

Newark Town Executive Board

Friday, 14 February 2025 at 10.30 am

Virtual Meeting - Online Only

**You are hereby requested to attend the above Meeting to be held at the time/place
and on the date mentioned above for the purpose of transacting the
business on the Agenda as overleaf.**

If you have any queries please contact Helen Brandham on helen.brandham@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk.

AGENDA

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1. Apologies for Absence	
2. Declaration of Interests	
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Date of Next Meeting scheduled for 3 June 2025 @ 2pm

NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **Newark Town Board - 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 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.

3 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.

4 PROJECTS UPDATE (TOWNS FUND AND RECOMMENDED PROJECTS)

Newark Cultural Heart Events & Animation Programme

Jane Hutchinson and Neil Cuttall 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 Cuttall 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.

5 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.

6 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.

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NEWARK TOWN EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

14 FEBRUARY 2025

Newark Towns Fund Capacity Fund Update - 2025/2026

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update the Board on the proposed uses of capacity funding for the Long-Term Plan for Towns Fund (LTPfT) for the financial year 2025/2026.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Newark Town Board:

- 1) Approve 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.
- 2) Note 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.
- 3) Note 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.
- 4) Approve the proposed LTPfT capacity funding allocation of £50,000 in financial year 2025/2026 to be retained by the Accountable Body, (Newark and Sherwood District Council) for Programme Management, subject to formal confirmation of the capacity funding award from Government.

3.0 Background and Update

- 3.1 The Board will be aware from 11 September 2024 meeting that the Government provided £200,000 in capacity funding to the District Council in financial year 2024/2025 as accountable body. It was stated that this funding has been fully committed to support public engagement and evidence-base gathering (data and survey support), and the appointment of a Project Manager with employment hosted by Lincoln College Group.
- 3.2 At 4 December 2024 meeting, the Board were informed of the funding profile for the additional £200,000 Long-Term Plan for Towns (LTPfT) capacity funding anticipated in financial year 2025/2026, with the programme delivery funding to commence in financial year 2026/2027, subject to an agreed Investment Plan, approved by Government. As agreed by the Executive Board, any future spend of the capacity funding is subject to consultation with the Board and the requirements of the new Government funding guidance to ensure spend is compliant and eligible. At the point of writing this report, the Government are yet to publish revised guidance on the development of the Long-Term Plans for Towns, and the associated use of capacity funding available to Towns.

3.3 This report proposes the following 'in-principle' commitments of the £200,000 capacity funding for 2025/2026, subject to formal confirmation of capacity funding award, and eligible uses:

- Newark Town Centre Events & Animation Programme = £50,000.
- NSDC Programme Management = £50,000.
- Retained allocation subject to guidance, and the potential need for further consultation and Investment Plan development = £100,000.

3.4 Newark Town Centre Events & Animation Programme

3.5 In 2024/2025, the Newark Heart programme delivered 12 town centre events 2 large-scale animation displays partnering with the Newark Cultural Consortium (Newark Creates) to increase footfall, spend and vibrancy in the town centre. To continue building on the past three years of the Newark Heart events programme, the commitment of £50,000 capacity funding is proposed, as noted in 3.3. This will enable the Council to commission a cultural town centre events programme in 2025/2026, following further engagement with partners to agree the preferred delivery approach.

3.6 It is expected that the £50,000 contribution towards an events programme, as described above, may be enhanced through an estimated further £100,000 funding in 2025/2026. This would be funded through the 2024/2025 underspend and rollover from the Newark Cultural Heart Project.

3.7 It is recommended that the recently appointed Project Manager post hosted by Lincoln College Group assists in the strategic development of the events programme described above. Furthermore, to enable any plans undertaken to develop and promote a town centre events programme with identified event partners for a wider audience in 2026/2027.

3.8 It should be noted that Newark Town Council have confirmed a commitment towards their events programme in 2025/2026 of £200,000. It is expected that both events programmes compliment one another, with ongoing engagement required to ensure alignment of events.

3.9 An update regarding finalised arrangements for delivery of the events programme can be presented to a future Board meeting, once guidance relating to capacity funding is known, and plans are developed with associated Partners. This will include evaluation of the existing events programme, due to complete March 2025.

4.0 Programme Management

4.1 The draft Investment Plan details an annual allocation of funding every year to facilitate necessary Programme Management activity and workstreams. This includes ensuring compliance of the fund investment such as management of Governance arrangements, programme monitoring, reporting and evaluation, as well as ongoing engagement with Government. As agreed in the draft Investment Plan, this funding is proposed to be retained by Newark and Sherwood District Council towards resources, and funded through £50,000 capacity funding in 2025/2026, as noted in 3.3.

- 4.2 The recommendations within this report leave a remaining £100,000 of 2025/2026 LTPfT capacity funding uncommitted at this stage, with the view that a decision is taken by the Board at a later date, once revised Government guidance is available. It is expected that this budget may be required to undertake necessary revisions to the draft Investment Plan, and further community consultation, as required.

Newark Town Board website for:

- Town Investment Plan, July 2020

Newark Town Board meeting reports:

- [27 March 2024](#)
- [30 May 2024](#)
- [27 June 2024](#)
- [24 September 2024](#)
- [04 December 2024](#)

Lead Officers:

Matt Lamb

Director - Planning & Growth, Newark & Sherwood District Council

Sanjiv Kohli

Deputy Chief Executive & Director - Resources, Newark & Sherwood District Council

Neil Cuttall

Business Manager - Economic Growth & Visitor Economy, Newark & Sherwood District Council

Sarah Husselbee

Economic Growth & Visitor Economy

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