

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Governance, General Purposes & Local Government Reorganisation Committee** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY on Thursday, 18 June 2026 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor R Holloway (Chair)
Councillor P Rainbow (Vice-Chair)

Councillor S Crosby, Councillor J Kellas, Councillor D Moore, Councillor P Peacock, Councillor K Smith, Councillor T Thompson and Councillor T Wildgust (substitute)

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor S Forde and Councillor N Allen

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor A Freeman, Councillor P Harris, Councillor S Haynes and Councillor M Pringle

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

The Chair advised that the meeting was being recorded and live streamed from Castle House.

39 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillor Paul Peacock declared an Other Registerable Interest in Agenda Item No. 7 – Code of Conduct Complaints Update.

40 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 APRIL 2026

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2026 were a correct record and signed by the Chair.

41 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN NOTTINGHAM & NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

The Committee considered the report and presentation delivered by the Chief Executive which advised Members of the latest position in respect of local government reorganisation following the submission of the Final Proposal to Government in November 2025.

The presentation provided Members with an indicative timetable of the preparation and journey through Parliament for the Structural Changes Order (SCO), noting that the draft SCO was expected before the summer parliamentary recess. Details relating to the establishment and work programme of Joint Committees were provided, noting that these would be formed no later than 14 days after the SCO came into force, and dissolved the day after the first meeting of the Shadow Council.

Reflecting on discussions held at the previous meeting of the Committee on 16 April, Members were asked to consider the proposed role and scope of a LGR Working Group – Newark & Sherwood's Legacy which would be structured around three clear stands: Community & Residents; Members; and Staff.

In considering the report and presentation, Members welcomed the update provided. In relation to the Working Group they agreed that they would wish this to be formed from the whole membership of the Committee excluding substitutes with its focus as detailed in paragraph 4 of Appendix 1 to the report. They also agreed that they would wish for informal meetings of the Committee to be held to discuss the points noted in the presentation as to what, as a local authority, they could influence.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- a) the progress updated provided in respect of local government reorganisation be noted;
- b) the proposed scoping document for the establishment of the Local Government Reorganisation Working Group – Newark & Sherwood's Legacy be approved; and
- c) the Working Group's membership be comprised of the 12 members of the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee and no substitutes.

42 UPDATE TO REGISTER OF INTERESTS REQUIREMENTS

The Committee considered the report presented by the Monitoring Officer which sought to raise awareness of changes to the requirements to provide home addresses on registers of interest forms.

The report set out that the Localism Act 2011 ("the Act") provided that relevant authorities were required to establish and maintain a Register of Interests for their members and co-opted members with the district council also maintaining the register for parish councils.

The Act also required that the Register of Interest must include details of interests that were disclosable pecuniary interests. These included any beneficial interest in land that a member or co-opted member held within the authority's area, therefore requiring the disclosure of home addresses when there was a beneficial interest in the property within the district or parish boundary. As the Act required that Register of Interest were published and available for public inspection, home addresses had been publicly available. It was reported that changes to the Act would come into effect on 29 June 2026 which removed the requirement for publication of home addresses, unless a member opted-in to the publication of their home address.

Committee were advised that changes to the registers of interests for district and parish councillors was underway and addresses removed unless councillors opted-in to publication of their home address.

AGREED that the report and changes to the Localism Act 2011 be noted.

43 CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS UPDATE

The Committee considered the report presented by the Council's Monitoring Officer which sought to provide an update for Members on the current position in relation to Code of Conduct Complaints.

The report set out the current situation with the number of ongoing complaints at the time the agenda was published, noting that this was 27. Appendix 1 listed those complaints, provided detail of when the complaint was made, whether it was in relation to NSDC or a parish, whether it was made by a Councillor or Non-Councillor and the current status. Appendix 2 listed those complaints that had been completed since the last meeting of the Committee. Appendix 3, which was exempt, provided a summary of matters concluded where no breach had been found.

In considering the report, a Member suggested that it would be beneficial if more detail could be provided in relation to the nature of complaints to enable any emerging patterns to be revealed.

AGREED that the report be noted.

44 PROPOSED COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

NOTED the Work Programme for the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee.

Meeting closed at 6.55 pm.

Chair