

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Newark Town Board** held in the Hybrid Meeting / First Floor, Newark Buttermarket, Middle Gate, Newark NG24 1AL and Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 21 January 2026 at 1.30 pm.

PRESENT:	Penny Taylor MBE	Lincoln College Group (Co-Chair)
	Tony Aspbury	Newark Showground (Vice-Chair)
	Cllr. Dawn Campbell	NTC
	Cllr. Rowan Cozens	NSDC (Member)
	Charlotte Elam	Notts. Police (Advisor)
	Andrew Fearn	St. Mary Magdalene with St. Leonards
	Emma Holden	Your CVS (Guest)
	Sarah Husselbee	NSDC (Advisor)
	Matt Lamb	NSDC (Advisor)
	Anna Lawson	NTC
	Rosemary Thompson	Historic England (Advisor)
MICROSOFT TEAMS:	Louise Casey	Your CVS (Co-Chair)
	John Robinson	NSDC (Advisor)
	Kathryn Sharp	EA (Advisor)
	Joelle Davies	NCC (Advisor)
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:	Karen Fearn	NHS (Advisor)
	Matthew Gleadell	NTC (Advisor)
	Sanjiv Kohli	NSDC (Advisor)
	Claire Ward	EMCCA

33 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None submitted.

34 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - 10 NOVEMBER 2025

AGREED that the Minutes be accepted as a true record.

35 CHAIR'S WELCOME

The Co-Chair, Penny Taylor, MBE (Lincoln College Group) welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Newark Town Board.

36 PRIDE IN PLACE PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT (NSDC AND PIPP PROJECT MANAGER)

The Board considered the report providing an update and key recommendations to the Newark Town Board regarding the Pride in Place Programme (PIPP).

An update was provided by Sarah Husselbee (NSDC), setting out key points in relation to the programme including:

- £19.5m over 10 years (2026 to 2036).

- Creating areas people are proud to live, work, study and visit.
- Board's plans submitted to the UK Government November 2025, awaiting confirmation of funds (expected before April 2026).
- Agreed priorities include the regeneration of the town centre and neighbourhoods, support to help residents access skills and employment, measures to drive community cohesion to bring people together and support to improve safety and security.

The Board also discussed the PiPP key projects/schemes agreed by the Board including:

- £1.2m towards community grant scheme - first round live February 2026
- £800k towards an upper floor residential conversion scheme.
- £3.6m set aside for a call for capital projects – proposed to be open February 2026.
- £750k towards an events programme and supporting related resource hosted by Lincoln College and Your CVS.

The Board noted the PiPP Objectives as Thriving Places, Stronger Communities and Taking Back Control with the previously agreed priority PiPP Themes for Newark such as Regeneration, Heritage and High Streets, Transport and Connectivity, Cohesion, Safety and Security and Work, Productivity and Skills.

The update explained the Call for Capital Projects and the proposed process as set out in the report provided, including:

Stage 1 - Expression of Interest (Feb to March 2026)

6-week window for proposals to be submitted to the Accountable Body, with professional assessment undertaken by independent officers to provide advice to Board on project risks and fit (against criteria and a scoring matrix, as proposed in the report provided).

Stage 2 - Business Case (April 2026 onwards)

Any project selected by the Board requires the development of a Business Case in line with the Local Assurance Framework to release capital funds (revenue may be available before Business Case subject to S151 Officer approval).

The Proposed Criteria and Board Considerations were for the call eligibility to include:

- Any organisation with legal status.
- Ability to deliver and evidence the desired outcomes for the town.
- Demonstrate a level of readiness and preparation e.g. well-resourced and costed, consideration of planning, match funding, legals, land security etc.
- 10% minimum match proposed but higher match encouraged and recognised.
- Attracting large scale projects of £250k and above.
- Requirement to fit within UK Government funding profile and support Board's overall vision.
- Award of funding subject to quality proposals, supported by the Board and fitting within funding profile. Opportunity to run another call in future.

AGREED that:

- 1) Noted the recent submission of the Newark Town Board's Regeneration Plan to the UK Government on 19th November 2025, with formal confirmation of funds expected in advance of 1st April 2026.
- 2) Noted the updates associated with the Community Grant Scheme, as set out in 3.4 to 3.6 of this report.
- 3) Noted the updates relating to the Upper Floor Residential Scheme, as set out in 3.7 to 3.9 of this report.
- 4) Approved the proposed approach to delivering a 'call for capital projects' as set out in 3.10 to 3.13 and in accordance, with the specification provided in **Appendix B** of this report.
- 5) Agreed to make available the PiPP revenue budget of £494,442 over a 4-year period (2026 to 2030) to finance and commence the events programme from April 2026, in accordance with a) the commissioning, delivery and funding arrangements set out in 3.14 and 3.17 of this report and b) the proposed specification provided in **Appendix C** of this report. This remains subject to formal confirmation of UK Government funds through a completed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

37 LOCAL REGENERATION FUND UPDATE REPORT (NSDC)

The Board considered the report providing an update and key recommendations to the Newark Town Board regarding the Local Regeneration Fund and the Newark Market Place Improvement Scheme Full Business Case.

An update was provided by Matt Lamb (NSDC) regarding the Local Regeneration Fund projects, including:

- £25m awarded through previous 'Towns Deal' to drive economic growth and prosperity.
- Concludes 31st March 2028.
- 3 projects remaining (Castle Gatehouse, 32 Stodman Street and Market Place Improvement Scheme).

Sarah Husselbee (NSDC) noted that updated monitoring and evaluation guidance is pending from MHCLG which may change the outputs and outcomes recorded and that further updates would be provided to the Board once this information was available.

Rowan Cozens (NSDC) queried the interest shown in the retail units on Stodman Street to which Matt Lamb advised that interest had been positive to date with the Council's Corporate Property Team leading engagement with potential Tenants.

Rose Thompson (Historic England) noted her concerns in relation to the Market Place

Improvement Scheme project, with reference to her feedback and comments shared with the Board and Council previously.

Matt Lamb highlighted that the local conservation team are taking this on board and John Robinson (NSDC) added that the designs to date were based on several views and the outcome of community consultation.

Andrew Fearn (St Marys PCC) mentioned concerns in relation to the access roads to and from the Market Place, including Stodman Street, noting that they are not in a good state of repair, requesting an update from Nottinghamshire County Council.

Joelle Davies (Nottinghamshire County Council) noted to action with Project Officers from NCC/NSDC, with a more detailed update at the next meeting.

Rose Thompson referred to potential costings for the Market Place scheme and to factor in archaeology when excavating under tarmac.

AGREED that:

- 6) Noted the updates provided in relation to the Newark-based Local Regeneration Fund projects (previously known as Newark Towns Deal).
- 7) Agreed to delegate the approval of the Newark Market Place Improvement Scheme Full Business Case (FBC) from the Newark Town Board to Newark and Sherwood District Council's Section 151 Officer, in consultation with Newark Town Council, as detailed in 3.12 of this report.
- 8) Noted that the approval of the FBC (in line with Recommendation 2 above) will enable the progression of the project through the remaining RIBA stages, in line with the identified capital budget of £3.61m, financed in full by UK Government Local Regeneration Fund grant.

38 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Penny Taylor informed the Board that some Membership paperwork was outstanding from Members following the request in November, and that all documentation should be returned Josh Farmer as soon as possible.

Sarah Husselbee reminded the Executive Board that the Newark Town Steering Group would be meeting on Tuesday, 3 February 2026 at 1.30 pm in the Air & Space Institute at Newark.

39 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, 27 April 2026

Meeting closed at 2.51 pm.