



Report to: Policy & Performance Improvement Committee – 30 June 2025

Director Lead: Deborah Johnson, Director of Customer Services & Organisational Development

Lead Officer: Carl Burns, Transformation & Service Improvement Manager, Rowan Bosworth-Brown, Senior Transformation & Service Improvement Officer

Report Summary	
Report Title	Out of Remit Activities (OoRA) Working Group Update
Purpose of Report	To update members of the Policy Performance and Improvement Committee (PPIC) on the progress made by the OoRA Working Group to date and seek endorsement for two recommendations relating to flood resilience.
Recommendations	<p>That the Policy and Performance Improvement Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Endorse the recommendation that NSDC write to the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA), to request a renewed focus and further support on building flood resilience for the communities of Newark and Sherwood b. Endorse the recommendation to invite the Environment Agency to the meeting of the Policy and Performance Improvement Committee scheduled to take place 1 December 2025 c. Note the progress of the Working Group to date

1.0 Background

In January 2025 a topic request form was submitted by Cllr Paul Peacock to review ‘Out of Remit Activities’. The rationale for this subject was that the Council’s resources are stretched and coming under increasing pressure. There is no single explanation for this but a combination of factors which are placing a strain on our capacity to deliver. By ensuring we scrutinise our commitments we can clearly define areas in which we occupy a wider community leadership role, a role of influence only and those in which we are a direct service provider.

As such it was approved by the Chair of PPIC to form a working group to consider any activities the Council are committed to outside of its remit as a District Council and balance the benefits to our residents with the impact on the Council's resources.

The Out of Remit Activities Working Group is Chaired by Cllr Rhona Holloway and met for the first time on Wednesday 2 April 2025. The agenda included the introduction Review Initiation Document (RID), which is the guiding document for the group which will help retain focus and consists of the objectives & key questions, as well as the scope of the review. This was agreed by members.

The group acknowledged that whilst the Council deliver in several areas that could be classified as 'discretionary' making recommendations against of these is not in the remit of the Working Group. Rather, the group hope to map the activities by where the Council steps into spaces that should be delivered by someone else.

The first of these areas was flood resilience at the meeting held on 4 June 2025. The group received an informative presentation from the director of Communities and Environment, as well as the Business Manager for Public Protection. The group were able to find out more about this function from the perspectives of both flood response and flood resilience, our role under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 as Category 1 responders and apply scrutiny as appropriate.

2.0 Proposal/Options Considered

- a. In November 2024, the Council, alongside Bassetlaw District Council, hosted a Flood Impacts and Mitigation session. The purpose of this session was to outline the history of flooding locally, what risk that poses to our communities and the impact that has in the case of an emergency response being declared. The session also outlined some of the actions that have been taken at a local level to build resilience and develop closer working relationships with some of the key flood partnership agencies.

The session also focused on some of the issues and challenges being experienced, which sit at a regional and national level and explored what the solutions are to address some of these known challenges. The session ended with a focus on the support required from EMCCA, which consisted of the following three points:

1. Broker a meeting with relevant Ministers to push for action regarding funding
2. Use convening powers to scope the potential formation of an East Midlands Flooding Taskforce which aims to:
 - Shape cross authority flood alleviation planning
 - Link EA flood alleviation priorities with strategic investment/growth funding
 - Dovetail flood mitigation with enhanced green spaces
 - Create a platform for a strong regional voice on flood alleviation
3. Advocate for government investment into flood alleviation in the region

There has been formal communication with EMCCA to this end, however the Working Group agree that it would be appropriate to recommend that Cllr Paul Peacock write to EMCCA on behalf of Newark and Sherwood District Council to shine a spotlight on this topic, expressing once more the severity of the impact that is felt by our communities in relation to incidents of flooding and bring this issue back to the forefront of the EMCCA.

- b. The Working Groups second recommendation in relation to flood resilience is that some of the key partner agencies, including the Environment Agency, be invited to attend a meeting of the Policy and Performance Improvement Committee. The purpose of extending this invitation to these agencies is to enable Members of PPIC to hear from the experts on what work is ongoing within Newark and Sherwood, enable the opportunity to ask questions on behalf of local communities to these agencies, as well as to apply a level of scrutiny, where appropriate, to the service being received across Newark and Sherwood.

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

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.

None