) the contents of the accompanying validation checklist be noted; and
- (b) the draft updated Planning Application Validation Checklist (as set out at Appendix A of the report) be approved for an eight week public consultation with statutory consultees, District Councillors and Town/Parish Councils, applicants/developers and neighbours.

62 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORDERS FOR FILMING AT NEWARK HERITAGE SITES

The Business Manager - Planning Development sought Member approval to go through the process of consultation on the proposed Local Development Orders and for Members to be aware of the benefits of the proposed Local Development Orders (LDOs).

It was proposed that Newark & Sherwood District Council create two LDOs to allow filming projects that comply with the conditions of the LDO to proceed at Newark Castle and the Palace Theatre & Newark Civil War Centre.

The Committee were informed that Local Development Orders (LDOs) were a tool that planning authorities could use, under Section 61A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, to grant planning permission for a type of development within a defined area as long as certain conditions were met. A LDO was a 'local' version of the General Permitted Development Order. To adopt a Local Development Order, the drafted Order must be subject to a period of consultation, consideration of responses and could include conditions such as a schedule for reviewing the LDO.

The benefit of proceeding with the LDO would be potentially unlocking a new source of revenue for the Heritage & Culture team; fees for filming at the sites could be re-invested to safeguard and enhance the District's heritage offer. Increased possibility of filming at these sites would also allow the indirect promotion of the town and District through the products of filming. Although some resources in terms of officer time would be invested in creating and then reviewing the LDOs, ultimately less officer time would be spent in dealing with filming enquiries due to the planning elements of permission having already been considered. It was considered that the increased efficiency the LDO would allow regarding filming enquiries and projects would enhance the Council's professional reputation.

Members queried whether there were other heritage sites that could benefit from the LDO. The Business Manager – Planning Development confirmed that to her knowledge there were possibly other sites. The two outlined in the report were Council buildings. The Chairman questioned whether part of the consultation could invite the owners of other heritage sites to be included in the LDOs. The Business Manager – Planning Development informed the Committee that the Authority received application fees for when proposals were submitted for planning permission, if permission was granted via a LDO the Council would not receive application income which would need to be considered.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Planning Committee:

- (a) grant authority to the Business Manager - Planning Development to refine the draft LDOs, in consultation with Council and partner colleagues, ahead of public and statutory consultation stages;
- (b) consider the draft LDOs and note any observations or recommendations for amendments; and
- (c) the final LDOs will be presented to Planning Committee for approval following the above.

63 APPEALS LODGED

AGREED that the report be noted.

64 APPEALS DETERMINED

AGREED that the report be noted.

65 DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Committee considered a report presented by the Business Manager- Planning Development which related to the performance of the Planning Development Business Unit over the three month period July to September 2022 as well as providing an overview of the performance and achievements across the financial year. In order for the latest quarter's performance to be understood in context, in some areas data going back to July 2020 was provided. The performance of the Planning Enforcement team was provided as a separate report.

AGREED that the report be noted.

66 QUARTERLY PLANNING ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY UPDATE REPORT

The Committee considered the report presented by the Business Manager - Planning Development which provided an update on Enforcement Action for the second quarter of the current financial year 2022/23. The report included cases where formal action had been taken and case studies which showed how the breaches of planning control had been resolved through negotiation and Notices that had been complied with.

AGREED that the report be noted.

Meeting closed at 5.00 pm.

Chairman

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Audit and Governance Committee** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY on Wednesday, 23 November 2022 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs S Michael (Chairman)
Councillor R Crowe (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor R Blaney, Councillor Mrs B Brooks, Councillor D Cumberlidge, Councillor P Harris, Councillor S Haynes, Councillor J Kellas, Councillor J Lee, Councillor T Smith and Mr C Richardson (Non-Voting Co-Optee)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Mrs E Davis (Committee Member) and Councillor B Laughton (Committee Member)

19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

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

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

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

21 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 JULY 2022

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

22 ORDER OF BUSINESS

With the agreement of the Committee, the Chairman changed the order of business. Agenda Item 9 Internal Audit Progress Report 2022/23 was taken after Item 5 Strategic Risk Review, then the agenda resumed to its stated order.

23 STRATEGIC RISK REVIEW

The Committee considered the report from the Safety and Risk Manager providing an update to Members on the status of the Council's 2022/23 Strategic Risk Register.

The report reminded Members that the contents of the Strategic Risk Register had been reported in April 2022. The content of the current risk register had not changed since the last report and continued to have 13 strategic risks.

The Committee was advised that the current strategic risk register does not address the issues/risks posed by the current cost of living challenge to the council, its services, and the communities it serves. This risk has recently been considered by the Council's Senior Leadership Team, who have subsequently agreed to its inclusion

within the current risk register.

Councillor Harris noted that Arkwood was shown as a risk and that Active4Today was not, the Safety and Risk Manager would consider and update at the next meeting.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Members of the Committee noted the content of the report and highlighted any issues of concern.

24 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT 2022/23

The Committee considered the report from the Head of Internal Audit for Assurance Lincolnshire providing a summary of Internal Audit work undertaken during 2022/23 against the agreed audit plan.

The Audit Plan for 2022/23 was agreed at the Audit and Accounts Committee in April 2022. Throughout the year reports on the progress made and changes to the plan were then brought to this Committee.

The report contained details of all reports issued in the first half of the financial year 2022/23.

The Director for Housing, Health and Well-Being provided an update with regard to gas servicing having met with the Regulator, confirming that significant progress has been made.

The Chairman requested that the Director for Housing, Health and Well-Being provided a further update to the Audit & Governance Committee in February.

The Head of Internal Audit for Assurance Lincolnshire advised that Members of the Audit & Governance Committee had attended the Governance training on the 2 November 2022, also advising that CIPFA had issued further training.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Audit & Governance Committee considered and commented upon the latest internal audit progress report and noted its content.

25 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN AND HOUSING OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL UPDATE

The Committee considered the report from the Business Manager for Customer Services that informed the Committee of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman and Housing Ombudsman annual reviews.

The report highlighted to Members that each year the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) produces an Annual Review Letter for local authorities detailing the number, type and decisions made relating to each authority; these were provided as Appendices 1 and 2. The Housing Ombudsman also produces an Annual Complaints Review, in the report as Appendix 3.

Councillor Harris referred to the national picture and how the Council compares. The Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services confirmed to provide further

information. Councillor Lee referred to 3rd party providers with reference to housing, the Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services would check in to this and advise if there were implications for the Council.

AGREED (unanimously) that Members noted the content of the report.

26 AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee considered the report from the Business Manager for Financial Services informing Members of the activity undertaken by the Audit and Accounts/Audit and Governance Committee during the 2021/22 financial year.

The report reminded Members that as part of the bi-annual review of the effectiveness of the Audit Committee which was undertaken during July 2019, an action plan was presented to the Audit and Accounts Committee at the meeting in November 2019. One of the actions identified within that plan was to produce an annual report of the activity of the Audit and Accounts Committee, which is now the Audit and Governance Committee.

This report provides Members with the activity undertaken by the Audit and Accounts/Audit and Governance Committee during the 2021/22 financial year and ensures that the Committee discharges its responsibilities as per its delegated authority within the Council's Constitution.

AGREED (unanimously) that Members noted the content of the report and recommend it to Full Council on 13 December.

27 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT 2022/23

The Committee considered the report from the Assistant Business Manager for Financial Services providing an update on the Council's Treasury Activity and Prudential Indicators for the first half of 2022/23.

The Members discussed the report noting at 2.3 the titles for the expenditure required switching over between the General Fund and the HRA.

It was also noted on page 85 of the agenda in the Investment Activity in 2022/23 table for the Standard Chartered Sustainable Deposit the average interest rate was 3.31% and not 6.61%.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- a) the Treasury Management activity be noted and recommended to Full Council on 13 December; and
- b) the Prudential Indicators detailed in Section 9 of the report be noted.

28 APPROVAL OF THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Committee considered the report from the Business Manager for Financial

Services to obtain approval of the Council's Statutory Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2022.

The report provided a draft version of the Statement of Accounts, to be finalised for 30 November. The Mazars representative, present at the meeting, advised the Committee that they were close to signing and expected this would take place in the first two weeks of December.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- a) Members approved the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year ended 31 March 2022;
- b) Members approved the draft audited Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2022;
- c) Members gave delegation to the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Resources - S151 Officer and the Chairman to sign a revised set of accounts if required as per paragraph 3.4;
- d) Members gave delegation to the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Resources - S151 Officer and the Chairman to sign the Management Letter of Representation as per paragraph 3.6; and
- e) Members gave delegation to the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to sign the Annual Governance Statement as per paragraph 3.9.

29 REVIEW OF THE NEW GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Committee considered the report from the Assistant Director for Legal & Democratic Services to update Members on plans for the 6-month review of the new (Executive) Governance arrangements adopted by Full Council on 17 May 2022.

The report explained how the Council had moved from a committee system of governance to a cabinet system of governance and agreed to undertake a review of the system 6 months after implementation.

The report noted that two sessions had been arranged which were open to all Members, one in person and one virtual to allow for the greatest engagement. These sessions are to be held on Monday 12 December (remote) and Thursday 15 December (in person at Castle House) and will be chaired by the Chief Executive. Members will be invited to review the governance structure and provide feedback on various aspects of the structure such as the Cabinet, Policy & Performance Improvement Committee and the Executive Work Programme, sharing what is working well and what could be improved.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- a) Members endorsed the plans; and

- b) Members noted that the findings of the review will be brought back to this Committee on 1 February 2023.

30 COUNTER-FRAUD ACTIVITIES FROM 1 APRIL 2022 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

The Committee considered the report from the Assistant Business Manager for Financial Services to inform Members of counter-fraud activity undertaken since the last update reported on 1 December 2021.

The report highlighted Counter Fraud Detection at section 2 and Other Counter-Fraud Detection - Business Grants at section 3.

The Business Manager for Financial Services advised the Committee that in July the Fraud Risk Register had been refreshed as part of the National Fraud Initiative (NFI).

Councillor Blaney queried 4.2 of the report as to what was the percentage breakdown as during 2021/22 3,181 Council Tax single person discount awards were investigated. Of the matches generated by NFI, 244 cases of suspected fraud were identified, 40 cases of error amounting to £129,906. The Business Manager for Financial Services to clarify.

AGREED (unanimously) that Members noted the content of the report.

31 AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

The Committee considered the current Audit & Governance Committee Work Plan, noting that other reports may be supplemented.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Audit & Governance Committee Work Plan be approved.

32 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 1 February 2023.

Meeting closed at 7.10 pm.

Chairman