

FULL COUNCIL MEETING – 17 DECEMBER 2024**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

In accordance with Rule No. 3.3.3 the following question was submitted to the Council from Councillor Rhona Holloway:

“On 17th October 2023 at Full Council the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change at the time, Councillor Melton put forward a motion that:

‘This Council would adopt all 17 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a framework for informing the Local Authorities, Policies, Work Programs, Functions and Initiatives’.

As part of that commitment the Council therefore agreed to the following:

- A. *‘Adopt the 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.*

“By taking this step, we can also demonstrate our commitment to contribute to the global effort to achieve a more equitable, sustainable and resilient world for future generations’

Members are yet to receive any feedback on this motion or the annual report as outlined at D, and there is no mention on the Council’s website of any activities or outcomes of this work.

I would therefore like to ask the Portfolio Holder for Climate and the Environment the following:-

What impact or influence has this motion had on the decisions the Council has made over the last year, what have been the tangible outcomes of adopting this motion and when can we expect to receive the annual report?”

Reply from Councillor Paul Peacock – Leader of the Council on behalf of Portfolio Holder for Climate and the Environment

Below is a summary of some of the activities that Newark and Sherwood District Council have delivered and/or are ongoing that sit within the UNSDGs. In addition to this the authority, without intent, already takes many of these into consideration when writing its reports. It is proposed that an annual update is presented to the Policy, Performance and Improvement Committee, alongside the report it currently receives on an annual basis on progress against the Council’s Carbon Net Zero target.

Goal 1: No Poverty

- We promote through our communication channels and website support for those in financial hardship, sign posting them to organisations that can help.
- Cost of living support: [Cost of living support: Overview - GOV.UK](#)
- Winter pressures and cost of living resource pack: [Winter Pressures & Cost of Living](#)

Goal 2: Zero hunger

- Community Cost of Living Scheme – working in partnership with local food banks to provide food and fuel vouchers £50,000.
- Crop Drop has been running since 2021. We have many allotments which support this by donating excess crops to our food clubs/food hubs each week through harvesting season, ensuring lots of families receive fresh produce. This also includes individuals who grow in their own gardens. We work every year to engage new growers.
- In the district we have several social eating events. This is where residents can go to access a low cost or free hot meal. It helps tackle loneliness and isolation, as well as ensuring people who are struggling with paying for heating and cooking, still get a hot meal. A hugely successful example of this is Laxton, which recently received community funding from NSDC to fund a 6-month social eat pilot. The first event saw 8 people attend increasing to 16 at the second event and in December the Christmas meal saw almost 30 people attend or having a meal delivered.

Goal 3: Good health and well-being

- Door 2 Door Scheme- supporting vulnerable and/or excluded residents with volunteer transport to support social isolation and health and wellbeing, delivered by Newark and Sherwood CVS. £24,000.
- Premier League Primary Stars Programme- supporting 8 local primary schools with highest childhood obesity levels to access support for participation in physical education, extra curriculum activities, healthy lifestyles programmes and social action initiatives including recognising climate change, healthy eating, equality etc., delivered by Nottingham Forest Community Trust. £141,000.
- Trent Vale Trail – surface improvements and creation of 10 mile walking trail, supporting rural connectivity and active travel to encourage healthy lifestyles and social opportunities. £280,000.
- Active Travel Audit – development of an active travel investment strategy to identify high level priority pipeline projects. £44,000.
- See goal 10 community grants for rural areas.
- Breast Feeding Friendly Award - NSDC continues to promote and support cafes and public destinations in undertaking the BFFA training for their staff. This ensures those wishing to breast feed whilst out and about can find a place that they will be welcomed and supported to breast feed without fear of discrimination. Currently NSDC areas have 40 establishments including private, third sector and health participating. All active establishments are available via

<https://www.Nottshelpyourself.org.uk> or e-mail wellbeing@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk.

- Barbers Shop - In 2023 NSDC contacted local barbers' shops to support the conversations they were having around men's health with their customers. The initial pilot focused on information on Prostate Cancer and leaflets and booklets were distributed amongst the shops that agreed to participate. Six monthly visits are undertaken, and feedback requested to influence future support. This has led us to include details and contacts of suicide and mental health services on take away cards. We have also shared free training information for the staff to help them with these conversations. Some shops have requested posters for the windows showing information for passersby. This has been active for 18 months and three rounds of visits. We currently have 18 barber shops active in this support.
- Know Your Numbers Campaign - KYN is a national campaign for blood pressure awareness held every September. This week is the focus of our work on blood pressure but is also part of our health stalls and public contact efforts throughout the year. NSDC has built up local contacts both in-house and external, alongside health services. Each year we have increased the offering and alongside Active4Today, the workplaces we visit have invited other services to join us - sometimes providing access to groups who do not normally engage with health services. This has included diabetic eye screening services, smoking cessation and weight management services. This year's data gathered a notable rise in young people with significant raised blood pressure with the common denominator of consuming energy drinks as a meal replacement. This information will inform partnership work in the new year on education and information about blood pressure and the effects of energy drinks through the Healthy Lifestyles Task and Finish Group N&S.

Goal 4: Quality education

- Boosting - support for residents in employment to access skills development opportunities and training courses to progress within the workplace, delivered by Lincoln College £170,000.
- Volunteer it Yourself (VIY) scheme- working with young people at risk of exclusion or considered NEET to access practical skills development opportunities via volunteering to refurbish community facilities, delivered by VIY. £90,000.
- Renew- working with economically inactive residents to access training and skills development opportunities including life skills sessions, taster courses, and additional mainstream provision to compliment AEB funded activity, delivered by Inspire Libraries. £143,000.
- We support a number of local secondary schools to be able to access services that would support their relationship and health education curriculum. This includes signposting them to appropriate commissioned services including Sexions our local sexual health service and Intent our stop smoking training programme.
- Golden Thread- Volunteering and educational programme for young people at risk of, or considered NEET aged 11-25 to support employment and skills development, delivered by Newark and Sherwood CVS. £33,000

Goal 5: Gender equality

- Life chances for girls, this is an initiative currently under development, a study leading to an implementation plan for making recommendations of what changes, or work in this area that can be done differently to intervene, improve and advocate the life chances for girls and young women in the district.
- Women in Leadership Course- part of the Boosting Programme offering £150,000 for entire Boosting Programme

Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation

Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy

- Social Housing Decarb Fund Wave 2.1: Decarbonising Social Housing stock, first all those on oil. Air Source Heat Pumps and Solar PV to 102 properties. 102 will be completed by March 2025.
- Devolution funding: includes retrofitting 5 x whole house retrofits and is for; solid wall insulation, loft insulation, “A” rated double glazed windows, high efficiency “A” rated composite doors, air source heat pumps and solar PV.
- LAD3 programme of works 66 properties identified and completed, these have been retrofitted with energy efficiency measures, enabling cost savings on energy bills and to support low-income households in Newark and Sherwood.
- Business Decarbonisation Grant Scheme £85,000.
- Accelerator – business sustainability advice and access decarbonisation solutions, energy audits and grant funding, delivered by the East Midlands Chamber, in partnership with Nottingham Trent University. £75,000 (decarb).

Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth

- Business Grants (productivity/rural) – supporting small business productivity and rural economic growth. £260,000.
- Established Business Advice Service – supporting businesses over 3 years to grow, delivered by Nottinghamshire County Council Business Advisors £30,000.
- Start-up Scale Up Programme – supporting pre-start and early stage enterprises to start up and scale up, delivered by NBV Enterprise Solutions £80,000.
- Grow – support for economically inactive residents to access employment and skills development opportunities including, job search, cv writing, interview skills and volunteering, delivered by Framework Housing Association. £90,000.

Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, Technology and Infrastructure

- Accelerator – business advice and access to innovation and technological growth solutions delivered by East Midlands Chamber, in partnership with Nottingham Trent University. £75,000.

Goal 10: Reduced inequality

- See Goal 3 Premier League Primary Stars.
- Alternative Education Programme – supporting residents within the GRT Community to access education and life skills opportunities, working in partnership with local training providers and charities as a multi-agency approach. £35,000
- See Goal 4 VIY scheme.
- Investment in rural community facilities – grants for supporting improvements to community assets and purchase of equipment for rural communities impacted by social isolation, limited access to opportunity or deprivation. This includes some investment in sporting facilities. £500,000.
- See goal 11 capital project development – investment in key levelling up areas.

Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities

- Adventure Guides Project- working with local young people and community to groups to undertake environmental volunteering projects across the district, delivered by YMCA. £24,000
- Investment in Town Centre Lighting Newark– tackling ASB by investing in improved town centre lighting. £130,000
- Investment in Town Centre footfall cameras across the district. £38,000
- Redevelopment of Sherwood Avenue Play Park Newark. £250,000
- Newark and Sherwood Community Grant Scheme – grant funding for local volunteering and social action projects, including purchasing equipment, improving facilities and supporting events and project delivered by local community groups. £65,000
- Capital project development and feasibility – supporting town centre and community regeneration schemes across the district including Forest Corner, Clipstone, Bilsthorpe and Newark Town. £358,000
- Investment in Enterprise Infrastructure and Town Centre regeneration – 32 Stodman street retail units and public realm improvements. £400,000
- Public realm improvements Balderton – delivered by Balderton Parish Council including installation of information boards, cycle racks and benches. £50,000

Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production

- We regularly monitor the energy consumption and carbon footprint of the council. This has led to a review of the utilities in order to fully investigate the opportunities to both reduce our CO2 footprint and save money.
- Also, the decarbonisation scheme will lead to significant reductions in fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

Goal 13: Climate action

- 5 corporate sites now have solar PV installed.
- Decarb strategy has been completed, now validating sites for decarbonisation works.

- Local Area Energy Plan (Reducing the district's carbon footprint)
- We are in the process of reviewing our utilities to enable us to potentially switch to fully green tariffs potentially saving 587tonnes CO2 per year.
- In the last 2 years we have given away 4,361 trees and planted 1,963 trees and have a significant planting scheme opportunity that we are currently exploring.
- Sherwood Community Tree Nursery- developing the Sherwood Seedbank Nursery site located next to Sherwood Forest, including planting over 10,000 trees grown on site, and coordinating a volunteer programme for local community participation, delivered by Sherwood Forest Trust. £93,000
- Carbon Trust Net Zero Target review. Looking at the feasibility of reducing our 2035 targets and incorporating Housing Stock for 2035, that will inform our decarbonisation decisions.
- The Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) is a pathway broken down into components that show the wider district's route to achieve net zero. It will list the interventions and where they will have the most impact, for example, heating system installations in this area and public electric vehicle chargers in the district.

Goal 14: Life below water

- Motion for the Ocean activities.
- Work with Severn Trent, the Environment Agency, developers, and other agencies to explore ways to improve the water quality of our rivers and coastal waters.
- The Trent Gateway Masterplan had a Project Steering Group in the development of the vision, comprising of representatives from numerous agencies.
- Three Rivers Project.
- The District Council is working with ecologists, hydrologists, and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust to improve the water at Vicar Water Country Park. The works include de-culverting parts of Vicar Water, dredging, and wetland creation at Vicar Dale and beyond.

Goal 15: Life on land Biodiversity

- Biodiversity net gain in planning is carefully managed to ensure a minimum of 10 biodiversity uplift on new developments.
- Plans under way to put together a biodiversity strategy that will lead to working programs going ahead.

Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions

We are going for DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance) accreditation is the UK benchmark for how housing providers should respond to domestic abuse in the UK.

Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals

We lead and sit within a variety of working groups with different partners in government and private sector, including:

- Notts County Council
- Trent Water
- Environment agency
- River and canal Trusts
- Woodland Trust
- Sherwood Forest Trust
- Notts wildlife trust
- Trent River trust
- Police
- Town Council Parish Councils
- Forestry commission