



Report to: Meeting of the Full Council: 15 July 2025

Relevant Committee Chair: Councillor Jean Hall, General Purposes Committee

Director Lead: Sue Bearman, Assistant Director – Legal & Democratic Services

Lead Officer: Nigel Hill, Business Manager – Elections & Democratic Services, Ext. 5243

Report Summary	
<b>Report Title</b>	Community Governance Review – Newark Town Council
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To approve the Final Recommendations following the Community Governance Review of Newark Town Council undertaken by the General Purposes Committee.
<b>Recommendations</b>	That Council:  a) approve the Final Recommendations as set out at Appendix B to the report for publication on the Council’s website; and  b) make the appropriate Community Governance Order following notification to interested parties of the outcome of the review.
<b>Reason for Recommendation</b>	To conclude the Community Governance Review of Newark Town Council to ensure the ward boundaries and electoral arrangements remain effective and convenient for the local community.

## 1.0 Background

- 1.1 In accordance with the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Council has the responsibility for undertaking community governance reviews.
- 1.2 The General Purposes Committee began such a review of Newark Town Council following approval of the Terms of Reference at their meeting held on 12 December 2024. These Terms of Reference (attached as **Appendix A** to the report) set out the scope for the review and timetable.
- 1.3 In accordance with the timetable for the review, the General Purposes Committee considered representations on draft proposals at their meeting held on 19 June 2025, and agreed to recommend the Final Recommendations, attached as **Appendix B** to the report, to Full Council for approval.

## **2.0 Proposal/Options Considered**

- 2.1 The Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 places a duty on the Council to have regard to the need to secure that any Community Governance Review reflects the identities and any interests of the local community and that it is effective and convenient. Relevant considerations which influence judgements against those two principal criteria include the impact on community cohesion and the size, population and boundaries of the proposed area.
- 2.2 The context for the review was the housing development in the South Ward, the lack of housing development in the East Ward, and ensuring that Member representation was equitable across the Town Council.
- 2.3 The Final Recommendations contain minimal changes which are set out in paragraph 2.1 of Appendix B. These changes will ensure appropriate electoral arrangements ahead of the scheduled poll to be held in May 2027.

## **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.

### **Legal Implications (LEG2526/8177)**

- 3.1 Full Council is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report. The Council's Constitution reserves electoral matters including functions relating to community governance to Full Council for decision.
- 3.2 The review considered the Local Government Boundary Commission for England Guidance on Community Governance Reviews. The review provides for a transparent and accessible consultation process, for a reasonable period, to ensure that the views of local electors and other stakeholders are fully considered.

## **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.

General Purposes Committee Report - 12 December 2024 – Item 5 <https://democracy.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MIId=1003>

Report to General Purposes Committee - 20 March 2025 – Item 5 <https://democracy.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MIId=1004>

Report to General Purposes Committee – 19 June 2025 – Item 5 <https://democracy.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MIId=1141>