

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 December 2024 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor J Hall (Chair)  
Councillor L Tift (Vice-Chair)

Councillor N Allen, Councillor A Amer, Councillor A Brazier, Councillor L Brazier, Councillor C Brooks, Councillor I Brown, Councillor R Cozens, Councillor S Crosby, Councillor P Farmer, Councillor A Freeman, Councillor S Forde, 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 M Shakeshaft, Councillor M Spoor, Councillor P Taylor, Councillor T Thompson, Councillor T Wendels and Councillor T Wildgust

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor L Dales, Councillor D Darby, Councillor P Harris and Councillor T Smith

Prior to the transaction of business, the Council stood in silence in memory of former District Councillor, David Payne.

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

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

34 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillors R Jackson and S Michael declared an interest In Agenda Item No. 13 – Notice of Motion – Cross Party Support for Local Farmers and Protection Against the Impact of Recent Budget Changes – given their profession. However, they considered the motion content would not impact directly on their business and their knowledge would help inform the debate.

In the interest of transparency, Councillor J Hall declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 12 - Review of the Statement of Gambling Policy 2025-25 given her employment.

The interests previously declared by Members in Agenda Item No. 14 – Minutes for Noting – were noted.

35 MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2024

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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

The Chair announced the winners of the ‘Serving People – Improving Lives’ Awards for staff in 2024. The winners were invited to the Full Council to have their awards represented by the Chair and to celebrate their success with Members.

Team of the Year – Financial Services  
Manager of the Year – Jenny Walker  
Colleague of the Year – Carina Tona  
Apprentice of the Year – Emily Price  
Chief Executive’s Award – Improvement and Enforcement Team

Members of the Council paid tribute to former Councillor David Payne.

The Leader of the Council referred to recent changes in Members’ positions with a change in the leadership of the Conservative Group and confirmed the appointment of Councillor S Forde as the new Portfolio Holder for Climate & the Environment.

The Leader of the Council also provided an update on the Government’s White Paper on Devolution which set out a clear direction of travel towards unitary authorities. He advised that further information would be available in the New Year.

37 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCIL (IF ANY)

In accordance with Rule No. 3.3.3, one question had been submitted by Councillor R Holloway to the Council. Details of the question put forward and the response given by Councillor P Peacock are attached as Appendix A to these minutes.

38 POLITICAL COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive which sought to approve the allocation of seats to Political Groups in accordance with Appendix A to the report and to the changes to appointments to Committees as detailed in Appendix B to the report.

The changes were required following the notice given by Councillors L Dales and R Holloway that they had left the Conservative Group on the Council. During the debate on this item, it was clarified that the ‘Global Goals Group’ was an informal one comprising the Green and Liberal Democrat Groups on the Council, but these two political groups remained separate.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- a) the allocation of seats to Political Groups (as set out in Appendix B to the Minutes) be approved; and
- b) the changes to appointments to Committees (as set out in the Schedule attached as Appendix C to the Minutes) be approved.

39 PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2025/26

The Council considered the report of the Assistant Director – Legal & Democratic Services which sought to approve the Schedule of Meetings for the period May 2025 to May 2026. It was noted that there was a more regular pattern of Cabinet meetings going forward, but there would still be a focus on performance elements each quarter.

In respect of the Audit & Governance Committee, the proposed schedule had this committee meeting on a Monday as there was no consensus on a preferred day of the week following a survey of current Members. It was requested that the Committee be given delegated authority to approve their own meeting schedule.

AGREED (unanimously) that the proposed Schedule of Meetings for 2025-26, subject to the Audit & Governance Committee agreeing their own future meeting dates, be approved. The schedule is attached as Appendix D to the minutes.

40 LOCALISED COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2025/26

The Council considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive, Director – Resources and Section 151 Officer, which sought to confirm the continuation of the Localised Council Tax Support Scheme for 2025/26 with minor changes in accordance with the annual uprating amounts applied by the Department for Works and Pensions. By applying the annual uprating the Council will continue to maintain the current level of support to all Council Tax Support claimants and ensure that the scheme continues to benefit the most vulnerable and low income households. The Cabinet considered the report at their meeting held on 4 November 2024 and had recommended approval.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Council continues to adopt the existing Localised Council Tax Support Scheme for all potential claimants for the financial year 2025/26 and uprates the applicable amounts, premiums, state benefits and disregard criteria in accordance with the annual uprating amounts applied by the Departments for Works & Pensions.

41 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT 2024/25

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 activity and prudential indicators for the first half of 2024/25. This activity was reported to the Audit & Governance Committee at their meeting held on 11 December 2024.

AGREED (unanimously) that the Council note:

- a) the treasury management activity; and
- b) the Prudential Indicators detailed in Section 6 & 7 of the report.

42 REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY 2025-27

The Council considered the report of the Director – Communities & Environment, which sought approval for the adoption of an amended Statement of Gambling Policy. The current Policy was adopted in January 2022 and therefore required review. The purpose of the Statement of Gambling Policy was to assist the Licensing Authority in determining applications and to provide clarity for applicants, residents and members of the business community.

The draft Statement was approved in September 2024 for a six-week consultation period. Responses were received from the Fire Service and Councillor K Roberts regarding the wording of parts of the Policy. The proposed minor amendments were considered by the Licensing Committee at their meeting held on 12 December who recommended to the Council for adoption. The Policy was attached as an Appendix to the report.

AGREED (with 33 votes for and 2 abstentions) that Full Council adopt the revised Statement of Gambling Policy 2025-2027 in order to allow licensing decisions to be made.

43 NOTICES OF MOTION

**Cross-Party Support for Local Farmers and Protection Against the Impact of Recent Budget Changes**

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

“Context:

Following the recent Budget announcement by Chancellor Rachel Reeves MP, significant changes to inheritance tax have been introduced that directly impacts our district’s farming community. Changes, to cap agricultural property relief at £1 million for farms, are a threat to the viability of small to medium sized farms in our district.

This Council should note that the average UK farm size is 213 acres<sup>(1)</sup> and land values in Newark and Sherwood average £11,000 per acre<sup>(2)</sup>, depending on grade and area (source Savills) means the land value alone is £2.3 million and with other assets included most average farms in our area carry a IHT rating of over £3,000,000. The Country Land and Business Association (CLA) puts the total farms affected in the UK at 70,000<sup>(3)</sup>.

The resultant changes to the cap could force local farmers to sell portions of their holdings to pay for the inheritance tax burdens.

Selling holdings will impact farmers and the farming community’s ability to produce food and threatens national food security at a time when geopolitical tensions threaten to destabilise global food production capacity. Furthermore, it will also increase our district’s food supply chain in turn increasing the logistical CO2 footprint at a time when global carbon emissions are still on the increase.

Farming also supports environmental objectives such as increasing biodiversity through habitat creation and support for pollinators whilst simultaneously enhancing natural flood management like tree planting and creating and maintaining buffer zones to mitigate localised flooding.

Detail:

The Council recognises:

- The invaluable contribution of farmers to our district, our food security, enhancing the natural environment and the local economy.
- The immediate and long-term risks posed to local farmers and multi-generational farming families by the current Budget measures.

This Council resolves to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rachel Reeves MP, on behalf of Newark and Sherwood District’s farming community and urge a reconsideration of the most recent budget decision to levy inheritance tax on agricultural land and protect family-owned farms from excessive tax burdens that threaten their operations and legacy.”

- 1) Source DEFRA (Statics for agricultural land use in the UK at 1 June 2023. Accessed 4 Dec 2024)
- 2) Source Savills (ww.savills.com). Accessed 4 Dec 2024
- 3) Source CLA

The motion, on being put to the vote, was agreed with 18 votes for, 16 against.

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

<b>Name of Councillor</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Neil Allen	For
Adrian Amer	For
Alice Brazier	Against
Lee Brazier	Against
Celia Brooks	Against
Irene Brown	For
Rowan Cozens	Against
Susan Crosby	Against
Phil Farmer	For
Simon Forde	Against
Andy Freeman	Against
Jean Hall	Against
Simon Haynes	For
Rhona Holloway	Absent for the vote
Roger Jackson	For
Jack Kellas	For
Johno Lee	For
Keith Melton	For
Sylvia Michael	For

David Moore	Against
Emma Oldham	For
Paul Peacock	Against
Claire Penny	Against
Mike Pringle	Against
Penny Rainbow	For
Karen Roberts	For
Neil Ross	Against
Sue Saddington	For
Maurice Shakeshaft	Against
Matthew Spoons	For
Paul Taylor	Against
Tina Thompson	For
Linda Tift	Against
Tim Wendels	For
Tim Wildgust	For

44 MINUTES FOR NOTING

44a CABINET - 4 NOVEMBER 2024

44b POLICY AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - 28 OCTOBER 2024

Minute No. 49 – Presentation by the Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Culture & the Arts

Councillor P Rainbow stated that she had asked the Portfolio Holder some questions on the Destination Management Plan but was still to receive a response.

Councillor R Cozens agreed to supply a written response.

44c POLICY AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - 25 NOVEMBER 2024

44d PLANNING COMMITTEE - 3 OCTOBER 2024

44e PLANNING COMMITTEE - 14 OCTOBER 2024

44f PLANNING COMMITTEE - 11 NOVEMBER 2024

44g CABINET - 3 DECEMBER 2024

44h EXECUTIVE SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE - 3 DECEMBER 2024

Minute No.16 – Arkwood Developments Performance Quarter 2

Councillor K Melton referred to the priority given to Biodiversity Net Gain and exemplar properties by Arkwood Developments but expressed frustration that he had been unable to bring forward a motion to the Council proposing that part of the Lowfield Lane site on which planning permission had been granted should be deallocated.

Councillor P Peacock referred to the balanced debate at the Planning Committee on the planning application and confirmed that the proposed motion was procedurally not permissible.

44i PLANNING COMMITTEE - 5 DECEMBER 2024

Meeting closed at 7.43 pm.

Chair