

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Cabinet** held in the Civic Suite, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY on Tuesday, 21 July 2026 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor P Peacock (Chair)

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

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor S Forde

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

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

403 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no declarations of interest.

404 CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Leader reflected on the Full Council meeting held on 14 July 2026, explaining that an investigation was underway.

The Cabinet also noted that the LGR decision had been published, and whilst it had not been the option that Newark and Sherwood District Council had endorsed, the Council would work towards a smooth transition towards a new Unitary Authority.

405 MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 9 JUNE 2026

The minutes from the meeting held on 9 June 2026 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

406 HOUSING COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE REPORT QUARTER 4 2025-26

The Head of Building Safety and Asset Management was in attendance to provide the performance position as of 31 March 2026 (Quarter 4) for Housing related compliance and update on activities in the service area, focusing on exceptions in performance, which were outside the Council's target parameters. Members considered the implementation of the second part of Awab's Law and the need for careful case management, and the issues considered around awarding a new repairs contract.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet note:

- a) the exceptions to performance of the housing service compliance functions;
- b) interim arrangements for monitoring damp and mould ahead of introduction of Awaab's Law; and
- c) the ongoing actions to improve and maintain performance.

Reasons for Decision:

To provide assurance on the work undertaken to ensure the safety of tenants and compliance with the regulatory standards.

Options Considered:

None

407 PROVISIONAL FINANCIAL OUTTURN REPORT TO 31 MARCH 2026

The Director- Finance, Revenues and Benefits was in attendance to present the provisional 2025/26 financial outturn position on the Council's revenue and capital budgets, including:- General Fund Revenue; Housing Revenue Account; Capital Programme; Provisions and Impaired Estimates on Debtors; Usable Reserves; and collection Fund

The report provided Members with a summary of actual income and expenditure compared to the revised budget and how any surpluses and deficits have been allocated to or from reserves.

Members debated the levels of reserves, considering whether these would be better used to fund smaller projects leading up to Local Government Organisation. It was noted that the Council was running a large number of capital projects, which would require reserves to ensure the Council could afford any increase in price, balanced against collecting no more than required in tax.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- a) the final outturn of revenue and capital spending for 2025/26 be noted;
- b) the capital financing proposals as set out in table 5 at paragraph 1.18 of the report, be noted;
- c) the Capital Programme reprofiling of £14.289m carried forward into 2026/27, as per appendices E and F to the report, be noted;
- d) the movement in Provisions and Impaired Estimates on Debtors be noted; and
- e) the individual contributions to, and withdrawals from, the revenue and capital Usable Reserves, be noted.

408 COMMUNITY PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR QUARTER 4 2025/26

The Senior Transformation & Service Improvement Officer was in attendance to present the Community Plan Performance for Quarter 4 2025/26. Appendix 2 was a new document and has been introduced for the first time this year, showing the average performance of some KPIs across all four quarters, offering an outturn position. The annual KPIs, which were collected and reported once a year in Q4, were also included within this appendix for a comprehensive annual overview.

Members considered the KPI for re-let times and the work undertaken to get a void property ready for re-let, and the performance in relation to the reduction in crime noting the opening of the new CCTV room.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

- a) review the Community Plan Performance Report attached as Appendix 1;
- b) review the Annual Performance Report attached as Appendix 2;
- c) review the compliance report attached as Appendix 3; and
- d) consider the Council's performance against its objectives highlighting any areas of high performance and identifying areas for improvement.

Reasons for Decision

To ensure that Cabinet are aware of all relevant performance updates in line with the Community Plan.

Options Considered

None

409 LOCAL OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

The Head of Transformation and Service Improvement was in attendance to present a report which sought to provide members of Cabinet with an update on recent developments related to the local government outcomes framework, outlining the implications of the framework's implementation on the operations of Newark and Sherwood District Council, with particular emphasis on its performance framework. Members welcomed the introduction of the framework, highlighting the importance of qualitative data collection in demonstrating the outcomes and impact of the work of the Council in the community.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet note the likely impact of the local government framework outcomes as identified in the report.

Reasons for Decision

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.

Options Considered:

None Considered

410 PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK 2026-27

The Senior Transformation & Service Improvement Officer was in attendance to provide members of Cabinet with an update on the Performance Framework and indicators used to monitor and measure the Councils performance against the refreshed Community Plan.

The Performance Framework for 2026/27 was presented to the Policy and Performance Improvement Committee on 1 June 2026, which had suggested that rather than reducing the targets for the performance of telephone answering times and the re-letting of council houses, further work should be undertaken as to how improvements could be made to ensure the current targets were met.

Members discussed the housing re-let target in detail, which was set at 35, up from 28, but was actually performing at 77days. Members heard that the target was set to be achievable but would be a stretch, noting that the performance would be closely monitored.

AGREED (with 1 against and 7 for) that Cabinet:

a) consider the comments from the Policy and Performance Improvement Committee in relation to the Corporate Planning, Performance Management and Assurance Framework (appendix 1) and the refreshed performance indicators (appendix 2); and

b) after which, note and endorse the Corporate Planning, Performance Management and Assurance Framework (appendix 1) and the refreshed performance indicators (appendix 2).

Reasons for Decision

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.

Options Considered

None

411 CORPORATE ANNUAL BUDGET STRATEGY FOR 2027/28

The Director - Finance, Revenues & Benefits was in attendance to present a report which set out the General Fund, Capital & HRA Budget Strategy for 2027/28, for

consideration by Members before detailed work commenced. The report set out the timeline for consideration of the budget in accordance with the Council's Constitution, noting that there were no changes to the Council's Priorities or Community Plan.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

- a) approve the overall General Fund, Capital & HRA Budget Strategy for 2027/28;
- b) note the consultation process with Members;
- c) note that Budget Officers continue work on the assessment of various budget proposals affecting services for consideration in setting the Council's budget;
- d) note that Budget Managers work with Finance Officers in identifying further efficiency savings, increasing income from fees and charges and in identifying new sources of income;
- e) to review the policies and principles on Budgeting, Council Tax, Reserves and Provisions, Charging, Value for Money and make any recommendations to Council;
- f) note that the additional budget required as a result of the restructure due to LGR in 2026/27 of £273,987 be funded by reserves set aside during 2025/26, and that the additional £16,384 to fund the 2027/28 budget be funded by the reserves set aside during 2025/26. The savings generated from 2028/29 onwards, then occur within the budget thereafter;
- g) approve the additional x1 FTE in the Planning Policy and Infrastructure team as per 3.7.7 funded for two years from grant funding and added into the general fund thereafter; and
- h) approve the additional x1 FTE in the Heritage Culture and Visitors Business Unit as per 3.7.8 funded from the overall restructure savings identified in the table at 3.7.9.

Reasons for Decision:

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

Options Considered:

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

412 THE COUNCIL'S APPROACH TO DEBT COLLECTION AND MANAGING CASES OF MULTIPLE DEBT

The Council's Transactional Finance Manager was in attendance to present a report which set out the draft Corporate Income and Debt Strategy and Policy Management of Cases that Involve Multiple Council Debt.

The Cabinet welcomed the creation of a single point of contact for people with multiple debts with the Council, which historically had been managed by a number of different teams. Members noted that the Council did make use of enforcement agents to help collect debts, but the Council would work to help prevent the need for this where at all possible.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

a) review and endorse the proposed approach to debt collection as set out in Appendices A and B; and

b) approve the additional budget requirement for 1 additional FTE of £72,800 (based on 25/26 values) funded 50% each between the GF and HRA based upon the reserves identified in the financial implications.

Reasons for Decision

To improve the customers experience of debt collection to align with our customer experience strategy and centralise our collection approach.

Options Considered

Cabinet does not approve the proposed changes, and individual teams continue to collect debt streams in isolation and without a joined-up approach.

413 NEWARK A46 BYPASS - UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS

The Director – Planning and Growth presented a report to update Cabinet on the current position regarding the A46 Newark Bypass, the recent uncertainty affecting delivery, and the proposed next steps for continued lobbying and partnership working to secure delivery of the nationally important infrastructure within the Road Investment Strategy 3 period (2026–2031).

The Cabinet welcomed the report, noting the national significance of the project and the important role in economic growth that the A46 project would bring.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

a) note the current position regarding the A46 Newark Bypass, including the Development Consent Order approval, the scheme's inclusion within Road Investment Strategy 3 (2026–2031) in March 2026, and the recent uncertainty following the cancellation of the Skanska contract and Department for Transport letter of 30 June 2026 reproduced at Appendix A;

b) strongly reaffirm the Council's support for the earliest possible delivery of the A46 Newark Bypass as nationally important infrastructure;

c) strongly support that the Council should continue to work with partners, Coordinated through the East Midlands Combined County Authority, including East Midlands Councils/Transport for the East Midlands, Nottinghamshire County Council, Lincolnshire County Council, local Members of Parliament and regional business partners, to lobby Government for the scheme to be delivered as soon

as possible within the RIS3 period;

d) delegates authority to the Leader of the Council and Director – Planning and Growth to finalise and submit any letters, consultation responses or joint representations required to support delivery of the scheme in accordance with recommendations b) and c) above; and

e) notes that officers will continue to keep under review the local implications of any delay, particularly for the Newark Urban Area, the ongoing work for the new Local Plan, and the Council's land and property interests at the Newark Lorry Park.

Reasons for Decision:

To ensure continued efforts to secure this important national infrastructure.

Options Considered:

The Council could choose to remain silent on recent developments, which would be contrary to our role over many years to lobby, alongside public and private sector partners, to promote and secure at a national level the importance of the A46 Bypass which is nationally, locally and regionally critical in delivering journey-time savings, unlocking growth and productivity, and alleviating congestion.

414 FIXED PENALTY NOTICES - INCREASE OF CHARGES AND INSERTION OF NEW OFFENCE

The Senior Enforcement Officer was in attendance to present a report which sought approval to update the Council's fixed penalty charges in line with the Government's stance on Waste Crime/ASB and to include a new fixed penalty charge.

The Cabinet welcomed the report and the educational actions undertaken by the Team alongside the enforcement action and appropriate action to investigate fly-tipping which was welcomed by residents.

AGREED (unanimously) that Cabinet:

a) adopts a new fixed penalty notice for household waste duty of care in Section 2.6;

b) adopts revised tariffs provided in Section 2.7; and

c) publicises the revised tariffs on the Council's website.

Reasons for Decision:

This aligns with the Community Plan ambition to reduce opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour by reviewing infrastructure and encouraging behavioural change across the district, with the aim of improving feelings of safety.

Options Considered:

To make no changes to the current FPN tariff.

Meeting closed at 9.09 pm.

Chair