

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Cabinet** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY on Tuesday, 8 July 2025 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor P Peacock (Chair)

Councillor S Crosby, Councillor L Brazier, Councillor C Penny, Councillor P Taylor and Councillor J Kellas

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor N Allen, Councillor S Haynes and Councillor P Rainbow

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor R Cozens and Councillor S Forde

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

The Leader advised that the proceedings were being audio recorded and live streamed by the Council.

280 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillor P Taylor declared an Other Registerable Interest in Agenda Item No. 12 – Management and Maintenance of Public Open Space on New Residential Developments as Chair of the Castle Brewery Management Company.

281 MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10 JUNE 2025

The minutes from the meeting held on 10 June 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

282 CHAIR'S UPDATE

In referring to the Government's commitment of funding for the dualling of the A46, the Chair welcomed the good news adding that it was hoped there would be an announcement in the next few days about the A614 Improvement Scheme.

The Chair also referred to the meeting of Cabinet on 15 July, immediately following the meeting of full Council which was being held to confirm the decision of Council in relation to the preferred Option for Local Government Reorganisation.

283 PROVISIONAL FINANCIAL OUTTURN REPORT TO 31 MARCH 2025

The Business Manager – Financial Services, was in attendance to present the provisional 2024/25 financial outturn position on the Council's revenue and capital budgets, including: General Fund Revenue; Housing Revenue Account; Capital Programme; Provisions and Impaired Estimates on Debtors; Usable Reserves; and Collection Fund.

The report detailed a summary of actual income and expenditure compared to the revised budget and how any surpluses/deficits have been allocated to/from reserves. Members considered the report and welcomed the Council's financial position.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- a) the final outturn of revenue and capital spending for 2024/25 be noted;
- b) the capital financing proposals as set out in table 5 at paragraph 1.19 of the report, be noted;
- c) the Capital Programme reprofiling of £7.817m carried forward into 2025/26, as per appendices E and F to the report, be noted;
- d) the movement in Provisions and Impaired Estimates on Debtors be noted;
- e) the creation of the new reserve, as outlined in paragraph 1.28 of the report, be approved; and
- f) the individual contributions to, and withdrawals from, the revenue and capital Usable Reserves be noted.

Reasons for Decision:

To consider the provisional 2024/25 financial outturn position on the Council's revenue and capital budgets.

To consider performance against actual income and expenditure compared to the revised budget and how any surpluses/deficits have been allocated to/from reserves.

Options Considered:

None, this report provides information on the Council's financial outturn for 2024/25.

284 COMMUNITY PLAN PERFORMANCE FOR QUARTER 4 2024/25

The Senior Transformation & Service Improvement Officer was in attendance to present the Community Plan Performance for Quarter 4 2024/25. The comprehensive report provided a wide range of information, which included: customer feedback; implementation of Health & Wellbeing Strategy; pollution prevention; ongoing work to increase the supply, choice and standard of housing; creation of employment opportunities; and tackling ASB.

In considering the report, Members raised the increase of an increase rent arrears. In response, the Portfolio Holder – Housing and the Director -Housing, Health & Wellbeing advised that the implementation of Universal Credit had greatly impacted this but were confident that an improvement would be seen in Q1.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

- a) review the Community Plan Performance Report attached as Appendix 1 to the report;
- b) review the compliance report attached as Appendix 2 to the report; and
- c) consider the Council's performance against its objectives highlighting any areas of high performance and identifying areas for improvement.

Reasons for Decision:

Performance management is used to drive improvement by analysing data and progress against key activities as well as building a picture of the context of performance using district statistics, customer feedback and workforce information.

Options Considered:

Not applicable, this report presents the Council's performance against Community Plan objectives.

285 QUARTER 4 2024/25 - HOUSING COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE REPORT

The Director – Housing, Health & Wellbeing was in attendance to present the Housing Assurance position as of 31 March 2025 (Quarter 4) with regard to compliance including actions to rectify identified issues.

It was reported that the slight reduction in gas servicing compliance was due to a dip in contractor performance. This was now being address following the contractor appointing a manager to oversee the implementation of the Action Plan. Additional engineers had also been appointed to reduce the number of properties out of compliance. In total there were 4 homes where the oil service and solid fuel service had not been completed with work ongoing to contact the tenants. In relation to EICR electrical certification compliance, work was ongoing towards being 100% compliant and being 6 months in advance of renewal of certification. It was reported that there had been recruitment issues to key posts to fulfil fire safety checks and this had now been resolved with internal and external resource now in place.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet note:

- a) the exceptions to performance of the housing service compliance functions; and
- b) the new format for performance for Quarter 4 2024.25 onwards.

Reasons for Decision:

To enable the Cabinet to monitor performance and compliance relating to the Council's legal and regulatory landlord responsibilities for 27 building safety measures including fire protection, gas, asbestos, electrical and water.

Options Considered:

Not applicable, this report presents performance of housing compliance services.

286 CORPORATE ANNUAL BUDGET STRATEGY FOR 2026/27

The Business Manager – Financial Services was in attendance to present the General Fund, Capital & HRA Budget Strategy for 2026/27 for consideration by Members before detailed work commenced.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

- a) approve the overall General Fund, Capital & HRA Budget Strategy for 2026/27;
- b) note the consultation process with Members;
- c) note that Budget Officers continue work on the assessment of various budget proposals affecting services for consideration in setting the Council's budget;
- d) note that Budget Managers work with Finance Officers in identifying further efficiency savings, increasing income from fees and charges and in identifying new sources of income; and
- e) review the policies and principles on Budgeting, Council Tax, Reserves and Provisions, Charging, Value for Money and make any recommendations to Council.

Reasons for Decision:

To enable the Council's budget process to proceed in accordance with assumptions set out in this report.

Options Considered:

Not applicable, the Budget Strategy is required each year in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

287 PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK 2025/26

The Transformation & Service Improvement Manager was in attendance to present an update on the Performance Framework and indicator that would be used to monitor and measure the Council's performance against the refreshed Community Plan. The report also provided the Cabinet with the results of the recent Assurance Review of Performance Management. The Framework provided details of Corporate Planning, Performance Management, Assurance and Data Quality.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet note:

- a) the Corporate Planning, Performance Management and Assurance Framework at Appendix 1 to the report;

- b) the refreshed performance indicators at Appendix 2 to the report; and
- c) the findings of the recent Assurance Review of Performance Management at Appendix 3 to the report.

Reasons for Decision:

The Performance Framework is refreshed on a regular basis to reflect the priorities of the Council.

Options Considered:

None considered, a mechanism is required to measure the Council's performance.

288 SALE OF THE HOLLIES, BARNBY ROAD, NEWARK (KEY DECISION)

The Asset Manager was in attendance to present a report which sought Cabinet's consideration of a proposal that the current tenant, Hope House School, purchase the freehold titles for The Hollies. It was reported that an initial offer from the school had been made in 2023 of £220,000 to purchase the property. Following a Red Book Valuation carried out by Richard Watkinson on behalf of the Council this was considered to be too low with the site being valued at £950,000. Following discussions with the School, a revised formal offer was made in line with the valuation of £950,000, subject to contract and survey.

AGREED (unanimously) that the exclusive sale of the Hollies, Barnby Road, Newark, to Hope House School be approved.

Reasons for Decision:

Based on the sites current market value, and the potential for future development, the offer from Hope House School is good.

The sale will enable the school to keep providing extremely complex services within the community and continue to improve the school and grow its capacity.

Options Considered:

The Council has the option not to sell and propose a further lease to Hope House School, which maybe declined leaving a void property.

A further option would be to sell The Hollies on the open market. This would have a devastating impact on the school residents and employees.

289 MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE ON NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS (KEY DECISION)

The Director – Planning & Growth was in attendance to present background information into some of the challenges with regard to the different models for securing the appropriate long-term management and maintenance of Public Open Space within new residential developments and to provide recommendations for future stated preferences. Details of the Council's current approach were reported, noting that the establishment of a ManCo was lawful and within a developer's gift, noting there was no national regulation. The proposal within the report was that the

Council's current position be extended to welcome taking on open space on all major residential developments in addition to the Strategic Urban Expansion sites, subject to securing an appropriate 20-year maintenance contribution.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

- a) note that Management Companies are a lawful and legitimate model for the ongoing management and maintenance of Public Open Space which can continue to be promoted by developers;
- b) endorse the recommendation of the Planning Policy Board to produce guidance on Public Open Space Management Company Best Practice to cover instances where a Management Company is promoted by the developer;
- c) endorse the recommendation of the Planning Policy Board to continue to promote the Council managing and maintaining Public Open Space on Strategic Urban Extension (SUE) sites in the first instance; and
- d) endorse the recommendation of the Planning Policy Board to continue to promote for all non-SUE residential housing developments the principle of public ownership of Public Open Space, either via the District Council alongside an appropriate commuted payment to cover 20 years maintenance or via the host Town or Parish Council where they have the appetite, capacity and capability to do so. Should the developer insist on a Management Company, it shall accord with the guidance detailed at b) above.

Reasons for Decision:

Addressing the appropriate and ongoing management and maintenance of Open Space will ensure ongoing quality and equity for new residential developments, in accordance with Ambitions 2, 3, 6 and 7 of the Council's Community Plan.

Options Considered:

The Council could allow market forces and developer preferences to dictate future approaches to the management of Public Open Space on new development. This is discounted in favour of clear guidance and preference such that the development industry, Town and Parish Council's and future residents are clear on expectations and limitations. Moreover, guidance will ensure appropriate practices are secured as far as reasonably possible.

Meeting closed at 7.32 pm.

Chair