

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Newark Town Executive Board** held in the Air & Space Institute, Great North Road, Newark NG24 1BL on Wednesday, 4 December 2024 at 3.00 pm.

PRESENT:	Penny Taylor	Lincoln College Group
	Louise Casey-Simpson	Newark and Sherwood CVS
	Tony Aspbury	Newark Showground
	Dawn Campbell	Newark Town Council
	Keith Girling	Nottinghamshire County Council
	Andrew Fearn	St Mary Magdalene with St Leonard
	Kathryn Sharp	Environment Agency
	Rose Thompson	Historic England
	Elaine Poon	Newark and Sherwood District Council
	Jane Hutchinson	Newark and Sherwood District Council
	John Robinson	Newark and Sherwood District Council
	Neil Cuttall	Newark and Sherwood District Council
	Matt Lamb	Newark and Sherwood District Council
	Karen Langford	Newark and Sherwood District Council
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:	Charlotte Ellam	Nottinghamshire Police
	Sanjiv Kohli	Newark and Sherwood District Council
	Joelle Davies	Nottinghamshire County Council

1 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None submitted.

2 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2024

AGREED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2024 be accepted as a true record.

3 CHAIR'S WELCOME

The Co-Chair, Louise Casey-Simpson opened the meeting and welcomed those present to the first Executive Board. All persons present introduced themselves and highlighted the setting of expectations for the representatives to bring any issues to the Board, in being the listening ears and to feed back to their sector.

4 GOVERNMENT UPDATE

Neil Cuttall provided advice regarding the Long-Term Plan for Towns (LTPFT) funding, stating that £200k capacity funding is anticipated in financial year 2025/2026 and the programme delivery funding is anticipated in financial year 2026/2027. New technical guidance associated with the programme is expected in the New Year, and Newark and Sherwood District Council advisors will provide an update to the Executive Board once the new guidance is issued by the Government.

Matt Lamb advised that the principle of the fund remains the same, with places awarded approximately £2m a year over 10 years, and the £200k capacity funding is anticipated to come from the up to £20m overall programme funding. The draw down profile remains uncertain at this stage.

5 PROJECTS UPDATE (TOWNS FUND AND RECOMMENDED PROJECTS)

Newark Cultural Heart Events & Animation Programme

Jane Hutchinson and Neil Cuttell presented to the Board the outputs of the Newark Cultural Heart events programme to date, including statistics on footfall. The Board supported the continuation of a town centre events programme, Councillor Dawn Campbell will confirm whether Newark Town Council will provide match funding for a future events programme.

The Board debated the success criteria for future events and animation including impacts relating to increased footfall, generating spend in town centre businesses, increasing visitor dwell time and improving the profile of the town. It is considered that it should be a combination of all the above.

Neil Cuttell advised that the Newark Cultural Heart Events and Animation Programme concludes 31 March 2025, and that there is insufficient funding in the financial year 2025/2026 for the continuation of this programme. The Board were in agreement that the LTPFT capacity funding should be spent on events and animation in Newark town centre and for the Project Manager to act as coordinator between organisations and businesses to coordinate a town centre programme.

Councillor Keith Girling queried if it was possible for Newark and Sherwood District Council to borrow funds to fund next year's programme, with John Robinson advising it was not impossible, but would be subject to consideration by the Council in consultation with the Council's S151 Officer.

Newark Cultural Heart Market Place Transformation

The Board was presented with an overview of the guiding principles, suggested scope of works and a proposed project timeline for the Market Place public realm scheme.

John Robinson requested a clear vision is agreed between Newark and Sherwood District Council, and Newark Town Council prior to the end of January 2025 to ensure the project scope of works reflect the vision, suggesting the next Executive Board should be held early February 2025 in order to provide the Board with an update.

Councillor Keith Girling invited future discussions between the Councils and Nottinghamshire County Council in relation to land ownership within the Market Place.

Kathryn Sharp from the Environment Agency noted the opportunities to potentially

include environmentally sustainable aspects in the Market Place design which may be valuable during engagement and promotion of the scheme.

Rose Thompson from Historic England highlighted that many of the water features in various towns are no longer fit for purpose and that Leicester City Council having removed water features to allow for wider use of the space.

14 Market Place, Newark

Matt Lamb provided a project status update for 14 Market Place, one of the agreed recommended LTPFT projects. Plans for the space include a community information point, to be led by Lincoln College as the tenant, working in tandem with Newark CVS. The general principles for development are to be agreed at NSDC Cabinet on 10 December 2024.

6 FUTURE CAPACITY FUNDING DIRECTION

The Board understood that the capacity funding anticipated for spend in financial year 2025/2025 is subject to Government guidance, and suggested that it be split between project management, an events and animation programme, 14 Market Place scheme, and the Canal and River Trust, who are continuing to progress with the Riverside Regeneration project and will require funding for carrying out feasibility studies. However, it was agreed that this is all subject to the new guidance in the New Year and further consultation with the Board.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of next meeting to be confirmed, the Board expressing for it to take place in February 2025.