

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Full Council** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY on Tuesday, 17 October 2023 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor C Brooks (Chair)  
Councillor J Hall (Vice-Chair)

Councillor N Allen, Councillor A Amer, Councillor A Brazier, Councillor L Brazier, Councillor I Brown, Councillor R Cozens, Councillor S Crosby, Councillor L Dales, Councillor P Farmer, Councillor A Freeman, Councillor S Forde, Councillor P Harris, Councillor S Haynes, Councillor R Holloway, Councillor R Jackson, Councillor J Kellas, Councillor J Lee, Councillor K Melton, Councillor S Michael, Councillor D Moore, Councillor E Oldham, Councillor P Peacock, Councillor C Penny, Councillor M Pringle, Councillor P Rainbow, Councillor K Roberts, Councillor N Ross, Councillor S Saddington, Councillor T Smith, Councillor M Shakeshaft, Councillor M Spoons and Councillor T Wendels

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor D Darby, Councillor P Taylor, Councillor L Tift, Councillor T Thompson and Councillor T Wildgust

37 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillor E Oldham declared an interest in the second motion on the Council agenda on Ocean Recovery given she had written a children's book on a similar theme. Councillor Oldham advise that this was not a disclosable pecuniary interest as there was no direct link between the book and the motion.

There were no other declarations of interest from Members and Officers and the Council noted the interests previously declared by Members in Agenda Item No. 11 – Minutes for Noting.

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

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

39 MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 18 JULY 2023 AND THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2023

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2023 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 20 September 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

40 AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Council considered the report of the Business Manager - Financial Services which informed the Council of the activity undertaken by the Audit & Governance

Committee during the 2022/23 financial year.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Audit & Governance Committee Annual Report for 2022/23 be noted.

41 MEMBERS ALLOWANCES INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

The Council considered the report of the Assistant Director - Legal & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer which presented the final report and recommendations of the Members Allowance Independent Remuneration Panel which had been reconvened to review the current scheme given the increase in the number of Portfolio Holders.

During their review, the Panel also considered the special responsibility allowance made to the Leader of the Main Opposition Group, the current childcare and dependents carers' allowance and the wording of the scheme in respect of the payment of allowances to Leaders of Minority Opposition Groups.

The Panel report was attached as Appendix A, and this had been considered at the Audit & Governance Committee meeting held on 27 September 2023. The points raised by the Committee and the response of the Panel were detailed in Section 2 of the report.

The panel report recommended that the existing SRA of £8,500 be paid to all Cabinet Members with portfolio (excluding Leader and Deputy Leader) with no changes to any other Special Responsibility Allowances. In addition, the report proposed changes to the wording of the scheme in respect to the limit on the number of special responsibility allowances payable and clarified the definition of Opposition Group Leaders. The report also recommended that the current rates payable for childcare and dependent carers' allowances were increased from up to £10 per hour to a maximum level of the National Living Wage.

AGREED (with 20 votes for and 14 against) that the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel on changes to the current scheme of Members Allowances as set out in their report, be approved.

In accordance with Rule 5.4 a recorded vote was requested and taken as follows:

| <b>Councillor</b> | <b>Vote</b> |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Neil Allen        | Against     |
| Adrian Amer       | For         |
| Alice Brazier     | For         |
| Lee Brazier       | For         |
| Celia Brooks      | For         |
| Irene Brown       | Against     |
| Rowan Cozens      | For         |
| Susan Crosby      | For         |
| Linda Dales       | Against     |
| Phil Farmer       | Against     |

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Simon Forde        | For     |
| Andy Freeman       | For     |
| Jean Hall          | For     |
| Peter Harris       | For     |
| Simon Haynes       | Against |
| Rhona Holloway     | Against |
| Roger Jackson      | Against |
| Jack Kellas        | Against |
| Johno Lee          | Against |
| Keith Melton       | For     |
| Sylvia Michael     | Against |
| David Moore        | For     |
| Emma Oldham        | For     |
| Paul Peacock       | For     |
| Claire Penny       | For     |
| Mike Pringle       | For     |
| Penny Rainbow      | Against |
| Karen Roberts      | For     |
| Neil Ross          | For     |
| Susan Saddington   | Against |
| Maurice Shakeshaft | For     |
| Tom Smith          | Against |
| Matthew Spoons     | For     |
| Tim Wendels        | Against |

42 NOTICES OF MOTION

**United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**

In accordance with Rule No. 3.4.3, Councillor K Melton moved and Councillor M Spoons, seconded a motion to the following effect:

“The Council agrees to:

- A. Adopt the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) as a framework for informing our local authority's policies, work programs, and initiatives.
- B. Contribute to the achievement of the UN SDGs through delivery of the Community Plan.
- C. Actively engage and collaborates with other local authorities, organisations, and community groups to share best practices, experiences, and lessons learned in advancing the UN SDGs.
- D. Receive an annual report from the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change setting out the Council's contributions to the global agenda for sustainable development.”

The motion, on being put to the vote, was agreed with 21 votes for and 13 against.

## Ocean Recovery

In accordance with rule No. 3.4.3, Councillor E Oldham moved and Councillor K Melton, seconded a motion to the following effect:

“The Council pledges to champion ocean recovery by:

1. Working with responsible authorities and others with an interest in the River Trent to bring an action plan and to review the timetable to Cabinet within 12 months. Longer-term, we commit to making this report publicly available on the NSDC website and to subsequent bi-annual progress reporting at the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee.
2. Embedding protection and recovery of the River Trent and its tributaries in decision making by the Council (particularly in planning, regeneration, waste, skills and economic policy), in line with our actions to mitigate the Climate and Ecological Emergencies and to consider nature-based solutions in our journey towards a carbon neutral and climate resilient future.
3. Working with Severn Trent, the Environment Agency, developers, and other agencies to explore ways to improve the water quality of our rivers and coastal waters in our district benefitting nature and residents alike.
4. Updating the Council’s Climate Change plan to recognise how land and rivers connect to and impact the ocean and strive to support ocean recovery through a source-to-sea approach. Ensure any future relevant plans set out in our new Development Plan 2024 to 2029, also adopts this approach.
5. Growing ocean literacy (where a person understands the ocean’s impact on them and their impact upon the ocean) and marine citizenship in Newark & Sherwood, including:
  - a) Working with the responsible authorities with the aim of ensuring that all primary school-aged children in Newark and Sherwood have a first-hand experience of the ocean or River Trent- striving to engage home-schooled children.
  - b) Promoting sustainable and equitable experience and awareness of the ocean or River Trent through physical and digital experiences for all residents; and
  - c) Through these actions, embed understanding of the ‘source to sea’ approach and how all people, wherever they live, impact and are impacted by ocean health.
6. Using our website and other communication channels to provide updates on the recovery of our rivers, and signpost to opportunities and guidance that enable residents to become more ocean literate and to get involved with river and marine citizenship activities and to stop pollution at its source.
7. Ensuring that the Council’s Biodiversity Portfolio Holder, or Cabinet in any future absence of a designated Portfolio Holder, champions ocean recovery in line with the pledges laid out in this motion.
8. Recognising that wherever we live we share responsibility for sustainable marine management, the Leader will write to the Government calling on them to put the ocean into recovery by 2030, following expert guidance as outlined in Appendix 2 to the motion.”

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

In accordance with Rule 5.4 a recorded vote was taken as follows:

| <b>Councillor</b>  | <b>Vote</b> |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Neil Allen         | For         |
| Adrian Amer        | For         |
| Alice Brazier      | For         |
| Lee Brazier        | For         |
| Celia Brooks       | For         |
| Irene Brown        | For         |
| Rowan Cozens       | For         |
| Susan Crosby       | For         |
| Linda Dales        | For         |
| Phil Farmer        | For         |
| Simon Forde        | For         |
| Andy Freeman       | For         |
| Jean Hall          | For         |
| Peter Harris       | For         |
| Simon Haynes       | For         |
| Rhona Holloway     | For         |
| Roger Jackson      | For         |
| Jack Kellas        | For         |
| Johno Lee          | For         |
| Keith Melton       | For         |
| Sylvia Michael     | For         |
| David Moore        | For         |
| Emma Oldham        | For         |
| Paul Peacock       | For         |
| Claire Penny       | For         |
| Mike Pringle       | For         |
| Penny Rainbow      | For         |
| Karen Roberts      | For         |
| Neil Ross          | For         |
| Susan Saddington   | For         |
| Maurice Shakeshaft | For         |
| Tom Smith          | For         |
| Matthew Spoons     | For         |
| Tim Wendels        | For         |

### **Disposal of Single Use Vapes**

In accordance with Rule No. 3.4.3, Councillor R Jackson moved and Councillor J Lee, seconded a motion to the following effect:

“Although the Government is looking at banning single use vapes because of health reasons and their use by young children, in recent weeks it has been reported that discarded single use vapes have found their way into general waste and recycling bins

and have unfortunately been responsible for causing fires in refuse collection lorries and at waste transfer stations and recycling centres around the country. Newark & Sherwood District Council will review the issue of the dangers of single use vapes and explore safe and effective methods of their collection and disposal through a Policy & Performance Improvement Committee working group, bringing recommendations to the Cabinet.”

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

### **Housing of Asylum Seekers at RAF Scampton**

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

“This Council believes that the Home Office decision to use the historic home of the former Dambusters airfield, RAF Scampton, to house Asylum Seekers, will have a detrimental effect on the employment opportunities for residents in Newark & Sherwood District. A Judicial Review of the decision commences at the end of this month and this Council resolves to send a letter of support to West Lindsey District Council in its campaign to stop the proposal. We recognise that this site is not the right site at the right location for asylum seekers and further, that the loss of the planned £300 million investment in a “landmark deal” to bring thousands of highly-skilled jobs to the area will be a serious blow to the Government’s stated commitment to Levelling Up our areas.”

The motion, on being put to the vote, was agreed with 19 votes for and 15 abstention.

(Councillor Spoors abstained from voting given a potential conflict of interest with his employment).

### **Proposal for Closure of Ticket Office at Newark Northgate Railway Station**

In accordance with Rule No. 3.4.3, Councillor M Spoors moved and Councillor M Shakeshaft, seconded a motion to the following effect:

“That this Council write to LNER and East Midlands Railway strongly requesting that they take serious note of the concerns of residents of Newark & Sherwood district raised during the recent public consultation, and reverse their proposals to close the ticket offices at Newark Northgate and Newark Castle stations. Residents and travellers across the district have pointed out that they will be forced to rely on apps and remote mobile teams to be available to assist them rather than having trained staff on stations.

This is catastrophic for elderly, disabled and vulnerable passengers trying to access the rail network.”

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

- 43 MINUTES FOR NOTING
- 43a CABINET - 12 SEPTEMBER 2023
- 43b CABINET - 19 SEPTEMBER 2023
- 43c EXECUTIVE SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE - 12 SEPTEMBER 2023
- 43d POLICY AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - 11 SEPTEMBER 2023
- 43e POLICY AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - 25 SEPTEMBER 2023
- 43f PLANNING COMMITTEE - 10 AUGUST 2023
- 43g PLANNING COMMITTEE - 7 SEPTEMBER 2023
- 43h AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 27 SEPTEMBER 2023
- 43i GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE - 14 SEPTEMBER 2023
- 43j LICENSING COMMITTEE - 14 SEPTEMBER 2023
- 43k PLANNING COMMITTEE - 5 OCTOBER 2023

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Chair