

## NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Newark Town Board - Executive Board** held online on Friday, 14 February 2025 at 10.30 am.

PRESENT:	Louise Casey-Smith	Newark & Sherwood CVS (Co-Chair)
	Penny Taylor	Lincoln College Group (Co-Chair)
	Tony Aspbury	Newark Showground (Vice-Chair)
	Dawn Campbell	Newark Town Council
	James Carpenter	BB Mortgages
	Rowan Cozens	Newark & Sherwood District Council
	Neil Cuttell	Newark & Sherwood District Council
	Joelle Davies	Nottinghamshire County Council
	Insp. Charlotte Ellam	Nottinghamshire Police Authority
	Matthew Gleadell	Newark Town Council
	Sarah Husselbee	Newark & Sherwood District Council
	Sanjiv Kohli	Newark & Sherwood District Council
	Matt Lamb	Newark & Sherwood District Council
	Anna Lawson	Newark Town Council
	John Robinson	Newark & Sherwood District Council
	Kathryn Sharp	Environment Agency
Rosemary Thompson	Historic England	
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:	Andrew Fearne	St. Mary Magdalene with St. Leonard
	Robert Jenrick	MP for Newark

### 2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None submitted.

### 3 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2024

AGREED that, subject to a minor amendment to Minute No. 5 – Future Capacity Funding Direction, the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2024 be accepted as a true record.

### 4 CHAIR'S WELCOME

The Co-Chair, Penny Taylor advised that the Project Manager funded through Long-Term Plan for Towns Fund (LTPT) capacity funding had been appointed and would take up the post on 21 April 2025. A student had also been appointed to support the marketing of the project. She added that a consideration for the future was the recruitment of apprentices and people from the Newark area.

### 5 GOVERNMENT UPDATE

The Business Manager – Economic Growth & Visitor Economy advised that he had recently met with civil servants and that updated guidance relating to LTPT is expected soon. Once received this would be shared with the Executive Board and

it was likely that any plans would need to be submitted by the end of the calendar year with the first tranche of delivery funding being scheduled for 1 April 2026. This allows a period of 8-9 months to develop the plan and make any potential changes as a result of expected updated guidance. He noted that there was an expectation that there would be ongoing community consultation.

## 6 PROJECTS UPDATE

### Stodman Street

This project is now underway with Construction ongoing and an anticipated date of third week of March 2026 for completion. This will provide 29 rental residential units and 2 retail units. Marketing for the retail units should commence the second half of 2025.

### Castle Gatehouse

Quotations for this have been received and are currently being appraised. The planning application had been approved. The project will progress with Historic England and town funding during 2025 with an anticipated completion in 2026.

### Market Place Improvement

A Landscape Architect has been appointed to develop the scheme to RIBA stage 2. A Quantity Surveyor would shortly be appointed to provide costings for the design. An official request for a 12-month project delivery extension has been submitted to the Government, requiring contractual commitment of the project funding by March 2027.

A report was noted to go to the Council's meeting of Cabinet on 18 February 2025 to seek approval for additional revenue funding of £100,000 to develop and cost the design proposals. It was agreed that officers will provide further updates at a future Board meeting.

### Newark Town Centre Masterplan & Design Code

A comment was made requesting a project update and noting that the project should be progressed in parallel with the Market Place Improvement scheme. The Director – Planning & Growth advised that an updated draft had been received that week and anticipated that an update would be shared with the Board and the public in June/July 2025.

### Riverside Redevelopment

The Board were advised that work was ongoing in attempt to potentially secure funds to enable this to be further progressed.

## 7 FUTURE CAPACITY FUNDING 2025/2026

The Executive Board considered the Future Capacity Funding report which provided an update of the proposed uses of capacity funding for the Long-Term Plan for Towns Fund (LTPT) for the 2025/2026 financial year.

The report set out the background to the future receipt of Government capacity funding in the sum of £200,000 and the commitment of the monies. This included proposed 'in-principle' commitments, subject to formal confirmation of the funding award from Government and eligible uses. The commitments were noted as: Newark Town Centre Events & Animation Programme (£50k); NSDC Programme Management (£50k); and retained allocation, subject to guidance and the potential need for further consultation and Investment Plan development (£100k) with details provided for each of the commitments.

In considering the report, Penny Taylor advised that she had been working with Louise Casey-Smith, Tony Aspbury and collaborative partners to develop an event plan to ensure that the programme meets the demographic of the town and to expand on the works already undertaken. This work looked at the potential for bigger events to be held that would attract both locals and non-locals to the town. Louise Casey-Smith advised that further details of the work undertaken would be provided at the next meeting.

General comment was made on the work of the Project Manager, who was employed by the college and that they would work alongside the Newark Town Board to oversee the development of the events plan in 2025/2026. Reference was made to similar work being undertaken in neighbouring city Lincoln, specifically a planned go-kart race. Discussion was held as to how this type of event provided opportunity for the promotion of alternative energy sources.

It was noted that Newark Town Council have a commitment in excess of £200,000 towards a 2025/2026 events programme and this will reflect a similar events budget to previous years.

AGREED (unanimously) that:

- a) approval be given for the proposed allocation of £50,000 of the LTPfT Capacity Fund to support the ongoing delivery of a town centre events programme in 2025/2026, as set out in 3.3 of this report. This commitment would be subject to a) the opportunity for the Towns Board Chairs and Project Manager (Lincoln College) to participate in the strategic development of the events programme and b) formal confirmation of the capacity funding award, and eligible spend from Government, and c) alignment to Newark Town Council events programme;
- b) the additional £100,000 commitment in 2025/2026 to an events programme, as described above, through the contribution of the underspend and rollover from the 2024/2025 Towns Fund Cultural Heart project budget be noted;
- c) the Newark Town Council commitment towards a Town Centre events programme in 2025/2026 in excess of £200,000, as set out in 3.8 of this report be noted; and

- d) approval be given to the proposed LTPfT capacity funding allocation of £50,000 in financial year 2025/2026 to be retained by the Accountable Body, (Newark & Sherwood District Council) for Programme Management, subject to formal confirmation of the capacity funding award from Government.

## 8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

### 14 Market Place

Work was ongoing with the project team at the College and N&SCVS to understand the space fitout and tenancy agreement for the new occupants. The anticipated handover date is in July 2025 and the focus for the site is community use.

### Newark Market Place

Concern was raised as to the future use of the area and that consideration should be given to not restricting its use and considering a flexible space.

It was noted that many of the buildings surrounding the Market Place were deteriorating and that some were on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register, specifically referring to the vacant Old White Hart building. It was suggested that the purchase of this building would enable its heritage to be preserved and would also be a potential use of capital monies.

It was noted that the WH Smith building was up for sale which fronted the Market Place. A query was raised as to whether the district council could contact the company to discuss the sale.

It was also noted that the NatWest bank is closing their Newark branch which was of concern for the Town. Suggestion was made that the Board monitor the situation.

In acknowledging the proposed future investment in the Market Place, it was suggested that Nottinghamshire County Council be proactively involved and committed to the proposed improvements, noting that the surrounding infrastructure and network continued to deteriorate.

In response to the above comments, the Board were advised that the Newark Town Centre Master Plan would provide ways in which sites of opportunity could be repurposed where market failure occurs.

The Board were advised that the County Council were already engaged in discussions in relation to the development of the Market Place and that this would be reported to a future Board meeting.

It was suggested that ongoing engagement with Crime Prevention Officers from the Nottinghamshire Police Authority be progressed as they could give advice on the impact of any proposed designs.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be provisionally held on 3rd June 2025, however an additional meeting may be arranged in advance of this, subject to receipt of updated LTPT guidance from Government.