

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Councillor K Girling (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs P Rainbow (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor R Blaney, Councillor L Brazier, Councillor Mrs R Crowe,  
Councillor N Mison, Councillor P Peacock, Councillor M Skinner,  
Councillor T Smith and Councillor R White

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor P Harris (Committee Member)

59 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS AND AS TO THE PARTY WHIP

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

60 DECLARATION OF INTENTION TO RECORD MEETING

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.

61 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2022

AGREED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2022 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

62 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman looked back at what the Committee had achieved over the last four years and that Members' should be very proud.

A summary of what this Committee had been involved in:

- Brought back in the Newark Beacon and grown its capacity and vibrancy
- Adopted new planning policies and guidance including being ahead of national guidance when it comes to Electric Charge Points
- Adopted an Amended Core Strategy setting our growth agenda until 2033
- Reviewed and amended several Conservation Areas
- Adopted an Open Space Strategy
- Adopted a Planning Enforcement Plan
- Developed out the former Robin Hood Hotel, Newark Buttermarket, and Former M&S Building
- Built a new pool at Ollerton
- Increased local procurement so that money flows into local businesses
- Held the most successful Careers Expo's for every local school
- Formed and delivered multiple Economic Growth & Visitor Economy Strategies

- Formed and developed the Southwell and Ollerton Tourism Action Groups
- Secured Places to Ride Funding at Thoresby Vale
- Secured Heritage High Street Funding £650k
- Secured Towns Funding £25m
- Secured Levelling Up Fund £20m
- Secured thousands of new Trees
- Ran Festivals, Christmas, and Easter Campaigns to help all our Tourism providers
- Brought to life 3 Destination Websites for Newark, Southwell and Sherwood Forest
- And last but not least come through a global pandemic and provided over £59m of support, being in the top performing Council's nationally and enhancing our local reputation immeasurably with our businesses

63 FORWARD PLAN - APRIL 2022 TO MARCH 2023

The Committee considered the Forward Plan acknowledging that that this will change when moving to the Cabinet system in May this year.

64 CONSERVATION AREA REVIEW - AMENDMENTS TO LAXTON AND OLLERTON BOUNDARY AND ADOPTION OF APPRAISAL & MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Committee considered the report presented by the Director – Planning & Growth which sought Members' approval to amend the Laxton and Ollerton Conservation Area (CA) boundary, and adopt their CA Appraisal and Management Plans.

At the September 2018 Economic Development Committee, the Conservation Team was given delegated authority to proceed with a three year plan to review a number of CAs within the District. The focus of the 3 year review would be delivering boundary reviews of the existing CAs in Edwinstowe, Newark, Ollerton, and Southwell. This process was expanded to include Laxton following an update to the Committee in June 2019. The intention was to complete this work by the end of 2021. Covid had a significant impact on work and updated timescales were provided at the 17 November 2021 Committee.

The Senior Conservation Officer advised the Committee that extensive public engagement had taken place in Laxton and Ollerton, as well as involving Parish Councils which was found to be very positive.

A member of the Committee welcomed the boundary changes especially to Laxton. Another member of the Committee referred to Ollerton referencing the positive change to exclude some areas that will likely be affected by upgrades to Ollerton Roundabout.

The Chairman acknowledged the formation of partnerships and welcomed the way communities have been engaged.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Committee approved the amendments to Laxton and Ollerton Conservation Area and adopt their respective Appraisal documents.

65 ADOPTION OF NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSET CRITERIA AND PROPOSAL CONSULTATION ON A LOCAL HERITAGE LIST

The Committee considered the report presented by the Director – Planning & Growth which sought Members’ approval to adopt the Criteria for Non-Designated Heritage Assets and to allow officers to begin a 3 year project to assess potential heritage assets across the District using the Criteria to create a ‘Local Heritage List’.

At the November 2020 Economic Development Committee (EDC), the Conservation Team was given delegated authority to publish a draft Criteria for Non-Designated Heritage Assets (NDHA) and undertake public consultation. Although this work was subsequently delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the draft Criteria was published on the Council’s website, and consultation undertaken using a variety of different methods.

The Senior Conservation Officer informed the Committee that Newark & Sherwood had not had an adoptive criteria looking at non-designated heritage assets, this will provide stakeholders with certainty and report back to Members in 3 years to consider adoption of the list.

The Director – Planning & Growth referred to the timetable of 3 years, advising that this would not stop the dealing of non-designated heritage assets in the meantime based on the criteria being established rather than waiting for a final list at the end of the assessment period.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Committee approved the adoption of the Non-Designated Heritage Asset Criteria and allows the Conservation Team to produce a Draft Local Heritage List.

66 A46 NEWARK BY-PASS PREFERRED ROUTE ANNOUNCEMENT: NEWARK & SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL RESPONSE

The Committee considered the report presented by the Director – Planning & Growth making Members’ aware of the Preferred Route Announcement and accompanying engagement launched on 24 February regarding the proposed A46 Newark Bypass, as part of the Government’s second national Road Investment Strategy (RIS2) and seek delegated authority for the Director of Planning & Growth to respond.

The Business Manager for Planning Policy & Infrastructure reminded the Committee of the detailed responses to the options consultation and that the Council had provided “principle support for A46 Newark Bypass scheme, which is of local, regional, and national importance.”

The Council also sought assurance that proper consideration be given to alternative schemes and proposals in the Winthorpe area given the level of concern about the proposed options in that area.

National Highways had advised that “While key features of the scheme remain the same as Option 2, following your feedback and additional assessments, we have modified the route to be further away from Winthorpe, and partially back on to the existing A46, between Friendly Farmer roundabout and Winthorpe junction.”

A member of the Committee highlighted that National Highways had listened and modified their proposals whilst the Council were providing support to the Winthorpe Think Again Group.

Another member enquired having considered car usage, would there be a reference to how cyclists are catered for in reference to safety, crossings and pedestrian walkways.

The Chairman of the Committee advised the meeting that currently the scheme is fit for purpose, noting that people now work and travel differently.

AGREED (unanimously) that Members' delegate to the Director – Planning & Growth, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee and Chairman of the Planning Committee, authority to formally submit the Council's formal comments on the A46 Newark Bypass Preferred Route.

#### 67 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAM DRAFT WASTE LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

The Committee considered the report presented by the Director – Planning & Growth and Director – Communities & Environment setting out the details of the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Draft Waste Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation.

The Committee were advised that Nottinghamshire County Council are consulting on a Draft Waste Local Plan. The consultation closes on 4 April 2022 and the new Waste Local Plan is a joint plan being prepared by Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council, though the preparation process is being administered by the County Council.

The Business Manager for Planning Policy & Infrastructure advised that the Waste Local Plan had been consulted upon in early 2020 which the Council reviewed and commented on, as found at Appendix A of the report.

A draft response to the Waste Local Plan was also provided for the Committee at Appendix B of the report. The Business Manager for Planning Policy & Infrastructure did have concerns as to how it planned to achieve its aims.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- (a) the report be noted and the proposed response endorsed; and
- (b) subject to any additional comments from Committee that Appendix B be approved as the District Council's response to the consultation.

#### 68 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK PROGRESS UPDATE

The Committee considered the report presented by the Director – Planning & Growth to update Members' on progress towards delivery of the Plan Review in relation to the Allocations and Development Management DPD, setting out responses received from the Allocations and Development Management Options Report and seeking approval for the Council's proposed responses and resultant actions.

This sets before Committee a proposed update to LDF timetable, including consideration of the future governance arrangements.

The public consultation on the Allocations & Development Management Options Report took place between the 27 July 2021 and 21 September 2021, a period of 8 weeks. In line with COVID restrictions at the time officers held a majority of on-line consultation events, alongside a face-to-face event in Newark Market Place. The Options Report and supporting documentation were available on the Council's website. A total of 137 responses were received, which resulted in 668 individual answers to the 56 questions posed as part of the consultation.

The Business Manager for Planning Policy & Infrastructure advised that the responses received had been summarised and included in a Draft Statement of Consultation at Appendix A of the report. The Committee were informed that a small number of issues had been raised and to make the next steps for Gypsy and Traveller provision.

The Director – Planning & Growth referred to the timetable at 5.1 of the report advising that this is updated to now set a path towards decision-making later this calendar year.

A member of the Committee commented on Edwinstowe residential allocations, stating that the community had taken more than its fair share given Thoresby Vale and requesting that the current allocation be de-allocated and/or reduced. The Business Manager for Planning Policy & Infrastructure referred to the agreed approach of not seeking to deallocate land through this Plan Review that was deliverable. This site remained in this category.

Another member referred back to when the allocations were made in 2011/13, where overall quantum of housing targets were enhanced given Growth Point aspirations. The housing need requirements of the District now means that no new housing allocations are proposed at this time. Indeed, some sites which are clearly no longer deliverable and needed are proposed to be deallocated.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- (a) the progress set out in the report towards producing the Allocations & Development Management Options Report be noted; and that the financial implications of the proposed feasibility work to be referred to Policy & Finance Committee;
- (b) the proposed Responses and Actions set out in Appendices A & B are approved as the formal response of the District Council to the Options Report consultation; and
- (c) the proposed amended timetable as set out at paragraph 5.1 is adopted and comes into force on 24 March 2022.

69 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES UPDATE - SHERWOOD LEVELLING UP

The Committee considered the report presented by the Director – Planning & Growth updating Members on the Sherwood Levelling Up opportunities.

The Director – Planning & Growth reminded the Committee that Round 1 of the Levelling Up Fund took place last year, the White Paper was issued by the Government last month and more to follow for Round 2.

The Director also advised that the Levelling Up Board met in November last year having had 40 organisations attended. Two further meetings to take place, one for the Member Engagement Panel, for all Members of the District Council, particularly the Sherwood area to feed into with the challenges they now have into solutions of programmes/projects to deliver. The other meeting to take place after Easter will be the reconvening of the Sherwood Board filtering to wider public consultation with the Sherwood communities.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- (a) the Members' noted the update provided; and
- (b) the Members' recommended to Policy & Finance Committee that underspend associated with the Senior Regeneration Officer vacancies held within the Housing, Health & Regeneration and Economic Growth & Visitor Economy Business Units be made available to secure additional resource(s) to allow the development, production, and submission to Government of a Sherwood Prospectus.

#### 70 DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE IN 2022/2023 - HERITAGE & CULTURE

The Committee considered the report presented by the Director – Communities & Environment to seek Members' agreement to request Policy & Finance Committee approval for additional resources in the Heritage & Culture Business Unit, to deliver aspirations within the Community Plan and exploit opportunities that will exist in the financial year 2022/23 and beyond.

The Business Manager for Heritage, Culture and Visitors introduced the report, briefly listing the proposals.

The Committee were concerned having recently approved the Council's budget for next year and to have an additional request made at this time, the Business Manager for Heritage, Culture and Visitors noted their concerns. The Committee did also highlight the rate listed for a Consultant and this being high side. Other Members noted that this was a market rate. The Business Manager for Heritage, Culture and Visitors did advise that this would not be for a long period and was only required for specialist purposes.

AGREED (by 9 votes for with 1 abstention) that Members' approved and recommended to Policy & Finance Committee the proposal to allocate £56,100 in support of the development opportunities arising in 2022/23 funded from the Change Management Reserve.

71 TOWN CENTRE UPDATE

The Committee considered the report presented by the Director – Planning & Growth. In January 2022 a report was presented to the Economic Development Committee to update on the ongoing activities and proposals for the year ahead. This report intends to give an update on two of those key workstreams, the Newark Town Centre Strategy / Masterplan and the High Street Diversification Fund. Further key activities relating to the High Street Task Force, Newark Cycle Race, and Tour of Britain were also introduced.

A member of the Committee highlighted the encouragement of people's confidence to enable an increase in night time economy and tackling anti-social behaviour. The Business Manager for Economic Growth & Visitor Economy confirmed an intention to bring a report to the next Cabinet meeting on such issues. Another member referred to the night time economy consultation having had difficulty in completing on line.

The Committee discussed the Tour of Britain and the possibility for next year to have a start or finish from the RSPB at Edwinstowe. The Committee were advised that this could be possible, subject to comments of the Tour organisers, District and County colleagues, and cost considerations.

The Newark Cycle race was also discussed with encouragement from all of the Committee. The importance of robust advertisement, communications, and traffic management was identified as essential.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- (a) Members' support the commissioning and associated consultation on the production of a Newark Town Centre Strategy/Masterplan, the details of which shall be presented back under the new governance arrangements as the work progresses;
- (b) Members' support the continuation of a further round of the High Street Diversification Fund specifically targeted at independent High Street retail and hospitality businesses in Ollerton, Edwinstowe and rural retail communities within the District;
- (c) Members' support the submission of Ollerton and Edwinstowe Town Centres as the designated high streets to receive support from the High Streets Task Force and for Business Manager - Economic Growth & Visitor Economy to liaise with the HSTF and local stakeholders to progress works, providing regular updates back to the new governance arrangements; and
- (d) Members' recommended to the Policy & Finance Committee the approval of a budget of £40,000 for 2022/23 funded from the Change Management Reserve to deliver a pilot 'Newark Town Centre Race' in summer 2022 in partnership with British Cycling and local traders and partners and contribute towards the Tour of Britain in 2022.

72 COMMUNITY PLAN PERFORMANCE FOR QUARTER 2 - 2021/2022

The Committee considered the report presented by the Director – Customer Services & Organisational Development of Quarter 3 Community Plan Performance Report (October-December 2021).

The Transformation Manager reminded the Committee of the new layout of a single report provided to cover all of the Council, with Economic Growth highlighted for this Committee.

The Chairman thanked the Transformation Manager for the report and how easy it is now to follow.

In the report the Committee noted that attendance at the National Civil War Centre and the Palace Theatre had decreased and supported plans to continue to looking at re-building confidence and attendance.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Members' reviewed the Community Plan Performance report attached as Appendix 1.

73 TOWNS FUND PROJECTS UPDATE

The Committee considered the report presented by the Director – Planning & Growth to update Members' on the progress of the identified Towns Fund priority projects.

The Director – Planning & Growth referred to 2.1 of the report advising the Committee that all projects listed in the table were now green bar one, this being the SiSLog (Newark Gateway) site that would now be considered in June given the need to understand impacts of the delayed announcing the A46 Newark Northern Bypass preferred route. The Council remained on track to draw down all £25 million, a matter the Chairman noted was not the case with some other towns across the country.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Members' welcomed and noted the update provided on the progress of the identified Towns fund priority projects.

74 ANNUAL REVIEW OF EXEMPT REPORTS

The Committee considered the report presented by the Chief Executive to provide the Economic Development Committee with a list of the exempt business considered by the Committee for the period 27 March 2019 to date. Included are reports which have previously been presented but had remained confidential at that time.

A member of the Committee queried the Newark Lorry Park (Appendix 1 only) found in the table at 3.1 of the report as recommended to Remain Exempt, the member requested that this item be looked at again and if it could be released into the Public Domain. The Director – Planning & Growth advised the Committee that he would be able to check this after the meeting and if appropriate make any amendments, of which the Committee were in agreement.



AGREED (unanimously) that the report be noted with those items which are no longer considered as exempt being released into the public domain and that Members' delegate to the Director – Planning & Growth, to make any further changes to the list.

Meeting closed at 7.30 pm.

Chairman