



NEWARK &
SHERWOOD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Community Plan Performance Report

2025 – 26 Q1

1 April to 30 June 2025



SERVING PEOPLE, IMPROVING LIVES

Introduction

At Newark and Sherwood District Council, our mission is to empower residents and businesses to thrive, while also attracting visitors to experience the unique offerings of our area. Our strategy to achieve this is outlined in our Community Plan, which was developed with input from residents and sets forth the Council's ambitions and activities over a four-year period.

Having been in place for two years, our 2023-27 Community Plan has recently undergone a review to ensure it remains relevant and reflective of ongoing and upcoming projects and initiatives. This continuous refreshment is crucial to maintaining the plan's effectiveness.

Our performance framework complements the Community Plan by detailing how we will measure the success of our ambitions through key performance indicators, utilising both qualitative and quantitative data.



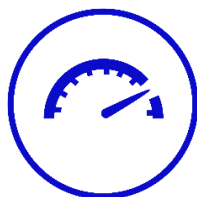
This report evaluates the Council's performance against the Community Plan, focusing on key services and activities from **1 April to 30 June 2025 (Quarter 1)**. Understanding our performance enables us to promote good practices, ensure quality service delivery, and identify areas for improvement. The Council's performance is measured in four parts, three of which are detailed within this report. The fourth part, Our Customers, is reported twice a year in our Customer Feedback Report.



Our District

A basket of data indicators which allow us to examine how our district is performing in key areas, acting as a form of 'health check'.

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Our Performance

How we are delivering against the objectives we outline in the Community Plan.

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Our Workforce

To understand how the Council's staff are performing and how we are supporting staff. This is important as a positive and motivated workforce is more likely to be high performing.

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Our District



About Newark and Sherwood (2021 Census)

A resident population of 122,956 (14.9% of Nottinghamshire's population).

There are 53,332 dwellings in the district, 38.5% are owned outright, 31.3% are owned with a mortgage or loan, 13.9% are socially rented, 16.3% are private rented around 10% directly owned by the Council.

92.7% of the district population were born in the UK.

60.5% of the district's population are working age (16 to 64), 17% are 16 years or younger and 22.4% of the population are over the age of 65. For those over the age of 65, this percentage has increase by 3.5% when compared to the 2011 census demonstrating a growing older population when compared to the 2021 census. In terms of socio-economic challenges, 16.2% of households do not own a car or van, 0.8% of households do not have a form of central heating and 19.1% of residents do not have any formal qualifications.

Performance of our district

This data tells us something about our district in **Quarter 1 2025-26**. Most of these indicators are not factors we can directly affect, only influence, but they add context to the work we undertake.

Footfall: The table shows the average footfall figures for quarter 1 for Newark, Southwell, Edwinstowe and Ollerton. There were decreases in visitor numbers across all four locations. The most significant decrease was in Newark, with June recording the lowest average daily footfall figure of 2025 so far. Footfall in Southwell, Edwinstowe and Ollerton dropped less dramatically.

In Newark there was a 12.7% decrease in footfall when compared to May 2025. May was an exceptionally busy month, being 6.5% higher than the 2025 average, meaning that the decrease in June wasn't as dramatic as the figure suggests. Despite this, June was still the quietest month of 2025 so far in terms of footfall, being 7% below from the average for all of 2025. It was also 9% lower than the average daily footfall figure recorded in June 2024. This downturn in footfall could be attributed in part to the heat wave experienced during the second half of June. High temperatures of 27 – 30 degrees may have encouraged more people to stay at home, or to participate in more 'out-of-town' activities like going to parks, the beach or garden centres.

Declining visits to town centres may also be influenced by increasing household bills, with families cutting back after the May bank holiday and in anticipation of summer holidays. The decline in footfall during the first three weeks of June was a national trend, with footfall weakening by approximately 8%.

In terms of Newark-specific challenges, the congestion that has resulted from the A46 works at Farndon may have influenced people to shop out of town due to ease of access. This will continue until August 2026. There were delays on 16th – 17th June following a police incident on Lombard Street, and on 30th June when the level crossing malfunctioned. Two high profile police-incidents in May and June may have also played a role in deterring visits to town.

Average Daily Footfall				
	Newark	Southwell	Edwinstowe	Ollerton
April 2025	6,604	2,120	2,193	2,446
May 2025	7,017	2,069	2,226	2,415
June 2025	6,123	2,039	2,149	2,402
Q1 Average	6,581	2,076	2,189	2,421

Our District



Exploring our performance.

In this section of the report, we look at a few key measures of customer interaction to monitor how we interact with our customers, and we look at what our customers are telling us about the services they receive. We analyse these comments and show how we are learning from customer feedback.



Interactions with the Council

This information gives an indication of demand for council assistance year to date:

- **4,105 face-to-face** contacts were held at Castle House, a 15.95% decrease when compared to the same period last year.
- **26,172 calls** were received by the contact centre, a 14.82% decrease when compared to the same period last year.
- **12,846 digital web form transactions** were completed by our customers, a 17.01% decrease when compared to the same period last year.

Although overall customer contact across all channels decreased this quarter, our digital engagement continues to exceed expectations. We welcomed **456,351 unique website users**, nearly **four times** our target of 118,750. In addition, **5,161 residents subscribed to our e-newsletters**, outperforming the target by **6.3%**. These figures indicate that many customers are choosing to access information digitally, in ways that suit their preferences, reducing the need for direct contact through traditional methods. It's also worth noting that the launch of our **kerbside glass collection service** in 2024/25 led to a temporary increase in customer enquiries via these channels.

Local Government Reorganisation

In December 2024, the Government released the English Devolution White Paper which outlined ambitions to begin a period of structural change to Local Government across England. The aim of this structural change is to transition from a two-tier system to a single tier system (also known as a Unitary Authority) of Local Government, which will be responsible for all local services in an area. In February 2025, the Government invited Councils to submit proposals for new Unitary Authority structures, with final submissions due by 28 November. The submissions must aim to create more efficient and effective Local Government, potentially leading to streamlined services and cost savings for residents.



Our Community Plan sets out our ambition to secure the very best option for the residents of Newark and Sherwood arising from the reorganisation of Local Government and as such we will continue to report on how we're progressing at strategic points throughout the year. These progress updates can be found in [Ambition 7 – Be a top performing, modern and accessible Council, that get its everyday services right for the residents and businesses that it serves.](#)

Break down barriers to opportunity to enable residents and businesses to prosper and fulfil their potential



What have we been doing this quarter;

Last quarter we shared that the **development of the Sustainable Economic Growth Strategy 2025-2030** (SEGS) was underway. The consultation period with Members and Officers has now concluded and the draft strategy has now been shared with key stakeholders for a further period of consultation which is expected to last until August 2025. We will then begin analysing the responses, with consideration to be given to what changes will be required and these changes will be communicated accordingly. We are anticipating that the SEGS will be presented to Cabinet in Autumn 2025 for approval.

Within our Community Plan we set out our ambition to **work with partners to identify options and sources of funding to improve public transport**. In order to deliver on this ambition, our teams have been continuing to liaise with colleagues in Public Transport at Nottinghamshire County Council on potential service improvements. This department are currently in a transitional stage, as they will be becoming part of the East Midlands County Combined Authority within the next 12 months.

Support local communities to develop the necessary skills in order to benefit from the pipeline of major infrastructure developments: We formed an Employment & Skills Board (ESB) with representation from our key partners including Colleges, Department for Work and Pensions, Nottinghamshire County Council, training providers, as well as employers. The Board aims to steer, influence and support learning and training for improved qualifications and employment opportunities. The delivery of training and education using the Adult Skills Fund, which is accessed through training providers, is designed by the needs of local communities. We facilitated a meeting of key employers this quarter, and the purpose of this meeting was to understand opportunities for collaboration, what challenges there were and what solutions could be created to enable better connections with local key assets like the construction college and ASI.

Our ambition to **deliver regeneration within Ollerton Town Centre** has progressed this quarter. The RIBA Plan of Work is a document that outlines all stages in the planning design and building process. Stages range from 0 – Strategic Definition through to 7 – Use. The project completed RIBA Stage 2 – Concept Design this quarter, which focused on developing initial design ideas based on the project brief, exploring various design options,

and creating visual representations of the project's potential. This stage also involved collaboration between the client and design team to refine these concepts and ensure they align with the project goals and budget. The project is proceeding to develop through to RIBA 3 – Spatial Coordination, this stage focuses on developing the concept design into a more detailed and coordinated plan, ensuring that the



CGI Illustration of Ollerton Town Centre Regeneration

Break down barriers to opportunity to enable residents and businesses to prosper and fulfil their potential



design meets spatial requirements and is aligned with the project brief. It involves coordinating architectural, structural, and building services designs, as well as considering construction methods and cost implications.

We are currently in negotiation with key stakeholders and partners to ensure the project can be delivered, this includes working with the Town Council and the owners within the site. The project is on track for completion in 2028/29.

The **Clipstone regeneration scheme** is progressing in 3 phases, phase 1 has proceeded to tender for contractors regarding the building of new industrial units. Phase 2 has completed RIBA 2, this stage focuses on developing initial design ideas based on the project brief, exploring various design options, and creating visual representations of the project's potential. This stage involves collaboration between the client and design team to refine these concepts and ensure they align with the project goals and budget. The project is now proceeding into RIBA stage 3. Discussions with landowners, Clipstone Miners Welfare and Welbeck on delivery of the scheme including access, remediation works and costs. Phase 3 has completed RIBA 1 for completion of scope of works and identified a budget figure. This will aim to deliver an enhanced community facility in Clipstone.

The project to **redevelop the Clipstone Holdings site with high quality, environmentally sustainable industrial units** has reached the tender stage of the procurement process, with the project plans being reviewed by potential bidders. The evaluation of the tender returns is expected to take place in Quarter 2 and we expect to be in a position to appoint a contractor later this year with a start on site in early 2026. The build phase will take approximately 18 months to complete and the site should be operational during 2027.

“The new energy-efficient office and workshop spaces will bring huge economic benefits – from providing modern facilities to attract businesses, to increasing the opportunities for employment and skills for local people, while also sustaining the overall character and appearance of the area, which is the setting of landmark nearby listed buildings.

“The units have already received lots of interest, and we have received several enquiries about renting these, which just goes to show how in demand modern business spaces such as these are for the community.”

Cllr Paul Peacock

Break down barriers to opportunity to enable residents and businesses to prosper and fulfil their potential



Measuring Success

Quarterly Indicators	Quarter 1 23/24	Quarter 1 24/25	Quarter 1 25/26	Target 25/26
All Other Indicator Types				
Newark Beacon - % of occupied units	63.7%	86.3%	85.0%	83.0%
Commercial Property - % occupied units	100.0%	98.0%	100.0%	95.0%
Sherwood Forest Arts and Crafts - % of occupied units	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	95.0%
% of planning applications (major) determined within statutory timelines	100.0%	100.0%	86.7%	90.0%
% of planning applications (non-major) determined within statutory timelines	94.0%	91.7%	94.7%	90.0%

Exploring our performance:

Our performance regarding **speed of decision within 'Major' planning applications** can fluctuate according to the complexity of a scheme, negotiation undertaken, Biodiversity Net Gain, as well as the need for Section 106 planning obligation. The senior Planning team actively monitor and reports on performance within this area of work with regular meetings with planning officers. The figure for Q1 2025/26 represents an improvement of 53% points compared to the previous quarter and we are hopeful that this upward trend continues to the levels expected of the service. It is also worth noting that although the indicator is below our locally set target of 90%, our performance far exceeds the national requirement with 13 out of 15 applications decided within target or agreed extension of time.

Increase the supply of housing, in particular decent homes that residents can afford to buy and rent, as well as improving housing standards



What have we been doing this quarter;

Following successfully gaining reserved matters planning approval for the **Yorke Drive Regeneration Project**, the teams' architect has been developing the drawings and working to discharge the necessary conditions to start onsite. Efforts are now underway to finalise the decant strategy, ensuring that all residents and homeowners can be re-housed according to their needs. Additionally, contractors are being mobilised to begin onsite work.



CGI Illustration of Yorke Drive Regeneration

A resident survey was completed this quarter to capture how residents on the estate think and feel about Yorke Drive including feelings of belonging, pride and safety. This survey will be run at multiple points throughout the programme to ensure that all benefits are realised for both existing and new residents. Community and tenant engagement will continue to remain a key focus, as a result we are currently developing plans for the Summer Spruce-Up event and the Yorke Drive and Bridge Ward Fun Day, both of which will take place during Quarter 2. We are also engaging with young people across the estate to choose the play park equipment as part of the scheme. Additionally, an internal officers group has been formed to consider the regeneration of Yorke Drive as part of the wider community, in order to take a holistic view of all activities and plans to ensure that these are communicated and co-ordinated effectively between teams.

As part of our ambition to renew **Council homes' heating systems to improve affordability for tenants and reduce carbon emissions** in line with government funding opportunities, we have secured funding through Social Housing Fund Wave 3. This is a three year programme and we are currently in the procurement stage, the total number of properties that will receive heating system upgrades has not yet been confirmed until the procurement process comes to a close but we anticipate this will be approximately 150 properties.

We continue to follow the **social housing regulatory standards, and we are also continuing with our preparations for the inspection of our housing services from the regulator of social housing**. We are currently awaiting notification of when the inspection will be, in the meantime our teams are working to review key policies and create a position statement ready for inspection. Future communications will also be going out to customers, Members and staff to inform and update them about the inspection regime. We have also created a portfolio of evidence and completed a self-assessment against the criteria standards, which is reviewed and regularly updated. The housing performance improvement board meets monthly to ensure there is oversight of performance / compliance and identify areas for improvement within our key tenant facing services. A meeting with the Regulator is scheduled for late September with the Chief Executive, the Portfolio Holder for Housing and the Director of Housing Health and Well-Being.

Implement and embed our new Housing Management System, as part of a wider programme of improvements to Housing Repairs and Empty Homes Services. Several modules of the new Housing Management System are operational including Repairs, Rents, Anti-Social Behaviour and Customer Relationship Management. There have been some teething problems which are being addressed throughout the roll out, which is to be expected with a project of this size and scale. Our teams are working closely with the software provider to resolve any issues as they arise. Looking forward to Quarter 2-3, the Allocations module of the Housing Management System is due to go live and the Engage Portal, which will enables tenants to self serve information, is also expected to go live.

Increase the supply of housing, in particular decent homes that residents can afford to buy and rent, as well as improving housing standards



Develop new homes for open market sale or rent through Arkwood Developments Ltd, balancing housing quality, mix of housing, environmental sustainability and financial return.

- The 132-unit development at Lowfield Lane is progressing as we continue to work through discharging planning conditions. We have now concluded the procurement exercise and are in final negotiations with our preferred development partner following a formal tender process. The start date for this will be agreed with our partner upon entering the contract, however, it is likely that the earliest start will now be late September, due to a more protracted procurement negotiation process than was anticipated.
- Build progress as part of the 29-unit development at Stodman Street continues. It is expected that we will take possession of the units in Spring 2026 and as such we plan to commence marketing these units in Autumn 2025.

Arkwood Developments Ltd develop sites outside of our District, as these developments are a source of income, which in turn supports the ongoing development of sites locally. This helps ensure that Arkwood can continue to build properties that have a purpose beyond profit.

- The Manea development in Cambridge which consists of 32 units, continues to progress, we have experienced a delay in handovers due to awaiting section 278 sign off from the local authority. The sale of properties continues to progress, with 8 properties sold and a number handed over to customers.



Manea Development, Cambridge

- The Wirksworth development, which consists of 30 units continues and is progressing well albeit there has been some delay in receiving approval of the Section 278 application. The first units have recently been released off plan for sale and are attracting interest and we hope to take our first reservations in the coming weeks. It should be noted that nationally the housing market is

relatively slow at present and as a result we are seeing that potential buyers are less inclined to make 'off plan' purchases, preferring to wait to see the product when completed. The show home at this site is due for completion in September and will assist in showcasing the finished product to potential buyers.

- Long Bennington is made up of 50 units and this site remains behind our scheduled target dates due to planning requirements. We have met most of the planning requirements in terms of design aspects, however, further detailed flooding analysis has been requested. We were targeting an August planning committee decision; however, it is likely that further consultation will be required upon receipt of the flood analysis and therefore this is likely to be moved to the September Planning Committee. In the meantime, we have submitted most of the outline planning condition discharges and have procured a development partner. Therefore, we will be able to commence on site at speed once planning consent is attained to mitigate some of these delays.



Wirksworth Development, Derbyshire

Increase the supply of housing, in particular decent homes that residents can afford to buy and rent, as well as improving housing standards



Measuring Success

Quarterly Indicators	Quarter 1 23/24	Quarter 1 24/25	Quarter 1 25/26	Target 25/26
Year to Date Indicators				
Satisfaction with lettings service	92.0%	95.0%	96.0%	95.0%
Number of Council homes with retrofitted energy efficiency measures	New For Q1 24/25	21	0	TBC*
Time spent in temporary accommodation for people we owe a duty to	New For Q1 25/26	New For Q1 25/26	6.8	13.0
Average time to re-let Council properties (days)	30.4	40.5	64.5	28.0
Amount of current arrears as a % of annual rent debit	1.41%	1.64%	2.76%	2.30%

*This indicator is awaiting the outcome of the ongoing procurement process before an accurate target can be assigned.

Exploring our performance:

When looking at the average time to re-let Council properties (days), we know that process and resource issues continue to impact on our performance in this area. There is a continued focus on the performance of re-let times with weekly meetings in place with internal teams and regular updates are being delivered to the Housing Performance Improvement Board.

Last quarter we shared that we have appointed a contractor to work through the backlog of properties, but because of the nature of the backlog this figure is likely to worsen before it improves. We will likely see an improvement in Quarter 3, although we do not expect to be able to achieve the target by the end of the year due to our starting position. Profiling is now in place to monitor numbers of empty homes to better prepare for the 25/26-year end and to ensure the minimum number of empty homes are carried over into 26/27

The time spent in temporary accommodation for people we owe a duty to is performing well this quarter and that is because the Alexander Lodge provision in Newark is making a significant impact on our ability to support those in need of temporary accommodation whilst longer term housing is secured.

Improve health and wellbeing, with an emphasis on communities with lower levels of life expectancy



What have we been doing this quarter;

As part of our ongoing work to complement the implementation of our **'Health and Wellbeing Strategy'** with activities to reduce health inequalities in targeted areas, this quarter our Food Co-ordinator has been supporting a number of initiatives in the Community including:

- The continuation of cookery sessions at De Lacy Court, Ollerton including a community breakfast. These sessions are regularly being attended by 8 + tenants encouraging them to come together, learn new skills. This in turn encourages interaction and builds connections, which helps to reduce social isolation.
- Another two successful Chop and Chat Teens cooking courses in Newark and Blidworth. Over 25 young people came along across both courses, we had a mixture of male and female participants, each of them independently preparing and cooking a different one pot meal from scratch with a social eating element to finish off each session. Friendships between young people from different schools were made and those in Year 6 who are about to move to senior schools were able to meet pupils already there supporting with their transition. Each young person who attended the four sessions went home with their own NSDC 'Chop & Chat' apron and a copy of our cookbook. We have since been sent photos of the young people cooking at home which is great to see these sessions are leading to the development of positive and sustainable habits.



- The 'Great Newark and Sherwood Cake Baking Challenge' took place in April and will continue to tour the district during the school holidays, encouraging young people aged 10-16 to develop their baking skills and decorate a themed cake. This quarter we have supported over 30 young people to create the Easter Egg-stravaganza and VE Celebration Cake.
- We are supporting volunteers to launch a new Food Hub in Southwell; the hope is the hub will run once a fortnight with residents given the opportunity to purchase food at a reduced cost from Fareshare and the council's crop drop scheme. This will allow residents to access a range of healthy and affordable food similar to other food clubs across the district.
- We supported the Nottinghamshire County Show this quarter and from a health and wellbeing perspective we provided a focus on Nutrition and Cooking. You can find out more about how we supported the [County Show in Ambition 6](#).
- Grow Balderton held its first day of action with the successful opening of the district's largest community garden in Balderton. Working with an array of partners locally including the Co-op, Salvation Army and Balderton Parish Council,



Improve health and wellbeing, with an emphasis on communities with lower levels of life expectancy



the project has a small committee and is being co-ordinated by Grow Incredible who received start-up funding from our community grant scheme. Community gardens are more than just green spaces – they are powerful tools in supporting residents in meaningful ways, including improving mental and physical wellbeing, reducing loneliness and isolation and supporting the food system. We cannot wait to see this project grow.

- Working to further strengthen the wider food system, Urban Worm were successfully awarded community grant scheme funding and throughout the Easter holidays the team supported them to run 3 ‘make you own worm farm’ workshops at Vicar Water, Sconce Park and Lifespring church. We had 52 families attend the workshops with such positive feedback.

In addition to this, there have been several Health Improvement initiatives taking place around the district this quarter including:

- Two local Carer Roadshows took place at Edwinstowe House and Balderton Village Hall. These events marked the first time we have organised carer support gatherings at a local level; the aim was to reach carers across the district. Each Roadshow featured a wide range of organisations from the health and social care sector, including Nottinghamshire Carers Association, Citizens Advice, Carers Federation, Local dementia support groups and Your CVS (Community & Voluntary Service). The events were free and open to all unpaid carers, offering valuable resources, networking opportunities, and direct access to support services. We had approximately 20 carers join us at the events; our teams will be reviewing the results of a previous consultation exercise to understand how to further improve the level of engagement with future events.
- During Carers Week 2025, we also reaffirmed our dedication to supporting staff who are carers by hosting a celebratory afternoon tea event which was attended by 16 colleagues. The gathering not only offered a space for connection and reflection but also marked the re-presentation of the Carer Friendly Employer Award from the Nottinghamshire Carers Association. The award, accepted by the Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing & Leisure and Chief Executive, highlights our ongoing efforts to create a supportive workplace for carers. The initiatives we have carried out in order to be awarded this accolade, include nominating Carers Champions, reviewing internal policies, and offering drop-in sessions to foster peer support. It is all part of the 2025 theme, “Caring About Equality,” which shines a light on the inequalities unpaid carers often face and promotes better access to support and recognition.

Nottinghamshire Carers Association



CARER ROADSHOWS

Are you an unpaid carer in Newark and Sherwood?

Come along to one of our FREE carer roadshows to hear from a huge range of local services and organisations from across the Health and Social Care sector sharing information for unpaid carers.

- Local dementia groups
- Your CVS
- Citizens Advice
- Carers Federation
- Nottinghamshire Carers Association

Monday 23 June 11am - 2pm Edwinstowe House	Tuesday 24 June 11am - 2pm Balderton Village Centre
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No need to book, just turn up!

Contact wellbeing@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk or 01636 650 000 for more information.

SERVING PEOPLE, IMPROVING LIVES

NEWARK & SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Newark & Sherwood District Council

Improve health and wellbeing, with an emphasis on communities with lower levels of life expectancy



- Our Health Improvement Officer attended a number of staff wellbeing events at Bakkavor in Newark, to reduce barriers and make it easier for employees to engage with their health without disrupting their day. We partnered with Active4Today to deliver Body MOTs and blood pressure checks. Additionally, we



continued the rollout of the new-style drop-in Body MOTs across four of our Council sites, we have found this is proving to be popular, with over 20 full MOTs already delivered.

As part of our ambition to **implement our 'Playing Pitch Strategy' and 'Sports and Recreational Facilities Strategy', including the provision of 5 new 5G sports pitches**, the Football Foundation invited Expressions of Interest for the first 3G pitches to be delivered as part of our portfolio approach to delivering five pitches over the coming years. Expressions of Interest were submitted for the Brinkley site in Southwell and three schools in

Newark, consisting of the Newark Academy Magnus and Suthers Schools respectively. Following assessment and decision by the Football Foundation, the schemes are now moving forward to the next phase of technical investigations to ensure delivery is possible. Once technical deliverability has been assessed those successful sites will be confirmed.

Work is still ongoing to bring forward sites in Clipstone and Ollerton as part of larger transformational projects – Levelling Up in Clipstone and the re-build of the Dukeries School in Ollerton. The complexity of these schemes has impacted on the pace of delivery at these sites.

We remain committed to **maximising funding opportunities with the aim of improving health and wellbeing facilities across the district**. In Quarter 1 this has included working with the Football Foundation to leverage around 60% of the costs associated with the delivery of 3G pitches across the district as well as working with [Sport England](#) to secure a £30,000 grant for the delivery of a new energy efficient pool cover at the Dukeries Pool.

With the **successful completion of the Sherwood Avenue park redevelopment**, attention has now turned to a wider programme of playground audits across our district. These audits form part of a broader strategy to evaluate the condition, accessibility, and community value of the parks and play areas we maintain. Each site is being assessed based on several key criteria, including:

- Location and surrounding population density
- Community engagement and feedback on local needs
- Accessibility from an inclusive design perspective
- Health and safety standards and maintenance needs
- Purpose and play value
- Frequency of visitor use

Planning is also underway for two potential new play areas as part of the Yorke Drive Regeneration project as well as renewal of the Riverside Park play area. These explorations are not only focused on structural play equipment but also consider the integration of natural play elements and opportunities for

Improve health and wellbeing, with an emphasis on communities with lower levels of life expectancy



educational features within play spaces. This includes embedding messages around sustainability, either through interactive signage, nature based play features, or sensory trails that help children learn through exploration.

Additionally, there is an ongoing initiative to introduce wildflower planting within our park environments. This will enhance biodiversity, attract local wildlife, and help transform our open spaces into more welcoming, vibrant, and safe environments for families and community members of all ages. Together, these efforts reflect our commitment to delivering inclusive, engaging, and environmentally conscious play spaces that support wellbeing, learning, and community connection.

We are celebrating a record-breaking year after **receiving six prestigious Green Flag Awards**, the international quality mark for parks and green spaces. Sherwood Avenue Park has joined the list of award-winning sites, bringing the District Council's total to six.

These recognitions highlight our ongoing commitment to maintaining high-quality, accessible, and environmentally sustainable green spaces for residents and visitors alike. The full list of Green Flag Award-winning sites in the district now includes:

- Sherwood Heath
- Vicar Water Country Park
- Newark Castle Gardens
- Sconce and Devon Park
- Queen Elizabeth Memorial Gardens
- Sherwood Avenue Park (new for 2025)
- Newark Cemetery (Newark Town Council)

"It's obviously fantastic news that we have received six Green Flag awards this year for our Parks and Green Spaces – a record high for the District Council! We know since covid that residents increasingly value parks and green spaces. And, with summer holidays approaching, it is also great news that families and youngsters have places to play and let off some energy. The Green Flag scheme shows how we as a council are investing in residents' priorities with high-quality, welcoming outdoor environments. I'm delighted to see the dedication of everyone involved in caring for these spaces being recognised, from our Park Rangers and Street Scene teams to our Corporate Property staff, site managers, and the incredible Friends groups and volunteers. Their collective efforts are what make achievements like this possible."

**Councillor Simon Forde,
Portfolio Holder for Climate and the Environment**



Improve health and wellbeing, with an emphasis on communities with lower levels of life expectancy



Measuring Success

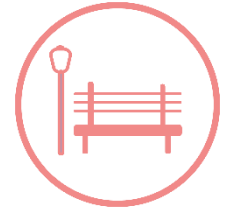
Quarterly Indicators	Quarter 1 23/24	Quarter 1 24/25	Quarter 1 25/26	Target 25/26
Year to Date Indicators				
Number of new Active4Today leisure members	New For Q1 25/26	New For Q1 25/26	1,550	938
Number of User Visits - Active 4 Today (all)	274,106	251,236	287,693	275,000
All Other Indicator Types				
Average number of calendar days to process new council tax support applications	13.8	16.0	18.9	14.0
Average no of calendar days to process council tax support change in circumstances	9.3	15.0	11.6	7.0
Average no of calendar days to process housing benefit change in circumstances	4.0	5.5	4.7	4.0
Average no of calendar days to process new housing benefit claims	11.8	16.0	22.0	14.0
Live Leisure Centre membership base (all)	11,604	11,696	12,330	11,500
Leisure Services - based on your experience; how likely are you to recommend us to a friend, family member, or colleague?	New For Q1 24/25	29.0%	68.0%	60.0%

Exploring our performance:

When considering our performance of the average number of calendar days to process new council tax support applications, we can see this is underperforming by 4.9 days. Traditionally Quarter 1 is the most challenging as we see an increase in demand due to the annual council tax bills being issued. As the high volume of applications begins to level out, our performance will begin to improve, and this can be expected within Quarter 2.

Likewise with the average no of calendar days to process new housing benefit claims, this can also be attributed to the higher volume of customer enquiries within Quarter 1 due to the annual council tax bills being issued. It should also be noted that the process for working age claims for Housing Benefit has recently changed, which has made the process more complex and can take longer to verify and assess. We will be managing resource allocation within our teams so that resource will be targeted to new claims processing during Quarter 2 and we will see the performance of this indicator improve during that same period.

Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, improving community feelings of safety



What we have been doing this quarter;

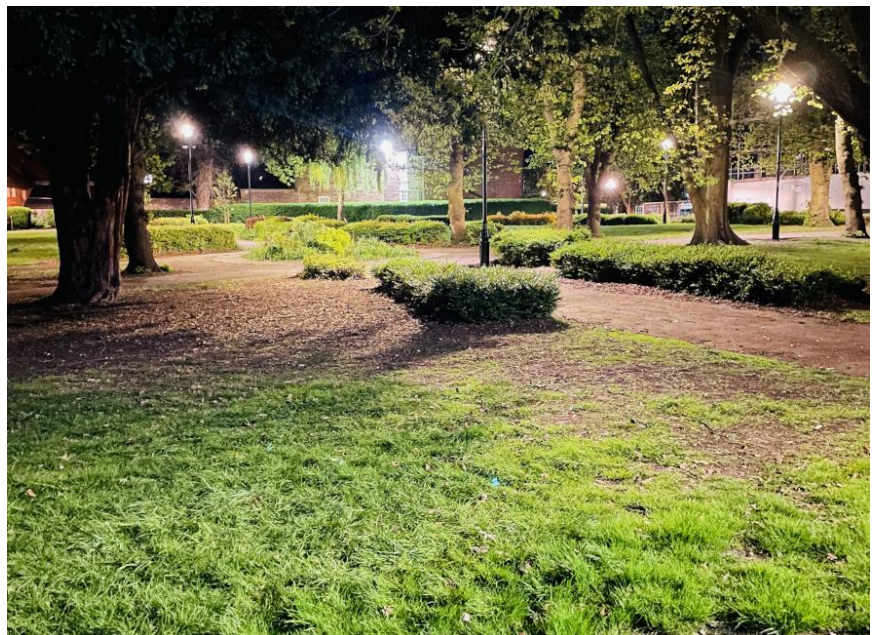
As part of our work to **design and implement an annual targeted programme of nights of action and focus weeks**, additional funding has been made available this year for increased hotspot patrols and this quarter the 'Keeping Town Centres Safe' Government campaign plans have been generated and submitted. The campaign will run from 1st July to 30th September and will see hotspot patrols, use of targeted enforcement powers and focussed campaigns. The areas which will benefit from the campaign are Castle, Magnus and Devon wards. This will be monitored by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and reported back to the Home Office.

The process for this hotspot funding didn't begin until May and therefore our Community Protection Officers have undertaken the following additional hotspot patrols, these patrols have taken place alongside the regular planned patrol routes.

Month	Castle Ward	Magnus and Devon
May	7.5 Hours	2.8 Hours
June	12 Hours	10.5 Hours

We are working to **review and improve infrastructure to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and improve feelings of safety**, as a result the CCTV camera and lighting has been installed in St Mary's Gardens and the increased lighting in the area has improved the quality of the footage as well as the coverage, particularly during the hours of darkness.

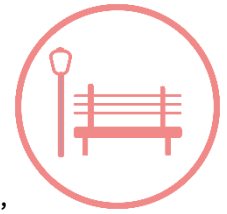
A need was identified to return the current **provision of CCTV in the district to an enhanced in-house control room**. This will allow our operators to work proactively throughout the camera locations within the district, taking action to prevent and detect crime and anti-social behaviour.



The current provision involves a partnership with both Ashfield and Broxtowe Council resulting in the resources within the control room being spread between the three districts.

The new control room will have enhanced technical abilities including artificial intelligence ensuring that the resources available will have greater ability to deal with any issues that are observed. This has resulted in a complex tender process which started in May and will shortly be coming to a close. Once this is complete and the contract will be awarded. Further updates can be expected in future quarters.

Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, improving community feelings of safety



Our teams have been working with Nottinghamshire Police, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue, Newark First Aid, British Transport Police, and delivered another very successful safety week at Sconce and Devon and Vicar Water for all Newark and Sherwood Schools. The sessions included Food Safety, Environmental Crime, Wildlife Crime, ASB, Water Safety, Fire Safety, Train and Railway Safety. The event saw **over 800 year 5 and year 6 children attend** to learn key safety information and skills. It was another well received and well attended couple of weeks. The feedback from the schools was incredibly positive again with many looking forward to next year.

We work closely with other partnership agencies, including Severn Trent, Environment Agency and the lead flood agency, Nottinghamshire County Council and together we formed a Flood Partnership Meeting in 2024 which meets quarterly. The aim of the partnership is to improve relationships, communication and actions taken both during a flooding event and during peace time. This helps to foster a more cohesive response for the customer and aims to prevent customers from being passed around agencies particularly during a flooding event.



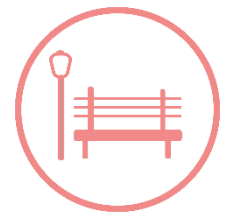
Work has been underway recently with a flood grant being offered to communities to build their resilience during a flooding event so that they are prepared prior to the event taking place as opposed to waiting to have resources delivered to them. This has included requests for aquasacs, PPE, signage, other flood prevention equipment and storage facilities.

Our work to assist in the delivery of **'Rural Crime and ASB Prevention' with additional target hardening at Sherwood Forest Corner** has been ongoing since 2024, when the CCTV installation was carried out and more



recently the Dark Sky Compliant street lighting was installed along with a new security system at the Arts and Crafts Centre. This quarter we are seeing the impact of these mitigations, as there have been no reported incidents along Forest Corner, nor a necessity to view CCTV footage. We have received positive feedback from the Arts and Crafts Centre tenants, The Sherwood Archer and Major Brew, who have all expressed their thanks to the Council for these works.

Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, improving community feelings of safety



Measuring Success

Quarterly Indicators	Quarter 1 23/24	Quarter 1 24/25	Quarter 1 25/26	Target 25/26
Year to Date Indicators				
Number of positive outcomes resulting from CCTV intervention	41	47	52	N/A**
All Other Indicator Types				
% fly tipping incidents removed within 72 hours	92.9%	97.9%	97.5%	95.0%
% of incidents resulting in an FPN or prosecution	New For Q1 25/26	New For Q1 25/26	15%	17.0%
% of businesses in the district with a food hygiene rating of 3 or higher (generally satisfactory or above)	92.11%	98.30%	98.40%	98.00%

Quarterly Indicators	Quarter 1 23/24	Quarter 1 24/25	Quarter 1 25/26	County Comparison
% reduction in anti-social behaviour - Newark & Sherwood District compared against County area	-2.0%	18.8%	14.4%	23.0%
% reduction in all crime - Newark & Sherwood District compared against County area	2.0%	2.2%	-5.7%	-6.6%

Please note, in the context of the above two indicators a minus figure denote an increase.

** 'N/A' within the target column shows key performance indicators which do not have a target set against them but instead offer an insight into actual performance within a particular service area.

Exploring our performance:

When exploring the % reduction in anti-social behaviour - Newark & Sherwood District compared against County area, we can see that across the last two years the levels of anti-social behaviour have been continually decreasing which are indicative of the initiatives and work that our teams have been undertaking. This quarter we had a reduction in anti-social behaviour of 14.4%, however this was lower than the county decrease of 23%.

Focusing on all crime we have experienced an increase in crime of 5.7% this quarter, however, the county had a greater increase in crime of 6.6%. Upon further analysis we can see that there haven't been any numerically significant changes in any given crime type in actual figures and this will be monitored through the usual channels by our teams for any emerging trends or intelligence.

Promote, maximise and celebrate the diversity of Newark and Sherwood's heritage, culture and community spirit



What have we been doing this quarter;

This quarter we have moved forward towards **delivering the Newark Castle Gatehouse scheme**. Mobilisation works for the imminent starting of the construction of the new Gatehouse scheme have been undertaken. This



has included contract negotiations for contractors, securing of permissions from statutory organisations, and development of design works on exhibitions, and community consultations.



"We're lucky in Newark to have a marketplace that can really benefit from installations like this to make the area look even more bright and welcoming. We hope to have the same impact again this year and we encourage visitors to come and see the art and other events happening for themselves. You can also explore our beautiful town centre by visiting our wonderful independent shops and have lunch in one of our fantastic pubs, cafes or restaurants."

Cllr Claire Penny, Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Economic Development

Working together with Lincoln College Group, Newark Town Council and Newark Cultural Consortium (Newark Creates), an events and animation plan has been developed for as part of the **Newark Cultural Heart events programme**.

The plan commenced in May 2025 with a range of free events which took place throughout Quarter 1, including VE Day 80th Anniversary celebrations, a Steampunk Festival, Streets Ahead, a Pickle Arts Walking Trail. This quarter also saw the return of the eco-friendly artistic canopy display above Newark Market Place, which aims to spread a positive message about biodiversity and the environment which is why it features an array of handcrafted and recyclable artwork.

The annual **Open Doors Activity Plan of participatory arts and cultural activities** commenced on the 01 April 2025. Quarter 1 saw 6,176 engagements with our arts activities, which included:

- Supporting our Creative Influencers young people's group to travel to Stratford Upon Avon, to experience cultural activities and research ways to enhance our Heritage & Culture offer for young people.
- Continuing our popular Artist Residencies at the National Civil War Centre, offering free arts activities in Newark for children, young people, families and adults, and connecting our new artist with a GRT girls' group at the YMCA, with local walking, arts and wellbeing group.
- Rolling out our free theatre learning activities for local schools, as well as continuing a 2-year partnership with Orchard School and delivering a free, accessible participatory music event in the Palace Theatre.

Promote, maximise and celebrate the diversity of Newark and Sherwood's heritage, culture and community spirit



- Participatory live music events in Vicar Water Country Park for park users to enjoy live music and learn about instruments.
- Our popular Polish cultural exhibition - A Polish Heart Beats Here continued to be enjoyed by visitors to the National Civil War Centre, with plans developing for a new Polish interpretation project to enhance Polish voices and exhibits.
- Open Doors teams and creative freelancers delivered creative activities and surveyed the public at the County Show and Streets Ahead festival.
- Our partnership with Bilsthorpe Heritage Museum continued with plans developing for colliery band related events for later in the year, with partnerships forming with Dukeries Academy and Scouting groups in Bilsthorpe. In addition, our touring exhibition called Mining for Stories was installed at Ollerton Library.

The data we collected during these activities confirms that we delivered arts and cultural activities for people living in the most deprived areas of our district. Qualitative data collected confirms that we delivered opportunities to learn, socialise, improve health and wellbeing, discover creative career paths, to volunteer and to find creative ways for self-expression.

We referenced within Ambition 1 of this report that our Sustainable Economic Growth Strategy is in draft and is



due to be presented to Cabinet for approval in the Autumn. This draft strategy encapsulates the objectives of the Destination Management Plan and the focus of an action plan, to **promote key unique selling points of our District such as Sherwood Forest**. The Rebel Rangers campaign is also under development, this will be a free summer challenge running across the district and will encourage young people aged 5-14 to take on the role of a 'Rebel Ranger' and explore local landmarks like Sherwood Forest, The National Civil War Centre and King John's Palace. This will support young

people to learn about historical rebels and completing challenges by scanning QR codes along the way. This campaign is due to be rolled out during Quarter 2.

Construction works as part of the **development of 32 Stodman Street** are ongoing and are due for completion in April 2026 and the project will provide the town with attractive living accommodation and new commercial spaces. The build phase is now starting to take shape with works approaching the roof level on the first phase of the build which faces Stodman Street.

The delivery of the physical transformation of Newark Market and Market Square is moving forward and we are in discussions on design and costs with Newark Town Council. The project is currently at RIBA stage 2 - Concept Design, and is seeking to move to RIBA stage 3 - Spatial Coordination in the summer months which will then be followed by a period of public consultation. Initial designs have been shared with the Town Council and costings for different options of material are being assessed. The full business case is being developed and

Promote, maximise and celebrate the diversity of Newark and Sherwood's heritage, culture and community spirit



this will seek approval from the Newark Town Board to access the allocation of the £3.6m capital grant from the Town Investment Plan.

Refurbishment of 14 Market Place, Newark, will begin in Quarter 2. The ground floor will be converted into commercial space and the upper floor will be transformed into residential units and is scheduled to complete in December 2025. Our teams are currently in the process of marketing the space in order to secure tenants once the refurbishment has concluded.

This quarter marked a significant milestone in enhancing Newark's cultural landscape with the commencement of the **installation of the 'Kiddey' Sculptures**. These 12 intricately carved sandstone pieces form four bas-relief panels, and will be displayed in front of Castle House. Each panel represents a different aspect of electricity production.

The sculptures honour the legacy of Robert Kiddey, a distinguished Nottingham-born sculptor, artist, and educator. Renowned for his work on the frieze adorning Nottingham's Council House and his Royal Academy-exhibited piece 'The Divine Tragedy', Kiddey gained international recognition, including exhibitions at the Salon des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He moved to Newark in 1931, dedicating 50 years to teaching at the Technical College. His contributions are commemorated with a blue plaque at his former studio on Mill Gate.



The installation process has progressed well. The site has been excavated, and each of the 12 stones has been carefully mounted into custom metal frames to form the four panels. These have been completed with high-quality brickwork and lighting, ensuring the sculptures are both structurally secure and visually striking. This project not only enriches the district's public art offering but also pays tribute to a celebrated local figure whose influence continues to shape Newark's cultural identity.

Discussions are progressing to **identify key partners that we can work in partnership with to develop opportunities for engagement with music and the arts**. Through our Community Grant scheme Newark Community Concert Band is being supported to present musical performance at the Palace Theatre which will be free of charge to some schools and organisations to encourage interest and participation in music. The North Clifton Arts Group have received financial support to enable an open day in North Clifton and officer support will be offered to help with the process on becoming a constituted group. Becoming a constituted means that the group will be eligible for grant funding to further promote its interest and attract new participants.

Promote, maximise and celebrate the diversity of Newark and Sherwood's heritage, culture and community spirit



Measuring Success

Quarterly Indicators	Quarter 1 23/24	Quarter 1 24/25	Quarter 1 25/26	Target 25/26
Year to Date Indicators				
Total number of admissions - National Civil War Centre	3,892	4,378	3,752	4,250
Total number of admissions - Palace Theatre	8,401	13,033	11,004	12,000
Number of people reached through direct participation and outreach	2,914	3,029	6,484	3,125
Total footfall across all heritage and culture services and sites	20,343	26,089	25,385	26,250

Exploring our performance:

In terms of the total number of admissions to National Civil War Centre, we can see we are performing below our target for Quarter 1. Historical data shows us that the average footfall for the quarter in the last 3 years is 3771. Subsequent data analysis highlights that there has been a slight drop in residents visiting in the Civil War Centre this quarter. This may be due to the warm weather and lack of rain leading residents to prioritise outdoor activities; however, we are working pro-actively to respond and mitigate this. Some of the ways we're going this include a renewed marketing campaign targeting residents and emphasising fun, free, family friendly activities across the summer, and a strong programme of talks and activities. Data will be reviewed at end of Quarter 2 following the summer holiday programme.

Reduce the impact of climate change and protect and enhance green spaces



What have we been doing this quarter;

The **weekly food waste collections scheme with WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) and Nottinghamshire County Council** launched on the 8th April with 55 businesses signed up upon launch and an additional 8 businesses signing up since the scheme launched. With this being a brand new service the amount of waste collected has been gradually increasing throughout the quarter which is reflective of the new service embedding.

The launch of this scheme has provided us with useful insight and experience of collecting, transporting and tipping food waste before domestic food waste collections begin in approximately 2 years. We have also gained operational insight, as the anaerobic digester is located at the same site that is likely to service domestic food waste collections.



In preparation for domestic food waste collections, Cabinet recently approved the procurement of 8 food waste vehicles and this order will ensure that we have the resources in place ready for when domestic food waste collections begin. To ensure we have enough space at the Brunel Drive Waste Depot, approval has been granted to demolish one of the unused office spaces located on this site which will in turn create space for the additional parking required to accommodate this increase in waste collection fleet. In addition, Nottinghamshire County

Council have hosted the first meetings to discuss the communication campaign for the 'Simpler Recycling' changes which are due to come into effect as of April 2026. The initiative is designed to set out new default requirements for most households and workspaces and will make recycling easier.

We have been working with Nottinghamshire County Council as guided by our **Tree Strategy**, to continue the secondment of an officer to the 'Trees for Climate' programme. This will support the continued delivery of tree planting across the district and the wider Nottinghamshire area funded through the programme and will result in over 30,000 trees being planted this year. We're also investigating new sites for 2025/26 planting years and finalising the agreement with Nottinghamshire County Council for the funding for the Thorney Abbey and Little Carlton woodland creation projects.



Reduce the impact of climate change and protect and enhance green spaces



We continue to **play an active role regarding biodiversity net gain (BNG)** in the district by working with landowners to support the development of biodiversity offset sites. We are in the process of negotiating a Section 106 agreement with one landowner which is necessary to enable registration of their site on the Biodiversity Gain Site register, which is a requirement to be able to sell BNG units. It is anticipated that this site will be selling units by the end of 2025. We are entering discussions with a second site with the anticipation of also entering into a Section 106 agreement with them, so that they are also able to sell units by the end of 2025. Potential plans for BNG sites on our land have been further developed and a report will be presented to the Senior Leadership Team and Members for consideration, with further updates to be expected in future quarters.

Work has begun on **developing a new Local Plan for Newark & Sherwood, promoting action to tackle climate change through sustainable design policies**, protecting existing open space and securing new open space as part of development and securing biodiversity improvements through appropriate policies and projects. The first stage is the development of the Strategic Housing & Employment Land Availability Assessment, this has included a 'call for sites.' This process seeks to identify future sites for new development. Further updates will be shared as this process progresses in future reports.

In response to the 2025 Carbon Trust report, we are working to develop and deliver a Council-wide decarbonisation plan for built assets and deliver a programme of prioritised decarbonisation actions. As part of this we are working to deliver energy efficient heating solutions for our new build Council housing programme, with the majority of new build homes now benefiting from solar panels, battery storage and electrical heating systems.

This quarter we have begun installing internal air source heat pumps in a refurbishment project which are the latest design in air source heat pump technology for use in refurbishment projects. We will be sharing a casestudy in our quarter 2 performance report, so keep an eye out for this next quarter!

We have recently completed solar installations on 2 of our extra care facilities, Gladstone House and Broadleaves, which are now online and generating green renewable energy for our residents. Our projections suggest that between the two sites 161.07Mwh of solar energy will be produced annually, and the average Co2 emissions saved annually will be around 31.14 tCo2e.



Reduce the impact of climate change and protect and enhance green spaces



Work in conjunction with the statutory authorities to promote good river and waterway health:

- In May we attended the National Civil War Centre's Family Saturday with a game around plastic pollution and tips on how to reduce plastic and water pollution at home. Children could take part in fishing out plastic bottles in 'Pluck out that Plastic' to win a prize and write a pledge on the 'Ocean Pollution' wall, alongside 'Stop the Block' basket ball game about drain care. Around 38 adults and children took part in the activities. Our lucky winner of the plastic pollution competition was Malachi who chose a whale shark tracking plushie made from littered water bottles removed from the ocean.
- The 'Leave No Litter Signage Competition' was sent out to all primary and secondary schools within the district this quarter, which formed part of the launch of 'The Great Big Green Week' on 7th June. Teachers and pupils were invited to design signs to bring awareness of the dangers of littering on our environment, including the impact it has on local waterway and globally across the oceans. Schools were provided with educational resources to share key messages on the impact of littering. This included a presentation on littering; 'Bin it Bingo' cards to use when litter picking; a 'Pledge Against Littering' card; a design template; and a prize for the oldest item found on a litter pick. Six primary schools and one secondary school participated and the schools had around 400 templates and other resources delivered to them and we collected over 150 entries when the competition ended at the end of June. The entries are currently being shortlisted and winning designs will be chosen soon. The signs will be erected around some of our local parks and printed as stickers for street bins in Autumn. Designs that have included littering leading to waterways will be placed near water and drains to highlight the importance of binning rubbish.
- On Sunday 8th June, our teams took the plastic pollution information and competition to Southwell Funday to champion how to care for local waterways through reducing plastic, drain care and the impact litter has on our rivers and ocean. Approximately 100 residents engaged in the competition and the lucky winner was awarded a turtle tracking plushie made from littered water bottles taken from the ocean.



An excellent 'Leave No Litter Signage Competition' entry!



Reduce the impact of climate change and protect and enhance green spaces



- The Drain Art Project has been scheduled this quarter and primary schools who had not participated in Motion for the Ocean activities last year were given the first opportunity to take part in the project. Eight schools and groups were involved, consisting of the Python Hill Academy, Samuel Barlow Primary Academy, Bilsthorpe Flying High, St Mary's CofE, Halam Primary, Coddington CofE, Newark Orchard and a group of home-schooled children totalling around 300 pupils. Schools were provided with a presentation to introduce the topic of drain art and why we are highlighting it as part of protecting our waterways. Pupils were invited to use their own knowledge and new learning from the presentation to design art to be painted around storm drains in their playground. The artists from 'Image Skool' will be spending half a day at each location to paint two of the designs with the pupils.



The two marvellous winning designs from the Python Hill Academy!

- We continue to liaise with Severn Trent Water's education team to promote their free activities in schools. We have booked one of their Digibuses for Sconce and Devon Park on 13th August and at Vicar Water Country Park on 30th October to raise awareness of water health. On board the Digibuses children will have the chance to wear virtual reality glasses and enter the world where they can track a raindrop from the sky, through the water treatment process, to the home, back through the sewers and the waste treatment process, before it travels out to the river.

Over the last quarter, we have attended a number of events and drop-in sessions across the district to **promote positive behavioural changes around recycling, including food waste reduction and composting.**

- Contaminated bin review:** As a result of the contaminated bin review carried out in quarter 4, **we distributed 18,500 recycling leaflets** between 21st - 23rd May to help residents recycle right. It has been well received with feedback that the leaflet is clear and easy to understand. We have also heard from residents from previous events that they have since stopped putting food trays in their recycling bin. To encourage children to learn what to recycle, the very popular 'Race to Recycle' bin truck game has been out in force as an educational tool too. The game sees children select tokens with items that are both recyclable and non-recyclable and place them in the back of the bin truck before steering it to the correct 'bin' on the floor mat. The truck then drops off the items and they return to repeat the process with another item. Our Environmental Development Officer



Reduce the impact of climate change and protect and enhance green spaces



will assist the children with clues about the item and talk with parents and guardians about recycling issues or changes coming up like Simpler Recycling next year.

The subsequent contaminated bin review that was carried out in quarter 1 ran for two weeks between 12th and 23rd May. During this time, 284 recycling bins were tagged as containing contamination. The contaminant numbers we collected are detailed in the table:

The contamination rate average has continued to decrease but is dependent on where the samples of contamination are taken from when they are screened by Veolia. The year-to-date average at the end of March had gone down to 13.6% and the current average is 12.5%.

We will use the results of the review to help inform residents on what not to put in their recycling bin and where to put it instead. This will be done through short social media video posts and in person at events during quarter.

Contaminant	Number
Plastic bag/ liner	75
Takeaway Containers	46
Polystyrene	34
Glass	33
Tissues/ wipes	26
Shredded paper	24
Food waste	24
Other waste	21
Packets/ wrappers	17
Food trays/punnets	16
Textiles	16
Nappies/ pet waste	11
Carpet/ rugs	3
Electricals	2

Around 511 adults and children engaged with recycling activities across the following events:

- **5th April** – Collingham Community Fair
- **16th April** – Seed Bomb Making Session. This supported The Urban Worm at Lifespring Church and Centre, New Ollerton, with composting information and showing children and adults how to make seed balls to encourage pollinators in their gardens. Reusing quail egg boxes to present the seed balls in promoted how easy it is to reuse packaging at home for a different purpose.
- **10th May** – Nottinghamshire County Show:

This year, we were part of the Growing Hub with a focus not only on our kerbside recycling with

information and 'Race to Recycle' bin truck game, but on food waste and composting at home with our magnetic composting board 'Compost: the cool kids' dirt'. Engagement was higher than the previous year and as part of a competition, we gave away three wormeries from The Urban Worm to get children started on a fun composting journey.



- **14th May**

Bilsthorpe Library Drop-in Session

Community Link Group Drop-in Session on Vine Way

Reduce the impact of climate change and protect and enhance green spaces



- **17th May** – At the Sherwood Avenue Play Park Opening Event, a recycling station was trialled out at the event to try to collect more recyclable materials at events. This was manned to help advise the public on where to place these items. For this trial, recyclables, general waste and home-compostable items were collected. The compostable items were taken home by employees to add to their compost bins. This will be more achievable once the new government legislation ‘Simpler Recycling’ has been rolled out to residential bins in April 2026.



- **29th May** – Community Link Group Drop-in Session at William Bailey House
- **30th May** – Southwell Library Drop-in Session
- **2nd June** – Community Link Group Drop-in Session at Chatham Court
- **7th June** – Family Saturday at the National Civil War Centre: At the Socks, Swaps and Smocks Event Alongside St Mary’s Church and the National Civil War Centre, we formed part of the day to help



residents reduce and reuse clothing that they no longer loved. Advice on where to send unwanted items was given out alongside help with recycling in our kerbside bins. Around 50 people engaged with the recycling activities on the day.

- **15th June** – Streets Ahead Festival, Newark: We were invited to be a part of this festival to help promote recycling. Around 80 parents and children engaged with our development officer for information and our recycling game to practise putting items in the right places.
- **18th June** – Your CVS Wellbeing Event, Clipstone

Reduce the impact of climate change and protect and enhance green spaces



There have been many **opportunities for residents' involvement in parks and green spaces** within quarter 1, including:

- The grand opening of Sherwood Avenue Play Park, to celebrate the redevelopment of Sherwood Avenue Play Park. The day was jam-packed with activities and included demonstrations from Extreme Wheels and Canvas, who also offered residents the opportunity to get involved with some BMX tricks on the brand-new, state-of-the-art skatepark. The Hot Dog Brass Band performed live music and children's outdoor activities were arranged by both Active4Today and the Children's Bereavement Centre. Volunteers from the Newark Tennis Club joined the festivities and offered free tennis coaching. Representatives from Nottinghamshire Police also attended and carried out free bike marking.
- We have a growing number of volunteer litter pickers with 60 people signed up to our green champions scheme who collected 74 bags of waste between them this quarter.
- Our 'meet the ranger' walks continue to be popular with our residents and visitors. These provide an ideal forum for our teams to educate the public on the work we do and allows us to get feedback from the public.
- Junior Ranger events have taken place over the Easter holidays, these are drop-in sessions targeted at our younger residents and through our partnership with Sherwood Forest Trust, we have continued with a range of events and volunteering sessions at Sherwood Heath, including balsam bashing and glow worm survey walks.

Continue to deliver the Brunel Drive Masterplan: Last quarter we shared that we were in the process of seeking planning permission to remove the temporary permission for the glass bulking facility at the lorry park. This has since progressed and we have now obtained planning permission for the glass bulking facility to remain permanently at the lorry park.

This quarter we have received replies to the tender for the demolition and construction works at Brunel Drive/Farrar Close, and these replies are in the process of being evaluated. The construction will provide facilities to further modernise our fleet of vehicles, which will also be greener and more efficient. Throughout the construction, **over 90% of the building materials from the demolition will be recycled.**



Reduce the impact of climate change and protect and enhance green spaces



Carbon Emissions Reduction Summary	
2023/24 Baseline	3,779* tCO ₂ e
2024/25 Emissions	2,902** tCO ₂ e
Reduction Achieved	877 tCO ₂ e
Percentage Reduction	26%
<p>*The Carbon Trust conducted a full review of NSDC's carbon emissions for 23/24, calculating this at 3779 tCO₂e. This figure has enabled NSDC to have a baseline from which to benchmark its carbon reduction activities.</p> <p>**NSDC has calculated its emission figures for 24/25, resulting in a figure of 2,902 tCO₂e.</p>	

Key Interventions Contributing to the Reduction:

- cSolar PV has recently been installed at Newark Sports and Fitness Centre, Dukeries Lesure Centre, Newark Beacon, Scone & Devon Park and Vicar Water, with an estimated total of 67t Co2 reduction/year across all sites.
- Solar PV has recently been installed at Gladstone & Broadleaves, with an estimated total of 38tCo2 reduction/year across both sites.
The feasibility of adding additional sites for PV is underway, to include Castle House & Brunel Drive.
- Air source heating has been installed at Blidworth Leisure Centre.
- LED lighting has been installed at Sconce & Devon Park, and is in progress at Newark Beacon and Newark Leisure Centre, with future sites of the Palace Theatre and the Civil War Museum being explored.



Moving forward, plans are being developed to further the utilisation of current EV charging infrastructure at Castle House, along with progressing the move to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) within our fleet.

The tCO₂e figure is imperative to monitor where we are at on agreed in-scope areas, although it should be noted that there are multiple work strands that are collectively reducing our emissions that are not currently being reported on as part of this work area, either because they are not in scope or in some cases due to carbon savings not being the prime reason for the projects, but are achieving carbon savings as co-benefits. These include areas of retrofitting and building efficiency, along with the amount of recycling from building materials, as in the example above that over 90% of the building materials from the demolition at Brunel Drive will be recycled.

Our Carbon Reduction Strategy and associated actions plan will be re-drafted over the remainder of 2025, to include how carbon saving projects that are currently not recorded, are captured and monitored.



Measuring Success

Quarterly Indicators	Quarter 1 23/24	Quarter 1 24/25	Quarter 1 25/26	Target 25/26
Year to Date Indicators				
Number of fixed penalty notices issued for all environmental offences (excluding fly tipping)	New For Q1 24/25	391	28	N/A
Number of events held in NSDC parks	80	109	173	100
Number of targeted focus weeks	2	2	1	2
Number of children reached via environmental education visits including river health and 'Motion for the Ocean'	New For Q1 24/25	1,550	1,369	500
All Other Indicator Types				
Number of missed bins (per 100,000 households)	63.0	N/A*	64.8	45.0
% of failing sites - street and environmental cleanliness - litter	0.0%	1.0%	1.2%	1.5%
% of failing sites - street and environmental cleanliness - detritus	1.7%	1.0%	1.5%	1.2%

*Data incomparable for Q1/Q2 as it included glass recycling data which resulted in a significant increase in the value. The issue was resolved in Q3 24/25.

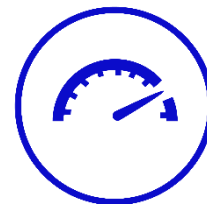
Exploring our performance:

Our performance this quarter against the indicator which measures the number of missed bins (per 100,000 households), is under performing by 19.8. We are aware that there is often a spike in Quarter 1 as this is when the garden waste season starts again. Our teams are analysing the data which highlights any hotspots for missed bins, whereby particular addresses have had repeated incidents of bin collections being missed. This will be used with our waste collection teams to drive improvement, and we will see that taking effect over the next two quarters.

We have issued 28 fixed penalty notices (FPNs) this quarter. Since the termination of our contract with District Enforcement, who held our littering and dog fouling enforcement contract, littering FPNs have been limited to those spotted by officers conducting other duties. We have now completed the procurement process for a new provider and so there is likely to be an increase in the number of penalty notices issued into Quarter 2.

The number of events held in our parks has exceeded its target by 73 events this quarter, this helped by the more favourable weather conditions that we have been experiencing during the quarter. We will continually review our performance and increase our targets to challenge our performance where necessary.

We have completed 1 targeted focus week this quarter due to ongoing challenges with staff resourcing within the team. The Street Scene Manager is looking to introduce a programme of continuous improvements throughout the quarter, with a focus area being selected once per month to provide an additional boost to identified areas.



What have we been doing this quarter;

As part of our progress towards **developing a package of measures to recruit and retain staff, including a review of the pay grading structure and the Council's job evaluation scheme**, we can report this quarter that the Reward and Retention project is progressing well. Over 80% of job descriptions have now been reviewed by Business Managers and have been transferred to the new job evaluation template by our HR Team. The majority of these are now with Business Managers for final review or with colleagues for their input through reviewing and providing feedback with their manager. Currently almost a quarter of roles have been processed within Zellis, which is the electronic job evaluation scheme, the remaining roles scheduled to be processed in the coming weeks and months.

REWARD AND RETENTION PROJECT

Through the Commercialisation Strategy and action plan, continue to seek out and generate new sources of income, whilst retaining our public service ethos. 7 Commercialisation meetings were held during the quarter and were attended by the Section 151 Officer and the Financial Services Business Manager and project owners to discuss progress against individual projects. Further updates against these projects will be shared with Members via updates to the Medium-Term Financial Plan throughout the year and our budgets will be adjusted accordingly at the relevant times.

In February 2025 Cabinet approved the formation of a cross-party working group that were tasked with developing the action plan **arising from the 'Corporate Peer Challenge'**. The working group reviewed in full the peer team's recommendations and through several meetings worked with officers to produce the plan below.



Newark and Sherwood District Council

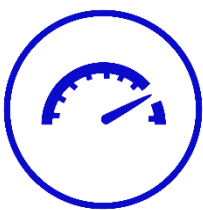
CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE ACTION PLAN 2025



Throughout this process, opportunities to implement the changes recommended in the report were taken and we are well underway in delivering change, an example of this can be seen in the review of the Community Plan which is complete with the results of which being presented to full Council in May 2025. The delivery of this action plan is a collective responsibility of all Council officers and preparing it collaboratively with members has enhanced efforts to align existing programmes and initiatives. Lead officers have

SERVING PEOPLE, IMPROVING LIVES

been assigned accordingly, and progress will be driven and monitored through established governance structures. These officers are tasked with ensuring the advancement of actions, facilitating wider staff



involvement, and reporting on milestone achievements through established corporate performance monitoring frameworks.

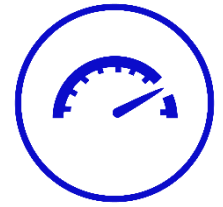
The action plan is available on our website here: NSDC-Peer-Challenge-Action-Plan-2025 (<https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/nsdc-redesign/documents-and-images/your-council/your-council/about-us/community-plan/NSDC-Peer-Challenge-Action-Plan-2025.pdf>) and regular progress updates will be received by the Senior Leadership Team with a full update expected in September 2025. In the longer term, the LGA will return to NSDC for their review, offering council officers and elected members the opportunity to share successes and challenges with peers and to thoroughly evaluate progress against the CPC recommendations.

Local Government Reorganisation: In February 2025, the Government invited Councils to submit proposals for new unitary authority structures, with final submissions due by 28 November – which are a single tier of local government responsible for all local services in an area. The aim is to create more efficient and effective local government, potentially leading to streamlined services and cost savings for residents. At an Extraordinary Full Council meeting on 19 May, we endorsed the Interim Plan, with three core options for further consideration and analysis. Since then, Council officers, supported by independent support and advice from PwC UK, have appraised the options against Government criteria.

On 15 July, Full Council will consider PwC’s options appraisal and recommend a preferred proposal for final submission. PwC’s appraisal concludes that Option 2 demonstrates the weakest alignment against the MHCLG criteria, and the difference in Option 1b and 1e differences in the overall assessment as ‘marginal’. The report to Full Council outlines the recommendation to recommend to Cabinet the development of option 1e as this

Councils preferred option for submission as a final proposal to Government. The full details of the report will be published and can be [found here](#).

1b	1e
Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City + Broxtowe + Gedling	Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City + Broxtowe + Rushcliffe
<div>1. Nottingham City conurbation to include Broxtowe and Gedling</div> <div>2. The rest of Nottinghamshire becomes a new unitary authority</div>	<div>1. Nottingham City conurbation to include Broxtowe and Rushcliffe</div> <div>2. The rest of Nottinghamshire becomes a new unitary authority</div>



Measuring Success

Quarterly Indicators	Quarter 1 23/24	Quarter 1 24/25	Quarter 1 25/26	Target 25/26
Year to Date Indicators				
Contact Centre - telephony - average length of time to answer call (seconds)	163.0	140.0	70.0	110.0
No of face-to-face contacts (Castle House)	4,176	4,884	4,105	Demand
No of phone calls presented to Contact Centre	31,297	30,724	26,172	Demand
Number of work experience placements offered at differing levels of education	New For Q1 24/25	9	4	6
% business rate collection	29.8%	29.8%	27.7%	25.0%
% council tax collection	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%	24.4%
All Other Indicator Types				
% invoices paid within 30 days - whole Council	99.2%	93.6%	99.2%	98.5%

Exploring our performance:

When reviewing our performance in terms of the number of work experience placements offered this quarter, we are underperforming by 2 placements. This is because work experience placements are seasonally driven and we expect that some quarters will outperform the target, whilst others such as this one will underperform. We do expect that by the end of the year we will have met our target to deliver the total number of work experience placements across the year.

Our Workforce



Team recognised nationally for best practices: A big well done to our **Environmental Protection Team**, as their combined hard work and dedication has resulted in them being asked to share their work practices with colleagues regionally and nationally. The team organised and chaired the **Nottinghamshire EnviroCrime working group**, which has grown significantly, and their work is being noticed throughout the UK!



Our Senior Enforcement Officer Andrew Weaver has even been invited to East Suffolk Council to train the new Environmental Enforcement Team - emphasising how enforcement and education go hand in hand. The Environmental Protection Team's success relies on partnerships with Environmental Services, Street Scene, waste services, Nottinghamshire Police, the Environment Agency, and Via. These collaborations are essential for achieving their goals. Very well-deserved recognition and achievement!

DAHA training and staff survey



We have continued our work towards achieving the **Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) Accreditation**. As part of this, every colleague will take part in a training programme to help us recognise the signs of domestic abuse and understand how we can help survivors. In addition to the training, we are also launched a short staff survey to help us understand what we currently know as an organisation about supporting survivors.

My Money Matters: Your new staff benefit

We announced the launch of a new staff benefit this quarter, the My Money Matters Platform. This brand-new service is designed to help colleagues make more informed money decisions at every stage of their career and life. Colleagues can sign up to webinars about the LGPS and how to retire early and learn about making an Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC) to get benefits on top of their pension to support financial wellbeing after retirement.



Our Workforce



Recognising and reducing stress this Stress Awareness Month

This quarter we recognised Stress Awareness Month in April and we took the opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to mental health with the Mindful Employer Pledge. This pledge promotes a supportive and open culture where mental health is openly discussed, and employees feel confident to seek the support they need. We encouraged colleagues to join us in embracing the #LeadWithLove theme, fostering a workplace where everyone feels valued and empowered to manage stress effectively.

TOGETHER WE CAN
#LeadWithLove
www.stress.org.uk



Celebrating Carers Week



This Carers Week, we recognised the incredible contribution of our staff who care for others. A small group of colleagues joined an afternoon tea to reflect on the support we've built since 2023 - including drop-in cafés, guest speakers, training for managers, and peer support from our Carer Wellbeing Champions. We're also proud to have once again received the **Carers Friendly Employer Award**.

Celebrating safety education success!

Hundreds of pupils across Newark and Sherwood recently took part in interactive safety education events, thanks to the brilliant efforts of our Public Protection colleagues and dedicated volunteers. Held at Sconce and Devon and Vicar Water Country Park, the sessions covered fire safety, first aid, environmental awareness, and more. A huge thank you to everyone involved for making a lasting impact on young lives!



Our Workforce



Measuring Success

Quarterly Indicators	Quarter 1 23/24	Quarter 1 24/25	Quarter 1 25/26	Target 25/26
Year to Date Indicators				
Average number of sick days per employee (FTE) per year lost through sickness absence	1.5	1.2	2.2	1.6
% of staff turnover	4.0%	3.0%	2.0%	3.3%

Exploring our performance:

Sickness absence is above target due to a period of unusually high levels of sickness absence, and unfortunately several employees are suffering long-term health issues. We are taking steps to minimise sickness absences where appropriate however, we do expect that a number of these long-term sickness absences will continue into Quarter 2.

Use of Microsoft Co-Pilot: Microsoft Co-Pilot was utilised in the preparation of this report to enhance its accessibility for a wide range of audiences. Additionally, Co-Pilot assisted in generating some of the images featured within this report.