

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY 29TH JANUARY 2025

Thursday 23rd January 2025

Dear Councillor

You are summonsed to attend a meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee at **7.00pm** on Wednesday 29th January 2025. This meeting will be held in the <u>Council Chamber</u> at the Town Hall.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Gleadell
Town Clerk

Pre-Group Meetings

(if required)

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

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 29TH JANUARY 2025

1	Apologies for Absence		
2	Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 13 th November 2024	Minutes Attached	Page 5
3	Minutes of the Extraordinary Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 20 th November 2024	Minutes Attached	Page 9
4	Minutes of the Extraordinary Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 15th January 2025	Minutes Attached	Page 13
5	Declarations of Interest from Members	Verbal	
	Relevant Legislation: Localism Act 2011 s31		
6	Payment Schedules 8/25 and 9/25	Report Attached	Page 15
7	Community Governance Review of Newark Town Council	Report Attached	Page 27
8	2025/2026 Budget and Precept and	Report Attached	Page 35
	Medium-Term Financial Plan		

Agenda Item: 2



FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 13th November 2024 in the Council Chamber, at the Town Hall.

Membership Present:	Councillor	B Corrigan (Chairman)
	Councillors	l Brown
		D Campbell
		T Collier
		E Cropper
		S Crosby (Vice-Chairman)
		S Dickinson
		L Geary
		L Goff
		J Kellas
		D Ledger
		D Moore
		G Rix
		N Ross
		L Roulstone
		M Skinner
		M Spoors
		P Taylor
Apologies for Absence:	Councillors	No Apologies
Officers Present:	Town Clerk	Matthew Gleadell
	There was one member of the press and no members of the public present.	
Venue:	Committee Room, Newark Town Hall	

FGP68/24/25 Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 9th October 2024

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 9th October 2024 were proposed by Cllr B Corrigan and seconded by Cllr D Moore.

A vote was held and they were APPROVED.

It was NOTED that on page 6 of the Minutes (FGP57/24/25)B:

'It was also AGREED that a breakdown of payments made by credit card would be included for future reference'.

This requires action.

FGP69/24/25 Declarations of Interest

All N&SDC Councillors declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 8 – Defibrillator Requests.

FGP70/24/25 Payment Schedule 6/25 and 7/25

Cllr B Corrigan proposed, Cllr D Moore seconded the Monthly Payment Schedules 6/25 and 7/25.

Members then **NOTED** and **APPROVED** Payment Schedule 6/25 in the sum of £194,395.42 (one hundred and ninety four thousand, three hundred and ninety five pounds and 42p).

Payment Schedule 7/25 in the sum of £156.032.23 (one hundred and fifty six thousand and thirty two pounds and 23p) was also **NOTED and APPROVED.**

Cllr P Taylor queried the different power suppliers that the council has and wondered why the same supplier was not used for all supplies. The Chairman responded that brokers work on behalf of the Council finding the best deals for the supplies. The Clerk advised he would share appropriate information on this with Members.

Cllr M Spoors enquired if staff for whom the Council pay union subs received any kind of tax rebate in relation to those subs. The Clerk said he would enquire on this point.

FGP71/24/25 Notice of Motion

The Notice of Motion as printed in the Agenda Report was proposed by Cllr D Ledger and seconded by Cllr B Corrigan.

The Chairman also noted that members from the Boxing Club were in attendance and asked if Standing Orders should be suspended to allow two members of the Club to speak, for no more than 5 minutes.

Cllr P Taylor proposed not to do this, and this was seconded by Cllr J Kellas. They were concerned that this would set a precedent to any future motions.

A vote was held, and it was equally split.

The Chairman had the casting vote so Standing Orders were suspended to allow the Boxing Club members to speak.

Cllr P Taylor then proposed a small amendment which would make clear that the council supports the motion, provided appropriate safeguarding measures were in place within the club.

A vote was held and it was **AGREED** that the amendment would carry.

The amended motion was proposed by Cllr P Taylor and seconded by Cllr N Ross. A vote was held and it was **AGREED**.

Cllr D Ledger left the meeting at this point.

FGP72/24/25 Grant Application

Following a debate regarding the application from Newark Tennis Club it was proposed by Cllr P Taylor, seconded by Cllr J Kellas that this application would **NOT** be supported due to concerns that the funding would only benefit a fairly small amount of local people accessing the tennis club.

A vote was held and this was AGREED.

It was further **AGREED** that the Tennis Club would not be invited to apply formally under the new Council's Grant Application process once finalised.

FGP73/24/25 Play Areas Upgrades and Investment

Cllr M Skinner declared a personal interest as a resident of the Syerston Way estate.

Clir D Campbell proposed, Clir L Geary seconded, that the recommendations in the report be supported.

Cllr J Kellas proposed, Cllr T Collier seconded, a small amendment to recommendation 1.3 as follows:

'That the Clerk and Deputy Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, be given devolved authority to allocate the Council's released funds as match funding if deemed necessary in pursuance of external funding to support the development ambitions for the Councils play areas.'

A vote was held and this was AGREED.

FGP74/24/25 Middlebeck – Transfer of Open Space and Public Assets

Following initial discussion, it was **AGREED** that this Agenda Item be moved to the end of the meeting. This was following a number of questions being raised that the Clerk felt could not be answered without being in 'closed session'.

FGP75/24/25 Defibrillator ('Defibs') Requests

It was **AGREED** that Newark Town Council **SUPPORTED** the requests as set out in the Agenda Report.

FGP76/24/25 Civic Trust Plaques

The recommendation contained in the Agenda Report was ACCEPTED.

FGP77/24/25 Cemetery Was Memorial – Public Request for Additional Name Inscriptions

Clir J Kellas proposed, Clir N Ross seconded, an amendment to the recommendation contained in the Agenda Report.

The recommendation was 'if appropriate funding could not be secured by way of an external grant, that the Council seek to budget for the works in the next financial year.

A vote was held and this was AGREED.

FGP78/24/25 Recording and Live Streaming of Newark Town Council Meetings

Following brief discussion, a decision on this Agenda Item was deferred for a period of one year, to await how legislation develops for hybrid meetings.

FGP79/24/25 Budget 25/26 – Initial Considerations

There was a brief debate and discussion around the budget paperwork and various elements of the document presented in the Agenda Report, and **NOTED** by Members.

FGP80/24/25 Exclusion of the Press and Public

It was proposed that That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972) the press and public be excluded from the next Agenda Item debate on the grounds that the Committee's remaining business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, and the public interest in disclosing the information.

A vote was held and this was AGREED.

FGP81/24/25 Appendix 2 to Agenda Item 13 – Newark Royal Market

Members reviewed the content of the report and data within it. There was a general concensus that there are potential cost savings within the market operations but it was noted that further studies and reports have been commissioned by NSDC as part of intended Towns Fund investment into the market place and that those reports will help to influence the direction of travel for the market. The contents of the report were duly noted.

FGP82/24/25 Middlebeck Transfer of Open Space and Public Assets

The Clerk outlined the current situation in relation to Devolution and possible renegotiation discussions with NSDC and their implications for the Middlebeck item.

Members debated the report produced by the Town Clerk and linked report at NSDC. There was a mixed response from some of the members.

There was a desire from members to ensure there is some benefit for Middlebeck from tax receipts. Recommendation from the Clerk to work with NSDC to acquire play area assets was viewed favourably.

After careful debate the recommendation in the report from the Clerk to not take in Middlebeck Public Open Space but work with NSDC to provide Town Council input into play areas and other potential projects was voted upon and **AGREED**.

Meeting Closed:	Next Meeting:	Wednesday 20 th November (Extraordinary Meeting)
-----------------	---------------	--

Committee Date: Wednesday 29th January 2025

Agenda Item: 3



EXTRAORDINARY FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of the Extraordinary Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 20th November 2024, at 7.00pm, in the Council Chamber, at the Town Hall.

Membership Present:	Councillor	B Corrigan (Chairman)
	Councillors	I Brown
		D Campbell
		T Collier (Ap)
		E Cropper
		S Crosby (Vice-Chairman)
		S Dickinson (Ap)
		L Geary
		L Goff
		J Kellas
		D Ledger
		D Moore
		G Rix
		N Ross
		L Roulstone
		M Skinner (Ap)
		M Spoors
		P Taylor (Ap)
Apologies for Absence:	Councillors	No Apologies
Officers Present:	Town Clerk	Matthew Gleadell
	Deputy Town Clerk	Anna Lawton
	There was one member of the press a	and no members of the public present.
Venue:	Committee Room, Newark Town Hall	

FGP82/24/25 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received.

FGP83/24/25 Newark Market Place – Town Fund Capital Investments

The Town Clerk explained the background of the funding, the recent history of the project, as well as the remit for the grant fund.

Aspects considered:

1. Newark Town Council Governance for the project

To accept section 2.9 of the proposal:

'Under the Scheme of Delegation, the project could arguably sit with either the Full Town Council (as a new undertaking) or the Finance & General Purposes Committee as a market operation'.

2. Water Feature

A proposal was made for the following:

For the project to not include a water feature, however, to invest in a drinking water appliance.

Proposed by Cllr L Geary, Seconded by Cllr G Rix.

A vote was held – there were 8 in favour and 6 against.

An amendment was considered:

'For the project to not include a water feature'.

Proposed by Cllr L Geary, Seconded by Cllr G Rix

A vote was held - there were 12 in favour and 2 against.

Clirs S Crosby and M Spoors stated that they wished it to be formally minuted that they were in favour of a water feature.

Clirs S Crosby and M Spoors also stated that they wished it to be formally minuted that there were acting in their role as a Town Councillor as opposed to being a District Councillor.

3. Public Art

A proposal was made for the following:

The Town Council regards Public Art as a low priority compared to the other available options.

Proposed by Cllr B Corrigan, Seconded by Cllr G Rix.

A vote was held – there were 11 in favour and 3 against.

4. Cycle Parking

A proposal was made for the following:

The Town Council regards Cycle Parking as a low priority compared to the other options available.

Proposed by Clir D Ledger, Seconded by Clir E Cropper.

A vote was held - there were 9 in favour, 2 against and 3 abstentions.

Cllr E Cropper wished for it to be recorded that the Town Council supports cycling within the town, however, there is already adequate provision in the vicinity of the Market Place.

5. Resurfacing

A proposal was made for the following:

Resurfacing is a high priority with the original cobbles being historically and sympathetically reinstated with the area, in addition to the Town Council supporting the relevelling of the kerb lines.

Cllr L Roulstone left the meeting at 8.28pm.

Cllr S Crosby left the meeting at 8.35pm; Cllr S Crosby stated that she was unhappy with the process applied to address the questions.

Proposed by Cllr D Ledger, Seconded by Cllr B Corrigan.

A vote was held and it was accepted unanimously.

6. Festoon/Feature Lighting

A proposal was made for the following:

The Town Council would like to see options for lighting prior to making a decision and would like to encourage the introduction of uplighting of the buildings.

Proposed by Cllr L Geary, Seconded by Cllr B Corrigan.

A vote was held – there were 7 in favour, 1 against and 4 abstentions.

Cllr B Corrigan raised concerns regarding the implementation and design of the Matrix and requests that the Town Council, the Deputy Town Clerk and the Chairman of Finance & General Purposes liaise in order to present a simplified matrix to the next meeting.

Meeting Closed:	8.45pm	Next Meeting:	Wednesday 29 th January 2025

Agenda Item: 4



EXTRAORDINARY FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of the Extraordinary Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 15th January 2025, at 7.00pm, in the Council Chamber, at the Town Hall.

Membership Present:	Councillor	B Corrigan (Chairman)
	Councillors	I Brown
		D Campbell
		T Collier (Ap)
		E Cropper
		S Crosby (Vice-Chairman)
		S Dickinson
		L Geary (Ap)
		L Goff (Ap)
		J Kellas
		D Ledger
		D Moore
		G Rix (Ap)
		N Ross
		L Roulstone
		M Skinner
		M Spoors (Ap)
		P Taylor (Ap)
Apologies for Absence:	Councillors	T Collier, L Geary, L Goff, G Rix, M Spoors, P Taylor
Officers Present:	Town Clerk	Matthew Gleadell
	Deputy Town Clerk	Anna Lawton
	There was one member of the press and no members of the public pre	
Venue:	Committee Room, Newark Town Hall	

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Cllr M Skinner raised a Point of Order in relation to the timeframe of notification of the meeting and paperwork.

This Point of Order was NOT ACCEPTED.

FGP84/24/25 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received.

FGP85/24/25 2025/2026 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan

Cllr B Corrigan provided Councillors with an overview of the budget proposals and outlined the factors which had resulted in a reduction on the projected deficit in 2027.

The budget was discussed at length.

The following amendments were requested in preparation of the ratification of the document at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council on Wednesday 29th January 2025 (following the next meeting of this Committee.

- 1. Tolney Lane Public Conveniences payment system to be included.
- 2. Newark on Sea, 'pop-up' in wards the proposed allocated sites of Hawtonville and Yorke Drive were **NOT ACCEPTED** by ward members, however, they may be diverted to alternative wards.
- 3. The Grant Budget to be increased from £7,000.00 to £7,500.
- 4. The Election Reserve is to be increased with the shortfall spread across the two years.

The recommendation was that the Precept request to Newark and Sherwood District Council, be 5% based on a Band D property.

The above recommendation was proposed by Cllr B Corrigan, seconded by Cllr D Moore. A vote was held and this was **AGREED**.

Meeting Closed: 8.35pm Next Meeting: Wednesday 29 th January 2025
--

Committee Date: Wednesday 29th January 2025

Agenda Item No: 6

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

SUBJECT:	MONTHLY PAYMENT SCHEDULES
REPORT BY:	MATTHEW GLEADELL (TOWN CLERK)

- 1. Recommendations
- 1.1 Members note the payment schedules for months 8 and 9 of the 24/25 financial year.
- 2. Background
- 2.1 Payment Schedules 8/25 and 9/25 appended to this report.
- 3. Financial, Legal, Equality, Environmental & Risk Issues
 None.

Background Papers:	Working papers	
Lead Officer:	Matthew Gleadell	Tel: 01636 684801
	Email: matthew.gleadell@newark.gov.uk	

DIRECT DEBITS ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT SCHEDULE 8/25 30.11.24

ACC	CONTS FOR PATMENT SCI	ILDULL 0/20	JU. 11.24
Voucher Number	Payee	Budget	Amount
2809 - 2810	ASD Wholesale Ltd	TH Bar	1115.18
2811	British Gas	Buttermarket Electricity	15.38
2812	British Telecom	Cemetery Telephones	66.08
2813	EDF	Market Electricity	6.32
2814	Gas Direct	TH Bar	4.32
2815	HCP Capital UK Ltd	Civic Car	288.28
2816	Natwest Cards - MG	Bar Equipment	317.98
2817	Natwest Cards - SA	Floral Displays	290.99
2817		TH M&E	92.48
2817		Vehicle Running Costs	51.98
2818 - 2819	Newark & Sherwood District Council	Rates	7042.00
2820	PWLB	PWLB	12420.92
2821	Total Energies	TH Electricity	854.09
2822 - 2825	Total Energies	Market Electricity	120.02
2826 - 2828	Total Energies	Cemetery Electricity	94.67
2829 - 2831	Total Energies	PC Electricity	696.07
2832	Total Energies	P & O/S Electricity	208.24
2833 - 2835	Total Energies	Buttermarket Electricity	739.41
2836	Total Energies	TH Gas	1451.61
2837	Total Energies	Cemetery Gas	258.16
2838 - 2839	Total Energies	PC Gas	165.02
2840 - 2860	Worldpay	Bank charges	191.09
		Total	26490.29

AUTOPAY ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT SCHEDULE 8/25 30.11.24

Voucher Number	Payee	Budget	Amount
2710	7th Newark Scout Group	Mayors Charity	50.00
2711	Abbey Flyers Ltd	Christmas Lights	2505.60
2712	Air IT	Computers	355.14
2713	Allstar	Vehicle running costs	381.00
2714	Ann Et Vin	TH Bar	531.59
2715	AO Cumbernauld	Payroll	14580.81
2716	Aquaid	Refreshments	187.68
2717	ARCO	Market Equipment	113.58
2718	The Art of Beer Ltd	Music festival	240.00
2719	Aspect East Midlands	Marketing & Promotions	150.00

2720	Booth, Helen	Christmas Lights	46.00
2721	Bourne Town Council	Mayors Allowance	70.00
2722	Cameundo, Galo	Christmas Lights	70.00
2723	Carey, Jenny	Christmas Lights	46.00
2724	Carr, Caroline	Christmas Lights	46.00
2725	CH Media Publishing Ltd	Marketing & Promotions	346.20
2726	Chevron	Remembrance Sunday	1350.00
2727 - 2728	City Hygiene Services Ltd	PC Repairs & Maintenance	93.60
2729	Cleaning Supplies 4U	TH Maintenance & Equipment	451.46
2730	Cope	Occupational health	19.80
2731,32,34,35	Demon Cleaning Services	TH Maintenance & Equipment	1951.40
2733	Derry Building Services	Cemetery Upkeep	99.00
2736	Derry Building Services	PC Repairs & Maintenance	180.00
2737	DCK Accounting Solutions	Consultancy	719.04
2738	Easy Safety	Consultancy	796.00
2739	EE	Telephones	155.94
2740	ENVA	Market Refuse	1976.06
2741	Equals	Equals KE Top-up	298.76
2742	Equals	Equals PT Top-up	442.30
2743	Everflow	Water	929.40
2744 - 2745	Faulty Towers Dining Experience Ltd	Faulty Towers	1860.00
2746	Frontier Fireworks Ltd	Marketing & Promotions	260.00
2747	Harvey & Co Croc Charms	Christmas Lights	41.80
2748	Hitched	TH Marketing & Promotion	223.84
2749	Hungry Bear Food	Event catering	50.00
2750	lliffe Media	Marketing & Promotions	608.40
2751	Laffey's Ltd	Cemetery Upkeep	216.00
2752	Ledger, Diane	Mayors Allowance	25.00
2753	Lewis, Jason	Allotment Keys	50.00
2754	LITE	Christmas Lights	31165.01
2755	LTA Operations Ltd	Tennis Couts	210.00
2756	McArthur Morgan	Staff training	130.00
2757	MEC	Cemetery upkeep	225.00
2758	Newark Civic Trust	Grants	132.50
2759	Newark Food Bank	Mayors Charity	50.00
2760	Newark & Sherwood Locksmiths	TH Maintenance & Equipment	58.74
2761	Newark & Sherwood Locksmiths	Cemetery Upkeep	66.00
2762	Newark Community First Aid	Civics	189.00
2763	Newark Security Services	P & O/S Security	879.84
2764	Newark Town Band	Remembrance Sunday	250.00
2765	Newark Womens Aid	Mayors Charity	50.00
2766	Notts LGPEN	Payroll	15314.01
2767	NSDC	SLA Parks	138829.37
2768	Newark TC	Payroll	57202.25
2769	Oconnell, Mel	Christmas Lights	16.00
2770 - 2772	Office Friends	Printing & Stationary	103.50

2773	PAS Ltd	Health & Safety	240.00
2774	Patchwork Audio	Christmas Lights	5126.00
2775	Royal British Legion	Mayors allowance	110.00
2776	Rix, Glennis	Travel	7.50
2777 - 2778	SA Plumbing	PC Repairs & Maintenance	253.00
2778	Saunders, Jayne	Airbridge	420.00
2779	Saunders, Jayne	All Souls	428.90
2781	Schofield, Adam	Marketing & Promotions	80.00
2782	Sciolti, Giles	Christmas Lights	40.00
2783	Second Element	Maintenance & Equipment	420.00
2784	Shaw Spark Electrical	TH Maintenance & Equipment	153.94
2785	Screwfix	Uniform	42.99
2786	Screwfix	Cemetery Equipment	11.78
2787	Simon Tullet Machinery	Vehicle running costs	70.57
2788	Smith, Maria	Christmas Lights	50.00
2789	Spencer, Thomas	Christmas Lights	46.00
2790	TC Harrison	Vehicle running costs	60.00
2791 - 2792	The Little Green Energy Company	Climate Change	9378.70
2793	Tomlinson, Pete	Civic Car	4.00
2794	Tomlinson, Pete	Mayors allowance/TH M&E	23.73
2795	Tracker	Vehicle running costs	239.00
2796	Tuxford Lawnmower Centre	Vehicle running costs	189.90
2797	Ultimate Print & Design	Christmas Lights	1085.00
2798	Verena	Christmas Lights	92.00
2799	Via	Market Equipment	120.00
2800 - 2802	Virgin Media Business	Telephones	357.48
2803	Walters Cleaning Services	TH Maintenance & Equipment	162.00
2804	Whitelock, Dawn	Christmas Lights	16.00
2805	Wildlife Fundraising Central Ltd	Christmas Lights	46.00
2806	Wordprint Ltd	All Souls	75.00
2807	Wordprint Ltd	Printing & Stationary	549.60
2808	Zurich	TH Insurance	81.31
		Total	297369.02

Grand Total £ 323,859.31

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

Month 8 - 1/11/24-30/11/24

Created date	Description	Name	Total credited / debited
03/11/2024	B&M 764 MALTKILN	Sally Wyles	-£7.14
04/11/2024	TIMPSON LIMITED	Sally Wyles	-£15.00
05/11/2024	WM MORRISONS STORE	Sally Wyles	-£20.80
08/11/2024	WM MORRISONS STORE	Sally Wyles	-£5.80
09/11/2024	WM MORRISONS STORE	Sally Wyles	-£10.00
09/11/2024	WM MORRISONS STORE	Sally Wyles	-£28.00
12/11/2024	WM MORRISONS STORE	Sally Wyles	-£3.00
12/11/2024	WM MORRISONS STORE	Sally Wyles	-£8.00
13/11/2024	WM MORRISONS STORE	Sally Wyles	-£35.44
18/11/2024	WM MORRISONS STORE	Sally Wyles	-£4.10
21/11/2024	WM MORRISONS STORE	Sally Wyles	-£5.50
22/11/2024	WM MORRISONS STORE	Sally Wyles	-£23.54
28/11/2024	W BOYES & CO LTD NEWAR	Sally Wyles	-£2.85
28/11/2024	WM MORRISONS STORE	Sally Wyles	-£3.00
29/11/2024	WM MORRISONS STORE	Sally Wyles	-£8.90
29/11/2024	YTC NEWARK	Sally Wyles	-£5.49
01/11/2024	FACEBK *9VPHFEQHK2	Kirsty Edwards	-£9.00
02/11/2024	FACEBK *RYK2BLLHK2	Kirsty Edwards	-£2.61
11/11/2024	FACEBK *RD5NLECHK2	Kirsty Edwards	-£10.00
16/11/2024	FACEBK *P7QQ9FQHK2	Kirsty Edwards	-£11.00
19/11/2024	BOOKER LTD - 38534864	Kirsty Edwards	-£233.20
21/11/2024	YTC NEWARK	Kirsty Edwards	-£4.00
25/11/2024	FACEBK *GRP75G4HK2	Kirsty Edwards	-£13.00
06/11/2024	ASDA STORES	Peter Tomlinson	-£18.00
06/11/2024	WM MORRISONS STORE	Peter Tomlinson	-£47.50
20/11/2024	NEWARK TOWN COUNCIL	Peter Tomlinson	£0.01
20/11/2024	NEWARK TOWN COUNCIL	Peter Tomlinson	£0.01
19/11/2024	NEWARK TOWN COUNCIL	Peter Tomlinson	-£0.01
19/11/2024	ASDA STORES 4201	Peter Tomlinson	-£24.25
22/11/2024	BOURNE FISH N CHIPS	Peter Tomlinson	-£9.80
02/11/2024	B&Q LTD	David Jackson	-£73.00
31/10/2024	WWW.AMAZON.* TR6CH0QR4	Karen Wood	-£48.04
06/11/2024	NEWARK SHERWOOD DC	Karen Wood	-£23.25

DIRECT DEBITS ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT SCHEDULE 9/25

31.12.24

Voucher Number	Payee	Budget	Amount
2961	ASD Wholesale Ltd	TH Bar	571.70
2962	ASD Wholesale Ltd	TH Bar	132.20
2963	ASD Wholesale Ltd	TH Bar	208.48
2964	British Gas	Buttermarket electricity	17.78
2965	British Telecom	PC Telephones	152.82
2966	British Telecom	Broadband	174.02
2967	British Telecom	Cemetery Telephones - Redcare	142.85
2968	British Telecom	Cemetery Telephones - Redcare	174.02
2969	British Telecom	Cemetery Telephones - Chapel	150.66
2970	British Telecom	Cemetery Telephones - Chapel	150.66
2971	British Telecom	Cemetery Telephones - Chapel	150.66
2972	British Telecom	Cemetery Telephones - Data Line Chapel	150.66
2973	British Telecom	Old R & R Telephones	150.66
2974	British Telecom	Cemetery Telephones	66.08
2975	British Telecom	Cemetery Broadband	104.00
2976	EDF	Market Electricity	0.11
2977	Gas Direct	Th Bar	4.46
2978	HCP Capital	Civic Car	288.28
2979	Natwest Credit cards MG	Advertising	83.37
2979	Natwest Credit cards MG	Uniform	98.64
2979	Natwest Credit cards MG	Accommodation/Travel Expenses	180.50
2979	Natwest Credit cards MG	Christmas Lights	199.49
2980	Newark & Sherwood District Council	Rates - The kiosk	259.00
2981	Newark & Sherwood District Council	Rates - Town Hall	2270.00
2981	Newark & Sherwood District Council	Rates - Market	3221.00
2981	Newark & Sherwood District Council	Rates - Cemetery	923.00
2981	Newark & Sherwood District Council	Rates - London Road PC	369.00
2982	Severn trent	Water	143.54
2983	Total Energies	PC Electricity	21.48
2984	Total Energies	PC Electricity	441.62
2985	Total Energies	PC Electricity	391.63
2986	Total Energies	P & O/S Electric	215.06
2987	Total Energies	TH Electricity	833.25
2988	Total Energies	TH Electricity	828.02
2989	Total Energies	TH Gas	1774.21
2990	Total Energies	Cemetery Electricity	8.40
2991	Total Energies	Cemetery Electricity	64.13
2992	Total Energies	Cemetery Electricity	29.52
2993	Total Energies	Market Electricity	112.66

2994	Total Energies	Market Electricity	12.19
2995	Total Energies	Market Electricity	10.45
2996	Total Energies	Market Electricity	12.14
2997	Total Energies	Buttermarket Electricity	17.09
	Worldpay	Bank Charges	186.99
		Total	15496.48

AUTOPAY ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT SCHEDULE 9/25

31.12.24

Voucher Parising		THE THERE IS NO SERVICE IN THE SERVICE	31.12.24	
Number	Payee	Budget	Amount	
2861	Air IT	Computers	340.74	
2862	Air IT	Computers	4987.20	
2863	Air IT	Computers	390.20	
2864	Alam, Imran	Christmas Market	60.00	
2865	Allstar	Vehicle Running Costs	214.30	
2866	Ann Et Vin	TH Bar	370.19	
2867	Ann Et Vin	TH Bar	410.38	
2868	Ann Et Vin	TH Bar	986.33	
2869	AO Cumbernauld	Payroli	20034.93	
2870	Aquaid	Refreshments	55.79	
2871	Arco	Market Maintenance & Equipment	259.78	
2872	Arco	Market Maintenance & Equipment	29.14	
2873	Arco	Market Maintenance & Equipment	104.26	
2873	Arco	Market Uniform	57.88	
2874	Atkins, Anne-Marie	PC Repairs & Maintenance	19.50	
2875	Beech, David	Christmas Lights	50.00	
2876	Canon	Printing & Stationary	1218.78	
2877	Chevron	Christmas Lights	384.00	
2878	Chevron	Market & Promo	1012.80	
2879	Citizens Advice Bureau	Grants	3500.00	
2880	City Hygiene	PC Repairs & Maintenance	44.80	
2881	City Hygiene	PC Repairs & Maintenance	48.80	
2882	Cleaning Supplies 4U	TH Maintenance & Equipment	186.5	
2883	Cleaning Supplies 4U	TH Maintenance & Equipment	89.90	
2884	Cleaning Supplies 4U	TH Maintenance & Equipment	554.00	
2885	Cleaning Supplies 4U	TH Maintenance & Equipment	391.8	
2886	Closomat	PC Repairs & Maintenance	258.00	
2887	Cope	Occupational Health	19.80	
2888	Crossland, Helen	Mayors Allowance	14.99	
2889	Derry Building Services	PC Repairs & Maintenance	780.00	

2890	Derry Building Services	PC Repairs & Maintenance	829.20
2891	Derry Building Services	PC Repairs & Maintenance	457.20
2892	Derry Building Services	S. Ave Maintenance & Equipment	225.60
2893	Easy Safety	Consultancy Fees	995.00
2894	ENVA	Market Refuse	2115.44
2895	Everflow	Water	907.94
2896	Farmstar	Vehicle Running Costs	264.00
2897	Farmstar	PC Repairs & Maintenance	12.16
2898	Greatminds Creative	Marketing & Promotions	510.00
2899	Guy Taylor Associates	S. Ave Maintenance & Equipment	1800.00
2900	Harrison, Lucy	Christmas Lights	46.00
2901	HB Embroidery	Uniform	15.00
2902	Hitched	TH Events	223.84
2903	lliffe Media	Market Promotions	608.40
2904	Interactive Theatre	Faulty Towers	222.73
2905	Jackson, Dave	Market Equipment & Maintenance	12.73
2906	Jackson, Richard	Christmas Lights	70.00
2907	JJ Hilton Developments	Event Catering	2200.00
2908	JJ Hilton Developments	Event Catering	480.00
2909	JJ Hilton Developments	Event Catering	240.00
2910	JJ Hilton Developments	Event Catering	875.00
2911	JJ Hilton Developments	Event Catering	75.00
2912	JJ Hilton Developments	Event Catering	78.50
2913	JJ Hilton Developments	Event Catering	50.00
2914	K & H sports	Uniform	46.00
2915	Kirk, Tracy	Christmas Lights	140.00
2916	League of Friends at Newark Hospital	Christmas Lights	16.00
2917	Ledger, Diane	Mayors Allowance	32.00
2918	Le Grice, Mark	Christmas Market	46.00
2919	Lidsters	Cemetery Tablets	233.94
2920	Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance	Christmas Market	25.00
2920	Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance	Christmas Lights	16.00
2921	Lodge Tyres	Vehicle Running Costs	107.56
2922	Malik, Hafeez	Christmas Lights	40.00
2923	MEC	Cemetery Upkeep	75.00
2924	Mewse, Jade	Christmas Lights	40.00
2925	My Dogs Got Style	Christmas Market	46.00
2926	Newark & Sherwood Locksmiths	TH Maintenance & Equipment	69.60
2927	Newark Steampunk Society	Recharges	74.00
2928	Newark TC	Payroll	46678.85
2928	Newark TC	Payroll	459.72
2929	Noreikiene, Irma	Christmas Lights	70.00
2930	Notts LGPEN	Payroll	18684.05
2931	Office Friends	Printing & Stationary	20.02
2932	Office Friends	Printing & Stationary	93.82
2933	Page, Estella	Marketing & Promotions	150.00

2934	PAS	Consultancy Fees	240.00
2935	PHS	PC Repairs & Maintenance	256.30
2936	PHS	PC Repairs & Maintenance	128.03
2937	PHS	TH Maintenance & Equipment	357.64
2938	PKF	External Audit Fee	3024.00
2939	PRS	Licenses	269.02
2940	Safelincs	Defibrillator	887.99
2941	SA Plumbing	PC Repairs & Maintenance	100.74
2942	Sayers, Felicity	Marketing & Promotions	300.00
2943	Screwfix	Market Equipment	133.86
2944	Security 2	TH Bookings	378.00
2945	Shelton, J	Christmas Lights	46.00
2946	Shredall	TH Maintenance & Equipment	229.39
2947	Smith, Richard	Christmas Lights	74.00
2948	Stolp, Lauren	Christmas Lights	32.00
2949	TC Harrison	Vehicle Running Costs	60.00
2950	The Little Pasta Pot	Christmas Market	70.00
2951	TMS Franking machine	Postage	400.00
2952	Tomlinson, Pete	Faulty Towers/Refreshments	21.40
2953	Travis Perkins	Equipment & Tools	157.98
2954	Ultimate Print & Design	Marketing & Promotions	80.00
2955	Virgin Media	Cemetery Telephones	46.46
2956	Virgin Media	Telephones	269.34
2957	Walters	TH Maintenance & Equipment	162.00
2958	Ward, J	Christmas Lights	46.00
2959	Watch It	Cemetery Upkeep	1007.33
2960	WEC CCTV	Market Equipment & Tools	912.14
		Total	127041.91

Grand Total £ 142,538.39

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

Month 9 - 1/12/24-31/12/24

			Total credited /
Created date	Description	Name	debited
30/11/2024	MFG COW LANE	Peter Tomlinson	-£4.00
30/11/2024	MCDONALDS	Peter Tomlinson	-£7.49
02/12/2024	WB CROMWELL FORECOURT	Peter Tomlinson	-£8.00
03/12/2024	THE WORKS	Peter Tomlinson	-£4.00
11/12/2024	WM MORRISONS STORE	Peter Tomlinson	-£48.95
12/12/2024	ASDA STORES	Peter Tomlinson	-£29.70
12/12/2024	ASDA STORES	Peter Tomlinson	-£26.50
12/12/2024	WM MORRISONS STORE	Peter Tomlinson	-£48.15
17/12/2024	W BOYES & CO LTD NEWAR	Peter Tomlinson	-£29.99
17/12/2024	THE BRIDGE GROCERY	Peter Tomlinson	-£2.70
17/12/2024	MFG COW LANE	Peter Tomlinson	-£4.00
21/12/2024	NEWARK NEWS	Peter Tomlinson	-£1.90
17/12/2024	AMAZON* 3V12W2P55	Karen Wood	-£29.98
01/12/2024	SP STAFFBADGESDIRECT	Kirsty Edwards	-£10.74
02/12/2024	FACEBK *MNBNLG4JK2	Kirsty Edwards	-£6.39
09/12/2024	AMAZON* UG6YU2CO5	Kirsty Edwards	-£13.99
11/12/2024	B&M 764 MALTKILN	Kirsty Edwards	-£88.47
02/12/2024	WM MORRISONS STORE	Sally Wyles	-£8.65
03/12/2024	WM MORRISONS STORE	Sally Wyles	-£3.75
04/12/2024	WM MORRISONS STORE	Sally Wyles	-£6.90
05/12/2024	WM MORRISONS STORE	Sally Wyles	-£25.15

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

SUBJECT:	COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF NEWARK TOWN COUNCIL
REPORT BY:	MATTHEW GLEADELL

1. Recommendations

7

1.1 That members review the information provided as part of the Community Governance Review of Newark Town Council and determine the Town Councils organisational response to the consultation.

2. Background

The following text is taken from the NSDC website.

Newark residents and any interested parties are being invited to make comments on a Community Governance Review of the Newark Town Council ward boundaries and electoral arrangements, in light of future development of housing in the town and the current electoral arrangements. This is a standard process to ensure that the arrangements are clear and transparent for the electorate.

In their White Paper, Strong and Prosperous Communities, the UK Government emphasised that "ultimately, the recommendations made in a community governance review ought to bring about improved community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy and result in more effective and convenient delivery of local services".

On 12 December 2024 Newark and Sherwood District Council agreed the terms of reference, an indicative timetable and process for the Community Governance Review. This review process will determine any changes to the boundaries of Newark Town Council in view of the developments. The Council's Finance & General Purposes Committee will consider representations received during the review and final recommendations will be made directly to the Full Council.

The views of local people will be considered as part of this initial consultation process, following which draft proposals will be put forward in the Spring and will be open for another period of public consultation.

See digital link below (works in electronic version of Agenda only).

Elections latest news | Newark & Sherwood District Council

The Terms of Reference and associated plans are attached to this report as Appendix 1

- 2.1 Members should note they are able to respond to the consultation as individuals should they wish to do so but cannot hold themselves out as representing the views of the Town Council when doing so.
- 3. Financial, Legal, Equality, Environmental & Risk Issues
- 3.1 Relevant matters contained elsewhere in the report.

Review of Parishes and Related Matters Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Review of Newark Town Council Ward Boundaries and Electoral Arrangements

Terms of Reference

1.0 Introduction

The Council will undertake a Community Governance Review of the Newark Town Council ward boundaries and electoral arrangements in light of future development of housing in the town and the current electoral arrangements.

In undertaking the Review, the Council will be guided by Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972 and Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Electoral Commission.

These Terms of Reference will set out the matters on which the Review is to focus.

2.0 Why is the Council Undertaking the Review?

The Review is being undertaken given the current ward boundaries and the electoral arrangements for Newark Town Council. The context being that the current South Ward continues to see new development whilst development planned in the East Ward has yet to come forward, but both Wards are represented by one Member under existing arrangements.

3.0 What will the Review Consider?

The Review is to consider the current Town Council ward boundaries and the electoral arrangements with consideration as to the appropriate number of Ward Members for each of the Wards and the number of electors to reflect good community cohesion.

4.0 Maps

The following map has been produced to assist with the review process:

Map 1 showing the existing Ward boundaries.



5.0 Further / Background Information

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England conducted a review on the electoral arrangements for Nottinghamshire County Council under Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. The Commission's review was published in November 2015, and their final recommendation and subsequent Nottinghamshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2016 gave effect to the following warding / electoral arrangements for Newark Town Council as follows:

Beacon - 4 Members; Bridge - 3 Members; Castle - 2 Members; Devon - 5 Members; East - 1 Member; South - 1 Member; Magnus - 1 Member; and Sleaford - 1 Member.

Following a request by Newark Town Council to review its boundaries given development on land south of Newark, the District Council undertook a Community Governance Review in 2017 and in so doing, made a Community Governance Order on 28 November 2018, which made provision for the electoral arrangements for Newark Town Council to be as follows for the full election to be held on 2 May 2019:

Beacon – 5 Members; Bridge- 3 Members; Castle - 2 Members; Devon - 6 Members; Magnus - 1 Member; and Sleaford - 1 Member.

The reason for the change to the electoral arrangements were that there were insufficient electors in the East and South Wards to return a Town Councillor, but the Town Council wished to retain 18 Town Councillors.

Ahead of the full election held on 4 May 2023, electorate figure showed that there were sufficient electors registered in the South Ward, but this was not the case in the East Ward given the anticipated housing development had not taken place. Given that, the 2023 election was conducted in accordance with the following electoral arrangements:

Beacon - 5 Members; Bridge- 3 Members; Castle - 2 Members; Devon - 5 Members; Magnus - 1 Member; Sleaford - 1 Member; and South - 1 Member.

6.0 Scope / Purpose of the Review

The District Council wishes to regularise the warding and electoral arrangements for Newark Town Council given current numbers on the electoral register and future housing growth projections.

Using the revised Register of Electors published on 1 December 2024, the latest local government electorate figures are as follows:

Beacon - 4,934; Bridge - 3,842; Castle - 2,686; Devon - 6,588; East - 4; Magnus - 1,973; Sleaford - 1,013, South - 1,006.

Given that, the elector ratios based on the current electoral arrangements are as follows:

Beacon Ward = 5 Members Ratio to electors 1: 987
Bridge Ward = 3 Members Ratio to electors 1: 1,281
Castle Ward = 2 Members Ratio to electors 1: 1,343
Devon Ward = 5 Members Ratio to electors 1: 1,318

East Ward = 0 Members

Magnus Ward= Sleaford Ward= South Ward= 1 Member 1 Member Ratio to electors 1: 1,973 Ratio to electors 1: 1,013

1 Member

Ratio to electors 1: 1,006

7.0 Housing Growth

South Ward – construction continues on the strategic urban extension Land South of Newark, known as Middlebeck. As set out in the table below 534 dwellings have been constructed so far at the site and a further 307 are anticipated to come forward between 2024/5 and 2028/9, 686 between 2029/30 and 2032/33 and post 2033 a further 1623 dwellings are predicted to come forward.

Housing Growth in Newark South Ward as at 1 April 2024 – NAP2a Land South of Newark – Middlebeck

Planning Application Ref	Address	Details	Status	Already Built	Total in 5-year period 2024/25 -29/30	Rest of Plan Period 2029/30-2032/33	Post Plan Period
10/01586/OUTM 14/01978/OUTM	NAP2a - (Land South of Newark) Residual	NAP2a - Urban & Civic - Outline planning permission for up to 3,150 dwellings etc.	Already completed parcels	382	6/ 	dines ben	3911
10/01586/OUTM 14/01978/OUTM	NAP2a - (Land South of Newark) Residual	Residual of NAP2a - Urban & Civic - Outline planning permission for up to 3,150 dwellings etc.	Residual Outline for 2,223 dwellings. 3 parcels currently under construction see below	Not Started	25	575	1,623
14/01978/OUTM 19/01164/RMAM	NAP2a - (Land South of Newark) Phase 1, Parcels 4a & 4b	Countryside Properties - Reserved matters permission for 160 dwellings.	Under Construction.	147	13	0	0
14/01978/OUTM 21/02093/RMAM	NAP2a - (Land south of Newark) Phase 1, Parcel 6	Bellway Homes - Reserved matters permission for 104 dwellings.	Under Construction.	5	99	Ō	0
14/01978/OUTM 23/01161/RMAM	NAP2a - (Land south of Newark)	Miller Homes - Reserved matters permission for 281 dwellings.	Under Construction	None completed	170	111	0

	Phase 3, Parcel 5				
Sub Total	The state of the s	534	307	686	1623
Overall Total f	for Land South of Newark				3,150

East Ward – At present the strategic site Land East of Newark does not have planning permission and it is not anticipated that development will commence in the next five years. At present the Council anticipates that following any consent 275 dwellings will be delivered between 2029/30 and 2032/33.

8.0 Parish Governance within the District

The Council wants to ensure that there is clarity and transparency to the areas that parish councils represent and that the electoral arrangements are appropriate, equitable and readily understood by the electorate.

The Council is aiming to put in place strong and clearly defined boundaries and electoral arrangements.

In their White Paper, Strong and Prosperous Communities, the Government emphasised that "Ultimately, the recommendations made in a community governance review ought to bring about improved community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy and result in more effective and convenient delivery of local services".

9.0 Who undertakes the Review?

The Council's General Purposes Committee will approve this Terms of Reference for the review and the Members on that Committee will consider the representations received during the consultation process with the Full Council approving both draft and final recommendations.

10.0 How the Council proposes to conduct consultations during the Review?

In arriving at its recommendations in a Review, the Council will need to take account of the views of local people. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires the Council to consult the local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the Review (for instance the local Member of Parliament and the County Council) and to take the representations that are received into account by judging them against the criteria in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

The Council will consult in an appropriate and accessible manner within the Review area ensuring that those most affected are given the opportunity to respond. Any decisions made and the reasons for those decisions will be published following the Review.

In accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, representations received in connection with the Review will be taken into account, and consultees will be informed of the outcome of the review. The mechanism for this will be through the Council's website, issuing press releases, personal communication where appropriate and through the lodging of key documents on deposit at parish council offices etc.

11.0 Timetable for the Review

12 December 2024	Terms of Reference and Timetable for Review to be approved by the General Purposes Committee
6 January 2025	Council to publish the Terms of Reference Consultation begins with initial submissions being invited
14 February 2025	Closing date for submission of initial submissions
20 March 2025	General Purposes Committee Members to be consulted on initial submissions
24 March 2025	Council to publish Draft Proposals
	Consultation begins on Draft Proposals
2 May 2025	Closing date for submissions on Draft Proposals
19 June 2025	General Purposes Committee to be consider submissions on Draft Proposals and to make final Recommendations to the Full Council
15 July 2025	Full Council to approve and publish final Recommendations.
July – August 2025	Interested parties including the Electoral Commission informed of the outcome of the Review Reorganisation Order is made.
May 2027	Elections to be held if required

12.0 Reorganisation of Community Governance Orders and Commencement

The Review will be completed when the Council adopts the Reorganisation of Community Governance Order. Copies of this Order, any maps which affect the order of the detail and the document which sets out the reasons for the decisions that the Council has taken will be deposited at Castle House and on the Council's website.

13.0 List of Consultees

Nottinghamshire County Council
Newark Town Council
Local government electors (via the District Council website etc)
Voluntary Organisations / Community Groups
Local Residents Associations
Newark and Sherwood Clinical Commissioning Group
Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner
Primary and Secondary Schools in Newark
Appropriate outside bodies

14.0 How to Contact Us

Contact details at the Council for the duration of the review are as follows:

Nigel Hill - Business Manager - Elections & Democratic Services Email voting@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk

15.0 <u>Date of Publication of Terms of Reference</u>

Terms of Reference due to be published 6 January 2025.

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

SUBJECT:	2025/2026 Budget and Precept and Medium-Term Financial Plan
REPORT BY:	Matthew Gleadell

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That members of this committee make a recommendation to Full Council as to:
 - a) The starting budget for the 25/26 financial year.
 - b) The level of Precept to be levied for the 25/26 financial year.
- 1.2 That members of this committee note the year end forecasts for the 24/25 financial year and current mid-year budget position.
- 1.3 That members of the Committee note and acknowledge the current medium-term financial plan forecasts (the plan is fluid and the figures are based on the draft budget submitted on the 15th January but will be updated if the slightly revised budget attached is adopted).

2. Background

Members of this Committee met on the 15th January 2025 to consider the provisional draft budget, and precept recommendations from the Responsible Finance Officer. It was resolved at that meeting that a 5% increase in Council Tax charges for Newark Town Council residents is a good starting point for further debate at this meeting.

Some changes to the draft budget were requested at the meeting of FGP on the 15th January as follows:

- 1. An increase to the Grant Budget of £100.00 to round the sum up to £100.00.
- 2. An increase to the election cost budget to ensure there are sufficient funds to pay for an election in 2027 and 1 bi election during the current electoral term.
- 3. Inclusion of financial provision for finalising the upgrades to payment systems at St Marks and Tolney Lane public toilets. These funds have however been budgeted for in previous years and are sat in reserves.
- 4. An additional income forecast for payment entry receipts from public toilets to account for anticipated receipts from St Marks.

Relevant changes to the draft budget have been made as per the above however it does not change the overall precept recommendation. The changes do however result in a revised 25/26 budget that predicts a funds surplus of £252,131.00.

The updated budget and copies of the reports and papers from the previous FGP meeting accompany this report save for the draft budget which is now updated as above.

Financial, Legal, Equality, Environmental & Risk Issues

3.1 Contained in this report and supporting papers.

Background Papers:	Working papers	
Lead Officer:	Matthew Gleadell Tel: 01636 684801	
	Email: matthew.gleadell@newark.gov.uk	

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PUR POSES COMMITTEE

2025/2026 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan

Recommendations

- 1. That members utilise this extraordinary meeting to debate their initial views on the presented budget information.
- 2. Consider the RFO recommendation for a 5% increase in the Newark Town Council element of Newark Council Tax for the 25/26 financial year (1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026). Such an increase results in a Precept of £1,297,907 (One million, two hundred and ninety-seven thousand, nine hundred and seven pounds) which represents an additional £70,849.00 in tax revenue for the Newark Town Council element of Council Tax. It will add £6.65 per annum to a Band D property or £4.43 per annum to a Band A property of which the majority of properties in Newark are.
- 3. To note that an extraordinary Full Council meeting will be scheduled to start at the close of the scheduled FGP meeting on the 29th January so as to formally adopt the final budget and precept proposal made at the FGP meeting on the 29th January. This ensures the Precept can be confirmed by NSDC by the end of January deadline.

Report Contents

This report is broken down into the following key areas:

- 1. Introduction and Background
- 2. RFO Budget Strategy
- 3. Housing Growth and the Impact on Council Tax and Precept
- 4. 24/25 Year End Financial Forecasts
- 5. Draft 25/26 budget
- 6. Medium Term Financial Plan
- 7. Capital Reserves and Investment

Introduction and Background

In September 2023 the Councils Medium Term Financial Plan at that time forecast a financial deficit in the 2027/2028 financial year of around £600,000 with revenue reserves insufficient to support the medium-term financial position. That plan was based on a continuation of the Councils long established annual precept rise of 1.98%. It also factored in the imminent end of the annual grant received from Newark & Sherwood District Council under the Devolution contract agreed in 2015.

In September 2023 high inflation and larger than usual national salary pay increases driven by inflation resulted in some very challenging medium-term forecasts which were based on fiscal conditions at that time and a worst-case scenario going forward.

Just over 15 months on, updated medium term financial plans paint a much better picture. Inflation has settled back at around 2%, wage rises for the current financial year have been less than forecast, new income streams have been identified, staff restructuring is generating cost savings and a precept rise of 11% for the 24/25 financial year have all served to significantly improve the medium-term picture.

Despite the improved outlook caution must remain. We are in unstable times, global geo politics can quickly change the outlook as could another pandemic. A long-term approach that balances service delivery with ensuring that the Council remains financially resilient is key.

Recent announcements by Government to pursue re-organisation of local councils, in particular the loss of District Councils with a more regionalised central approach is such that we have to prepare as a Town Council to be self-sufficient and resilient to the impact of any re-organisation. In current structures we are the principal town of the District Council. In a regional structure we are out on the edge of the potential administrative boundaries. Changes could benefit us as a local service provider but may also prejudice us due to being on the very edge of the possible new administrative boundary. Being resilient to the latter is crucial.

The 25/26 budget must support medium term strategies and have an eye on medium term financial resilience.

Potential new Cemetery projects require investment and funds as do various other asset maintenance and repair needs that are ongoing and will continue beyond the next financial year.

The Council has begun to address some historic asset and maintenance repair issues and in doing so is utilising reserves to support this. The most recent example being the allocation of funds to support the ambition to give the Councils play areas a refresh. Those reserves will need to be replenished, and the draft budget seeks to do this by capitalising on the improved fiscal conditions.

Budget Strategy

Budgeting is an exercise in predicting future income and expenditure. It is very rarely entirely accurate. It involves assessment of previous years' spending and income, and factors in new and additional costs and income that are anticipated.

Generally, as an RFO I will always adopt caution with budgeting. This involves forecasting expense perhaps slightly more than may be expected and income slightly less. A worst-case scenario situation is typically the default starting point for a budget. Across the entire budget this builds in a level of contingency such that at the year end a funds surplus should hopefully arise.

Housing Growth and the Impact on Council Tax and Precept

Long Term

In 2015 as part of the Councils devolution deal with Newark & Sherwood District Council, housing growth forecasts were identified. Those forecasts were critical for the ability of this Council to ensure sufficient tax revenue receipts that would pay to maintain the various District Council assets that were then taken over by the Town Council.

As previously reported, the Housing Growth has failed to reach the levels forecast in 2015 as illustrated below.

Year	2015 Tax Base Forecast	Actual Tax Base	Shortfall
2015/2016	7798	7798	0
2016/2017	8007	7928	79
2017/2018	8266	8066	200
2018/2019	8670	8232	438
2019/2020	9082	8358	724
2020/2021	9426	8482	944
2021/2022	9841	8612	1229
2022/2023	10264	8972	1292
2023/2024	10734	9125	1609
2024/2025	11225	9226	1999

For context the average increase over the last 10 years has been 142. In 2022/2023 there was a much higher increase likely due to post Covid recovery with houses that would have otherwise been sold and completed during Covid playing catch up.