



Report to: Policy & Performance Improvement Committee: 10 March 2025

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Report Summary	
Report Title	Community Plan Refresh
Purpose of Report	To present the refreshed Community Plan 2023-2027 (<i>appendix 1</i>)
Recommendations	That the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee endorse the refreshed Community Plan 2023-2027 and forward any comments to Cabinet for consideration at their meeting to be held on 1 April 2025.

1. **Background**

- 1.1 The Community Plan is the key direction setting document used to outline the priorities and vision of the Council for a four-year term. The current Community Plan has been in place formally since December 2023, when it was approved by Full Council.
- 1.2 The Community Plan is one of a suite of documents, setting out and defining the Councils priorities. Another key document within this suite is the Performance Report, which was refreshed and the performance indicators updated based on the 2023-2027 Community Plan. The new performance indicators came into effect as of Quarter 1 2024/25.
- 1.3 Portfolio Holders, committee Chairs and Vice Chairs have been working to review progress against the Community Plan as it enters the start of the third year (*Figure 1*). The purpose for reviewing the Community Plan is to understand which actions have been completed and embedded within everyday operations, enabling those to be removed from the plan which allows the outstanding actions to be clearly visible. This visibility then allows the Administration to inwardly challenge whether what is outstanding is still a priority and account for any emerging priorities which have arisen since the development of the plan.

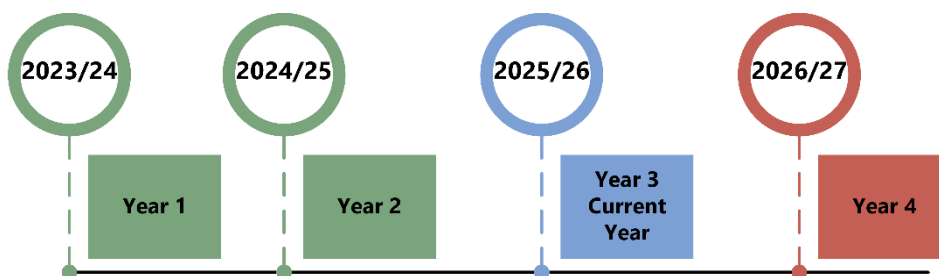


Figure 1. Community Plan Timeline

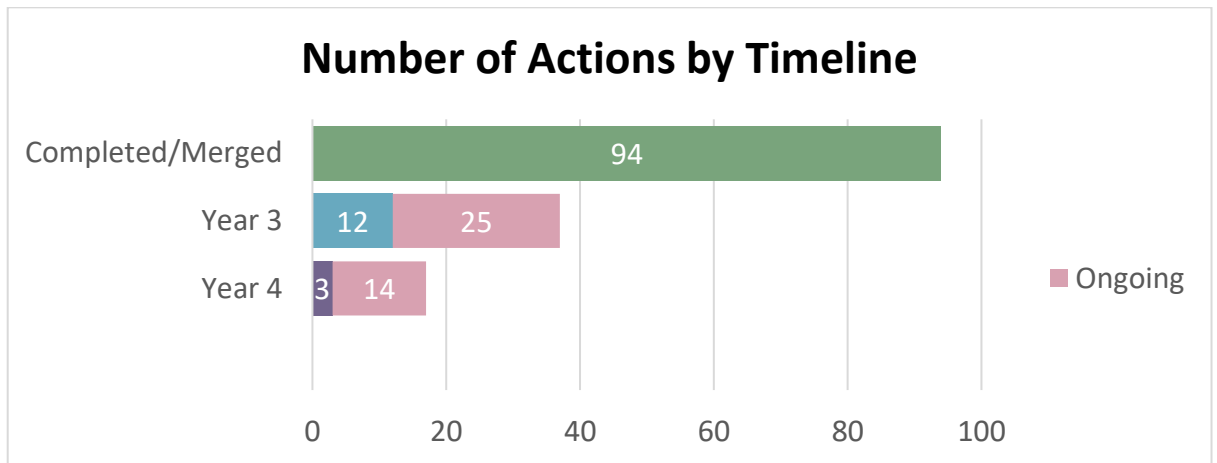
2. Proposal/Options Considered

- 2.1. At the core of the Community Plan is its objectives, which consists of 8 objectives covering the breadth of Council business. These objectives were reviewed by Members as part of this process, to understand the priority order of each objective and to sense check whether these objectives still reflect the priorities and ambitions of the Council.
- 2.2. As such work has been undertaken within the refreshed Community Plan **Appendix 1** (to follow) to propose that our Objectives are rebranded, to be known as our Ambitions, as well as some changes to the phrasing of particular Ambitions. These Ambitions are reflected by 7 separate statements (*figure 2*).



Figure 2. Community Plan Ambitions

- 2.3. To complement this, the actions contained within each of the Ambitions have been reviewed to understand whether the actions have been completed and embedded into business as usual and can therefore be removed from the plan, or where crossovers exist and a synergy can be sought between actions and finally, what is currently ongoing or yet to begin and will do so in either year 3 or year 4.



- 2.4. The proposal to remove actions which are complete and have been embedded into business-as-usual processes is necessary for the visibility and accountability of the refreshed Community Plan, however this did mean that our everyday services felt underrepresented within the plan. As described by the LGA, “Local government touches the lives of everybody, every day”¹
- 2.5. As such it has been proposed that a new page should be inserted within the refreshed plan entitled ‘Services we provide for Communities Every Day’ (*page 12, appendix 1*). This forms part of a holistic overview that the Community Plan sets out, from our District, through the mechanics of the Council and how we finance our plans. The inclusion of our everyday services demonstrates why we exist and how we serve communities day in day out, which then leads into the Ambitions the Council has over and above those day-to-day services.
- 2.6. This process has also included some additional actions being added into the Community Plan. All changes to the actions, including actions which have been removed or added in, can be reviewed with **Appendix 2**.
- 2.7. As such, it is recommended that Members of the Policy and Performance Improvement Committee review the refreshed Community Plan and endorse the plan to Cabinet.

3. **Future Considerations:**

- 3.1 The 2023-2027 Community Plan is likely to be the final plan produced by Newark & Sherwood District Council, due to the impending Local Government Reorganisation. As such the plan has been amended to include an action which focuses on ensuring that the Council seeks to secure the best outcomes for the communities of Newark & Sherwood arising from this impending reorganisation. With that in mind, the Community Plan may need to flex and adapt to ensure a smooth transition, expected to take effect within the next 2-3 years.

4. **Implications**

¹ [What is local government? | Local Government Association](#)

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.

Financial Implications (FIN24-25/6470)

- 4.1 Many of the actions within the Community Plan do not require additional financial resources due to the nature of the actions. For many of the actions that require additional budget, this budget has been included within the 2025/26 budget or within the Medium-Term Financial Plan. Actions for which clarity is needed will be reviewed prior to the 2025/26 budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan being approved by Cabinet and Full Council post approval of this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.