



# Newark TOWN COUNCIL

**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE**  
**FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

Dear Councillor

You are summonsed to attend an Extraordinary Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee at **7.00pm** on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024. This meeting will be held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall.

Yours sincerely

**Matthew Gleadell**  
**Town Clerk**

**Pre-Group Meetings**

**(if required)**

<b>1</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>Independents for Newark</b>	<b>Committee Room</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>Labour Group</b>	<b>Pickin Room</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>Conservative Group</b>	<b>Old Robing Room</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>Independent Councillors</b>	<b>Mayors Parlour</b>

**Committee Membership**

Cllr I Brown  
Cllr D Campbell  
Cllr T Collier  
**Cllr B Corrigan (Chairman)**  
Cllr E Cropper  
**Cllr S Crosby (Vice-Chairman)**  
Cllr S Dickinson  
Cllr L Geary  
Cllr L Goff  
Cllr J Kellas  
Cllr D Ledger  
Cllr D Moore  
Cllr G Rix  
Cllr N Ross  
Cllr L Roulstone  
Cllr M Skinner  
Cllr M Spoors  
Cllr P Taylor

**FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**A G E N D A**

**WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024**

<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>		
<b>2</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest from Members</b> <i>Relevant Legislation: Localism Act 2011 s31</i>	<b>Verbal</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Newark Market Place - Towns Fund Capital Investment</b>	<b>Report Attached</b>	<b>Page 5</b>



**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE  
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Newark Market Place - Towns Fund Capital Investment</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>Matthew Gleadell</b>

**1. Recommendations**

- 1.1 That members agree to adopt project scores within an adopted scoring matrix that will reflect the Town Councils view on how different potential features for delivery as part of investment plans for the market place should be prioritised.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 In July 2020 the Newark Town Board submitted a Newark Investment Plan to the government in an effort to bid for some of the £3.6 billion Towns Fund made available by the then government. Newark was successful in its bid and secured £25million pounds towards a range of local investment projects.
- 2.2 One of the investment projects was a project known as Newark Heart. This consisted of a project fund of £2.1 million made up of £1.5 million for capital investment into the market place and £600,000 revenue costs across 3 years, towards events and activity in the town centre along with staff resource to help deliver the project. Newark Town Council was the original project sponsor for Newark Heart with a £600,000 match funding commitment spread over 3 years to also be applied towards events and activities in the town centre.
- 2.3 Newark Town Council operated the project from its initiation on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 until the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 when the project sponsorship was taken over by the District Council. Internal staff challenges with key project staff that arose in late 2022 and early 2023 (long term illness/resignations) meant that the Town Council was devoid of sufficient resource to deliver the project. It had also become apparent that the project was of such a size and scale that it was beyond the physical means of the Town Council in any event to effectively deliver the project. The change of sponsorship was requested by the Town Council.
- 2.4 Challenges that have arisen in the last 12 -18 months with another Towns Fund project, being the 'Newark Gateway' project, which is now no longer viable has resulted in an additional £2.1 million pounds capital funding being diverted to the Newark Heart project to give a total capital fund available for investment into the market place of £3.6million pounds.
- 2.5 The project is now on the cusp of initial design and costing work and in order to steer that process, the Town Council is asked to provide guidance as to its priority order for a range of possible features that might be included in any future design and investment scheme.
- 2.6 Members have been provided with a scoring matrix and project brief ahead of the meeting to assist them in determining the Town Councils scoring of the different possible features.

- 2.7 The market place is an extremely important historic asset not just for Newark but the country as a whole. The investment opportunities represent an important milestone in the life of the market place and careful thought must be given to the project as it develops.

The end result may not be universally supported by all however, as high street and town centre uses evolve and societal shopping habits continue to change, it is very welcome to have funds available to adapt the market place so that it can seek to better complement the changes in the way town centres are being utilised.

#### **FUTURE PROJECT GOVERNANCE**

- 2.8 The scale of the project is significant and will likely require regular input from officers and members alike.
- 2.9 Under the Scheme of Delegation, the project could arguably sit with either the full Town Council (as a new undertaking) or the Finance and General Purposes Committee as a market operation.
- 2.10 It is recommended that going forward all future project related matters are dealt with at full Town Council meetings. The scale and importance of the project for the town is considered to be significant enough to warrant the highest governance structure with the Council taking the lead. The Full Town Council meetings involve all members and that will continue to be the case regardless of any governance re-organisation that may occur. Additional extraordinary full Town Council meetings may from time to time be required as the project progresses.
- 2.11 Alternatively, a new committee/sub-committee or working group could be created to deal with the project under such terms as the Council may direct.

#### **Financial, Legal, Equality, Environmental & Risk Issues**

- 3.1 **Financial** – At this point it is worth noting that it is likely that the maintenance revenue costs of the market place may increase dependant on what features are pursued and included. As the project develops those future costs will become much clearer; however, during a very difficult financial period it is important that members are clear of the financial implications.

**Risk Issues** – The principal of investment into the market square is hard to object to. However, as the project progresses, careful management of the physical process of carrying out works will be important. A level of disruption to the town centre will be unavoidable however the impact on market traders, shops and businesses and the Town Hall as a venue will need to be carefully considered and managed as much as reasonably possible.

<b>Background Papers:</b>	<b>Working papers</b>
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<b>Matthew Gleadell</b> <b>Tel: 01636 684801</b> <b>Email: <a href="mailto:matthew.gleadell@newark.gov.uk">matthew.gleadell@newark.gov.uk</a></b>