



Report to: Cabinet Meeting: 21 July 2026

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Report Summary	
Type of Report	Open Report / Non-Key Decision
Report Title	Local Outcomes Framework
Purpose of Report	To provide members of Cabinet with an update on recent developments related to the local government outcomes framework. It aims to outline the implications of the framework's implementation on the operations of Newark and Sherwood District Council, with particular emphasis on its performance framework.
Recommendations	That Cabinet note the likely impact of the local government framework outcomes as identified in the report.
Alternative Options Considered	None Considered.
Reason for Recommendations	The Committee receives quarterly reports on progress against the Council's Community Plan, using the key performance indicators set out in the Performance Framework. This report provides Members with the annual update to the Performance Framework and the refreshed set of performance indicators for information and awareness.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 In her speech at the LGA Conference on 3 July 2025, the then Deputy Prime Minister announced the launch of the Local Government Outcomes Framework (LGOF). This framework introduces an outcome-based accountability approach for councils in England and is intended to support councils in their role as place leaders.

The Framework establishes 16 outcomes that the Government aims to achieve in collaboration with local authorities, supporting the delivery of core national priorities for residents and communities. These will be underpinned by outcome metrics drawing from existing data sources to show how progress will be measured. This approach forms part of the wider reform agenda for local government, to ensure councils are fit, legal and decent.

- 1.2 Councils were encouraged to consult on the introduction of the framework and submit their comments before the deadline on the 12 September 2025.

Feedback was received on several themes including Framework design, Feedback on metric selection, use of the framework and on timings and the digital product. The full detail is available at section 8 of the paper via: [Local Outcomes Framework - GOV.UK](#)

- 1.3 On 12 February 2026 the policy paper was updated as it introduced the 'Local Outcomes Framework'. (Known as the 'LOF' or the 'Framework')

This first version of the Framework covers the Spending Review period to 2028-29 and is aimed at providing certainty for local government and local partners to enable budget and business planning. The Framework will be refreshed alongside Spending Reviews.

2.0 Proposal/Options Considered

- 2.1 The foreword is presented by Alison McGovern MP, the Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness, who reiterates that local government success depends on recognising the distinct economic and social contexts of each place and tailoring services accordingly to support growth and improve lives. McGovern suggests that the Local Outcomes Framework provides a shared, outcome focused approach that aligns local and national priorities, underlining the central role councils play in raising living standards across England.

The Minister also states that government is equipping councils with the freedom and tools to deliver what matters most for their communities through greater funding certainty, reform of audit and assurance, reduced grant conditions and a shift away from central micromanagement. Also, that by bringing outcomes data together in one place, the framework will improve transparency and ensures progress is judged consistently, with support focused on collaboration and self-improvement where outcomes fall short.

The overarching aim is that working together through this approach will help build stronger councils, better services and more empowered communities.

You can see the minister's full comments and the framework in its entirety via the following link: [Local Outcomes Framework - GOV.UK](#)

2.2 **Purpose.** The primary purpose of the Framework is to provide a robust, standardised approach to measuring the outcomes of local government activity. It seeks to shift the focus from process-based metrics to outcome-based accountability, ensuring that councils are assessed on the real-world impact of their services.

2.3 **Framework Metrics.** The Local Outcomes Framework tracks progress mainly using outcome metrics, which show the actual results achieved. In some cases, a small number of output metrics are also used to help to highlight the specific actions taken by local authorities, especially when it is difficult to separate their impact from the overall outcomes. Additionally, output metrics may act as substitutes when it is not possible to measure a key outcome directly, for example, if there is no suitable outcome data available.

The current framework version includes 16 domains across areas such as housing, health and wellbeing, transport and infrastructure and social care. Each metric uses multiple data sources to measure outcomes and where required sources are identified to measure output.

The Government have selected metrics that meet the following standards:

- data already exists and is publicly available (or has already been announced as in development)
- data is reported down to the local authority area level
- data is from official statistics where possible, or of comparable quality
- data is reported frequently enough to understand trends, ideally at least annually
- data is, or can be, standardised in some way (e.g. against population) to allow for meaningful comparisons.

Although the majority of proposed metrics meet these standards, there are a few exceptions. There are a small number of metrics that are reported less frequently than annually, for example 'Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) average score', which is included under the Economic Prosperity and Regeneration outcome and is the accepted and well-established metric.

2.4 **Public Presentation.** The results and measurements for every local authority area will be made available on gov.uk. Publishing this information helps increase transparency, giving residents, government bodies, and local partners a unified perspective on developments.

Each local area's outcomes will be compared with those facing similar contexts and challenges. To facilitate this, a statistical neighbours model is currently in development.

The model will align areas based on 21 categories which include deprivation, income, digital connectivity, education rate and population size. For a full list of the categories used and for more details please follow: [Local Government Outcomes: Statistical Neighbours model - GOV.UK](#).

The presentation and methods will be tested with users and will continue to develop through continued user research and engagement. The government intends to launch a digital tool in 2026 and further information is awaited on this.

- 2.5 **Summary Overview.** The framework is underpinned by nationally defined outcome indicators spanning key domains such as economic development, health, community safety, environment, and service efficiency.

Councils are required to publish annual reports, integrating both qualitative and quantitative data, with flexibility to add local measures. This approach enhances transparency, comparability, and supports strategic alignment between local and national objectives, while establishing a basis for resource allocation and policy evaluation.

The framework encourages continuous improvement by identifying best practice and areas for development. However, implementation presents challenges, including increased administrative burden, potential overemphasis on quantifiable outcomes, and reliance on robust data systems. Local adaptation must be balanced to maintain consistency in national reporting.

Local Government Reorganisation preparations will help facilitate collaborative improvements and the council's existing performance framework is well placed to meet the demands of additional reporting.

3.0 **Impact on Newark & Sherwood District Council**

- 3.1 **Integration.** The Framework will be integrated into the councils existing performance framework through the alignment of local key performance indicators (KPIs) with national outcome measures. Performance dashboards will be updated to reflect the new reporting requirements where required and internal governance processes strengthened to support effective monitoring and challenge.
- 3.2 **Overlaps and Enhancements.** While there is some overlap between the Framework and the council's current performance indicators, the framework has introduced a greater emphasis on outcomes rather than outputs. This will enhance the council's capacity to demonstrate the real-world impact of its services, both to residents and to central government.

The introduction of the Framework has also prompted a review of data quality and collection methods to ensure that the data submitted is accurate and a true reflection of the council's outputs. Good data in, good data out.

Opportunities for shared learning and benchmarking with peer authorities will be expanded, supporting ongoing improvement and this has already developed throughout the LGR preparation to date. These relationships will be particularly important in areas where we work more closely with partners in delivering services for example across our public health functions and specific housing functions such as tackling homelessness and rough sleeping.

3.3 Operational Changes. The adoption of the Framework necessitated a review and realignment of the council's existing performance framework systems but at a time when the annual review was underway.

The 2026/27 Performance Framework was approved by SLT and will subsequently be presented to PPIC and Cabinet in June and July respectively. It consists of 90 key performance indicators. Additionally there are upwards of a further 350 performance indicators in place but are used internally by Business Managers to assess the performance of their service areas and are not reported externally.

How the Local Outcomes Framework Aligns.

There are 16 domains contained within the Local Outcomes Framework and within those 16 domains there are 139 proposed metrics. Based on the desktop assessment carried out, the percentage breakdown of those 139 metrics is shown below.

Organisation	Estimated Responsibility of Metrics (%)
Nottinghamshire County Council	53%
Newark and Sherwood District Council	31%
Partner Agencies (EMCCA and NHS)	10%
Other Partner Agencies	6%

In terms of the impact that this might have on the Performance Framework, such as whether additional key performance indicators are required, a further assessment was carried out to cross reference existing key performance indicators with the Local Outcomes Framework metrics.

It is estimated that of the 139 total metrics, the council will be responsible for reporting on approximately 44, split across 9 Business Units. 21 (47.73%) of the total 44 metrics have at least one or more current performance indicators within our Performance Framework. This includes both key performance indicators which are published quarterly, as well as management performance indicators which are used internally only. The remaining 23 (52.27%) did not have a comparable current performance indicator in place.

As such, some of the key operational changes may include the introduction of new data collection protocols, enhanced staff training on outcome measurement, and potentially the establishment of a cross-departmental working group to oversee framework implementation.

The framework's outcome indicators will further inform the council's service planning and resource allocation processes, with departments now required to demonstrate how their activities contribute to the achievement of specified outcomes. This will foster a more integrated, results-focused approach to service delivery.

3.4 Reporting

It is anticipated that statutory returns for the Local Outcomes Framework will be submitted to Government on an annual basis from 2026/27 onwards. Internally, reporting arrangements will be aligned to the Council's existing Performance Framework and as such Local Outcomes Framework returns will be incorporated into the yearend Community Plan Performance Report and shared with SLT, PPIC, and Cabinet as an accompanying appendix.

However, it will be important to preface such reports with a disclaimer that some data sources underpinning the Framework are not published annually. For example, the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) are released nationally every five years, while Census data is published once every ten years. As a result, the reliability and timeliness of certain indicators may diminish over the duration of the reporting cycle. Where national datasets become outdated, supplementary insight may need to be drawn from local intelligence sources, including Community Plan performance monitoring, service level reporting, and community consultation activity.

- 3.5 **Strategic Alignment.** The Council's Community Plan has been mapped against the framework's outcome domains contain metrics that the Council would submit data against.

The infographic below shows that of the Council's 7 Community Plan Ambitions, 5 of these align to 7 of the Local Outcome Framework domains. All Local Outcome Framework domains that NSDC have reportability over align to one the Council's Community Plan Ambitions.



The Council enjoy positive relationships with partners - public, private and voluntary/community which are generally purposeful. The geography and diversity of our place is such that a single, overarching partnership is often inappropriate which means that we often partner on a community, thematic or sub-District level (as well as at a County and East Midlands level too). This means that we are already on a solid footing to meet this area of the framework's approach.

4.0 **Proposal/Options Considered**

- 4.1 The Local Government Outcomes Framework represents a significant evolution in the way local government performance is measured and managed. For the council, the framework could bring about meaningful changes in operational practice and strategic planning, while also presenting new challenges in terms of data management and reporting.

By embedding the principles of the Local Outcomes Framework into all aspects of its operations, the Council will be well positioned to deliver improved outcomes for its residents and demonstrate leadership within the local government sector.

4.2 The Committee are asked to:

Note the likely impact of the framework outlined throughout the report.

5.0 Implications

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

Implications Considered			
Yes – relevant and included / NA – not applicable			
Financial	N/A	Equality & Diversity	N/A
Human Resources	N/A	Human Rights	N/A
Legal	N/A	Data Protection	N/A
Digital & Cyber Security	N/A	Safeguarding	N/A
Sustainability	N/A	Crime & Disorder	N/A
LGR	N/A	Tenant Consultation	N/A

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

[01.06.26 - Local Outcomes Framework.pdf](#)