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Meeting	CABINET
Time/Day/Date	5.00 pm on Tuesday, 29 March 2022
Location	Council Chamber, Council Offices, Coalville
Officer to contact	Democratic Services (01530 454512)

AGENDA

Item	Pages
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	
Under the Code of Conduct members are reminded that in declaring disclosable interests you should make clear the nature of that interest and whether it is pecuniary or non-pecuniary.	
3. MINUTES	
To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2022 and 1 March 2022	3 - 8
4. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION	
5. EMPTY HOMES POLICY	
Report of the Strategic Director Presented by the Community Services Portfolio Holder	9 - 26
6. NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH PLAN 2022	
Report of the Strategic Director of Place Presented by the Business and Regeneration Portfolio Holder	27 - 96
7. 2022/23 COUNCIL SURPLUS PROPERTY LIST	
Report of the Strategic Director of Housing and Customer Services Presented by the Housing and Customer Services Portfolio Holder	97 - 104

- 8. APPROPRIATION OF AREA OF LAND AT HOWE ROAD CURRENTLY USED AS OPEN SPACE TO HOUSING**
- Report of the Strategic Director of Housing and Customer Services
Presented by the Housing and Customer Services Portfolio Holder **105 - 114**
- 9. 2021/22 QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REPORT**
- Report of the Chief Executive
Presented by the Deputy Leader **115 - 146**
- 10. FORMER TENANT RENT ARREARS, CURRENT TENANT RENT ARREARS, COUNCIL TAX, NON DOMESTIC RATES AND SUNDRY DEBTOR WRITE OFFS**
- Report of the Strategic Director of Housing and Customer Services
Presented by the Corporate Portfolio Holder **147 - 150**

Circulation:

Councillor R Blunt (Chairman)
Councillor R Ashman (Deputy Chairman)
Councillor R D Bayliss
Councillor T Gillard
Councillor K Merrie MBE
Councillor N J Rushton
Councillor A C Woodman

MINUTES of a meeting of the CABINET held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Coalville on TUESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2022

Present: Councillor R Ashman (in the Chair)

Councillors R D Bayliss, T Gillard, N J Rushton and A C Woodman

In Attendance: Councillors

Officers: Mrs B Smith, Mr J Arnold, Mr A Barton, Mr D Bates, Ms K Hiller, Mrs C Hammond, Mr P Wheatley and Ms R Haynes

85. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors R Blunt and K Merrie.

86. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Members declared the following interests:

Councillors R Ashman and N Rushton declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 6 – East Midlands Freeport Update, as members of the Freeport Board and also as members of Leicestershire County Council. It was declared that both Councillors were able to approach the items with an open mind, and would not let participation in other meetings predetermine their views on these items and that they would listen to the debate of Cabinet colleagues before making a decision.

Councillor T Gillard declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 6 – East Midlands Freeport Update, as a member of Leicestershire County Council.

Councillors R Ashman, T Gillard and N Rushton also declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 4 - Marlborough Square Public Realm as members of Leicestershire County Council.

Councillor N Rushton declared a pecuniary interest in Item 7 - Ashby Business Improvement District Advanced Payment, as a business owner in Ashby. He advised that he would leave the meeting and take no part in the consideration of the item.

87. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

No questions were received.

88. MARLBOROUGH SQUARE PUBLIC REALM

The Deputy Leader presented the report.

Members thanked the Scrutiny Committee for their comments, which had been noted.

It was noted that costs had increased, however that this was to be expected given the rise in costs of building materials and that the project would remain economically viable and be a good, high quality product.

It was moved by Councillor R Ashman, seconded by Councillor A Woodman and

RESOLVED THAT:

1.It be recommended to Council at its meeting on 24 February 2022 that the additional £853,417 required to implement the Marlborough Square Public Realm project be found

from the Coalville Regeneration Framework Budget Line being proposed in the 2022/23 Council Budget.

2. Based on the outcome of the tender exercise and the estimated other project costs set out in the report, it be agreed to proceed to award the construction contract and implement the project subject to approval by Council on 24 February 2022

3. Authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (place) to ensure that:

A) Those highways agreements necessary to deliver the public realm project be entered into

B) The terms of the construction contract be agreed

C) Such other agreements as shall be necessary to implement the project within the approved budget be completed.

D) Negotiation of a reduction or waiver of the Highways Authority fees and commuted lump sum proposed to be charged by Leicestershire County Council be sought.

Reason for decision: The decision on whether to enter into a contract of the size and nature set out in this paper is a matter for Cabinet.

89. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED THAT:

In pursuance of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the business to be transacted involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and that the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Reason for decision: To enable the consideration of exempt information.

90. EAST MIDLANDS FREEPORT UPDATE

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Infrastructure presented the report.

It was moved by Councillor R Ashman, seconded by Councillor Bayliss and

RESOLVED THAT:

1. The work of the Freeport Board be noted and endorsed by Cabinet.

2. The full draft business case as set out in the report and attached appendix, recognising that further work needs to be done regarding the corporate structure of the Freeport and financial implications, including in relation to business rates, be supported in principle by Cabinet.

3. Subject to 2 above, authority be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to sign off support in principle to the final full business case for submission to Government.

4. It be noted that no decision is requested from Cabinet in relation to the inclusion of the Emagic site in the final business case, as this site is subject to consideration as part of the statutory planning processes.

5. The process in respect of retained business rates growth that would be instigated should the Freeport designation be made by Government be noted.

Reason for decision: To update Cabinet on the work to date on the Freeport, to seek ongoing support in principle to the project and the submission of the FBC and note that further work needs to be done and decisions made on the financial and legal implications arising, including in relation to the documents required for the creation of the incorporated association.

91. ASHBY BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT ADVANCED PAYMENT

The Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration presented the report.

It was moved by Councillor T Gillard, seconded by Councillor R Bayliss and

RESOLVED THAT:

The proposal and approval of making an advance to the Ashby BID company as set out in the report be reviewed by Cabinet.

Reason for decision: To seek approval from Cabinet to issue an advanced payment to Ashby BID Company

Councillor Rushton left the meeting at 17:11.

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 5.17 pm

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MINUTES of a meeting of the CABINET held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Coalville on TUESDAY, 1 MARCH 2022

Present: Councillor R Blunt (Chairman)

Councillors R Ashman, R D Bayliss, T Gillard, K Merrie MBE, N J Rushton and A C Woodman

Officers: Mrs B Smith, Mr J Arnold, Mr A Barton, Mr D Bates, Miss E Warhurst, Mrs C Hammond, Ms R Haynes and Mr P Sanders

92. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

93. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

94. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

No questions were received.

95. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2022 were considered.

It was moved by Councillor T Gillard, seconded by Councillor K Merrie and

RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2022 be confirmed as accurate record of the proceedings.

Reason for decision: To comply with the Constitution.

96. PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER - ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH

The Community Services Portfolio Holder presented the report, setting out the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO).

Members were informed that the PSPO would apply to Ashby Town Centre, the Bath Grounds and Hood Park and that a prohibition would be in place with regards to consumption of alcohol, should this be causing anti social behaviours. It was noted that the PSPO would also include psychoactive substances and would allow police to seize substances on demand.

Members observed that 90% of respondents who took part in the public consultation were in support of the PSPO.

It was moved by Councillor A Woodman seconded by Councillor T Gillard and

RESOLVED THAT:

The introduction of the Public Spaces Protection Order as set out within Appendix 1 be approved.

Reason for decision: To provide additional powers to the police and council officers in combatting anti-social behaviour involving alcohol and/or psychoactive substances.

97. COVID RECOVERY SUPPORT CONTRACT FOR HOME IMPROVEMENT WORK

The Housing, Property and Customer Services Portfolio Holder presented the report, outlining how the Housing Improvement Programme had been impacted by Covid.

The procurement of an external contractor was proposed, in order to ensure tenants continued to live in decent, high quality, affordable homes whilst also reducing energy usage to benefit the environment.

It was noted that the cost of procuring an external contractor would be broadly the same as that required by the Council's in house repair team to undertake the same work.

It was moved by Councillor R Bayliss and seconded by Councillor N Rushton and

RESOLVED THAT:

Authority be delegated to the Strategic Director to award the Covid Recovery Support Contract for home improvement work in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and Portfolio Holder be approved.

Reason for decision: The level of expenditure on the proposed contract exceeds the authority level in the Scheme of delegation.

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 5.05 pm

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET – TUESDAY, 29 MARCH 2022



Title of Report	EMPTY HOMES POLICY	
Presented by	Cllr. Andrew Woodman Cabinet Member for Community Services	
Background Papers	Returning houses to homes policy Microsoft Word - Returning Houses to Homes Policy and Procedures.doc (nwleics.gov.uk)	Public Report: Yes
	Community Scrutiny Agenda for Community Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday, 9th February, 2022, 6.30 pm - North West Leicestershire District Council (nwleics.gov.uk)	Key Decision: Yes
Financial Implications	All costs will be reviewed prior to any action being instigated to ensure that costs are recovered via an appropriate legal process. The return of empty properties, as well as providing the benefits set out in the report, results in an increase in the council taxbase which results in additional New Homes Bonus. It should be noted that long term empty properties attract a council tax premium; 50% for properties empty for two years and 100% for properties empty for three years.	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	External advice has been sought from NP Law in the preparation of this report and they have worked in conjunction with the in house legal team.	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	None	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	To refresh to current empty homes policy.	

Reason for Decision	To continue to work on private sector empty homes.
Recommendations	THAT CABINET APPROVES THE REVISED EMPTY HOMES POLICY.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Empty properties are considered a waste of housing resource at both national and local levels. The government's National Planning Policy Framework (2021) confirms that local authorities should *'identify and bring back into residential use empty homes and buildings, supported by the use the powers contained within the Policy'*.
- 1.2 The council has a Returning Houses to Homes Policy to tackle empty properties and bring them back into use. However, this was approved in 2012 and now requires a refresh. The revised policy is attached at **Appendix 1** and a new title: "Empty Homes Policy". is proposed
- 1.3 The council's proposed revised Empty Homes Policy firmly aligns with the council's Housing Strategy and aims to unlock the potential of vacant sites and empty homes; thereby contributing towards meeting local housing supply needs. Empty homes can have a negative impact on the local community and in some circumstances may be the subject of multiple concerns such as anti-social behaviour and dilapidation including structural repair, nuisance, as well as unauthorised entry. Bringing these properties back into use can not only deal with the issues outlined above but can also bring assistance to the owner who may not have known what to do with the property.
- 1.4 Where possible the council will always engage with a private owner to encourage a voluntary solution for bringing a property back into use. However, there are some instances where this is not possible, for example where the council is unable to identify owners; there might be issues in relation to probate, where known owners refuse to engage with the council or planning restrictions and issues.
- 1.5 The private residential empty property figures for the district as at 1st January 2022 are:

Total over 6 months	458
6-12 months	196
1-2 years	124
2 years plus	138

- 1.6 The council's Empty Homes Officer risk rates all empty properties based on their appearance, location and impact on the neighbourhood as well as the number of complaints received. This then helps to prioritise the list of empty properties and enables the council to engage and assist property owners to bring back into use or sell their property which is a wasted asset within the community.
- 1.7 In order for these more complex and contentious cases to be progressed a robust policy is required so that there is a graduated approach towards more formal action. The policy clearly sets out the formal action the council can take in order to obtain a resolution to ongoing issues as a result of the property being a long-term empty property.

2.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 Before any formal action is taken against a long-term empty property owner, the council ensures they have made every effort to contact the owner and requested that they improve the property to the benefit of the neighbours and locality generally, particularly given the continued deteriorating state of the premises. It is important that the council can evidence the graduated approach to these cases as this will be required as part of the legal process. The Empty Homes Officer keeps a record of all actions on the council's back-office database.
- 2.2 Where owners cannot be traced or where a response from known owners is non-committal or otherwise unsatisfactory, there is scope to consider whether there is a compelling case, in the public interest for enforcement action to be taken by the council, to ensure that the council's strategic aims are achieved. In these cases, consideration is given to the length of time the property has been empty and the previous failed attempts to secure the renovation/co-operation from the owners, along with complaints and the adverse effects on the amenity of the neighbourhood.
- 2.3 There is no statutory requirement for the council to produce an Empty Homes Policy, however it is complementary to the council's Housing Strategy and sets out the council's approach for bringing empty homes back into use for the benefit of local people and their communities.

3.0 WORK TO DATE

- 3.1 Over the last five years, the Empty Homes Officer has had a number of communications and successes with empty home owners. Set out below is some of the data and two case studies highlighting the work of the officer:

Notices issued	30
Fines issued	4 court fines 1 Fixed penalty notice 1 Penalty charge notice
Letter sent	Over 750
Risk assessments completed	Over 1700
Update sent to council tax for their records	Over 1290

- 3.2 Case study A – A long term empty mid terrace house in Kegworth with a title deed that showed the owner was not the same as the one listed on council tax. An investigation highlighted that the correct owner had passed away, leaving the property to three executors. The property was untidy so the initial informal enforcement letters were sent, and council tax were advised of the changes so that they could send council tax bills. This intervention led to the property being sold which further led to renovation and subsequent occupation.
- 3.3 Case study B – A long term empty semi-detached house in Battram that was overgrown and dilapidated. Numerous attempts to engage with the owner were made including serving legal notices requiring information regarding legal ownership of the property. Two community proportion notices were served to try and get the land tidied up but these were not complied with which later led to a successful prosecution at Magistrates Court. Following this the owner cleared the grounds and put the property up for auction. The new owners renovated the property and moved into it once complete. The sale also led to the recovery of £9,976.00 council tax debt.

4.0 Community Scrutiny Feedback

4.1 The draft policy was presented to Community Scrutiny Committee on 9 February 2022. Feedback from the committee in relation to the empty homes work completed to date was positive and the continuation of the work encouraged.

4.2 The questions raised are below along with the relevant responses:

- Amount of New Homes Bonus income received last year
 - In 21/22, £2,452,094 was received in new homes bonus income
- Does the council hold any data on whether the charging council tax extra on empties made them come back into use?
 - The council does not hold specific data on the impact the additional council tax has had on empty properties. However, the Empty Homes Officer made the following comments “since the introduction of the additional council tax charge for properties empty longer than two years, there has been a noticeable reduction in the number remaining empty”
- Is there any benchmarked data with other similar districts on new homes bonus and number of empties returned back into use?
 - Harborough charge 50% premium when empty for more than two years
 - Hinckley & Bosworth BC – From 1 April 2020 charged 100% council tax premium on properties that have been empty for longer than two years. Effectively this will mean the owner of any property that has been empty for two years or longer will be charged double council tax on that property. From April 2021, the premium will increase to 200% on properties that have been empty for longer than five years; and from April 2022 the premium will be increased to 300% on properties that have been empty for longer than ten years.
- Is this additional percentage added to council tax when the property has been empty for so long set by Government or the council?
 - The government has set legislation that allows councils to decide if they would like to charge additional council tax on long term empty properties. NWL Revenue’s and Benefits team currently charge:
 - Property empty for up to one month – no charge irrespective of who is liable and between occupations etc. If previous person has whole month the new person cannot have it.
 - Property empty and unfurnished for up to two years when it became empty 100% council tax is charged.
 - After two years property remains empty and unfurnished 50% empty premium is charged so in essence they pay 150% in council tax.
 - After three years property status remains as is, then they are charged 100% premium which means two lots of council tax.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing a clean and green district - Local people live in high quality, affordable homes
Policy Considerations:	
Safeguarding:	If any safeguarding matters were raised during the Empty Homes Officer’s visits the relevant referrals would be made.

Equalities/Diversity:	Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment has been completed on 10 January 2022 as this is a new policy.
Customer Impact:	N/A.
Economic and Social Impact:	Empty homes work improves the local area and neighbours lives by not having a blighted property in the area.
Environment and Climate Change:	N/A
Consultation/Community Engagement:	N/A
Risks:	None identified
Officer Contact	Paul Sanders Head of Community Services paul.sanders@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

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Draft Empty Homes Policy (Private Sector)



February 2022

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1. Introduction

The council has recently approved a new Housing Strategy. The strategy runs from 2021-2026 and can be found at www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/policies_and_strategies

This policy document describes in more detail the key themes around housing in terms of:

- **Supply**
- **Demand**
- **Affordability**

Bringing empty homes back into use supports the key supply theme of the Housing Strategy. As of 31 March 2020 86% of homes in North West Leicestershire were in the private sector. The empty homes policy details legislation that will deal with bringing privately owned empty homes back into use therefore the aim of the policy is to increase the number of privately owned properties back into use to help with overall supply within the district.

In 2020, 220,000 homes in England were recorded as Long Term Empty, i.e. empty for 6 months plus.

Local authorities receive a grant paid by central general government called the new homes bonus, which reflects and incentivises housing growth in their areas. This is based on the amount of extra Council Tax Revenue raised for new build homes, conversions and long- term empty homes brought back into use.

2. Background

2.1 How many empty houses are there in North West Leicestershire, and why?

In January 2022 there were 897 privately owned empty houses in North West Leicestershire. The table below indicates how long they have been empty for:

Empty for?	Number
Less than 6 months	439
6 months – 1 year	196
1 – 2 years	124
2 years plus	138
Total	897

Source: North West Leicestershire District Council Tax Records 1 January 2022.

There are some empty houses that are not recorded by the government:

- Some homes still being built
- Rooms in houses in multiple occupation
- Some types of homes provided for older people

There are several types of houses which are not included in the reported figures of January 2022. Some of these include:

- Repossessed property
- Property belonging to a person in detention
- Second homes
- Property waiting to be occupied by a minister of religion

2.2 Why are houses empty?

Houses are empty for different reasons:

- **The house may be for sale or for rent, being refurbished or adapted.** These houses are usually re-occupied within a few months. However, there can be delays, for example where the occupier has died and there are problems over inheritance and probate. The owner may run out of money to refurbish the house or may expect more money for a house than the market value.
- **The house may be in poor repair.** The condition of the house may have deteriorated whilst it has been empty, or it may have been left in this condition when the previous occupier moved out.
- **The house may be empty because it will be replaced as part of a regeneration scheme.** Parts of North West Leicestershire are currently being affected by the proposed HS2 route, leaving many houses empty.

Empty Homes work has found that:

- Owners may choose to keep a home empty if they own more than one in the same 'block' and they would like to do something when a number of homes become available
- Owners may have sentimental attachment to an inherited property, and may wish to keep the property in the condition in which it was left to them.
- Owners may wish to keep a home empty because they have had a bad experience of tenants. It may be preferable in the current housing market to leave a house empty until it can be sold.
- The time taken to renovate homes can take some time, and often longer than expected
- It is easier to sell a vacant property and the home will be empty for at least 3 to 4 months to do this, bearing in mind how long it takes to market the property
- Owners may not be able to live in the property due to poor health, detention, or work postings.

3. What have we already done about empty houses?

In 2008 and 2012 the council published empty property policy. Despite limited funding the council, in 2016, appointed a full time Empty Homes Officer who now has knowledge of where empty homes are located across the district

Since 2016 risk assessments have been taking place to highlight problem properties based on the type of property, location, condition, and generate a risk score. Work has also taken place to bring properties back into occupation, with some success.

The council offers a number of benefits for owners working with them, including referrals to estate agents offering reduced fees, or to organisations such as charities who will renovate and lease the houses to their tenants. The council has also held landlord forums for a number of years, and the housing department has viewed some empty homes with a view to making acquisitions for adding to the housing stock in the future.

Since 2016 a significant number of enforcement notices have also been raised against empty homes owners, to ensure blight properties' condition have improved, with some prosecutions leading to change of ownership, and ultimately bringing the property back into use. In some cases this has cleared council tax debts which span over a number of years.

In 2019 a Long Term Empty Property Premium was introduced increasing council tax on properties empty of 3 years or longer by a further 100% to 200%, and those empty for 2-3 years by 50% to 150%. The council has also removed the 10% discount previously granted to owners of second homes, with second homes owners now paying 100% instead of 90%. The premium has led to a decrease in the number of empty homes being empty over a 2 year period.

In summary, the council is already doing a number of things to bring empty houses back into use.

For more information about what the council, working with others, is doing to bring empty houses back into use please visit the Empty Property web page, on our website. There is also the facility to report an Empty Home on the website by clicking "report it".

4. What does this policy document aim to achieve?

The empty homes work aims to contribute towards:

- Reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour e.g. preventing groups gathering at empty properties
- Improved visual amenity e.g. untidy gardens, unkept properties
- Reduction in neighbour complaints/nuisance – e.g. damp, pests
- Increasing housing supply

5. How will the policy achieve our objectives?

Our overall approach

Empty houses are potentially a long-term challenge, particularly in the current housing market. Whilst some will be brought back into use within a few months, many have already been empty for much longer and will be more difficult to address. Officers also have limited available resources. It is important that the action officers take is guided by the vision for North West Leicestershire and the housing outcomes the council wants to achieve as outlined in the Housing Strategy 2021 – 2026.

Officers have also learned lessons from the approaches in other local authority areas to tackling empty houses.. Based on this knowledge the proposed approach aims to be:

- **Targeted but flexible.** We are particularly interested in focusing on empty houses

back into use that:

- Can meet an identified housing need
- Will visibly improve the local neighbourhood, enabling pride in the community and raising awareness of the need for homes
- Are in close proximity to local amenities e.g., shops, schools, doctors surgery and employment
- Require relatively little input

However, we realise we will need to balance these objectives with:

- The willingness of owners to work with us and to take action
- The input required compared to the output e.g., rental income, income from the New Homes Bonus, and/or cost savings that will be achieved (value for money)

- **Informed**

We realise that houses are empty for many different reasons, and that some of those empty for more than 12 months may be for a very valid reason. It is critical that we focus our resources where we feel we can make the most difference to achieving our objectives.

- **Enabling and supportive**

Enforcement is an action of last resort. Our approach will be to offer a range of practical and supportive assistance to owners, recognising that a 'one size fits all' approach is not appropriate, and that many people may simply need a small amount of the right input e.g., information or advice, to enable them to take action to either sell the property and/or identify necessary works that need to be carried out to enable re-occupation or sale of the property. We're also conscious that we need to be able to respond in a timely manner.

- **Enforcement**

Where an owner of a property is engaging and voluntarily working with the council to bring their property back into use, it is not usually necessary for the council to use enforcement powers unless communication breaks down and the use of powers is determined as necessary to bring the property back into use in a timely manner.

Where an owner cannot be traced or is unwilling to engage with the council, the council will consider whether enforcement action is appropriate to secure the re-occupation of the property. The council may use a number of enforcement actions in order to achieve the re-use of the property.

The range of enforcement powers available to the council are set out in Appendix 2.

- **Value for money**

With little public funding available, our approach is to work with people and organisations in the private, community and voluntary sectors to maximise the contribution they can make. This could mean working with private landlords or developers, housing associations, charities or parish councils, for example. They may have experience and expertise, or have access to other sources of funding. We will also work with the county council and neighboring local authorities; they have similar housing objectives.

- **Transparent and accountable**

It is critical that the public can hold us to account for the use of public money to bring empty houses back into use. It is also important to understand how many empty houses are being brought back into use through interventions as the overall numbers may be misrepresented by figures calculated for the purpose of New Homes Bonus.

We have clear procedures (see Appendix 1) in place for those involved in the process to enable this. We also have a clear and pro-active action plan, against which we regularly monitor and report progress.

Returning Houses to Homes Procedures

Informed and accountable

Given the importance of understanding more about why a house is empty, and not just how long it has been empty, more intelligence about the property owner is needed. This can be from data held elsewhere in the council, but other investigative work may be needed. A starting point will be to ask owners to 'tell us more' about their plans for the house when writing to them, this has been incorporated into the first stage letter that we send out following our survey visit.

We have generally raised awareness with other departments of the council whose staff are regularly out on the district and can spot empty properties and asked them to report back to the team.

As part of the consultation process we have raised awareness amongst the local community by attending community forums and presenting information and how to contact us about empty properties.

Information and education

Initiative	In detail
Communication through website	Communication through the website aims to raise awareness of empty houses and provides a wealth of useful information for empty property owners and those looking to report, buy and renovate an empty property.
National Empty Homes Week	The council has also participated in National Empty Homes week events. This is an annual event where various local authorities raise the profile of empty homes and highlight the work being done to reduce the number of long-term empty homes. The week has included a radio broadcast, and the use of social media amongst methods of communication.
Working with local Estate Agents	Links have been established with local estate agents to encourage their involvement in bringing long term empty properties back into use.
Letters to home owners	Various letters are sent out to empty homes owners asking them to make contact with the Empty Homes Officer. In particular with high priority properties.
Policy and Forums	The process of revising the empty houses policy was accompanied by press releases and public consultation e.g., at the community forums to generate feedback.



Enforcement action

In compliance with the spirit of the Enforcement Concordat, the Regulators Compliance Code and the Environmental Enforcement Policy our approach will be fair, equitable and incremental. The primary function of central and local government enforcement work is to protect the public, the environment and various other groups such as consumers. There is a need to carry out enforcement functions in a consistent, practical and equitable manner, which in turn will help to promote a thriving local and national economy.

Before progressing from one of the following procedures to another, we will ensure that owners are fully advised and given an opportunity and sufficient time to take measures of their own to bring properties back into use.

Initiative	In detail
<p>Empty Dwelling Management Order (EDMO) and Final Management Order (FDO)</p>	<p>The council has an existing Returning Houses to Homes Policy and Procedures, approved by Cabinet for use of EDMO powers. An EDMO allows a local housing authority to effectively 'step into the shoes' of the owner of an unoccupied dwelling.</p> <p>Legislated for in the Housing Act 2004, section 132 the Residential Property Tribunal can authorise local authorities to take over the management of an empty property on a temporary basis to have it renovated and reoccupied, where the owner has no plans to bring that property back into use. The cost of the works is then recovered via rent.</p>
<p>Delegated officer powers to serve notices</p>	<p>Several pieces of legislation allow local authorities to require repairs to a property to improve its appearance and condition. These include the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Act 1984, <p>Sections 77 to 79 of the Building Act allows the council to require an owner to make their property safe, carry out works of repair or demolition. Where the owner fails to carry out the works required, or if they are an emergency, the council may carry out the works in place of the owner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town and Country Planning Act 1990 <p>Where a property is having a detrimental impact on the amenity of an area, a notice under s.215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 may be served requiring the owner to address the unsightly external appearance. Where an owner fails to comply with such a notice the council may undertake the works in default and make a charge against the property. The use of s.215 notices improves the amenity of an area, but can also be used for the basis of an enforced sale. In North West</p>

Leicestershire Planning Enforcement Officers are authorised to serve notices under this Act.

- Anti-Social Behaviour and the Crime and Policing Act 2014

Where a person's conduct is having a detrimental effect on the quality of life of others in the locality, a Community Protection Notice may be served, under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. The use of a Community Protection Notice can ensure the owner clears and removes waste from premises including gardens, and other items such as or including vehicles from the land, and then maintains the land moving forwards.

- Environmental Protection Act 1990 and Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

Where a premise's condition is creating a health risk due to rats and mice, a notice can be served under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, requiring the owner to clear the land and property of vermin, and harbourage. Failure to do this may result in the council clearing the land and charging the owner.

- Housing Act 2004

Sections 11 and 12 allow the council to serve notices to advice of hazards in the property, require improvement works to be carried out to the property, or the council may carry out works in default if the owner does not comply with any served notices.

- Housing Act 1985

Section 265 allows the council to demolish a property if it cannot be repaired.

- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982

Under section 29 the council can require that the owner secures a property which is insecure. The Act also allows the council to secure (board up) an insecure property in the case of emergency.

- Public Health Act 1936 and 1961

Section 83 of the 1936 Act and Section 34 of the 1961 Act permits the council to require works by the owner or occupier to improve filthy and verminous properties. If the owner or occupier fails to comply with the notice the council may themselves carry out the works and recover the expenses reasonably incurred.

<p>Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)</p>	<p>CPOs are a lengthy legal process that the council does not undertake lightly. They are only used in appropriate cases, where despite the council's best endeavours; an owner has consistently failed to bring an empty property back into use. Without intervention by the council, it is likely that the property will remain unoccupied and deteriorate further if in a poor state of repair. The use of compulsory purchase action is deemed as a last resort to enable the property to be brought back into use within a reasonable timescale.</p> <p>CPO's can be undertaken under section 17 Housing Act 2004 or section 226 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.</p> <p>An alternative and quicker option is to pursue enforced sale orders in cases where owners are reluctant to address the problems that their empty property is causing the neighbourhood.</p>
<p>Enforced Sale</p>	<p>Enforced sale is a procedure that allows local authorities to recover debt, but can also serve as a way of bringing empty properties back into use. The procedure enables the local authority to force the sale of the property in accordance with section 103 of the Law of Property Act 1925 in order to recover a debt, where the owner has failed to repay the debt secured on their property.</p> <p>There are many ways in which such debts may be incurred. An authority may incur a debt against a property when it has secured it against unlawful entry or undertaken works in default following the service of a statutory repair notice.</p>
<p>Demolition Orders</p>	<p>Demolition Orders are for extreme cases and as such are not common practice. They can only be used when other properties will not be affected (e.g. a detached property or end of terrace).</p> <p>Part IX of the Housing Act 1985 (as amended) allows Local Authorities to issue an order where the owner is required to demolish a property that is beyond repair and uninhabitable at their own expense.</p>

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET – TUESDAY, 29 MARCH 2022



Title of Report	NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH PLAN 2022	
Presented by	Councillor Tony Gillard Business and Regeneration Portfolio Holder	
Background Papers	Economic Growth Plan 09.04.19	Public Report: Yes
	Economic Recovery Plan 10.11.20	Key Decision: Yes
Financial Implications	The NWL Economic Growth Plan will be delivered within existing council capacity and resources or through collaboration with external partner organisations.	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	None.	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	Where possible, the delivery of the NWL Economic Growth Plan will be delivered through existing service capacity and reported through the relevant team service plans and against the Council Delivery Plan.	
	Delivery will be overseen by the Economic Development Team and updates will be provided through monthly briefings with the Business and Regeneration Portfolio Holder and through briefings with the Shadow Business and Regeneration Portfolio Holder.	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	For Cabinet to approve and sign off the refreshed North West Leicestershire Economic Growth Plan.	
Reason for Decision	For Cabinet to provide feedback and adopt the refreshed North West Leicestershire Economic Growth Plan ahead of publication.	
Recommendations	THAT CABINET 1. TO REVIEW THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE REFRESHED NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH PLAN 22-25 AND THE	

	<p>ASSOCIATED EVIDENCE BASE AND CONSIDER THE COMMENTS OF COMMUNITY SCRUTINY.</p> <p>2. APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF THE REFRESHED NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH PLAN 22-25.</p>
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1. Background

- 1.1 In 2019 North West Leicestershire District Council published an Economic Growth Plan that outlined the council’s economic and regeneration objectives for the period between 2019 and 2021. This plan was presented as a three year plan due to the then emerging Local Industrial Strategy which would have provided wider regional economic context and policy at which point officers would have been able to revise and update the Economic Growth Plan.
- 1.2 Since we published our 2019 Economic Growth Plan we have experienced a number of macro-economic changes including Britain’s exit from the European Union and the global coronavirus pandemic. In 2020, the Economic Growth Plan was supplemented by the North West Leicestershire Economic Recovery Plan that outlined the council’s response to the immediate economic needs resulting from the coronavirus pandemic.
- 1.3 Both the Economic Growth Plan 19-21 and the 2020 Economic Recovery Plan resulted in outcomes and project delivery that contributed to economic growth. Some of which were short term responses to an immediate need and others contributed to our long term vision for economic growth. The ongoing work from both of these plans are reflected in this refreshed Economic Growth Plan (Attached as Appendix 1).

2. Refreshed Economic Growth Plan 2022 - 2025

- 2.1 Despite the recent economic changes there are still core strengths and opportunities in the district that are as relevant now as there were in 2019. This refresh of the Economic Growth Plan represents a forward plan of activity delivered by the council and our partners that will build upon its predecessor and also reflect upon and continue the ongoing work of the council’s 2020 Economic Recovery Plan.
- 2.2 The refresh uses the same structure as the 2019 Economic Growth Plan based on making the most of the areas’ strongest assets in terms of **‘people’**, **‘place’** and **‘business’** and ensuring that these three gears of the economy function effectively together.
- 2.3 The refreshed growth plan also underpins the Council’s Delivery Plan, individual service plans and the Council’s Zero Carbon Roadmap. The economic growth priorities and objectives from these other strategic documents have been incorporated within the refresh creating a comprehensive plan of activity to support economic recovery and growth.
- 2.4 This growth plan doesn’t stand alone. It has been prepared alongside the governments ‘Build Back Better’ plan for growth and also the emerging Leicester and Leicestershire Economic Growth Strategy to ensure that North West Leicestershire maintains a proactive role in contributing and shaping the economic growth of the region and the country as a whole.

- 2.5 Furthermore, a baseline of the most recent available economic data has been collected in an economic evidence base which informs the refresh of this Growth Plan (Attached as Appendix 2). Latest drafts of this evidence base, along with an updated investor prospectus will be published online as appendices to the growth plan.
- 2.6 The economic evidence base will be reviewed and updated annually to be a measure of the delivery of the Growth Plan and used to indicate what further actions or adjustments are needed to support continued economic growth of the district.
- 2.7 Progress on the delivery of the plan will be overseen by the Economic Development Team and will be reported through monthly briefings with the Business and Regeneration Portfolio Holder, through briefings with the Shadow Business and Regeneration Portfolio Holder and through the Council's reporting framework.

3.0 Engagement

- 3.1 To help shape the refresh of the Economic Growth Plan officers have also sought input from a series of partner organisations who will have a supporting role in the delivery of the plan. These include local business groups, the National Forest Company, Leicestershire County Council, East Midlands Airport, the Enterprise Partnerships, SMB Group (Formerly Stephenson College) and the Department for Work and Pensions.
- 3.2 A draft of the refreshed Economic Growth Plan was presented to Community Scrutiny Committee in February 2022 for feedback ahead of the draft being published and presented to Cabinet.
- 3.3 Healthy discussion was held around the high levels of economic growth that the district continues to experience and how the wealth generated through commerce needs to mirror the economic growth of our communities too.
- 3.4 Feedback also included an emphasis on the ongoing work to connect residents to employers both physically in terms of transport and the importance of continuing to work with employers to adopt flexible recruitment/operational practices to make roles more accessible for those furthest from the labour market. It was also highlighted that further collaborations between employers and training and education providers to continue to work to bridge the gap from education into employment remains key.
- 3.5 Community Scrutiny also explored the role of the Economic Growth Plan in supporting sustainable growth and driving sustainability and good practice for businesses in terms of their premises and their operations. There was also consensus on the economic and social value of efforts to reinstate rail connections through the former Ivanhoe Line.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The draft Economic Growth Plan was refreshed by the Economic Development Team using existing resources and officer capacity. The production cost associated with the graphic design and print of the documents will be met through existing budgets.
- 4.2 The plan will be delivered through programmed activities and projects budgeted within the existing Economic Development Team plan and the team plans of other business facing Council Services.

- 4.3 The Economic Development Team will continue to monitor the availability of external public and private funding opportunities that the Council could bid into to help further deliver the objectives with the refreshed Economic Growth Plan. Further budgeting requests may be made through the annual budgeting process as required.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting Coalville to be a more vibrant, family-friendly town - Support for businesses and helping people into local jobs - Developing a clean and green district - Local people live in high quality, affordable homes - Our communities are safe, healthy and connected
Policy Considerations:	Council Delivery Plan
Safeguarding:	No safeguarding considerations.
Equalities/Diversity:	No equalities/diversity considerations.
Customer Impact:	The attached refreshed Economic Growth Plan sets out a series of actions to support residents and businesses.
Economic and Social Impact:	The attached refreshed Economic Growth Plan sets out a series of actions to support residents and businesses.
Environment and Climate Change:	The attached refreshed Economic Growth Plan sets out a series of actions that contributes to achieving the council's Zero Carbon Roadmap.
Consultation/Community Engagement:	To help shape the refresh of the Economic Growth Plan officers have also sought initial feedback from a series of partner organisations who will have a supporting role in the delivery of the plan.
Risks:	No safeguarding considerations.
Officer Contact	Barrie Walford Economic Development Manager barrie.walford@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

North West Leicestershire Economic Growth Plan 2022 - 2025



North West
Leicestershire
District Council

SEGR0 Logistics Park East Midlands Gateway
and Rail Freight Interchange

INTRODUCTION



This 2022 to 2025 Economic Growth Plan is a refresh of the council's 2019 Economic Growth Plan.

Since we published our previous Economic Growth Plan, we have experienced a number of macro-economic changes including Britain's exit from the European Union on 31 December 2020 and the global coronavirus pandemic. 2020 was an unprecedented year that brought about significant changes in how we all lived our lives and brought about significant changes to the way we, our customers and our businesses worked.

The pandemic meant that some industries had to close and most industries had to adapt to new ways of working. There were rapid changes made to how we work, communicate, socialise and shop. Workplaces have been modified, new working practices introduced and, in some cases, staff working remotely from the workplace.

Despite the disruption of the pandemic and the resulting economic hardship, the local economy remains diverse and resilient. Some sectors have struggled due to restrictions where as other sectors experienced tremendous growth in terms of sales and jobs.

Throughout the pandemic the council remains committed to maintain our frontline business support and economic development services to ensure that businesses continue to have access to support, funding and advice during these turbulent times.

Since the publication of the last Economic Growth Plan, North West Leicestershire District Council has declared a climate emergency and has begun to develop our response to the need to reduce the council's and the district's carbon emissions. The climate emergency and achieving net zero carbon emissions are fundamental to designing and delivering sustainable economic growth.

Despite the recent economic changes, there are still core strengths and opportunities in the district that are as relevant now as there were in 2019. The emergence of the East Midlands Development Corporation and the region's freeport will also have a significant role in driving sustainable economic growth for the district and the wider region.

This refresh of the Economic Growth Plan represents a forward plan of activity delivered by the council and our partners that will build upon its predecessor and also reflect upon, and continue the ongoing work of, the council's 2020 Coronavirus Economic Recovery Plan.

This plan uses the same structure as the 2019 Economic Growth Plan based on making the most of the area's strongest assets in terms of 'people', 'place' and 'business' and ensuring that these three gears of the economy function effectively together. It is underpinned by the Council Delivery Plan, individual service plans and the council's Zero Carbon Roadmap, creating a pathway of activity to support post-Covid recovery growth and providing a framework to deliver key priorities, objectives and to focus resources.

Furthermore, a baseline of the most recent available economic data has been collected and is published online as appendices to the plan, along with an updated investor prospectus. These supporting documents will be reviewed and updated annually to be a measure of the delivery of the Growth Plan and to indicate what further actions or adjustments are needed to support continued economic growth of the district.

This Economic Growth Plan doesn't stand alone. It has been prepared alongside the government's 'Build Back Better' plan for growth and also the emerging Leicester and Leicestershire Economic Growth Strategy to ensure that North West Leicestershire maintains a proactive role in contributing to and shaping the economic growth of the region and the country as a whole.



**More than 9 million trees
planted in the National Forest**

OUR LOCATION



SEGRO Logistics Park East Midlands Gateway and Rail Freight Interchange next to M1/A50 and East Midlands Airport

North West Leicestershire has a diverse and prosperous economy, based in the heart of The National Forest with strong road, rail, air and digital infrastructure. Central to the three cities of Leicester, Derby and Nottingham and the M1, M6, M42 golden triangle, the district is home to East Midlands Airport and the Strategic Rail Freight Interchange at East Midlands International Gateway, providing global links to facilitate growth across all sectors.

The emerging East Midlands Freeport will wrap around North West Leicestershire, incorporating neighbouring strategic sites within Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. These sites, including the East Midlands Gateway (incorporating East Midlands Airport and the SEGRO Strategic Rail Freight Interchange), Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station and the proposed East Midlands Intermodal Park near Toyota in South Derbyshire, are strategically located with strong infrastructure connecting them to the rest of the United Kingdom, Europe and onwards to the rest of the world.

HS2

In 2021, the proposed HS2 (East) was announced as part of the government's Integrated Rail Plan. When delivered, this will result in the construction of a new high speed railway through North West Leicestershire, which is planned to connect to the East Midlands Hub Station at East Midlands Parkway.

The National Forest

The district lies at the heart of The National Forest which is developing as an emerging tourism destination. The National Forest is a unique natural environment of woodland and wildlife habitat that provides a beautiful backdrop for life within the district and contributes to economic growth, social inclusion and physical and mental wellbeing.

As a place to live and visit, The National Forest offers natural environments that enhance the quality of life and provides cultural, economic and environmental benefits to the area. The National Forest is a national exemplar of the interrelations between the economy, climate change mitigation and natural capital.

Other attractions

North West Leicestershire contains a number of leisure and visitor attractions and facilities such as Donington Race Circuit, Snibston Colliery Park, Moira Furnace, Conkers Visitor Centre, Hick's Lodge, Ashby Castle and a number of prestigious hotels and conferencing facilities.

Character and settlements

Much of the district remains rural in character with attractive countryside in places. The principal town is Coalville, steeped in industrial heritage and a focus for regeneration. The district is also home to historic Ashby de la Zouch and the key local centres of Castle Donington, Ibstock, Kegworth and Measham.



**Range of market towns
and rural centres**

JOURNEY FROM 2019, THROUGH 2020, 2021 AND BEYOND



This refreshed Growth Plan creates a clear pathway to support local growth and provides a framework for delivery of key priorities, objectives and to steer resources.

In 2019 North West Leicestershire District Council published the 2019 to 2021 Economic Growth Plan. In 2020, the Growth Plan was then supplemented by the North West Leicestershire Economic Recovery Plan that responded to the immediate economic needs resulting from the coronavirus pandemic.

Both of these plans resulted in outcomes and project delivery that contributed to economic growth, some of which were short term responses to an immediate need, while others contributed to our long term vision for economic growth.

This ongoing work is reflected in this refreshed Economic Growth Plan.

Despite only being launched 12 months before the pandemic, the 2019 Economic Growth Plan delivered a number of successful projects.

- Pre-employment customer care training and new logistics training at East Midlands Airport Academy
- Inward investment and recruitment support for new employers such as the Very Group, GXO, Games Workshop and Kuehne and Nagel
- Continued support for sustainable transport to access employment through the EMEG Access to Work Partnership and the launch of the new Airline 9 bus service providing new connections to employment in the north of the district
- The launch and delivery of new business grants through the Enterprising Fund making over £175,000 in grant payments to local businesses that generated £1.25million in private sector leverage and created more than 70 new local jobs
- A number of business support programmes such as NBV business start-up, WISE, Webinar – Creative Leicestershire, Jobs fairs, Timber Festival, LRS Wellbeing at Work Charter and the North West Leicestershire District Council apprenticeship programme.

JOURNEY FROM 2019, THROUGH 2020, 2021 AND BEYOND

Alongside the 2019 Economic Growth Plan, in 2020 the North West Leicestershire Economic Recovery Plan was adopted that set out the council's immediate plan of action for economic recovery in response to the pandemic and the realignment of resources to meet the challenges faced by our businesses and communities.

- Maintained front line 1:2:1 business support services providing a point of contact for more than 1,000 businesses during the pandemic
- The creation of a Community Hub and collaborating with food manufacturers and retailers to provide welfare packages to support vulnerable individuals during the pandemic
- Maintained support for new inward investment and growing businesses such as Mars, Caterpillar and ongoing work with developers IM Properties for the Jaguar/Land Rover and DSV developments at Mercia Park
- Administered the delivery of a number of coronavirus business support grant programmes
- Provided advice and direct intervention to support businesses in need to access various different grant programmes through the pandemic

- Delivery of Digital High Streets training and grants to support high street business to improve their digital capacity whilst high-street footfall was restricted
- Delivered a number of safety measures, events and support programmes through the Reopening High Streets Safely initiative and the Welcome Back Fund
- Researched and prepared numerous intelligence briefings that were used to inform decision making and shape regional policy and strategy during the pandemic
- Provided safe trading and compliance advice to businesses operating during the pandemic as well as advice and virtual support seminars targeted towards tourism and hospitality sectors.

We also delivered virtual jobs fairs, supported the government's Kickstart programme, provided support to council tenants to access employment and to work from home, made prompt payment to suppliers a priority and delivered shop local campaigns and business start-up support.



Welcome Back Fund summer entertainment

JOURNEY FROM 2019, THROUGH 2020, 2021 AND BEYOND

£22.5 million invested in the
Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre

Both the 2019 Economic Growth Plan and this refreshed version of the plan were prepared and aligned to the North West Leicestershire District Council Delivery Plan, which retains the five key priorities of:

- Supporting Coalville to be a more vibrant family-friendly town
- Our communities are safe, healthy and connected
- Local people live in high quality, affordable homes
- Support for businesses and helping people into local jobs
- Developing a clean green district

The refreshed Economic Growth Plan will underpin the Council Delivery Plan and will also feed into other local strategies such as the North West Leicestershire Visitor Economy Plan and the council's Zero Carbon Roadmap. The importance of a sustainable low carbon economy is vitally important today and for future generations. At the heart of The National Forest, North West Leicestershire District Council is committed to ensuring that growth is sustainable and in balance with the local environment.

ZERO CARBON

In June 2019 North West Leicestershire District Council declared a climate emergency and appointed specialist environmental consultants to help develop our response to the need to reduce the council's and the district's carbon emissions.

This resulted in the publication of our Zero Carbon Roadmap in November 2019 which was adopted by the council on 31 March 2020. The roadmap focuses on carbon emissions, their sources and how to reduce them and identifies recommended actions to achieve Net Zero Carbon status.

The Zero Carbon Roadmap targets a Net Zero Carbon council by 2030 and a Net Zero Carbon district by 2050. Details are available at www.nwleics.gov.uk/climate_change

The climate emergency and achieving Net Zero carbon emissions are fundamental to designing and delivering green economic growth. Through promoting sustainable economic growth it is essential that this refresh of the Economic Growth Plan recognises the urgency of climate change. These concepts will need to be continuously embedded across the entire plan and its objectives to ensure these challenging requirements can be met.

This refreshed Economic Growth Plan sits alongside the council's existing Zero Carbon Roadmap and provides the opportunity for the council and our partners, such as The National Forest and Leicestershire County Council. We need to demonstrate leadership in this area to show how the connection between growth in jobs and homes and the natural environment can be enhanced to support clean growth.

It remains important that we all recognise the role of natural capital as a driving force for a healthy population and a sustainable economy and natural environment. This is woven through all three of this plan's core challenges: people, place and business.

Working with partners we must strive to protect, and make positive contributions to, the district's natural capital and enable a transition away from practices that damage the natural environment and increase greenhouse gases.

Through this plan we will continue to work with partner organisations to help the council achieve its Zero Carbon ambitions and support our businesses and communities to adapt and mitigate climate change.



Wind turbine, Heather



Cycle Hire DHL Caterpillar, Castle Donington

KEY SECTORS

Based on our analysis of Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) data and a range of other sources considered in the development of the Economic Growth Plan, there are five key sectors that will be prioritised for growth within the district. These sectors are:

- Business and professional and scientific services
- Manufacturing
- Logistics and distribution
- Construction
- Creative / cultural / tourism sector

Despite some of these sectors being adversely impacted during the pandemic the sectors have demonstrated growth over a longer time frame and will continue to play a significant role in the continued recovery and growth of the North West Leicestershire economy.



Moira Furnace, Moira

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

To support the growth of the district, North West Leicestershire District Council will continue to work in partnership with local businesses, Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LEEP), Leicestershire Growth Hub, East Midlands Development Corporation, The National Forest Company and National Forest Charitable Trust, Leicestershire County Council, Leicester Employment Hub, East Midlands Chamber of Commerce, SMB Group, Department for Work and Pension, neighbouring authorities and other regional bodies.

This work will focus on the three core challenges of this Economic Growth Plan:

- People – skills, access to employment, entrepreneurial spirit, health and wellbeing
- Place – infrastructure, connectivity, quality of life, environment
- Business – business growth, investment, private sector jobs

The refreshed Economic Growth Plan contains a number of objectives across these three core challenges. Some of these objectives will be delivered directly by North West Leicestershire District Council and others through partnership working.

There are some objectives in the plan where the council may not have any direct influences or input to their delivery. However, in these scenarios the council will seek to lobby and support the delivery of these objectives where they contribute to the wider economic health and wellbeing of the district.



FOUNDATIONS – PEOPLE

Principles - skills, access to employment, entrepreneurial spirit, health and wellbeing.

North West Leicestershire has a growing population of over 100,000. The availability of a diverse workforce with the appropriate skills for business is vital if the local economy is to be successful and resilient. Our residents will have greater employment and entrepreneurial opportunities available to them if they have higher levels of skills, educational attainment and healthy lives.

Growth in future productivity will rely on ensuring that local people can meet the challenges of changing employment needs in, emerging growth sectors, changing environmental practices, skills for a green economy and the efficiencies brought by artificial intelligence and increased automation. The continued development of local people is necessary to ensure that our residents can take up local job opportunities and that those who are not economically active are encouraged to participate effectively.

As this growth plan was being prepared the long term impact on the labour market of both the coronavirus pandemic and Britain's exit from the European Union hasn't yet been realised.

The furlough scheme supported hundreds of businesses and thousands of workers throughout the district but there remain challenges to support residents back into the workplace. As industry and workplaces reopen it is clear that coronavirus hasn't fully disappeared.

The pandemic has brought about a digital revolution for how some businesses integrated home working, how we communicate and how consumers shop, creating a greater need for digital skills within industry and the labour market.

The pandemic has seen an increase in the number residents out of work. The council and our partners will continue to work to match employers and jobs seekers together, though it is important to acknowledge that those residents who were furthest from labour market pre-pandemic are potentially even further away from the labour market now. Therefore the need for pre-employment training and for employers to adopt flexible recruitment policies are still incredibly important to ensure employment for all.

The pandemic has also provided a stark reminder to every one of the importance of the health and wellbeing both at home and in the workplace. The pandemic resulted in isolation and uncertainty for many alongside economic challenges for businesses and those unable to work.



SMB College, Stephenson Campus, Coalville

FOUNDATIONS – PEOPLE

Objectives

- 1) Encourage entrepreneurial activity through programmes of support including business start-up workshops, with specific support to assist more young people and women to start a business or to consider self-employment
- 2) Help new and existing businesses and developers to recruit local people. For example, by continuing to support the Airport Academy at East Midlands Airport and continued working with employment groups at SEGRO and Mercia Park

- 3) Work with partners to help raise skill levels and productivity to ensure that the workforce needs of businesses are met
- 4) Work with partners to ensure that skills and training can best meet the changing digital, technological and environmental needs across different sectors
- 5) Encourage local businesses to become Disability Confident Employers and to adopt a more open recruitment policy to enhance access employment opportunities

- 6) Work with partners to ensure residents can access careers advice and relevant information on future employment opportunities with local companies in key growth sectors
- 7) Assist the LLEP and other partners to facilitate relationships between local businesses and schools and colleges. This will ensure that future employment needs are met and opportunities are highlighted, particularly in growth sectors and for the green economy.

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FOUNDATIONS – PEOPLE

Objectives

8) Maximise opportunities to get local people into work during the construction phase of development sites, alongside creating opportunities for apprenticeships and school visits to encourage new generations into the industry

9) Develop and enhance North West Leicestershire District Council's apprenticeship programme and provide volunteering and work experience opportunities within the organisation

4

10) Promote the employment and training opportunities provided by partner organisations, such as the Leicester Employment Hub, to support those furthest from the labour market into employment

11) Promote the use of leisure facilities, workplace health interventions and countywide sport and leisure initiatives to ensure that employees and employers are aware of the benefits of health and physical and mental wellbeing in the workplace and the impact this has on increased productivity

12) Monitor the progress of the proposed HS2 route and ensure that any resulting employment opportunities from both the construction and implementation phases of HS2 are promoted locally

13) Promote initiatives, including the Kickstart programme and self-employment and pre-employment training, to support residents back into the workplace.

14) Ensure the provision of robust support for residents and businesses impacted by any potential local redundancies.



FOUNDATIONS – PLACE

Principles - infrastructure, connectivity, quality of life, environment.

Our location and environment has been a considerable driver for the economy of North West Leicestershire in terms of natural resources, natural assets and the location of strategic, national and international transport links.

The district lies at the heart of The National Forest and much of the district remains rural in character with attractive countryside. Our historic market towns and business parks sit at the centre of a national transport network served by the A42/M42, A50 and M1 corridors and hosting East Midlands Airport, the Strategic Rail Freight Interchange at SEGRO, East Midlands Parkway train station.

Providing the necessary environment for businesses is essential to support continued sustainable economic growth and competitiveness. The local business environment needs to continue to offer access to suitable premises and land with good transport links, effective digital connectivity, appropriate housing for the workforce and access to excellent quality of life facilities including town centres, leisure and open space.

Balancing economic growth and reducing emissions and pollution is vital. North West Leicestershire District Council will look to support sustainable developments that minimise negative impacts on pollution, carbon emissions and biodiversity.

Our market towns and local centres are hubs of social and commercial activity. Sustained investment and renewal of our towns will ensure they prosper and meet the needs of current and future businesses, residents and visitors.

North West Leicestershire District Council's adopted urban design and planning principles look to drive quality and sustainability through development and renewal ensuring quality homes, quality environments and improved quality of life.





Objectives

15) Support the work of the Coalville Project and the Coalville Regeneration Framework including the redesign of Marlborough Square, support for the Newmarket, the aspiration for a new cinema, ongoing support to increase occupancy and footfall on the high streets

16) Develop a framework of opportunities for the land next to the new leisure centre, the Hermitage Recreation Ground and the former Hermitage Leisure Centre building

17) Support the work of the Ashby Project and the emerging Ashby Business Improvement District to maximise new investment in the market town.

18) Continue to support and develop our smaller local centres to be vibrant hubs for their communities, businesses and visitors, and to encourage residents to shop local

19) Support proposals for increased inward investment within North West Leicestershire and the National Forest to develop the sustainable tourism offer and support the visitor economy and rural diversification

20) Collaborate with The National Forest Company and National Forest Charitable Trust to deliver The Heart of the Forest Masterplan and the National Forest

sustainable tourism accommodation design guide

21) Facilitate the development of the wider East Midlands International Gateway including investment in infrastructure, such as transport links and utilities, and support the continued development and use of the Strategic Rail Freight Interchange

22) Work with public transport operators to encourage the transition from traditional vehicles to more sustainable options such as electric or hydrogen.

23) Through the substantive review of the Local Plan consideration will be given to how the planning process can support the increased use of renewable energy, energy efficiency standards for new buildings and provision of electric vehicle charging points for residential and employment developments

24) Ensure there are sufficient employment sites and premises in the district and work with developers and partners to meet this provision, particularly for incubation and follow-on space.

FOUNDATIONS – PLACE

Objectives

25) Work with developers, agents and partners, such as Invest in Leicester and the Department for International Trade, to promote North West Leicestershire as a destination, to attract new inward investment into the district and to assist with indigenous business expansions

26) Through the planning process, continue to encourage quality sustainable design, sustainable construction methods and materials, green infrastructure and public realm within the setting of The National Forest and across the district

27) Support the continued roll out of Superfast Leicestershire to improve digital connectivity in homes and businesses across the district

28) Work with developers to deliver the south east Coalville and Money Hill in Ashby developments and ensure that the people living in these new homes have relationships with their town centres and local services

29) Work with transport operators, Leicestershire County Council and local employers to explore opportunities to provide better public transport connections to major employment areas and encourage the take up of car share solutions to reduce the number of private vehicles on the road

30) Work with a range of partners to maximise the provision of affordable housing within North West Leicestershire to ensure that residents have access to good quality affordable homes

31) Continue to contribute to the work of the East Midlands Development Corporation to facilitate landmark developments including the emerging East Midlands Freeport

32) Support aspirations to open and restore the Ashby Canal

33) Support aspiration for the reinstatement of the Ivanhoe Line led by the Campaign to Re-open The Ivanhoe Line (CRIL) and align to improved walking and cycling networks.



Photo credit: Luke Jerram's Museum of the Moon Andrew Allcock Wild Rumpus

FOUNDATIONS - BUSINESS

Principles - business growth, investment, private sector jobs.

Businesses are the engine of growth and local opportunity, and a varied, resilient economy helps ensure that these opportunities are maximised. Growth is generated by new business start-ups, existing business expansions, increased productivity and efficiency and new businesses locating to the area.

North West Leicestershire is the chosen location for a number of diverse businesses of all shapes and sizes across a broad variety of sectors. Our businesses include regional, national and global headquarters for blue chip companies, indigenous SMEs, local supply chains, high growth businesses and successful start-ups.

Strong business productivity is reliant on many factors including a good supply of skilled workers, but it also relies on availability of suitable premises, efficient supply chain links, transportation links and access to finance.

Entrepreneurs who are committed to developing businesses will also require advice and support, particularly in the early stages of their ventures when the risk of business failure for start-ups is at its highest.



DHL, Castle Donington

FOUNDATIONS - BUSINESS



Market Street, Ashby de la Zouch

Objectives

34) Work with partners to provide local businesses with advice and support, with particular focus placed on high growth businesses and those in priority growth sectors

35) Using the councils 'Business Champion' model, share examples of good practice, free to access business advice, business support and funding opportunities with local businesses and business networks

36) Continue to provide support to businesses providing key local services within our towns, high streets, rural communities and markets

37) Enable programmes of support specifically relevant to the growth and development businesses in the creative sector

38) Explore and promote external funding opportunities to enable local businesses to access grants and funding that assist business growth, to increase productivity and boost local employment

39) Support new and existing businesses to identify and relocate into suitable premises and workspace within North West Leicestershire

40) Promote tourism and sustainable tourism businesses that support forestry, agriculture, land based rural diversification and outdoor leisure, and promote the area as a sustainable tourism destination.

41) Facilitate programmes that assist businesses in staff recruitment and upskilling locally. For example, hosting jobs and skills fairs with particular emphasis on those furthest from the labour market and promoting a more open recruitment policy

42) Increase innovation activity amongst the wider SME and business base through initiatives such as the MIT Regional Entrepreneurship Acceleration Program.



Objectives

43) Ensure there is a 'soft landing' package for potential investors to make informed decisions about locating to North West Leicestershire

44) Continue to collaborate with IM Properties to facilitate the Employment Partnership throughout the construction and occupation phase of Mercia Park

45) With the Leicester Employment Hub encourage local businesses to get the most from their apprenticeship levy to create new apprenticeship opportunities and upskill their existing workforce

46) Help local businesses and education providers to collaborate on upskilling their workforce and readying future generations for work within the local economy

47) Provide advice and support to existing businesses to cut energy costs, reduce and offset carbon emissions, reduce waste, recycle more, increase efficiency and promote a circular economy

48) Engage with organisations on key business parks in North West Leicestershire to discuss potential for photovoltaics, electric vehicle charging points and other carbon reducing measures

49) Encourage local businesses to reduce the carbon intensity of their operations and improve energy efficiency in a Local Business 'Carbon Action' group

50) Promote opportunities for exporting and global trade to support business growth post-EU Exit

51) Provide specialist advice such as environmental health, planning, building control and licensing to local businesses to ensure that they are compliant with regulations.

DELIVERY

The success of the refreshed North West Leicestershire Economic Growth Plan will be monitored by the extent to which the objectives set out in the document are achieved, but also by considering the outcomes they bring.

From experience, this plan has to be flexible to adapt and respond to changes in government policy, external events and global pressures.

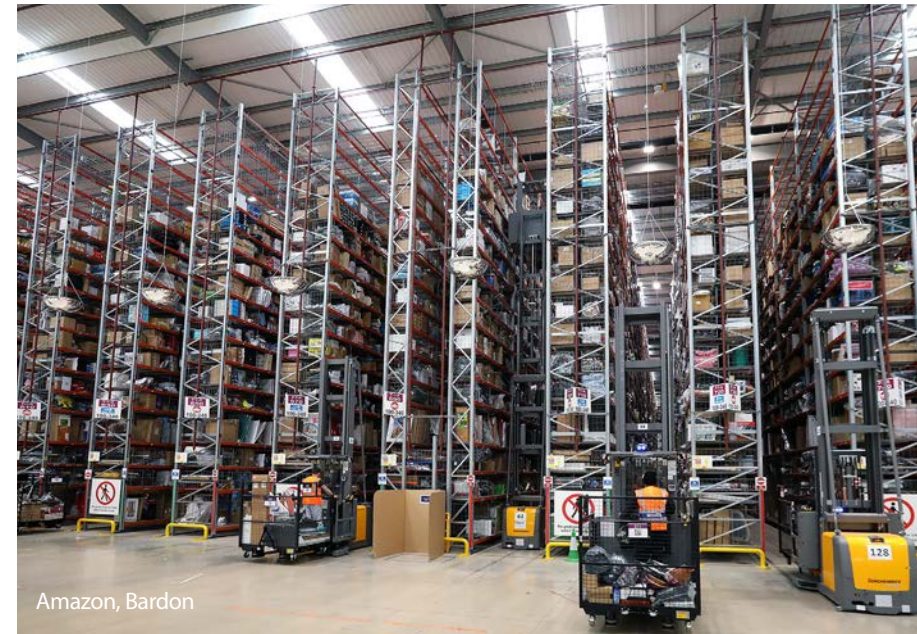
Strong local governance is required. The plan will be underpinned by the Council Delivery Plan and a number of council service plans that bring together expertise from various disciplines to deliver the council's key business facing services.

Furthermore, a baseline of the most recent economic data has been collected in the Economic Growth Plan – Evidence Base. This evidence will be reviewed, updated and reported annually to measure success and to inform any further actions or adjustments that are needed to support continued economic growth.

Progress on the delivery of the strategy will be overseen by the Economic Development and Regeneration service and reported to the Portfolio Holder for Business and through the North West Leicestershire District Council's reporting framework.

The successful implementation of this plan will be enabled through strong partnerships and requires input from North West Leicestershire District Council, local businesses, the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership, the Leicestershire Growth Hub, the East Midlands Development Corporation, the National Forest, Leicestershire County Council, Leicester Employment Hub, East Midlands Chamber of Commerce, the SMB Group, Department for Work and Pension, Leicester-Shire and Rutland Sport, neighbouring authorities and other regional bodies.

North West Leicestershire District Council will also continue to play a supporting role in working with our partners to deliver their own strategic plans for economic growth.



Amazon, Bardon



Ceva Logistics, Ashby de la Zouch





North West Leicestershire Economic Growth Plan Evidence Base 2022 - 2025



**North West
Leicestershire**
District Council

SEGRO Logistics Park East Midlands Gateway
and Rail Freight Interchang



A42 / M1, Diseworth

1 North West Leicestershire

- 1.1 North West Leicestershire sits at the axis of the Midlands, strategically located 25 miles from Birmingham, Derby, Leicester and Nottingham. The District is at the centre of the national transport network, hosting East Midlands Airport, the M1 corridor and also main line rail services provided at East Midlands Parkway. The A42/M42 and the A50 provide an important East/West connection.
- 1.2 It is an area primed for economic growth, particularly having development prospects that are of national and international significance. Our location has proved to be a major attraction to inward investors and developers and our indigenous businesses are looking to grow again after the Covid Pandemic and exiting the EU, which has brought much uncertainty. We have an experienced workforce, excellent natural environment (including being at the heart of the National Forest) and have areas of attractive and accessible countryside.
- 1.3 Delivering economic growth is critical to the wellbeing and prosperity of the District's population. It is essential to factor in resilience to our work to respond to external impacts such as Covid and EU Exit and the impacts they have in the local, national and international economies. These external influences can have dramatic effects on our residents, businesses and future funding.

- 1.4 North West Leicestershire District Council is keen to ensure that opportunities are realised, so that our growth potential can be fully grasped. At the same time, we also recognise that a number of challenges need to be addressed, in particular sustainable access to areas of employment and new opportunity, making sure that local residents have the skills that businesses need to be successful and maximising the economic impact of visitor spending in the area. Many sectors, including Hospitality, Logistics and Care are experiencing staffing challenges both locally and nationally. The economy appears to have bounced back after the Pandemic but its resilience could be tested at anytime.
- 1.5 This Economic Growth Plan sets out how North West Leicestershire District Council, working with partners, will work to stimulate growth within our local economy. We already have a strong track record of partnerships - internally within the District, and across the wider County, the Region and nationally. The plan sets out our ambitions, but is also realistic as to where the public sector can make a difference and where our limited resources will be best applied. The plan runs from 2022-25.

2 Background to the Growth Plan

- 2.1 The 2019-21 Economic Growth Plan sought to give the District a structure on which economic development could be achieved and sought flexibility as strategies from Leicester & Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership and central Government were produced. The growth plans structure was based on making the most of the areas strongest assets in terms of People, Place and Business and ensured that these three gears of the economy function effectively together.
- 2.2 With the focus on Economic Recovery after the massive impact of Coronavirus and the UK's withdrawal from the European Union, there have been a number of local, regional and national short term recovery plans. As of autumn 2021 a number of growth plans are beginning to emerge such as 2021 Leicester and Leicestershire Economic Growth Strategy.
- 2.3 The Government's Plan for Jobs was announced in summer 2020 as a package of measures to support jobs in every part of the country, to give businesses the confidence to retain and hire, and to provide people with the tools they need to get better jobs. This involved the Jobs Retention Scheme; the Kickstart Scheme; new jobs being created through massive investment in new infrastructure including the Green Economy. Additional monies were also announced in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement in October 2021 with a further £500m of funding to support and extend the Plan for Jobs.
- 2.4 The emerging LLEP Economic Growth Strategy identifies a series of priority sectors. Even though not all of the key growth areas identified within LLEP Economic Growth Strategy are relevant priorities to the North West Leicestershire area, the District has a significant role to play in delivering Leicestershire's planned growth. Therefore it is essential that the policy context for the NWL Economic Growth Plan refresh is consistent and supportive of the wider growth agenda when addressing local priorities.



3 Strategic Context

Leicester and Leicestershire Economic Growth Strategy

3.1 Partners across Leicester and Leicestershire have been working with the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) over the past year to develop a new Economic Growth Strategy, which will set out the area's priorities in the period up to 2030, to grow the economy and assist in the recovery after the Pandemic.

3.2 The LLEP Strategy seeks to deliver a successful recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and further capitalise on the phenomenal transformation of the local economy over the past 10 years. Pre-Covid, Leicester and Leicestershire generated £24.5 billion in GVA, with 42,000 businesses and 538,000 jobs, and testament to its resilience and growth potential, we expect this to increase to £30.2 billion and 568,000 jobs by 2030.

3.3 The LLEP Growth Strategy will build on the global research and development and entrepreneurial expertise of Leicester and Leicestershire's three Universities, and excellence in science and engineering. The region is now home to several UK and world-leading centres of new technology and innovation in space and earth observation, sports science, life sciences, IT and cyber technologies, and automotive engineering.

3.4 Leicester and Leicestershire is also the UK's central logistics hub, having gained significant jobs and investment due to the area's strategic location. Agriculture and Food & Drink production remains a key sector in Leicester and Leicestershire, producing £1.8 billion in GVA and accounting for 43,900 jobs. There is the opportunity to further build a sustainable visitor economy that currently supports 58,000 jobs in Leicester and Leicestershire.

East Midlands Freoport

3.5 Another significant new opportunity is the emerging East Midlands Freoport, which will benefit from the existing Maritime-operated rail facility at East Midlands Gateway, and existing and proposed railheads at Ratcliffe-on-Soar Power Station and East Midlands Intermodal Park. The Freoport, at full build out across the three sites, is expected to generate 61,700 jobs. Within Leicester and Leicestershire, the

site is based around the East Midlands Airport and Gateway Industrial Cluster (EMAGIC) in North West Leicestershire - and is expected to contribute £600 million in GVA annually, and 9,900 jobs within Leicester and Leicestershire.

3.6 The Freeport will bring significant investment to develop and drive innovation, alternative energy sources and green technology supporting SME's and large regional employers, including Rolls-Royce, Toyota, and Alstom (formerly Bombardier). The East Midlands Freeport bid was submitted to Government in February 2021 by a consortium led by the Local Enterprise Partnerships representing Leicester, Leicestershire, Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. It included private sector businesses and local authorities, with support from universities, business groups, local MPs and the East Midlands Development Corporation.



Strategic Growth Plan for Leicester and Leicestershire

3.7 In 2018, the nine local authorities (Leicester City Council, and Leicestershire County Council and the 7 district authorities of Blaby, Charnwood, Harborough, Hinckley and Bosworth, Melton, North West Leicestershire, and Oadby and Wigston) and Leicester and Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnership agreed The Strategic Growth Plan setting out aspirations for the development of new housing and infrastructure in the period up to 2050.

3.8 The Strategic Growth Plan identified that around 187,000 new dwellings will be needed between 2011 and 2050 to house the area's growing population, with 96,580 required by 2031 and a further 90,516 by 2050. In addition, it was also estimated that between 367 and 423 hectares of employment land will be required by 2031 to meet future demand.

3.9 The LLEP Economic Growth Strategy adopts and aligns with the principles and priorities outlined in The Strategic Growth Plan, including priorities to create the conditions for investment and growth – balancing the need for new housing and jobs with protection of our environment and built heritage and focusing more development on strategic locations – which will allow better planned communities in terms of housing, employment, transport and services.

3.10 The North West Leicestershire Economic Growth Plan Refresh will need to be considered in the context of the LLEP Economic Growth Strategy, the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan and the Council's other strategic documents such as our Zero Carbon Roadmap as well as other important national, regional and local strategies and plans. A list of relevant strategies can be found in Appendix A of this report.



4 People

Demographics

4.1 North West Leicestershire covers 279 sq km and in 2020 had a resident population of 104,800 and is expected to rise by around 31% by 2043 . In the past 10 years the District's population has increased by 11.9% - at a faster rate than the East Midlands Region (8.0%) and for Great Britain (6.5%) over the same time period. Nearly 62% of the population are of working age . The main settlements in the District are, Coalville (34,575) and Ashby de la Zouch (12,370) . Other key settlements include Castle Donington, Ibstock, Kegworth and Measham.

Economic activity rates

4.2 Economic activity rates for all people in the District stands at 77.6% – far lower than Leicestershire (83.6%) and below the East Midlands (78.4%) and Great Britain (78.4%) . For men the economic activity rate is 88%, considerably higher than for women (68.8%). Male economic activity rates in the District is higher than regionally (82.2%) and nationally (82.0%) and in line with county's 88%. The low rate of economic activity for women appears to be attributed to a high percentage stating the reason of 'looking after family or the home' as the reason behind the economic inactivity. There were 13,800 16 – 64 year old people inactive, of which 4,500 stated that they were looking after family/home – this is 32.2% of all inactive and above Leicestershire's 28.9%; East Midland's 19.1% and GB's 19.3%.

4.3 In terms of Jobs Density – the District performs extremely well – this measures the level of jobs per resident aged between 16 – 64 years and North West Leicestershire has the third highest proportion (1.09) in the whole of the East Midlands – meaning that there is practically one job available for every resident aged 16 – 64. Only Blaby & Derbyshire Dales have a higher ratio. This illustrates the vibrant employment situation and reflects the location of the District. Comparisons for the East Midlands as a whole and GB are 0.81 and 0.87 respectively

4.4 Unemployment within North West

Leicestershire had historically been higher than across Leicestershire. However, in recent years the Claimant Count has dropped below the County average and currently 3.0% of the working age population are claiming work-related benefit. The claimant rate in 2021 is significantly lower than the regional and national average as presented in Chart 1 below. During the early days of the 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic the number of claimants soared but slowly this has fallen. In August 2021 there were 1,965 (3.0%) compared to Leicestershire's 3.1%; the East Midlands 4.5% and GB's 5.3%.

4.5 Pre-pandemic there were 1,035 (1.6%) claimants in NWL and this rose to 2,720 at its height in August 2020.

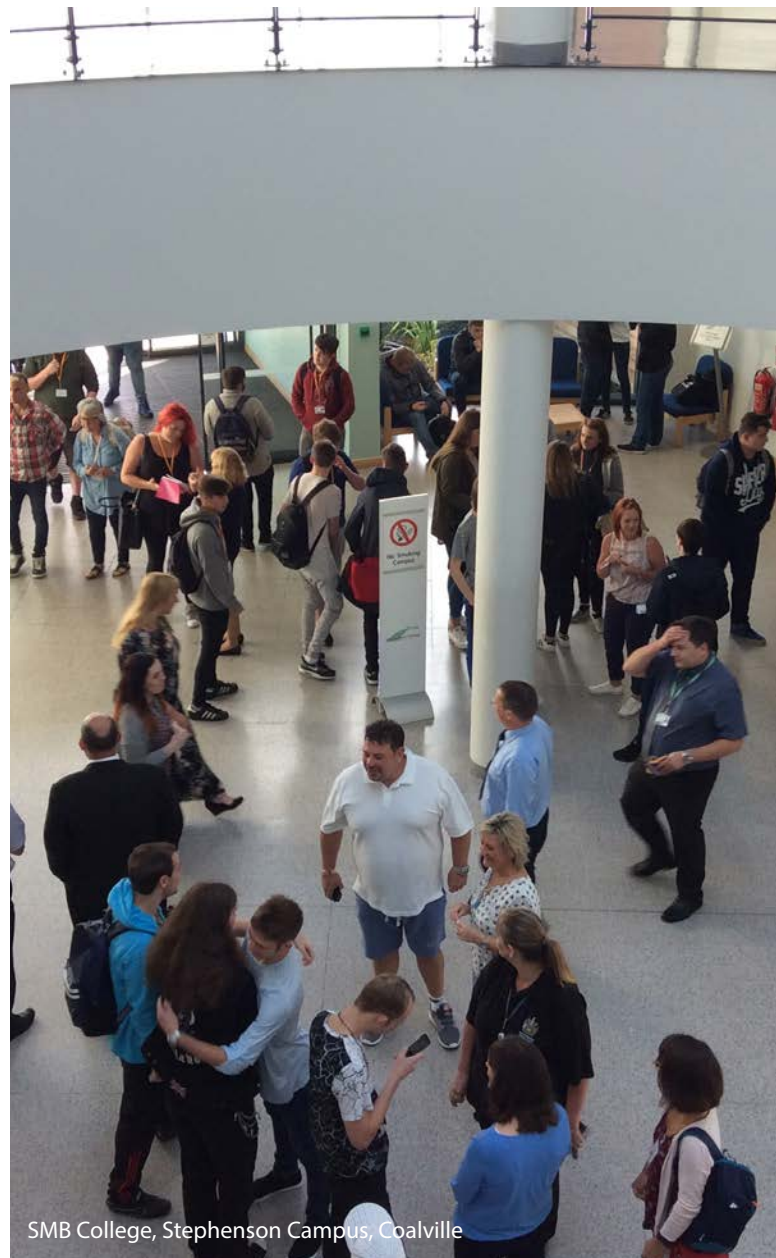
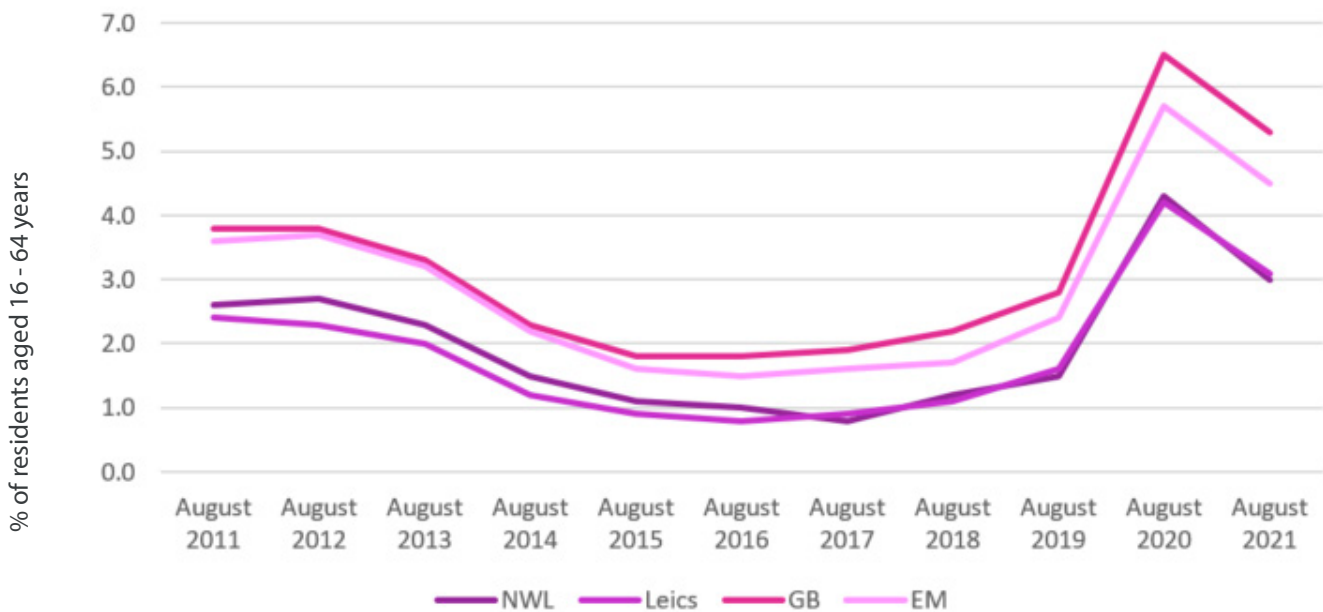


Chart 1 - Claimant Count as a percentage of resident population



Source: Nomis: ONS Data relates to August of each year.

4.6 There remain pockets of higher claimant rates and lower economic activity across the District, especially in the wards of Coalville West; Castle Rock; Greenhill and Blackfordby. But rates are still relatively low compared to regional and national figure.

Young people

4.7 The youth claimant count across North West Leicestershire, aged 18-24 years, is 4.9%, this is above the County average (4.1%) and lower than both the regional (5.6%) and national (6.7%) averages. Obviously with the pandemic hitting from March 2020, youth unemployment soared to more than double to stand at 575 in August 2020 – an increase of 171% but has since fallen by 37% to stand at 360 young people. This percentage rate fall was higher than that experienced in the County, regional and nationally.

Skills and qualifications

4.8 In the past, a major challenge for North West Leicestershire has been the level of skills and qualifications attainment within the local workforce and the ability of local labour to compete. However, in the past three years, according to the ONS Annual Population Survey 2021, the percentage of the working age population with an NVQ4 or above has risen to stand at 40.5% in 2020. This compares

with only 22% in 2004. In 2014 the figure still only stood at 28.0% and in the following years the figures have increased. The figure of 40.5% for NWL compares unfavourably to that of Leicestershire (42.5%) and GB (43.1%) but higher than the East Midlands (37.2%) This rise could be due to an increase in higher skilled employment opportunities, an influx of higher qualified individuals moving into the area as new housing comes forward as well as local residents aspiring to better employment.

4.9 87% of the resident population aged 16-64 years have at least an NVQ1 or higher qualification – lower than Leicestershire (89%); East Midlands (87.5%) and Great Britain (87.7%). There are no statistics for those with no qualifications in North West Leicestershire, as the 2020 sample size of this group was too small to be reliable.

4.10 Anecdotally, it is often suggested that there is mismatch between the skills requirements of employers and the skills of young people leaving education. Gaps between potential employees and businesses needs to be filled. Businesses need to engage with young people directly, and through their education providers, parents and carers to help inform their career choices and career pathways of the future workforce at an early stage.

4 People

4.11 The District Council, working in partnership with the LLEP, the Employment Hub and local schools and colleges are committed to improve the information available on local growth sectors both now and in future years and to improve the links between businesses and the education sector.

(* The wage paid to employees working in the District)

(** the wage paid to residents living in the District but whom may work elsewhere)

Earnings

4.12 As presented in Table 1, workplace average hourly pay for jobs in North West Leicestershire* is above the Leicestershire and regional averages but below the national average. In terms of residence-based earnings**, although higher than the East Midlands average, North West Leicestershire residents average earnings were below Leicestershire and the national averages.

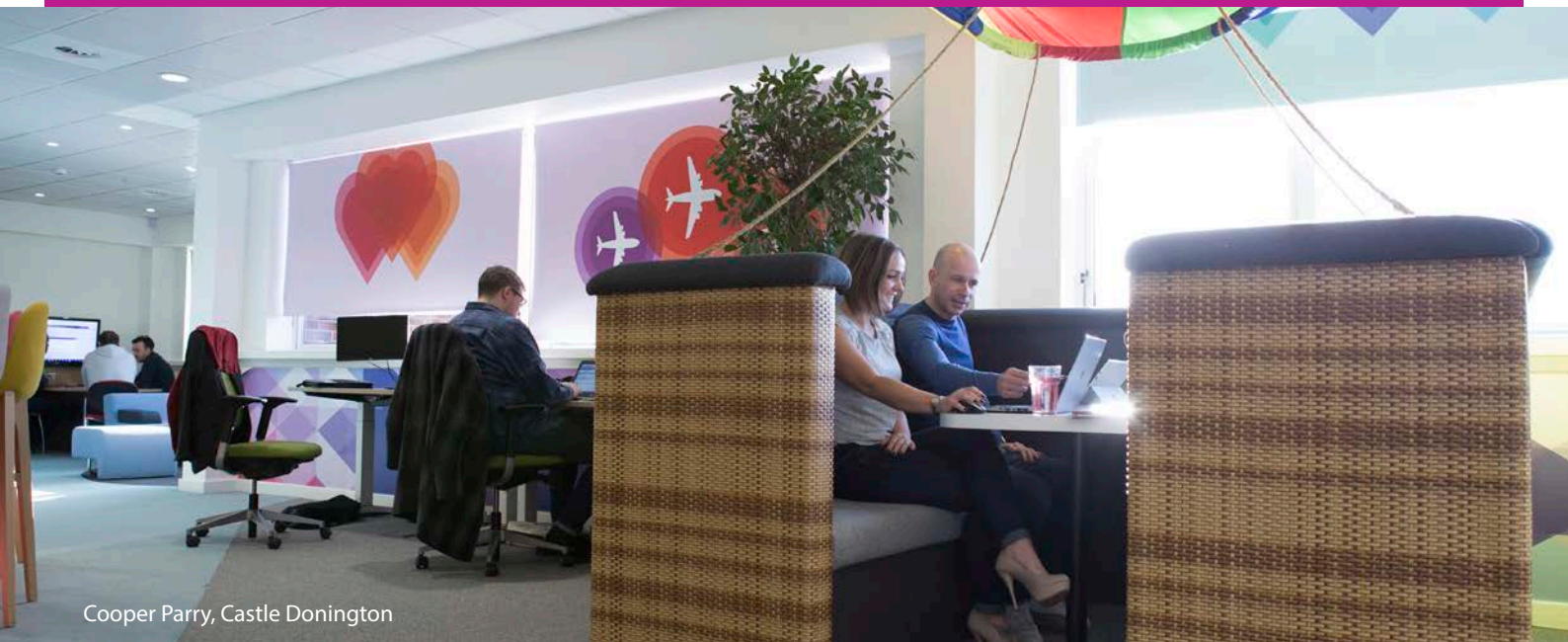
Table 1 - Median hourly pay by workplace and residence

	Workplace (2020)			Residence (2020)		
	Men £	Women £	Total £	Men £	Women £	Total £
North West Leicestershire	14.42	12.54	14.01	14.41	11.63	12.72
Leicestershire	14.44	12.46	13.72	15.67	12.14	13.52
East Midlands	14.52	12.80	13.82	14.29	11.49	12.59
Great Britain	15.70	14.42	15.24	15.00	12.59	13.79

Source: Nomis (2021 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings)



4 People



Cooper Parry, Castle Donington

Key objectives:

- 1) Encourage entrepreneurial activity by delivering programmes of support including business start-up workshops with specific support to assist more young people and women to start a business or to consider self-employment
- 2) Help new and existing businesses and developers to recruit local people. For example, by continuing to support the Airport Academy at East Midlands Airport and continue working with employment groups at SEGRO and Mercia Park
- 3) Work with partners to help raise skill levels and productivity to ensure that the workforce needs of businesses are met
- 4) Work with partners to ensure that the skill and training provision can best meet the changing digital, technological and environmental needs across different sectors
- 5) Encourage local businesses to become Disability Confident Employers and to adopt a more open recruitment policy so as to enhance access employment opportunities
- 6) Work with partners to ensure residents can access careers advice and relevant information on future employment opportunities with local companies in key growth sectors
- 7) Assist the LLEP and other partners to facilitate relationships between local businesses and schools and colleges. This will ensure that future employment needs are met and opportunities are highlighted, particularly in growth sectors and for the green economy
- 8) Maximise opportunities to get local people into work during the construction phase of development sites, alongside creating opportunities for apprenticeships and school visits to encourage new generations into the industry
- 9) Develop and enhance North West Leicestershire District Council's apprenticeship programme and provide volunteering and work experience opportunities within the organisation
- 10) Promote the employment and training opportunities provided by partner organisations, such as the Leicester Employment Hub, to support those furthest from the labour market into employment
- 11) Promote the use of leisure facilities and workplace health interventions and countywide sport and leisure initiatives to ensure that employees and employers are aware of the benefits of health and physical and mental wellbeing in the workplace and the impact this has on increased productivity
- 12) Monitor the progress of the proposed HS2 route and ensure that any resulting employment opportunities from both the construction and implementation phases of HS2 are promoted locally
- 13) Promote initiatives, including the Kickstart programme and self-employment and pre-employment training, to support residents back into the workplace.
- 14) Ensure the provision of robust support for residents and businesses impacted by any potential local redundancies.

5 Place

- 5.1 Our location and environment has been a considerable driver for the economy of North West Leicestershire, be that in terms of natural capital and the location of strategic national and international transport links.
- 5.2 The District lies at the heart of the National Forest which is rapidly developing as a tourism destination and a natural environment. The district contains a number of leisure and visitor attractions and facilities such as Donington Race Circuit, the 1620's House at Donington le Heath, Moira Furnace, the Conkers Visitor Centre, Ashby Castle, the National Forest Youth Hostel and prestigious hotels.
- 5.3 Much of the district remains rural in character with attractive countryside in places. The principal town is Coalville and smaller settlements are found at Ashby de la Zouch, Castle Donington, Ibstock, Kegworth and Measham.
- 5.4 Coalville, as the main retail centre, is changing with the combination of private sector and public sector investment on projects such as improving the public realm, the Belvoir Shopping Centre, the New Market and the new leisure centre. The District Council are also investing in a number of strategic assets in the town centre.
- 5.5 North West Leicestershire is located in the centre of England, on the western boundary of the East Midlands within close proximity to the major cities of Birmingham, Leicester, Derby and Nottingham. It has excellent strategic motorway links but no rail passenger services. HS2 (East) is due to run right through the District, following the A42, to East Midlands Parkway but there will be no stops within the District.
- 5.6 The location of regional and nationally significant activities at East Midlands Airport (EMA) and Castle Donington, inevitably means that more people commute into the District than leave it to find work. EMA handles over 4.9 million passengers a year (pre-pandemic), it is a significant UK passenger airport serving over 90 international and domestic destinations. East Midlands Airport is home to the UK's largest dedicated air cargo operation, making it the country's most important airport for express freight. Handling over 440,000 tonnes of goods each year, EMA is a hub for DHL, UPS, FedEx and Royal Mail.
- 5.7 Despite the devastating impact the pandemic has had on the passenger operation, the cargo operation has gone from strength to strength. The critical role the airport played in the rapid movement of PPE to frontline healthcare providers in the early days of the pandemic, combined with the rise in demand for dedicated air cargo flights due to a lack of bellyhold capacity on long-haul passenger routes, has meant the airport broke a number of records in 2020 and 2021. December 2020 being the busiest ever month which saw an increase in volume of goods rise by 43% compared with December the previous year. In 2020 an additional 50,000 tonnes of goods passed through the airport, an increase of 13% from 2019.
- 5.8 With such accessible road links the district sees a large flow of both inbound and outbound commuters with 19,246 residents commuting outside of the district for employment but 26,699 commuters traveling in. This makes a net inflow of 7,453, according to the 2011 Census.
- 5.9 The economic, physical and social profile of an area is the result of generations of activity and can have differing imprints in different communities. Whilst the profile may change rapidly as industries decline and new activities come in, the sense of place can be more resistant to change. For Ashby, with an ancient castle and a home in the history books, it is rather different to Coalville, as the name implies, Coalville developed rapidly in response to massive industrialisation.
- 5.10 New development relies on the timely provision of infrastructure and investment – this includes essential utility services, as well as a host of other factors including access to transport, schools, and open space, community and health and leisure services. Preserving the best of the past and addressing deficiencies to develop new amenities will be an important element in successfully planning for growth.
- 5.11 The North West Leicestershire Local Plan was adopted in November 2017, providing the local planning framework to coordinate future investment. It was followed by an immediate partial review which was adopted in March 2021. A wider ranging review is underway and will look ahead to 2039.
- 5.12 Of major significance to North West Leicestershire has been the development at the East Midlands Gateway by SEGRO and also Mercia Park, an I M Properties development at Appleby Magna.

5 Place

- 5.13 The SEGRO development includes a Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI) which provides nationally significant rail and road connected large-scale distribution and storage facilities alongside the expansion occurring at East Midlands Airport, such as UPS and DHL. SEGRO Logistics Park East Midlands Gateway has become an established site which has now seen most plots acquired. Companies such as The Very Group, DHL / Mars, DHL / Caterpillar; Amazon; Games Workshop and GXO. These employers, attract labour from a very wide catchment area, including Derby, Nottingham and Leicester as well as from within North West Leicestershire.
- 5.14 At the time of preparing this evidence base, the construction of Mercia Park is well underway with DSV moving into their purpose built unit in Autumn 2021 and the construction of 5 massive logistics hubs for Jaguar Land Rover due to be completed in 2022. Again this will see a large number of staff commuting into the district from neighbouring authorities as well as creating new opportunities for local residents.
- 5.15 HS2 (East) will run close to both SEGRO Park and East Midlands Airport and there is proposed to have a major HS2 hub at East Midlands Parkway.

Employment Land and Premises

- 5.16 Ensuring an adequate range of choice of land and premises in areas where the market wishes to invest is a fundamental requirement of any plan to promote growth. The district benefits from a wide range of existing provision from older industrial estates to new employment parks. For example, there are modern mixed use premises at Ivanhoe Business Park in Ashby; a mixed older development on Westminster Industrial Estate at Measham and Bardon Industrial Estate adjacent to the M1 which encompasses warehousing, industry and offices. New development has also been provided at Bardon Road Coalville whilst planned development at Regs Way Bardon will provide further floorspace to consolidate the importance of the Bardon employment area to the local economy.
- 5.17 Alongside all this are specialist facilities such as the air freight depot at East Midlands Airport and the Strategic Rail Freight Interchange at SEGRO Logistics Park East Midlands Gateway. Mountpark – home to Amazon; John Lewis and Pharmacy 2 U has also been developed in recent years. Tungsten Park at Bardon has also been developed in 2021 and work has started on the creation of 332,000 sq ft of industrial and logistics space on 53 acres at Bardon Hill, which will provide a number of new industrial units ranging from 28,000 sq ft to 116,000 sq ft.
- 5.18 The District has a number of key areas which look to accelerate infrastructure projects and programmes in order to achieve benefits of economic growth. Within the District, the A511 Growth Corridor, Mercia Park and the cluster of freight and logistics related activity at the East Midlands Enterprise Gateway represent major opportunities. It is important we work with partners to secure the required public and private investment to develop and accelerate such investment in infrastructure.
- 5.19 The North West Leicestershire Local Plan review will identify further opportunities to ensure that the district remains competitive.
- 5.20 Local evidence from a recent Employment Land Report suggests that up to 2039 there will be a need for about 55ha of land for business and industrial space, with some of this already in place and being developed. Separate evidence commissioned jointly by the Leicester and Leicestershire authorities identifies an ongoing need for additional land to be provided for strategic warehousing. Continuing joint work will look to agree how this need will be met across Leicester and Leicestershire. Any additional requirements in North West Leicestershire will be addressed as part of the local plan review.
- 5.21 The foundation of any economy is its small businesses and enterprises. Separate evidence to support the local plan identifies that there is a demand for small office and business space. The Local Plan will explore ways in which the planning system can help to deliver this. We will also look at what other steps the Council can take to support such provision.

5 Place

Housing

5.22 The district has attracted a wide range of the major house builders and recent build rates have been the highest recorded. Major development at Coalville (3,500 homes), Ashby de la Zouch (2,000 homes) and Castle Donington (1,000 homes) are underway. These new developments are attracting people from a wide area taking advantage of lower house prices than seen nationally, the quality of development, the quality of life offered and from good access to most parts of the country and access to attractive places, such as the National Forest.

5.23 There will be a continuing need for additional housing which will be addressed through the Local Plan review. In addition to new market housing, more affordable homes will be required to meet the needs of both local residents but also those moving into the area to take advantage of the employment opportunities, particularly in the northern part of the district around East Midlands Airport.



Solar Farm, Shellbrook



5 Place

Low carbon

5.25 Low carbon technologies and the push to reduce carbon emissions are never far from the news, and over the coming decades, developments in low-carbon technologies will create many new jobs and necessitate large investment and changes in infrastructure.

5.26 The importance of a sustainable low carbon economy is vitally important today and for future generations. At the heart of the National Forest, North West Leicestershire District Council is committed to ensuring that growth is sustainable and in balance with the local environment.

5.27 North West Leicestershire District Council declared a climate emergency on 25 June 2019 and commissioned specialist environmental consultants to help develop the council's response to the need to reduce the council's and district's carbon emissions.

5.28 This activity led to the development of our Zero Carbon Roadmap and Action Plan which was adopted by the council on 31 March 2020. The Action Plan summarises recommended activity to achieve the ambition of a net zero carbon council by 2030 and a net zero carbon district by 2050 and is based around key workstreams including buildings, power, waste, transport, forestry and land use and industry.

5.29 Whilst tackling the emissions from the council's own operations is imperative and the initial focus, it represents just 1.5% of the total emissions from the wider district, so it is important for the council to show leadership to influence wider district emissions. Some examples of the council's efforts are listed below:

- In November 2019 a food waste collection trial was launched, and extended in 2020, to cover 4000 homes with the ambition to provide the service district wide.
- In September 2021 a fleet management strategy was approved which will see the introduction of battery electric vehicles for cars and vans in the council's fleet and a switch from diesel to waste food fuel (HVO) for all other vehicles.
- As of October 2021 electric vehicle charging

points have been installed in a total of five council owned car parks across the district to support residents to switch to electric vehicles.

- Whitwick & Coalville Leisure Centre, which will open early in 2022, has solar panels installed and the redevelopment of the Hermitage recreation site gives the opportunity to improve biodiversity.
- The annual free tree scheme, run in partnership with the National Forest since 2008, has provided over 129,000 trees for planting for by residents and community groups.
- The council's housing service, as part of their retrofit programme, has previously trialled a number of low emission solutions, including biomass boiler, air source heat pumps, solar thermal and solar PV installations, with over 360 air source heat pumps installed in tenants' homes by 2021.
- The government Green Home Grants contributed to fund a programme of improvements to 56 Council properties which were completed in September 2021 and a further 76 EPC E rated properties have benefited from cavity wall insulation and top up loft insulation. The social housing new build design specification has improved from energy rating EPC B to A.
- The council has embraced agile working and is planning to move to smaller, more energy efficient office accommodation in 2022.
- A cycling and walking strategy is under development in 2021/22 to encourage sustainable travel and increase connectivity within North West Leicestershire and into neighbouring authorities
- The council's zero carbon ambition is built into the substantive review of the Local Plan, including consideration of renewable energy, energy efficiency standard for new homes and provision of electric vehicle charging points for residential and employment developments.

5.30 In 2018 the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership launched the Energy Infrastructure Strategy. The Council will work with the LLEP to support local businesses to increase efficiency and to aspire to be at the forefront of developments in low carbon infrastructure.

5 Place

Connectivity

- 5.31 Businesses with major transportation and logistics requirements are drawn to areas with excellent transport connections to major urban areas, a locally available and competitive labour force and competitive land values.
- 5.32 For example, the existing opportunities for multi-modal freight around East Midlands Airport and at the SEGRO Logistics Park are evidence of this. There has been significant investment on the M1 between Junction 24 (which serves SEGRO Logistics Park) and Junction 25 which has been upgraded to SMART Motorway status. However, further improvements are required to improve connectivity to these assets. This will require a co-ordinated programme between the Highways Agency, Midlands Connect, the local highways authority and the District Council.
- 5.32 Despite the district's excellent location, and the external connectivity opportunities regionally, nationally and globally, there remain a number of challenges to be tackled in relation to connectivity.
- 5.33 Other potential connectivity issues include:
- Congestion on Motorway/Trunk routes, notably at key junctions.
 - The proposed HS2 (East) line presents an opportunity to ensure improved connectivity to the proposed East Midlands Hub Station at East Midlands Parkway to serve our residents and businesses and potential links into East Midlands Airport and the Freeport.
 - There are no passenger rail services in North West Leicestershire although a freight-only rail line currently connects Leicester with Burton-on-Trent via Coalville and Ashby.
 - The need to improve sustainable transport connectivity to key employment sites such as the Mercia Park development and continued enhancements across the public transport network.
 - The area is heavily reliant on car borne transport as a means of getting to work. Public transport and other sustainable modes (cycling, walking, car share etc.) could be improved to allow more

local residents to connect to job opportunities within and outside the district boundaries.

- 5.38 For many years there have been calls for the re-opening of the former Ivanhoe Line (often referred to as the National Forest Line) operating between Burton-on-Trent and Leicester encompassing the areas of Moira, Ashby de la Zouch and Coalville. However, the cost of reopening the line has meant that this has not been viewed as a feasible option to date. However, the introduction of a new rail passenger service remains a long-term ambition. With new housing developments along the route of the line, the proposed viability of reopening the line may be improved.
- 5.39 Developing high speed broadband connectivity is also a major priority for the District and we continue to work closely with Leicestershire County Council to ensure investment is made in the digital connectivity, notably in rural areas. Many of our more rural communities are missing out on connectivity to high speed broadband and the benefits that this brings.



Airway 9 bus, Ashby de la Zouch

5 Place

Town and local centres

- 5.40 Investment in our town and local centres is a major component in improving their attractiveness, both for local people wishing to live there and investors committing resources to economic growth. Local “Place Planning” will help to coordinate investment and make the greatest impact.
- 5.41 The current Coalville Regeneration Framework has seen large scale investment by the Council and the private sector to bring recent regeneration schemes forward. Projects such as the New Market, the Belvoir Shopping Centre, the new Leisure Centre and the public realm improvements to Marlborough Square and the investment in the Marlborough Centre will have a tremendous impact on the town.
- 5.42 The Ashby Business Improvement District (BID) was formed in 2022 following the successful ballot in 2021. The Ashby BID will facilitate the delivery of regeneration of Ashby town centre and drive new and repeat footfall through the creation of events and initiatives that support high street business growth.
- 5.43 The Local Plan will also review the approach to planning for our town and local centres, to ensure they provide opportunities to meet the needs of our communities.



5 Place



Ashby Canal, Moira

Visitor attractions

5.44 The visitor attractions and the tourism businesses with North West Leicestershire are integral components to the growth of the visitor economy. These assets include:

- 280 square kilometres (108 sq miles) of attractive English countryside.
- Two main towns of Ashby de la Zouch with its attractive shopping streets and lanes and Coalville with its heritage sites and green spaces.
- Being at the Heart of the National Forest has brought large areas of newly planted woodland, including the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Wood, together with ancient woodland and regenerated open spaces such as Sence Valley Forest Park, Saltersford Valley Picnic Area, Cloud Trail and Grace Dieu Woods.
- The family attraction of Conkers, Hicks Lodge Cycle Centre, Snibston Colliery Park and a diverse range of award winning festivals such as Download – International rock festival and Timber – International Forest Festival
- Bardon Hill being the highest point in Leicestershire offering views of all surrounding counties.
- A strong social and industrial heritage offer that includes Coalville, mining heritage, Ashby de la

Zouch Castle, Grace Dieu Priory, Swannington Incline Plane, Moira Furnace and 1620s Manor House.

- A good range of restaurants, bars, artisan food producers and specialist markets and events throughout the year.
- Around 75 accommodation providers offering between them over 4,000 bed spaces
- Over 100 pubs, restaurants and bars, tea rooms, coffee houses and farm shops.
- Over 15 unique visitor attractions.
- The international motorsport circuit Donington Park – home to major motorsport events and festivals including the internationally renowned 'Download' Festival.
- The international East Midlands Airport.

Visitor numbers

5.45 There were an estimated 1.27m tourism visits to North West Leicestershire in 2020, 63.3% lower than in 2019 due to the impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic and lockdowns. Between 2014 and 2019, however, the district had seen the total number of visits by rise by 11.4%.

5 Place

- 5.46 In 2020, North West Leicestershire saw 0.19m staying visits – those visits made by guests in paid accommodation or stays with friends and relatives in local homes. The COVID-19 pandemic restricted the usual business of accommodating visitors to the district, with lockdowns, phased reopening and local authority tiering reducing the number of viable trading days for businesses. Even when permitted to re-open, there was much to be done by businesses to be able to re-open for guests safely with the vast majority of businesses having to adapt operations, change their offer or reduce capacity to be able to do so.
- 5.47 Visitors also faced restrictions as to movement between areas and had to weigh the perceived risks of travel during a pandemic. As a result, it is estimated that North West Leicestershire received 318,000 fewer overnight guests than in 2019. In the 5 year period 2014 to 2019, there had been gradual growth in staying visits, with stays up by 4% during that time.
- 5.48 North West Leicestershire's day visit market had been performing well prior to COVID with good levels of growth in Day Visits between 2014 and 2019 (12.8%). In 2020, estimated day visits totalled 1.08m, compared to 2.95m day visits in 2019 (-63.4%). Lost footfall was felt across the visitor economy; with many visitor attractions and facilities used by visitors (particularly those indoors) suffering significantly with many remaining closed for many months and much of the area's events activity cancelled.
- 5.49 The Visitor Economy is one that North West Leicestershire District Council, Marketing Leicester and Leicestershire and The National Forest Company wishes to develop further. There is clear potential for the Council to link with these wider efforts to support and develop initiatives in order to extend the length of time spent in the area and increase visitor expenditure.

Economic Impact

- 5.50 The value of tourism activity in North West Leicestershire was estimated to be £83.99m in 2020. By comparison, the district's visitor economy was worth £218.65m in 2019. The estimated financial losses of £134.7m sustained due to the COVID-19 pandemic were borne not just by those businesses offering goods and services direct to the visitor, but also those businesses that supply and support front-line visitor services.
- 5.51 The total economic impact comprises the expenditure of visitors on goods and services, totalling £63.621m (2020). In 2020, the largest visitor spending sector was Shopping (£20.631m), followed by Food and Drink (£17.135m), Accommodation (£11.180m), Transport (£7.427m), Recreation (£7.247m). Further to this, indirect and induced economic effects of local businesses and residents spending tourism revenues locally, were estimated to account for a further £20.368m (2020).
- 5.52 In 2020, the district's day visitor market accounted for 51.4% of the value of tourism activity (£43.17m). The staying visitor market accounted for the remaining 48.6% of economic value (£40.82m). In the five year period 2014 to 2019, direct expenditure by visitors had grown by £26.3m (+18.9%) and total economic value by £35m (19.1%)

5 Place

Development of initiatives and opportunities

5.53 In partnership with the National Forest Company we continue to support the development of plans and initiatives including:

- Heart of the Forest Masterplan - The Heart of the Forest is approximately 10 square miles in the centre of the National Forest in North West Leicestershire, a landscape previously scarred by coal and clay mining which has been transformed since the creation of the National Forest in the early 1990s. This Vision looks ahead to the next 25 years and how we can further establish the area to demonstrate that enterprise, people and habitats can work together to mitigate and adapt to climate change whilst also improving the experience and wellbeing of our communities and visitors.
- National Forest Design Guide for Sustainable Tourism and Accelerator Programme – the production of a design guide which will support tourism accommodation providers to transition to net zero, establish local supply chains, work with local communities, and provide for nature. A programme of expert advice to help existing and new developers and operators implement the seven principles outlined in the guide.

- Timber Festival – a founder sponsor of an extraordinary award winning three day camping festival of music, forest, arts and ideas, helping to put the area and the National Forest on the map and attracting an increasing audience.



5 Place

Key objectives

- 15) Support the work of the Coalville Project and the Coalville Regeneration Framework including the renewal of Marlborough Square, support for the Newmarket, deliver aspiration for a new cinema, ongoing support to increase occupancy and footfall on the high streets
- 16) Develop a framework of opportunities for the land adjacent to the new Leisure Centre, the Hermitage Recreation Ground and the existing Hermitage Leisure Centre Building
- 17) Support the work of the Ashby Project and support the emerging Ashby Business Improvement District to maximise new investment in the market town.
- 18) Continue to support and develop our smaller local centres to be vibrant hubs for their communities, businesses and visitors and to encourage residents to shop local
- 19) Support proposals for increased inward investment within North West Leicestershire and The National Forest to develop the sustainable tourism offer and support the visitor economy and rural diversification
- 20) Collaborate with The National Forest Company and National Forest Charitable Trust to deliver The Heart of the Forest Masterplan and the National Forest sustainable tourism accommodation design guide
- 21) Facilitate the development of the wider East Midlands International Gateway including investment in infrastructure, such as transport links and utilities, and support the continued development and use of the Strategic Rail Freight Interchange
- 22) Work with public transport operators to encourage the transition from traditional vehicles to more sustainable options such as electric or hydrogen
- 23) Through the substantive review of the Local Plan consideration will be given to how the planning process can support the increased use of renewable energy, energy efficiency standards for new buildings and provision of electric vehicle charging points for residential and employment developments
- 24) Ensure there are sufficient employment sites and premises in the district and work with developers and partners to meet this provision, particularly for incubation, and follow-on space
- 25) Work with developers, agents and partners, such as Invest in Leicester and the Department for International Trade, to promote North West Leicestershire as a destination, to attract new inward investment into the district and to assist with indigenous business expansions
- 26) Through the planning process, continue to encourage quality sustainable design, sustainable construction methods and materials, green infrastructure and public realm within the setting of The National Forest and across the district
- 27) Support the continued role out of Superfast Leicestershire to improve digital connectivity of homes and businesses across the district
- 28) Work with developers to deliver the south east Coalville and Money Hill developments and ensure that the people living in these new homes have relationships with their town centres and local services
- 29) Work with transport operators, Leicestershire County Council and local employers to explore opportunities to provide better public transport connections to major employment areas and encourage the take up of car share solutions to reduce the number of private vehicles on the road
- 30) Work with a range of partners to maximise the provision of affordable housing within North West Leicestershire to ensure that residents have access to good quality affordable homes
- 31) Continue to contribute to the work of the East Midlands Development Corporation to facilitate landmark developments including the emerging East Midlands Freeport
- 32) Support aspirations to open and restore the Ashby Canal
- 33) Support aspiration for the reinstatement of the Ivanhoe Line led by the Campaign to Re-open The Ivanhoe Line (CRIL) and align to improved walking and cycling networks.

6 Business

- 6.1 North West Leicestershire is home to some major national and multi-national businesses including Barratt Developments (Construction); DHL (Logistics); Refresco (Food & Drink Manufacturing); Plastic Omnium (Manufacturing); Pall-Ex (Logistics); Amazon (On-line retailer and warehouse); PWC (Accountants); East Midlands Airport (Transportation) and Ibstock Brick (Building Materials).
- 6.2 In research undertaken by De Montfort University looking at the Top 200 Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland businesses by turnover, 2019, 52 were based in the District . This is another indicator as to how businesses are attracted to North West Leicestershire as a location in which to do business (see Appendix B for the full list). In addition to the larger businesses, North West Leicestershire has a number of dynamic growing small and micro businesses.
- 6.3 The number of business enterprises in 2020 in the District stood at 4,340 – 800 higher than in 2010, which shows a rise of 22.6%. This

compares with a 27.1% rise in Leicestershire; 28.4% in the East Midlands and 31.6% nationally. This shows that the District is under performing in the growth of its business stock.

- 6.4 The major sectors in terms of the numbers of businesses in 2020 saw Professional, Scientific and Technical being the lead sector with 16% of the total business enterprise stock, followed by Construction (12%) and Business Administration and Defence (8%) Presented in Table 2. The sector breakdown is similar to that in GB as a whole although there are slightly higher proportions of enterprises in Production; Transport and Storage; Motor Trades; Wholesale; Finance and Insurance; Property; Public Administration and Defence and Education. The following sectors are slightly under represented: Agriculture; Forestry and Fishing; Construction; Retail; Accommodation and Food Services; Information and Communication; Professional, Scientific and Technical; Business Administration and Support Services; Health and Arts, Entertainment, Recreation and other Services.

Table 2 - Business enterprises by sector 2020

	NWL (Number)	NWL (% of Total)	Leics (% of Total)	EM (% of Total)	GB (% of Total)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	195	4.5	5.9	6.0	4.9
Production	345	8.0	7.6	7.1	5.5
Construction	540	12.4	13.0	13.0	12.7
Motor trades	165	3.8	3.3	3.6	2.8
Wholesale	220	5.1	4.7	4.1	3.7
Retail	275	6.3	6.6	7.4	7.6
Transport and storage	280	6.5	5.3	7.0	4.5
Accommodation and food services	220	5.1	5.0	5.9	5.9
Information and communication	245	5.6	5.6	5.4	8.4
Finance and insurance	125	2.9	3.2	2.8	2.3
Property	175	4.0	3.8	3.5	3.7
Professional, scientific and technical	685	15.8	15.3	13.8	17.3
Business administration and support services	365	8.4	8.8	7.7	8.7
Public administration and defence	25	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.3
Education	95	2.2	1.9	1.7	1.7
Health	125	2.9	3.5	3.7	3.8
Arts, entertainment, recreation and other services	260	6.0	5.8	6.6	6.4
Total	72 4,340	100	100	100	100

6 Business

6.5 Sectors which have seen the highest growth have been Public Administration and Defence (150% higher – though from a low base); Financial & Insurance (up 92%); Property (75%) and Mining, Quarrying and Utilities (up 67% - but again from a small base). Only one sector experienced a decline in the number

of enterprises – namely Wholesale (-8.3%) with the Retail sector remaining with 275 establishments over the 10 years. Table 3 shows a more detailed breakdown.

Table 3 - Business enterprises by sector 2010 and 2020

	NWL 2010	NWL (% of Total)	NWL 2020	NWL (% of total)	% change 2010- 2020
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	185	5.2	195	4.5	5.4
Mining and quarrying	15	0.4	25	0.6	66.7
Manufacturing	275	7.8	320	7.4	16.4
Construction	460	13.0	540	12.4	17.4
Motor trades	160	4.5	165	3.8	3.1
Wholesale	240	6.8	220	5.1	-8.3
Retail	275	7.8	275	6.3	0.0
Transport and storage	225	6.4	280	6.5	24.4
Accommodation and food services	205	5.8	220	5.1	7.3
Information and communication	185	5.2	245	5.6	32.4
Finance and insurance	65	1.8	125	2.9	92.3
Property	100	2.8	175	4.0	75.0
Professional, scientific and technical	495	14.0	685	15.8	38.4
Business administration and support services	230	6.5	365	8.4	58.7
Public administration and defence	10	0.3	25	0.6	15.0
Education	70	2.0	95	2.2	35.7
Health	100	2.8	125	2.9	25.0
Arts, entertainment, recreation and other services	245	6.9	260	6.0	6.1
Total	3,540	100	4,340	100	22.6

Source: Inter Departmental Business Register ONS 2021

6.6 In terms of the size of business enterprises, 3,755 businesses are classified as Micro (0 – 9 employees) representing 86.7% - this is lower than for the County; Region and GB as a whole – but with regard to large enterprises (250 employees plus), the District has a

higher percentage of enterprises (0.7%) – 30 enterprises in total. See Table 4.

6 Business

Table 4 - Business enterprises by size (proportion of total stock) 2020

Enterprises	North West Leics	Leicestershire	East Midlands	Great Britain
Micro (0-9)	86.7	89.2	89.1	89.6
Small (10 -49)	9.8	8.7	8.9	8.5
Medium (50 – 249)	2.8	1.7	1.6	1.5
Large (250+)	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Inter Departmental Business Register ONS 2021

6.7 From Table 5 below it can be seen that, although the district has experienced healthy growth in the number of new enterprises between 2014 and 2019 rising by 22.7%, the past year has seen a healthy 9.1% rise – much higher than the regional and national averages though below the County average.

Table 5 - Count of births of new enterprises 2014, 2017, 2018 and 2019

	2014	2017	2018	2019	% Change 2014- 19	% Change 2018- 19
North West Leicestershire	440	445	495	540	22.7	9.1
Leicestershire	3,300	3,165	3,385	3,800	15.2	12.3
East Midlands	22,035	22,390	22,770	24,370	10.6	7.0
Great Britain	345,500	368,755	364,265	383,605	11.0	5.3

Source: ONS Business Demography 2020

6.8 Business Start Up rates within the District have accelerated after coming out of the 2008/2009 global economic recession and have continued to increase year on year, with the exception of 2014. In 2019, NWL has seen the number

of Births of Business Enterprises per 10,000 population increase to 52 – higher than the East Midlands figure but below that of the County and national averages. See Table 6.

Table 6 - Number of new births of business enterprises per 10,000 population

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
North West Leicestershire	46	50	53	44	48	52
Leicestershire	49	50	64	46	48	54
East Midlands	48	54	52	47	47	50
Great Britain	55	60	64	57	56	59

Source: ONS Business Demography 2020 and Population Data 2021

6 Business

6.9 Business Start Up rates have exceeded failure rates since 2014, indicating growth in the business base.

6.10 From Table 7 below it can be seen that, business deaths have grown over the years, particularly more so between 2018/19 in

North West Leicestershire, whereas they have fallen in the County and Region. This can be partly due to the growth in Business Starts but firms may need more support to stay in business.

Table 7 - Count of deaths of Enterprises

	2014	2017	2018	2019	% Change 2014-19	% Change 2018-19
North West Leicestershire	405	415	415	475	17.3%	14.5%
Leicestershire	2,465	3,805	3,085	2,950	19.7%	-4.5%
East Midlands	15,780	23,595	20,285	20,190	27.9%	-0.5%
Great Britain	241,790	341,620	306,250	330,175	36.6%	7.8%

Source: ONS Business Demography 2020

6.11 The number of Deaths of Businesses per 10,000 population in NWL has kept below the Births figure which is a positive sign

although in 2017, along with a slowdown in new enterprises, there has been an increase in Business Deaths as presented in Table 8.

Table 8 - Number of Deaths of Business Enterprises per 10,000 population

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
North West Leicestershire	42	42	39	41	41	46
Leicestershire	37	41	40	55	44	42
East Midlands	34	39	37	49	42	48
Great Britain	40	37	39	44	44	55

Source: ONS Business Demography 2020 & Population Data 2021

6.12 Table 9 below shows the total number of enterprises per 10,000 population with North West Leicestershire performing well

compared with Leicestershire, the East Midlands and GB in 2019.

Table 9 - Number of total enterprises per 10,000 population

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
North West Leicestershire	440	440	452	450	444	451
Leicestershire	416	428	454	454	440	444
East Midlands	361	377	388	398	393	403
Great Britain	398	413	435	445	442	451

Source: ONS Business Demography 2020 & Population Data 2021

6 Business

6.13 Table 10 below shows that the survival rate of new businesses in North West Leicestershire in 2018 had fallen to 85.9% – lower than the county; region and nationally and in fact the lowest of

all Leicestershire districts. It has also fallen since 2014, when 92% of businesses survived their first year.

Table 10 - Survival of Businesses 2014 and 2018

	Births 2014	1 year survival	1 year percentage	Births 2018	1 year survival	1 year percentage
North West Leicestershire	440	405	92.0%	495	425	85.9%
Leicestershire	3,300	3,085	93.5%	3,385	3,085	91.1%
East Midlands	22,035	20,565	93.3%	22,770	20,750	91.1%
Great Britain	345,500	318,975	92.3%	364,265	325,515	89.4%

Source: ONS Business Demography 2020

Gross Value Added (GVA)

6.14 The strength of the North West Leicestershire economy is illustrated in the latest Gross Value Added Statistics (GVA). GVA measures the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry or sector of an economy.

6.15 As presented in Table 11, GVA in the Leicester and Leicestershire area is £23.6bn. In North West Leicestershire it is £3.2bn. The broad industry areas with the largest share of GVA are Manufacturing and Transport and Storage. In 2018 these had the largest share of employees.



6 Business

Table 11 - NWL Industrial Breakdown 2018

Industry (Broad Industry Area)	2018 Employees	2018 GVA
1 : Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)	340	23,829,508
2 : Mining, quarrying and utilities (B,D and E)	2,625	288,563,933
3 : Manufacturing (C)	8,130	563,577,409
4 : Construction (F)	3,700	355,645,325
5 : Motor trades (Part G)	1,625	92,231,961
6 : Wholesale (Part G)	3,750	180,967,276
7 : Retail (Part G)	3,500	119,985,915
8 : Transport and storage (inc postal) (H)	9,375	476,589,551
9 : Accommodation and food services (I)	3,650	69,074,646
10 : Information and communication (J)	1,705	92,610,976
11 : Financial and insurance (K)	700	60,530,768
12 : Property (L)	1,125	142,219,020
13 : Professional, scientific and technical (M)	5,325	206,632,775
14 : Business administration and support services (N)	7,565	225,857,060
15 : Public administration and defence (O)	750	40,714,286
16 : Education (P)	3,250	131,113,674
17 : Health (Q)	2,250	73,151,080
18 : Arts, entertainment, recreation and other services (R,S,T and U)	1,910	77,836,478
Column Total	61,275	3,221,131,641

Source: ONS Regional Gross Value Added (balanced) by Industry: all NUTS Level Regions, ONS Business Register and Employment Survey

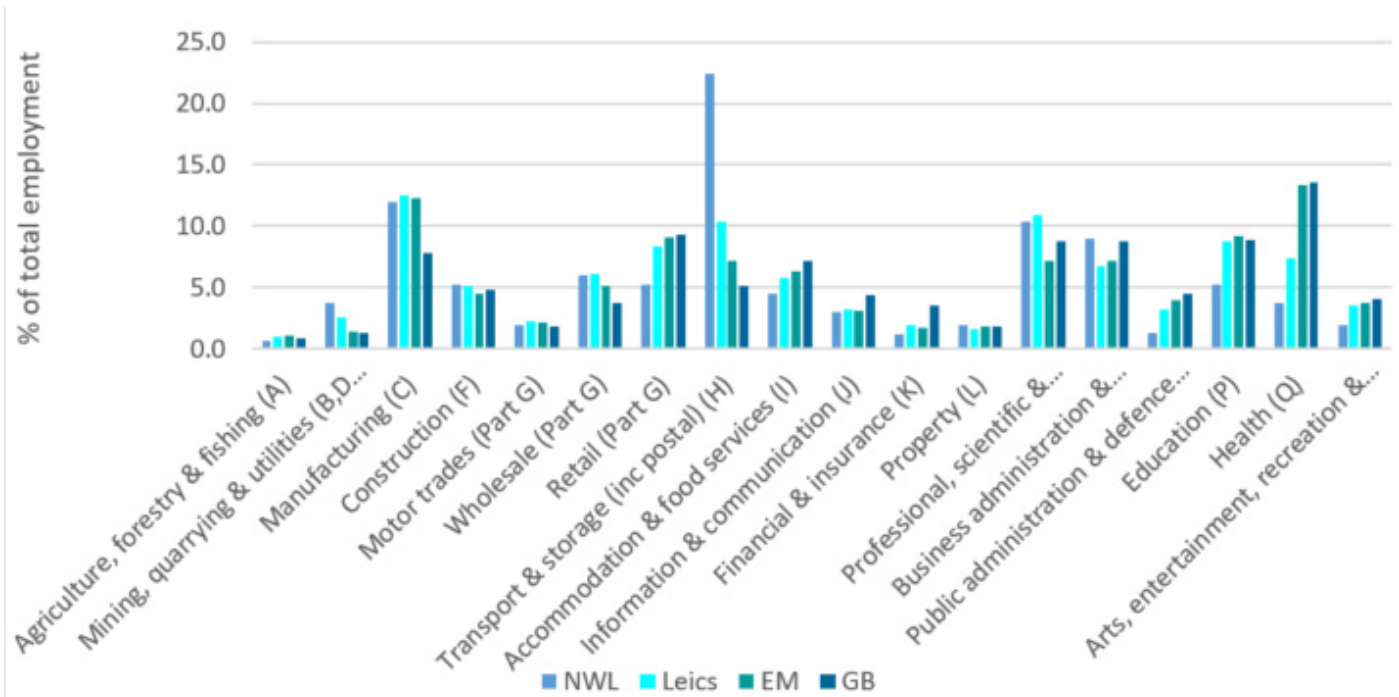
Note: Gross Value-Added figures have been derived from data supplied by the Office for National Statistics that considers the Leicester, Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire area as a whole. The data supplied has been broken down by the number of employees contained within that area and within each of the industry areas. Data has then been applied by each local geography. As a result, the data supplied should be treated with caution. - GVA Data supplied by the LLEP

6 Business

6.16 North West Leicestershire has a well-balanced diverse economy with a much lower reliance on the Public Sector, (such as Health, Education and Public Administration) than in the Region and Nationally, with only 10.2% of employees in the District within this sector compared

with the regional and national figures of 26.4% and 26.9% respectively. Chart 2 below compares the employment structure (workplace based) of the District against that of the County, East Midlands and Great Britain.

Chart 2 - Comparisons of industrial structure by employment 2020



Source: BRES (2021 Broad Industry Group)

6.17 Chart 2 shows the sectors where North West Leicestershire has a much higher proportion of workers is in Transport and Storage – unsurprising with East Midlands Airport residing in the District and the home to major logistics companies such as DHL; UPS; Amazon and GXO and many other national and international companies. In 2020 this sector accounted for 22.4% of all employment compared to 10.3% in Leicestershire; 7.1% in the East Midlands and 5.1% in GB. This represents 15,000 employees and has increased by 87.5% since 2015, where the sector represented 14.3%.

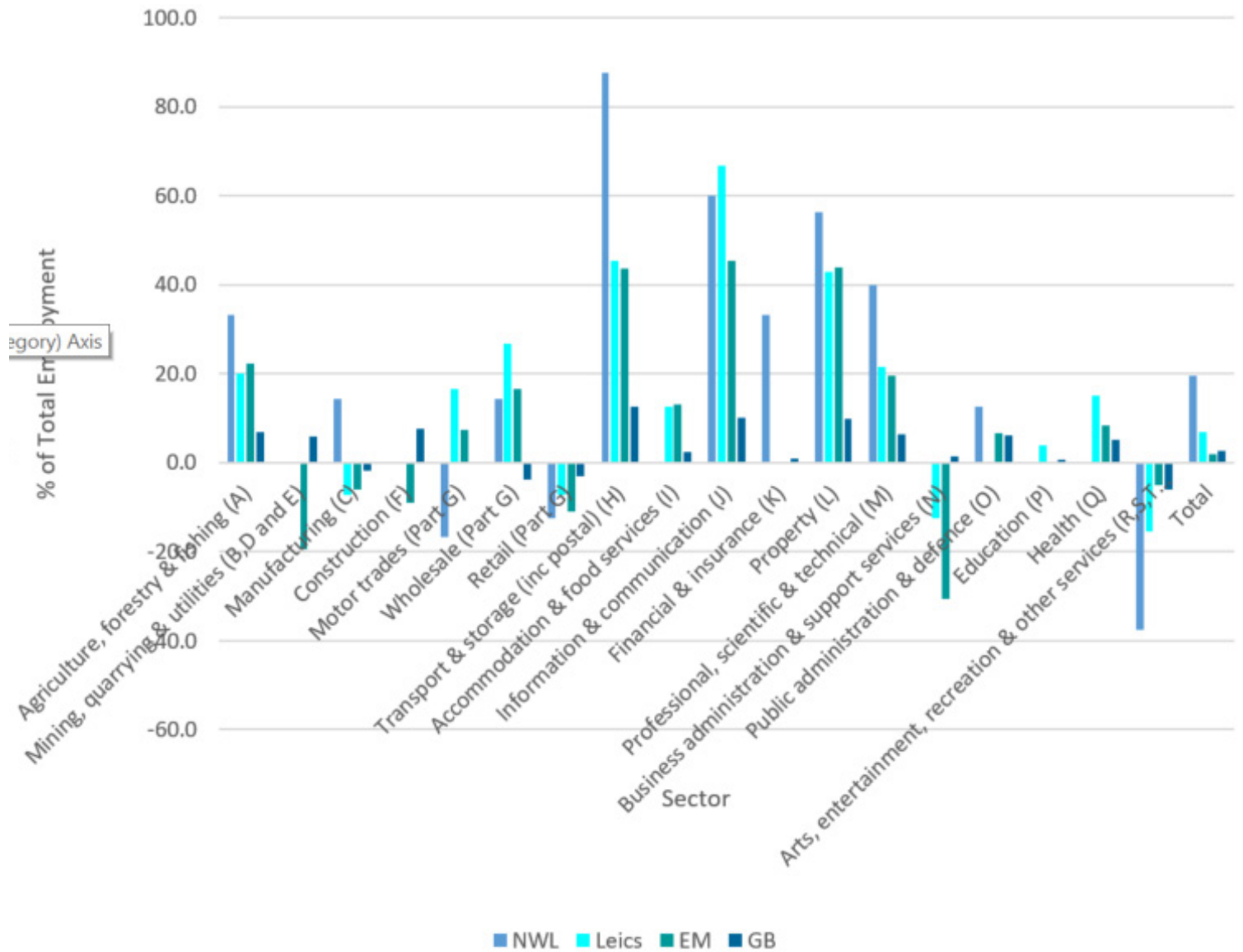
6.18 Manufacturing accounts for 11.9%; Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities 10.4%; Business Administration 9.0% and Wholesale 6.0% are the other largest sectors.

6.19 As shown in chart 3, In 2020 there were 11,000 more jobs in North West Leicestershire than in 2015, to now stand at 67,000 (a rise of 19.6%). This growth has been far higher than the County (6.9%); region (1.9%) and nationally (2.7%)

6.20 The chart below shows that there has been higher growth in certain sectors such as Transport and Storage; Information and Communication; Property; Professional, Scientific and Technical; Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; Financial and Insurance and Manufacturing.

6 Business

Chart 3 - Growth in Employment by Sector 2015 - 2020



Source: BRES 2021 Broad Industry Group Classification

Key Sectors

6.21 Based on the analysis of Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) data and a range of other sources considered in the development of the Economic Growth Plan, there are five key sectors that will be prioritised for growth within the District. These sectors are:

- Business and Professional and Scientific Services (linked to town centre regeneration)
- Manufacturing
- Logistics and Distribution
- Construction

- Creative/Cultural/Tourism Sector (Despite the sector suffering significantly due the coronavirus pandemic, the sector has demonstrated growth over a longer period of time.)

6.22 Another sign of the strong North West Leicestershire economy is that it is the home to 52 of the Top 200, according to research by De Montfort University in 2021. This indicates that the District is one of the most dynamic places to do business. This represents 26% of the total number of the Top 200. Further details are included in Appendix B.

6 Business

Key Objectives:

- 34) Work with partners to provide local businesses with advice and support, with particular focus placed on high growth businesses and those in priority growth sectors
- 35) Using the councils 'Business Champion' model, share examples of good practices, free to access business advice, business support and funding opportunities with local businesses and business networks
- 36) Continue to provide support to businesses providing key local services within our towns, highstreets, rural communities and markets
- 37) Enable programmes of support specifically relevant to the growth and development businesses in the creative sector
- 38) Explore and promote external funding opportunities to enable local businesses to access grants and funding that assist business growth, to increase productivity and boost local employment
- 39) Support new and existing businesses to identify and relocate into suitable premises and workspace within North West Leicestershire
- 40) Promote tourism and sustainable tourism businesses that support forestry, agriculture, land based rural diversification and outdoor leisure and promote the area as a sustainable tourism destination
- 41) Facilitate programmes that assist businesses in staff recruitment and upskilling locally. For example, hosting jobs and skills fairs with particular emphasis on those furthest from the labour market and promoting a more open recruitment policy
- 42) Increase innovation activity amongst the wider SME and business base through initiatives such as the MIT Regional Entrepreneurship Acceleration Program
- 43) Ensure there is a "soft landing" package for potential investors to make informed decisions about locating to North West Leicestershire
- 44) Continue to collaborate with IM Properties to facilitate the Employment Partnership throughout the construction and occupation phase of Mercia Park
- 45) With the Leicester Employment Hub, encourage local businesses to get the most from their apprenticeship levy to create new apprenticeship opportunities and upskill their existing workforce
- 46) Help local businesses and education providers to collaborate on upskilling workforce and readying future generations for work within the local economy
- 47) Provide advice and support to existing businesses to cut energy costs, reduce and offset carbon emissions, reduce waste, recycle more, increase efficiency and promote a circular economy
- 48) Engage with organisations on key business parks in North West Leicestershire to discuss potential for photovoltaics, electric vehicle charging points and other carbon reducing measures
- 49) Encourage local businesses to reduce the carbon intensity of their operations and improve energy efficiency in a Local Business 'Carbon Action' group
- 50) Promote opportunities for exporting and global trade to support business growth post EU Exit
- 51) Provide specialist advice such as environmental health, planning, building control and licensing to local businesses to ensure that they are compliant with regulations



DHL, Castle Donington

7 Resources and implementation

7.1 At the time of preparing this evidence, there remains some uncertainty regarding Covid recovery; the challenges of the EU transition and the future national funding arrangements. It is not fully evident as to where future funding will come from for both Infrastructure projects and Skills related activity.

7.2 Partnerships will be critical to the success of the delivery of the refreshed Economic Growth Plan, notably with Leicestershire County Council, Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership and the East Midlands Development Corporation. North West Leicestershire has a key role to play in designing interventions that will have the maximum impact on the District. There will also be opportunities to collaborate formally and informally with other Districts (within Leicestershire and outside) and across other

counties and LEP areas, for example the Derby and Nottingham LEP, D2N2 – particularly with regard to the East Midlands Enterprise Gateway and proposed Freeport. Working with the National Forest and its partners is another key relationship to support sustainable economic growth.



8 Delivery

- 8.1 The North West Leicestershire Economic Growth Plan has been developed against the backdrop of the emerging Leicester & Leicestershire Economic Growth Strategy and a variety of National initiatives.
- 8.2 The success of the Growth Plan will be monitored by the extent to which the objectives set out in the document are achieved, but also by considering the outcomes they bring.
- 8.3 Strong local governance is required. The refreshed Economic Growth Plan will be underpinned by the Council Delivery Plan and a number of Council Service Plans that bring together expertise from various disciplines to deliver the Council's key business facing services.
- 8.4 Progress on the delivery of the strategy will be overseen by the Council's Economic Development and Regeneration Team and reported to the Portfolio Holder for Business and through the Council's reporting framework.
- 8.5 We are keen to develop interventions that are evidence based, well thought out and measurable. We would look for projects to have a clear process for identifying any added value and demonstrate a clear understanding of any positive and negative economic impact on the District – and where there may be negative economic impacts how these could be mitigated.
- 8.6 The successful implementation of this plan will be enabled through strong partnerships and require input from North West Leicestershire District Council, local businesses, the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership, the Leicestershire Growth Hub, the East Midlands Development Corporation, the National Forest, Leicestershire County Council, Leicester Employment Hub, East Midlands Chamber of Commerce, the SMB Group, Department for Work and Pension, Leicester-Shire and Rutland Sport, neighbouring authorities and other regional bodies.

Appendices

Appendix A - A list of current relevant strategies

The refreshed North West Leicestershire District Council Economic Growth Plan is informed by the following national/regional and local strategies and legislation:

The Local Government Act (2000) recognised the leadership role of local authorities in promoting the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of their areas by undertaking a wide range of activities to improve the quality of life of local residents and businesses and those who commute or visit the area.

[Local Government Act 2000 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

The updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) - provides a planning framework relating to how planning policies are applied with a presumption in favour of achieving sustainable development, taking account of economic, social and environmental dimensions. The framework shifts emphasis towards positively seeking opportunities for development unless any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits. -

Policy paper overview: [National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Plan for Growth – “Build Back Better” – Our Plan for Growth March 2021 - sets out the government’s plans to support growth through significant investment in infrastructure, skills and innovation, and to pursue growth that levels up every part of the UK, enables the transition to net zero, and supports our vision for Global Britain. - [Build Back Better: our plan for growth - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

UK Government Net Zero Strategy - Build Back Better:

In 2020, the Government set out their 10 point plan for a green industrial revolution, laying the foundations for a green economic recovery from the impact of COVID-19 with the UK at the forefront of the growing global green economy. This strategy builds on that approach to keep the country on track for UK carbon budgets, the 2030 Nationally Determined Contribution, and net zero by 2050. It includes:

- Our decarbonisation pathways to net zero by 2050, including illustrative scenarios
- Policies and proposals to reduce emissions for each sector
- Cross-cutting action to support the transition

[Policy paper overview: Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

UK Government: Greening Finance: A Roadmap to Sustainable Investing – [A Roadmap to Sustainable investing.](https://www.gov.uk)

UK Government: The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution – [Ten Point Plan for A Green Industrial Revolution.](https://www.gov.uk)

The **Midlands Engine for Growth** is a strategic plan to drive growth in the Midlands as part of the Government’s devolution proposals with an emphasis on boosting productivity and supporting growth in manufacturing as well as inward investment, skills development and improving transport connectivity through the Midlands Connect project. - [Midlands Engine | The Heartbeat of Britain’s Economy](https://www.gov.uk)

The Ten Point Plan for Green Growth in the Midlands Engine sets out, with a unified voice, the actions to be taken in partnership which will accelerate the region’s and the UK’s path to net zero.

Exceptional work in low carbon is already underway across the vast Midlands Engine Partnership landscape, making the Midlands a leading location for Green Growth. But the potential for more is phenomenal.

This Plan gives a focus to complement existing partner initiatives, capitalising on the wealth of economic opportunities presented by the shift to low carbon and enabling nature’s recovery. It is how we can drive collective action today to safeguard the environment for future generations.

[Green Growth | Midlands Engine](https://www.gov.uk)

Appendices

The Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) The Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership formed in May 2011 is a partnership of private, public and third sector organisations that drives economic regeneration and development across the sub region and in 2021 launched the 2021-30 Economic Growth Strategy, which seeks to deliver recovery and growth based on the 4 pillars of Productive; Innovative; Inclusive and sustainable - <https://llep.org.uk/>

Leicester & Leicestershire Economic Growth Strategy Evidence Review 2021 to 2030 - Leicester & Leicestershire Economic Recovery Strategy – Evidence Review (llep.org.uk) LLEP Delivery Plan 2021/22

Leicester & Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership Delivery Plan Review 2021 to 2022 - <https://llep.org.uk/app/uploads/2021/04/LLEP-Delivery-Plan-2021-2022-FINAL.pdf>

Leicester & Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership Local Skills Report 2021 – March 2021 - [LLEP-Local-Skills-Report_v2.pdf](#)

Leicester & Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership Energy Infrastructure Strategy November 2018 - [Energy infrastructure Strategy \(llep.org.uk\)](#)

Leicestershire County Council Draft Strategic Plan 2022 to 26 (October 2021) – This sets out Leicestershire County Council's Vision of "An inclusive county in which active communities, great connections and greener living enable everyone to prosper, be happy and healthy". This is generated through 5 strategic outcomes:

- Clean, Green Future
- Great Communities
- Improving Opportunities
- Strong Economy, Transport and Infrastructure
- Keeping people safe and well

[Leicestershire County Council Strategic Plan 2022-26](#)

Leicestershire County Council's Prospectus for Growth (February 2019) - Sets out the major national, regional and local transport infrastructure projects and their link to economic growth. This includes:

- The A42 Expressway– an aspiration to upgrade the A42 to motorway standard, improving east-west connectivity.
- Coalville Transport Strategy

[Prospectus for Growth Leicestershire - February 2019 \(low resolution\)](#)

The Strategic Growth Plan for Leicester and Leicestershire 2050: Our vision for growth (2018) - Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan: - The sub regional Strategic Growth Plan (SGP) has been prepared by the nine local authorities in the region and the LLEP. It is a long term non statutory plan which seeks to address the challenges and opportunities that arise throughout the area for the period to 2050. The plan looks to

- Calculate the areas housing and employment needs; accommodating the areas housing and employment needs and align growth; infrastructure and services
- Provide an agreed scale and direction for future growth, reflecting the evidence available and the will of the partners
- Create a single consistent strategic framework for Local Plans, economic investment plans, transport and other infrastructure plans
- Ensure that Leicester and Leicestershire is positively positioned to take advantage of private sector inward investment opportunities and national programmes for investment
- Provide the right conditions for the growth of indigenous businesses, and, at the same time, protect the area's natural resources, environment and historic assets.

[Final Plan Published - Strategic Growth Plan LCC | Strategic Growth Plan LCC \(llestrategicgrowthplan.org.uk\)](#)

National Forest Tourism Growth Plan (2017): - this sets out an ambitious 10-year strategic plan on how to realise the potential of the Forest as a visitor destination and how tourism will contribute to transforming lives, the landscape and the economy.

[National-Forest-Tourism-Growth-Plan-Web-Document.pdf \(nationalforest.org\)](#)

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North West Leicestershire District Council Local Plan 2017 and the Local Plan Review: - A key objective of the Local Plan is to seek to promote sustainable economic growth across the District. It seeks to achieve this through facilitating the growth of existing businesses, fostering new local enterprise, contribute to reducing the need for out commuting and help to increase the sustainability and self-containment of communities to enable the development of a vibrant, diverse and sustainable business community.

The Local Plan includes policies and identifies sites to enable sustainable growth in key sectors and priorities identified through the Economic Development Strategy namely broadband infrastructure, provision of employment land, Tourism, Leisure and other Town Centre uses.

The North West Leicestershire Local Plan was adopted in November 2017. It was followed by an immediate partial review which was adopted in March 2021. A wider ranging review is underway and will look ahead to 2039.

The review will be supported by a range of evidence, including future employment and housing needs.

[Local Plan 2011-2031 - North West Leicestershire District Council \(nwleics.gov.uk\)](https://www.nwleics.gov.uk)

In July 2021 York Aviation produced a report on Aviation Jobs in the UK on behalf of Airlines UK in conjunction with Heathrow Airport; the Manchester Airports Group and TUI, indicating the importance of the airline industry. Over 20,000 aviation-related jobs are provided in the East Midlands with around 2,056 residing in North West Leicestershire.

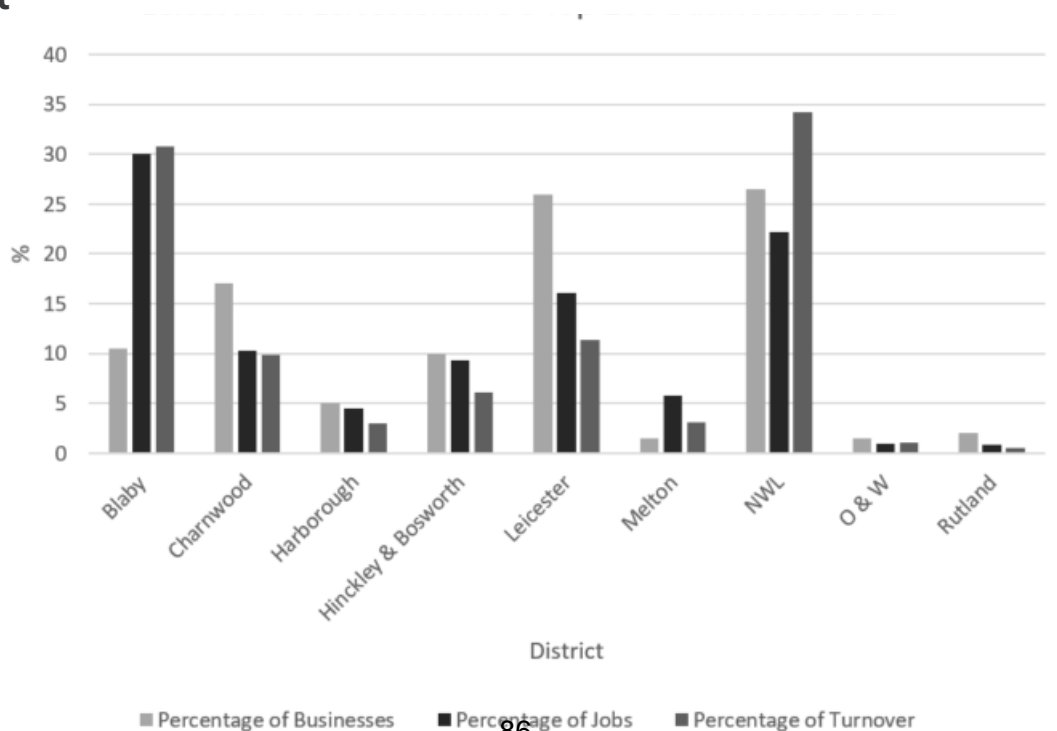
<https://airlinesuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Aviation-Jobs-in-Great-Britain.pdf>

Appendices

Appendix B - 2019 Leicestershire's Top 200 Businesses – Great Performance by NWL Businesses

- In July 2021 NWLDC have obtained the Top 200 Leicestershire businesses through work undertaken by De Montfort University. These are businesses whose registered offices are within the City or County, based on the highest turnover. Many businesses use professional services such as accountants or solicitors so Leicester City does have a number of County businesses but they are registered there
- 52 of the Top 200 are based in North West Leicestershire, indicating that the District is one of the most dynamic places to do business. This represents 26% of the total number of the Top 200. It is home to a number of long-established companies such as Aggregate Industries, Ibstock Brick, These companies are from a range of sectors, Construction - Barratt Developments; Bloor Investments and Davidsons; Quarrying and Building Materials – Aggregate Industries Ltd; Ibstock Brick and Breedon; Logistics – Ceva
- Of the Top 200, sectors which have come forward in particular are Property development; Motor Trade; construction and manufacturing, seeing increased turnover
- The top NWL companies have a combined turnover of £13.1 billion (up from 2017s £10.7billion) and have a combined workforce of over 37,100 (around an additional 2,000 jobs). Not all of these jobs will be based in North West Leicestershire but it still indicates the importance of these companies nationally
- Nearly 35% of Leicestershire and Rutland's Top 200 business turnover is produced by NWL businesses
- Five businesses have made the Top 200 for the first time namely: Aceso Healthcare Group Holdings; Lafarge Cauldon Ltd; Wilson Vale Catering; J A Ball (Construction); and Interlevin Holdings
- 21 of the 52 are placed higher than in 2017; 4 remain in the same position; 5 new entrants, 2 returners and 20 fell to lower positions. Two have dropped out of the ranking – GO Plant (acquired by a non-Leicestershire business) and A M Norris (Plumbers).

Chart 4 - Percentage of Leicester & Leicestershire's Top 200 Businesses 2019 by District



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Top North West Leicestershire Businesses - listed by Turnover

2019 Ranking	2018 Ranking	Name	Staff	Turnover	Sector	Location
2	2	Barratt Developments	6,419	£4,763,100,000	Construction	Coalville
4	4	Bloor Investments Ltd	3,867	£1,695,988,000	Construction and motorcycle manufacturer	Measham
5	5	Aggregate Industries UK Ltd	3,577	£1,296,620,000	Quarrying	Bardon
10	14	Graham Bell (Holdings) Ltd - Available Car	772	£421,136,000	Motor Sales	Castle Donington
11	13	Ceva Logistics Ltd	3,984	£399,589,000	Supply Chain Logistics	Ashby de la Zouch
13	11	Ibstock PLC	2,668	£391,402,000	Brick Manufacturer	Ibstock
14	13	Breedon Southern Ltd	1,075	£384,513,000	Quarrying	Breedon-on-the-Hill
15	16	Plastic Omnium Automotive Ltd	1,1748	£380,060,000	Plastic manufacturer	Measham
18	22	Refresco Drinks Ltd	1,040	£284,721,000	Soft drinks	Kegworth
27	32	Airline Investments Ltd	1,051	£214,685,000	Airline	Castle Donington
29	32	Aceso Healthcare Group Holdings Ltd	1,097	£196,343,000	Healthcare services and products	Coalville
31	42	Ceva Freight UK Ltd	281	£190,582,000	Air & Sea Freight	Ashby de la Zouch
34	46	Davidsons Developments Ltd	237	£176,585,000	Construction	Ibstock
42	N	Board24 Ltd	344	£151,584,000	Fibreboard Manufacturer	Coalville
43	40	MWUK Ltd	643	£146,497,000	Clothing	Castle Donington
44	61	Breedon Cement Ltd	236	£141,726,000	Construction Materials	Breedon on the Hill
58	149	HBB Relocation Services Ltd	14	£100,338,000	Real Estate	Kegworth
62	N	Plastribution Ltd	69	£92,454,000	Plastics	Ashby de la Zouch
63	119	Fannin (UK) Ltd	111	£88,793,000	Laboratory Equipment	Measham
64	78	Kone Cranes Demeg UK Ltd	540	£87,046,000	Crane supplier	Ashby de la Zouch
65	61	Lafarge Cauldron Limited	126	£84,068,000	Construction materials	Coalville

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2019 Ranking	2018 Ranking	Name	Staff	Turnover	Sector	Location
71	62	HLD Holdings Ltd (Pall-ex)	328	£79,707,000	Logistics	Ellistown
74	89	Beumer Group Ltd	136	£77,247,000	Materials Handling	Coalville
78	64	Ashfield Healthcare Ltd	928	£70,992,000	Pharmaceutical staff provider	Ashby de la Zouch
81	70	Harlow Bros Holdings Ltd	511	£69,085,000	Construction Materials	Long Whatton
82	87	East Midlands International Airport	558	£68,898,000	Air Transportation	Castle Donington
84	88	Ashfield Healthcare Communications Group Ltd	588	£67,291,000	Medical Education & Communications	Ashby de la Zouch
91	103	Roca Limited	108	£62,541,000	Bathroom fixtures & accessories	Coalville
95	84	Hormann (UK) Ltd	142	£60,739,000	Domestic & Industrial Door Supplier	Coalville
106	82	Paul John Construction Leicester Ltd	76	£50,984,000	Building Engineers	Coalville
117	187	CET Group Holdings Ltd	460	£44,667,000	Construction Services	Castle Donington
119	108	Fannin (UK)	72	£40,869,000	Laboratory equipment	Measham
126	126	Forest Holidays Group	635	£36,520,000	Holiday organiser	Moira
131	N	Cellar Trends Holdings	75	£35,188,000	Branded alcoholic drinks supplier	Ashby
132	122	Homag UK	68	£34,554,000	Woodworking Machinery	Castle Donington
138	195	PKF Cooper Parry Group Ltd	396	£32,026,000	Accounting, auditing & financial services	Castle Donington
145	N	Caetano UK	15	£30,871,000	Coach Distributor	Coalville
147	137	TDP Textiles	143	£30,368,000	Apparel Supplier	Moira
148	N	Wilson Vale Catering	726	£30,366,000	Catering	Ashby
149	136	HBB Relocation Services	10	£30,347,000	Real Estate	Kegworth
159	177	Motors (Coalville)	36	£27,866,000	Ford Dealership	Coalville
160	167	Crusher Manganese Steels (CMS Cepercor Ltd)	75	£27,830,000	Crushing equipment supplier	Coalville
161	155	Vitax (Synchemicals)	210	£25,577,000	Horticultural Chemical Supplies	Coalville

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2019 Ranking	2018 Ranking	Name	Staff	Turnover	Sector	Location
163	150	Charterhouse Holdings PLC	91	£27,165,000	Clothing and footwear wholesaler	Castle Donington
164	187	CET Group Holdings	302	£27,148,000	Infrastructure Support	Castle Donington
168	152	AB Produce	132	£26,257,000	Wholesaler of fruit and vegetables	Measham
169	N	J A Ball	30	£25,990,000	Construction	Coalville
178	158	Matsuura Machinery	68	£24,266,000	Machine tools supplier	Coalville
180	178	Winbro Group UK	175	£24,050,000	Gas Turbine supplies	Coalville
184	179	HK Wentworth	215	£23,591,000	Chemical manufacturer	Ashby
188	154	Hill-Rom	170	£23,102,000	Medical support systems	Ashby
194	N	Interlewin Holdings	41	£21,902,000	Refrigeration Units	Castle Donington

N – New entry

Source: De Montfort University July 2021



MINUTES of a meeting of the COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Coalville on WEDNESDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2022

Present: Councillor J Hout (Chairman)

Councillors R L Morris, C C Benfield, T Eynon, J Geary, L A Gillard (Substitute for Councillor A J Bridgen), M D Hay, G Hout, J G Simmons and M B Wyatt

In Attendance: Councillors R Johnson

Portfolio Holders: Councillors

Officers: Mr J Arnold, Mrs C Hammond, Mrs R Wallace, Miss E Warhurst, Mr P Bailey, Mr D Bates, Mr C Elston, Mr M Murphy, Ms C Proudfoot, Mrs M Scott and Mr B Walford

24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor A Bridgen.

25. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no interests declared.

26. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

There were no questions received.

27. MINUTES

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2021.

Following concerns raised by Councillor J Geary over giving scrutiny items a time limit, the Monitoring Officer reminded members that Council meetings were limited to three hours unless members agreed to extend to a further 30 minutes, but timing set out for each item was there as a guide to help manage the meeting.

It was moved by Councillor J Geary, seconded by Councillor R Morris and

RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2021 be approved as a correct record.

28. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair referred to the Committee's work programme and invited Members to make requests for any additional items.

By affirmation of the meeting, it was

RESOLVED THAT:-

The Committee's future work programme be noted.

29. FLOOD MANAGEMENT IN NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE

The Head of Planning and Infrastructure and The Head of HR and Organisational Development presented the report to members.

Members expressed concerns that a private sector body such as Severn Trent was acting as a key advisor and felt that they did not have the district's best interests at heart. They were uncomfortable that Severn Trent were just getting away with doing what they needed to and agreed that the Council should demand more action and hold them to account.

A member asked for further information on the actual cost of flooding in the District, which would help to inform the Council's climate action plan.

Members noted the Hugglescote flooding issues and felt that Severn Trent should complete the improvement scheme to the sewage system before any further development took place, as the capacity was not great enough to cope.

A member was pleased to see that the report acknowledged that local knowledge on poor drainage had not been taken into account when approving the development at Measham Road, Moira, as flooding continued to effect the surrounding area.

The Head of Planning and Infrastructure advised members that Severn Trent were a statutory consultee in relation to planning applications, rather than a key advisor and that planning conditions were applied to ensure suitable sewage connection before homes were lived in. In terms of paragraphs 5.4 and 5.5, he was happy to go back to Severn Trent to seek further information and clarification on the works detailed in the report. He stated that he would be happy to speak to members on individual cases and that he would give thought and seek advice to the potential implications, in terms of sewage connection, on any further development in the Hugglescote area.

A member asked for further information on the actual cost of flooding in the District, which would help to inform the Council's climate action plan.

The Head of HR and Organisational Development advised that he was not aware of any wider financial information in respect of flooding as it would centre around insurance claims from individuals. He noted that much of the flooding prevention work that had been completed by householders under the government grant scheme had involved further additional costs in excess of the £5,000 grant cap. He undertook to investigate this further and to respond to the member's question.

Some members noted that parishes in their areas had not got Community resilience plans in place and asked if these parishes had been contacted about devising plans. The Head of HR and Organisational Development outlined that work that had been carried out on Community plans and advised that officers would be reviving the work on the plans would make contact, as a priority, again with those parishes to offer assistance with planning their process.

It was moved by Councillor J Geary, seconded by Councillor R Morris and

RESOLVED THAT:

1. The report on Flood Management in North West Leicestershire be considered and the comments noted above.
2. The intention to bring an annual district Flood Management report, to include an update on Partnership working within our communities be noted.

3. Note the introduction of the new county wide flood reporting system by Leicestershire County Council be noted.

30. EMPTY HOMES POLICY

The Environmental Protection Team Manager presented the report to members.

In response to a question from a member, the Environmental Protection Team Manager advised that she did not have the figure to hand on the properties that had been brought back to use, but she would endeavour to get the information from Council Tax if she was able to outside of the meeting. It was requested that the figures be included in the minutes.

A member sought clarification on whether the Long Term Empty Property Premium could be shortened from 3 years to 2 years as he felt 3 years was too long. He supported the Council Tax increase from 100% to 200% for long term empty properties. The Environmental Protection Team Manager advised that the discounted period was not set by the Environmental Protection Team, but she would feed back the comments to Council Tax and seek clarity as to who was responsible for setting the time length

It was felt that a timeline of when properties became empty rather than a pinpoint figure should have been included in the report and at what point intervention came in to get the figure down, so that tracking could be carried out to review what action worked.

In response to comments from a member, the Environmental Protection Team Manager advised that a benchmarking study could be carried out but noted that districts would have different challenges as to why homes were not being brought back in to use and in terms of incentive schemes, it was noted that there had been various schemes and grants across the years to support repairs but most of which had now ended. She stated that the service could revisit a Council run grant scheme to help get homes in use again.

Members were thanked for their contributions which would be considered and feed into the report before being presented to Cabinet on 29 March.

Post Meeting Note:-

The Environmental Protection Team Manager is waiting for confirmation from the Revenues and Benefits Team on the number of Empty Properties brought back into use last year. However, the New Homes Bonus generated from this for 2021 was £2,452,094.

31. NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH PLAN

The Economic Development and Regeneration Team Manager presented the report to members.

Members noted that following the figures detailed in the report, there appeared to be far more wealth growth for employers than there was job growth for residents of the district, which was not sustainable and that to mitigate the growth a more veracious climate action plan was needed.

A member noted the important work that the Business Focus team did but felt that there was more work needed on the plan. She noted the inequality disparity in the area, the why jobs in the area were car dependent and work need to be done around the lack of rail connection and other public transport that would join up the small towns. She raised concerns over the lack of educational courses that were available in the area to help

residents further their learning that, in turn, would help them apply for the jobs that were available in the district.

In response to the comments made by members, the Economic Development and Regeneration Team Manager noted that Coalville remained a big part of the work and the Council would continue to support the small businesses. In terms of job growth, he noted that the District was one of the biggest job growth areas in the region, but work would continue on supporting the creation of new jobs and supporting residents to get in them. He advised that more work could be done around climate challenges and they could look to engage with developers about the efficiencies of their buildings from the outset and then work with existing employers to see how they could improve the efficiency of their sites and premises. He noted that there was inequality in terms of those who could access jobs. Work needs to continue in relation to supporting physical access to jobs, in terms of transport.

In addition the Council will continue to work with employers to adopt flexible recruitment/operational practices to make roles more accessible for those with disabilities. He advised that Rail connections would be kept within the growth plan and did not get lost amongst other projects.

Members were thanked for their contributions which would be considered and feed into the report before being presented to Cabinet in March.

32. MARLBOROUGH SQUARE PUBLIC REALM

The Head of Property and Regeneration presented the report to members, updating on the progress of the project. He drew members' attention to the additional paper that had been provided, which updated the report and recommendations, following the conclusion of the tender process. He then handed over to the Head of Finance to update members on the business case.

Some members expressed concerns over the new plans, stating that they supported the original plans to provide a public space of the highest order, would provide a pedestrianised square where a market and outdoor events could be held. However, the new plans now included a pedestrian platform with traffic travelling either side of it, and that the pedestrian area would only be so between certain hours. Some members felt that the pedestrian area should be extended out to the northern side of the square using a gated system to stop traffic from accessing it, except for deliveries to businesses. Concerns were also expressed over the cost of the materials that were to be used as it was felt that they were expensive and there would be additional costs for repair and maintenance.

Members acknowledged the need to rejuvenate the Town Centre and see it thrive again and the project would provide an attractive place for residents to come and visit. Some members acknowledged the work that officers had put in to make the project work after all the stumbling blocks that it had hit.

A member felt that they could not support part D of recommendation 3 to Cabinet, as officers at the County Highways Authority had put a lot of work into the project and she felt uncomfortable about negotiating a reduction in fees because of this.

The Head of Property and Regeneration advised that in relation to the highways fees, any work that had been carried out by the highways officers when they were first involved had been paid for, along with the S278 process. The fees that it was proposed to be negotiated related to the ongoing inspection fees, as LCC were applying the commercial rate rather than the authority to authority rate.

A member touched on the cost as, should the project become a cost to the Council, residents who lived outside the Coalville area may feel that they would be subsidising a Coalville project with their Council Tax. He asked the Head of Finance to expand on how the costings would look in 10 years and to provide a summary on inflation.

The Head of Finance explained to members how minimum revenue provision would work and in terms of inflation, it was hoped the income would inflate in time, but the initial cost would not inflate as the MRP would be a fixed amount. He noted that the interest to be paid on the borrowing would not be fixed and that the £61k figure was the difference between the income for selling the stalls against the cleaning and repairs to them.

A member sought clarity that possible additional income for festivals and various large-scale events which could be held on the square, had been considered in the figures put forward, which would be over and beyond the income of the market, but felt however, that the plans before members had diluted the possibility of those types of events.

The Head of Property and Regeneration advised that the figures that had been given were for the standard outdoor market and that the scheme before them had been designed to hold further events. He added that the material that had been proposed would have the capability to take heavier loads such as fairground rides. Therefore, the income from ad-hoc events would be a bonus on top of the outdoor market income.

The Strategic Director thanked members for their comments. He noted that officers had worked to maximise the functionality of the square for markets and public use despite the significant constraints and access requirements. The north side access would be paved in granite and flush and designed not to be seen as a road and would provide an extension to the central space that could be used. Officers had wrestled with how to deal with the access requirements yet make it form part of the square and put controls in place. Officers would reflect further on the comments made in respect of making it more pedestrian. He stated that the scheme in front of members could be delivered with all the costings and timelines in place, which included materials that would stand the test of time.

The Head of Economic Regeneration advised members that it was planned for the work to start after Easter, with a proposed completion date by the end of the current year, subject to no delays.

The amended recommendations set out in the additional papers were moved by Councillor R Morris, seconded by Councillor G Houlton and

RESOLVED THAT:-

- 1) The update on the redevelopment of Marlborough square as a public realm place be considered and the comments noted above.
- 2) Subject to the above and the outcome of the tender exercise, the following recommendations to Cabinet be supported:

THAT CABINET:

1. Recommend to Council, at its meeting on 24 February 2022, that the additional funds required to implement the Marlborough square public realm project be found from the Coalville regeneration framework budget line being proposed in the 2022/23 Council budget.

2. Subject to approval by Council on 24 February 2022, based on the outcome of the tender exercise and the estimated other project costs set out in the report, agrees to proceed to award the construction contract and implement the project.
3. Delegates authority to the Strategic Director (place) to:
 - A) Enter into those highways agreements necessary to deliver the public realm project;
 - B) Agree the terms of the construction contract; and
 - C) Complete such other agreements as shall be necessary to implement the project within the approved budget.
 - D) Seek to negotiate a reduction or waiver of the Highways Authority fees and commuted lump sum proposed to be charged by Leicestershire County Council

33. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCRUTINY CROSS PARTY WORKING GROUP - SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMMING

The Strategic Director presented the report to members.

In response to questions from members, the Monitoring Officer confirmed that the work programming group would be made up from members of each political party and advised that members of the scrutiny committees would still be able to put items forward to be scrutinised and that the work programming group would then consider such requests to include into the committees' work plans along with regular items and reports from officers.

It was moved by Councillor T Eynon, seconded by Councillor C Benfield and

RESOLVED THAT:-

- 1) The proposal of the Scrutiny Cross Party Working Group, as set out in paragraph 2 of the report, be endorsed.
- 2) Authority be delegated to the Director of Place and the Director of Housing and Customer Services to enable establishment of the group; to include contact with the whips to agree its membership in accordance with paragraph 3.1.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.29 pm

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET – TUESDAY, 29 MARCH 2022



Title of Report	2022/23 COUNCIL SURPLUS PROPERTY LIST	
Presented by	Councillor Roger Bayliss Housing, Property And Customers Services Portfolio Holder	
Background Papers	Corporate Disposals Policy 21 September 2021	Public Report: Yes
		Key Decision: No
Financial Implications	There are no financial implications impacting on the authority's income and expenditure directly related to the recommendations of this reports. However, the two assets identified will be valued as surplus instead of existing use as part of the year-end accounts and this may have an impact on the balance sheet fixed assets and unusable reserves values.	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	By approving a Surplus Property list the council will be complying with the Corporate Disposals Policy which was approved by Cabinet on 21 September 2021. Approving a Surplus Property List does not bind the council to proceed with any sale. All proposals to dispose of individual or groups of properties that have been declared surplus will require a specific decision to sell that particular asset or assets, as set out in the council's constitution.	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	There are no staffing or corporate implications arising from this report	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	The purpose of this report is to identify real estate assets of the council, held within the General Fund, that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were previously being held and are not required for the delivery of an alternative council service, and should therefore be declared surplus in accordance with the Council's Corporate Disposals Policy.	
Reason for Decision	To comply with the requirements of the council's Corporate Disposals Policy	
Recommendations	THAT CABINET APPROVE THE NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SURPLUS PROPERTY LIST 2022/23.	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1** This council adopted a new Corporate Disposal Policy for its real estate and other assets at Cabinet on 21 September 2021.
- 1.2** The Corporate Disposal Policy requires the council to regularly review the real estate property it holds in order to identify any assets:
- That are no longer required by the council for the original purpose for which they were purchased.
 - Are no longer needed to fulfil the purpose for which they were previously used by the council.
 - Where the asset is not likely to be required for the delivery of any other council service.
- 1.3** The Surplus Property List is required to be reviewed and approved annually.
- 1.4** Once the Surplus Property List has been approved by Cabinet it will be published on the council's website and marketing of the properties (with a view to agreeing terms for disposal) may begin.
- 1.5** Inclusion of an asset on the Surplus Property List signals that the council is prepared to consider a sale of the asset, however no property identified on the Surplus Property List will actually be sold or disposed of without a specific business case report being presented to and approved in accordance with the provisions set out in the council's constitution.
- 1.6** Including a property on the Surplus Property List does not remove the council's duty to secure the best consideration from any sale as set out in Section 123 of the Local Government Finance Act 1972

2.0 PREPARING THE LIST

- 2.1** The proposed 2022/23 Surplus Property List has been prepared by Property Services and follows a review of current use of the council's real estate assets using the Asset Review Evaluation Matrix as set out in the Corporate Disposals Policy Document.
- 2.2** It should be noted that this council does not have a large property portfolio by comparison with other comparable tier two authorities and through the review process retaining ownership of most assets has been found necessary in order to continue to deliver services.
- 2.3** Work to assess the carbon and energy efficiency of the council's real estate assets is ongoing and it should be noted that a number of assets may need to be proposed for disposal and replacement in the future in order to meet Carbon targets where performance improvement of the existing asset cannot be achieved. The council does not currently have the information it needs to make these decisions at this time and therefore the assets put forward at this time for inclusion on the 2022/23 Surplus

Property List are those which meet the tests set out in paragraph 1.2 above.

2.4 The Council's Asset Management Group has been consulted on the proposed Surplus List to ensure that opportunities for properties to be used to deliver alternative council services can be identified.

3.0 SURPLUS PROPERTY LIST

3.1 The property assets proposed to be included on the 2022/23 Surplus Property List are:

- The Old Market Hall, Rear Of Belvoir Shopping Centre, Coalville
- Council Offices (northern part) Whitwick Road, Coalville (excluding Stenson House, surrounding grounds and London Road Car Park)

3.2 Background information on each property is provided in appendix 1 along with a scored copy of the Asset Review Evaluation Matrix.

3.3 Note – Cabinet decisions to develop the Newmarket and to proceed with the Accommodation project have identified that individual assets are no longer required by the council. This paper simply collects and lists those properties and designates them as the surplus list. For this reason Scrutiny Committee consideration (of the adoption of the surplus list is not required). Future decisions to sell assets on the list will require Scrutiny Committee input.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	Insert relevant Council Priorities: - Supporting Coalville to be a more vibrant, family-friendly town
Policy Considerations:	Corporate Disposals Policy
Safeguarding:	None – the properties are no longer used for delivery of council services to the public including those who may be at risk.
Equalities/Diversity:	None - the properties are no longer used for delivery of council services to the public including those who may be at risk from discrimination
Customer Impact:	None – The properties proposed for inclusion on the Surplus List are those which are no longer required in order to deliver services to customers.
Economic and Social Impact:	Declaring these properties surplus allows the community to seek to purchase the assets potentially bringing them back in to new economic or social use.
Environment and Climate Change:	Each property has a carbon cost. Holding unnecessary properties increases the councils carbon account.
Consultation/Community Engagement:	None. Preparing the list is a Council policy requirement. Publishing the list begins community engagement.

Risks:	There are no risks associated with declaring an asset surplus and including it on the Surplus List. Risk only arises at the point at which an asset is to be sold.
Officer Contact	Paul Wheatley Head Of Property And Regeneration Paul.Wheatley@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

Appendix 1 – Surplus Property Assessment

The Property

Part Of Council Offices Site, Whitwick Road, Coalville.

These buildings have previously provided office and meeting room accommodation for Councillors and Officers of the council. The surrounding land has been used as car parking for councillors, council staff and visitors, with spare capacity being used as public car parking on a pay and display basis.

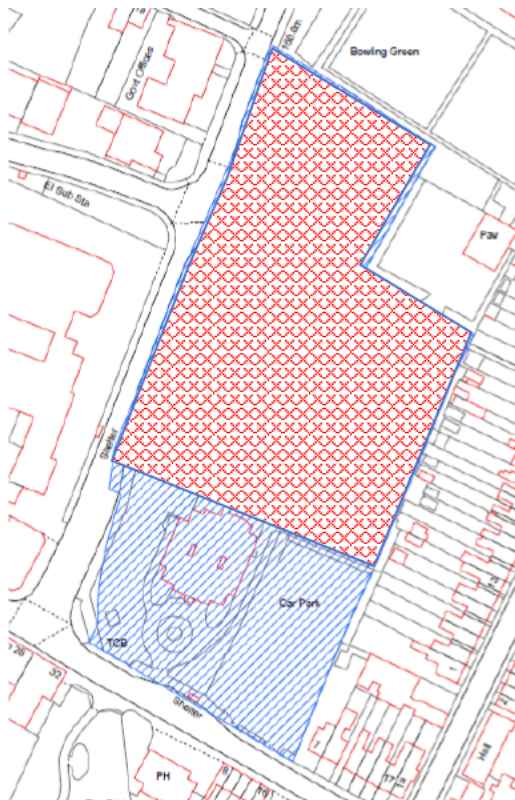
The council’s new accommodation strategy will see the authority adopt a more agile work style, with front of house services being relocated to the new Customer Service Centre (CSC) within the Belvoir Shopping Centre. Office accommodation will be provided at Whitwick Business Centre, whilst Stenson House will become the Civic Centre.

The land and buildings shown on the plan below will no longer be required as part of the council’s accommodation strategy once the CSC, Whitwick Business Centre and Stenson House projects are complete. This is expected to be around September 2022.

Note – The area proposed to be declared surplus excludes Stenson House, the land immediately surrounding Stenson House, land between Stenson House and Whitwick Road, land between Stenson House and London Road, London Road car park.

Plan

The council’s ownership is edged blue. The area proposed to be retained is crossed in blue. The area proposed to be declared surplus is hatched in red.



Assessment Scoring

The council's Suitability Assessment Matrix has been applied to the property shown edged red on plan above and the results are set out in the table below.

Weighting	1	2	3	4	5
Type Of Asset					For Disposal
Operational Fit				Poor	
Utilisation				Poor	
Condition			Fair		
Occupation Costs				Above average	
Best Use Value				No	
Costs Of Disposal And To Vacate				Affordable	
Market Demand				Good	
Scores close to 8 indicate a weak case for disposal. Scores close to 40 indicate a strong case for disposal					
SCORE	32				

Assessment Of Potential Alternative Uses

(All potential alternative uses are subject to planning consent being obtained.)

- Market housing
- Affordable housing,
- Leisure
- Employment
- Car parking

Assessment Of Value

Up to £1.2m dependant upon proposed future use and impact of any physical constraints such as rights of way or easements.

The Property

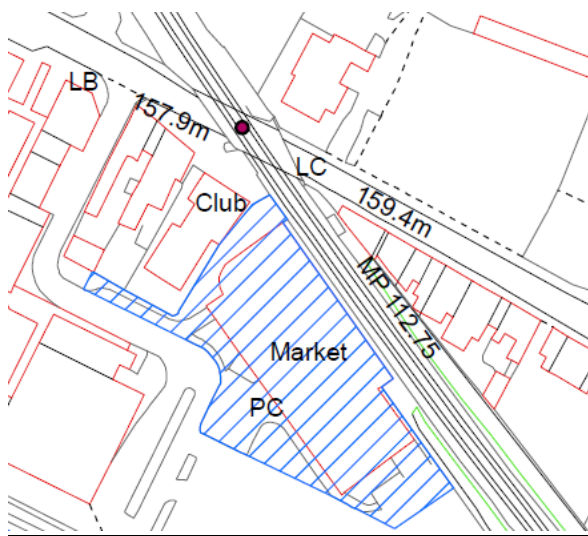
Coalville (Old) Market Hall, Rear Of Belvoir Shopping Centre.

Coalville Market Hall was constructed for Coalville Urban District Council in the 1960's and was purpose designed to accommodate an indoor market. The building has been adapted and remodelled during the council's ownership to incorporate the provision of public toilets and a café facility.

The building ceased to be used as a café and indoor market hall in 2021 following the opening of Newmarket at Marlborough Square.

The building continues to be used to provide public toilet facilities for Coalville and any future disposal would need to incorporate conditions related to continued or replacement toilet provision

Plan



Assessment Scoring

The council's Suitability Assessment Matrix has been applied to the property shown edged red on plan above and the results are set out in the table below.

Weighting	1	1	3	4	5
Type Of Asset			Strategic Holding		
Operational Fit				Poor	
Utilisation				Poor	
Condition			Fair		
Occupation Costs				Above average	
Best Use Value				No	

Costs Of Disposal And To Vacate				Affordable	
Market Demand			Marginal		
Scores close to 8 indicate a weak case for disposal. Scores close to 40 indicate a strong case for disposal					
SCORE	29				

Assessment Of Potential Alternative Uses

(All potential alternative uses are subject to planning consent being obtained)

- Leisure
- Retail
- Employment
- Car parking

Note – There is a restrictive covenant on the building that limits alternative use potential until 2025 however any purchaser may be able to negotiate an early release from the covenant from the beneficiary.

Assessment Of Value

The building has been valued between £450,000 and £490,000 dependant upon the bite of the restrictive covenant.

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET – TUESDAY, 29 MARCH 2022



Title of Report	APPROPRIATION OF AREA OF LAND AT HOWE ROAD CURRENTLY USED AS OPEN SPACE TO HOUSING	
Presented by	Councillor Roger Bayliss Housing, Property and Customer Services Portfolio Holder	
Background Papers	None	Public Report: Yes
		Key Decision: No
Financial Implications	There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendation which seeks to utilise previous acquired land in conjunction with the purpose for which it was originally acquired	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	The means by which a local authority may appropriate open space land for alternative uses is set out in the Local Government Act 1972. Sections 122 (2A) and 123 (2A) of the Act requires that notice be given in the local newspaper and that any objections are given consideration. By considering this report and making a decision the council will be complying with the requirements of the Act.	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	None	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	To consider the appropriation of land at Howe Road Whitwick from open space to housing	
Reason for Decision	To seek approval from Cabinet to the appropriation of land at Howe Road to deliver new council housing	
Recommendations	THAT CABINET: AGREE TO THE APPROPRIATION OF LAND AT HOWE ROAD (SHOWN ON THE PLAN AT APPENDIX 1) FOR HOUSING PURPOSES FOR THE DELIVERY OF NEW RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The area of land shown in Appendix 1 at Howe Road Whitwick has been held by the Council since the late 1980's when planning permission was obtained for the development of local authority housing on the land. The subsequent development, completed in 1991 became Smith's Court and provides 14 bungalow type properties for Council tenants.
- 1.2 The original records retained by the Council relating to the purchase of the land and process by which Smiths Court was developed, indicate that a phased development was planned with Smiths Court being part of 3 proposed phases. Whilst planning permission for Smiths Court was obtained in 1989. There is no evidence of additional consents for later phases of Council development being granted. However, what is clear from the records and documents from that period is that it was originally intended that the undeveloped land be built on and it was not planned as public open space.
- 1.3 Despite original intentions, over the last 30 years (since Smiths Court was completed) there has been usage of the land for informal recreation (dog walking etc). Any original fences erected to secure the land have not been maintained and there has been free public access to the land.

2.0 PROPOSAL

- 2.1 Housing Services are currently seeking sites that can be used to build new affordable residential properties. The Howe Road site has been identified as one which could accommodate 15 new homes whilst preserving most of the existing tree cover and sense of open space. See Appendix 2.
- 2.2 The land is shown in the current Local Plan as outside the limits to development and this will be an issue that needs to be dealt with in any planning application.
- 2.3 The land is also subject to registration as an Asset of Community Value; however this is not considered relevant as there is no intention by the Council to sell the land, merely appropriate it for use by another service.

3.0 LEGAL MATTERS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 3.1 Legal Services were consulted and asked to advise whether the land having been open to the public for recreational use for roughly the last 30 years creates any special designations.
- 3.2 The advice received is that the land is considered as designated open space. Under sections 122 (2A) and 123 (2A) of the Local Government Act 1972, any appropriation or disposal of open space requires advertisement in a local newspaper for two consecutive weeks and any objections received are to be considered. Following the

required advertising five objections were received from local residents. These are shown in Appendix 3 in detail as received. Whilst there are a number of points relating to any development and its impact of the area which are not intrinsic to the reappropriation process highlighted in paragraphs 3.3 and 3.4, there were comments regarding the loss of open space detailed reproduced below:

- ‘an important recreational asset to the local residents’.
- ‘vital to the health and well-being of the local community especially those residing in the Howe Court Retirement Homes’.
- ‘vibrant with wildlife and woodland and I feel that the Council should be looking to protect these areas which help maintain the eco-logical balance of nature’.
- ‘The space is a designated community asset, which is widely used by the residents for exercise, dog walking and social interaction – it is also the only green space in what is already a heavily developed and densely populated area’.
- ‘encroachment of development into the rural environment which should be protected for its own sake’.
- ‘an area which houses wildlife, flora and fauna, is not in in line with promoting sustainability and embracing environmental protection, especially as we live within the National Forest’.
- ‘I believe that it is detrimental to the two main forgotten age groups in the covid pandemic. This is an extremely popular piece of land with both the youngsters, who independently walk dogs, play football, climb trees, ride bikes and explore. This builds their resilience, teamwork, perseverance and independence for the children of whitwick. This is extremely important for their life skills. This is not possible at the park as it is enclosed and not safe to stay by yourself. It is not possible at the leisure centre, which is barely used by whitwick children and this will be even less used, apart from the affluent, when it moves nearer to coalville! It is also used by the old people who walk their dogs and stop to chat to each other. Both of these age groups have been hit hardly by the pandemic and this will now add to this!’
- ‘This area is so popular that it is used from before 7.30 in the morning until after it is dark! I think that the decision has obviously been made without a lot of knowledge about the area and their needs!’

3.3 In summary, many of the objections reference matters such as construction noise, traffic, felling of trees, drainage and community facilities. These are all matters which will be considered at the planning application stage.

3.4 The other consistent comment made in the five objections received, is loss of local recreational / amenity land. Comments focus on the lack of suitable alternative local open space. It should be noted however that the nearest designated open space available is at Whitwick Park (0.46 km) or Hermitage recreation ground (1.5km). There are also a small play park located on Robinson Road (0.18km). There are a number of

public footpaths in the area which would not be compromised by the proposal. See Appendix 4.

4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 The land being proposed for appropriation was originally purchased by this council for the development of housing, however the land was never fully developed and has been treated by the community as open space used for recreation purposes. There are a small number of objections to the loss of the open space that would result from its appropriation and development. The strength of these objections must be weighed against the need for new council houses and the land upon which to build them. It may also be appropriate to give due consideration to the availability of alternative open space in the surrounding area.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	Insert relevant Council Priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local people live in high quality, affordable homes - Our communities are safe, healthy and connected
Policy Considerations:	This appropriation would deliver Council services, statutory functions and the priorities set out in the Council Delivery Plan.
Safeguarding:	No safeguarding considerations.
Equalities/Diversity:	No equalities/diversity considerations.
Customer Impact:	No customer impact considerations.
Economic and Social Impact:	Appropriation will (subject to planning permission) allow the construction of 15 new council homes for those needing housing in Whitwick
Environment and Climate Change:	Any subsequent development will align with the Councils Net Zero Policy
Consultation/Community Engagement:	A consultant process was undertaken as per the requirements under sections 122 (2A) and 123 (2A) of the Local Government Act 1972. Extracts from received responses is included in this report.
Risks:	None identified.
Officer Contact	Karl Stevens Property Services Team Manager karl.stevens@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

Appendix 1

North West Leicestershire District Council



Scale: 1:1,250

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Appendix 2



ACCOMMODATION SCHEDULE

- 2No. 2 Bed Semi-Detached Houses @ 74sqm
- 7No. 2 Bed Semi-Detached Houses @ 76sqm
- 2No. 3 Bed Semi-Detached Houses @ 85sqm
- 1No. 3 Bed Semi-Detached Houses with GF wetroom/ dining/bedroom space @ 92sqm bpc
- 1No. 3 Bed Detached House with GF wetroom/dining/ bedroom space @ 93sqm bpc
- 2No. 2 Bed Dorrner Bungalow @ 78sqm
- 30 No. Car Parking Spaces (2 Per Dwelling)

TOTAL 15No. Dwellings

1	01/01/20	Issue for comment	10
2	02/02/20	Issue for comment	10
3	03/03/20	Issue for comment	10
4	04/04/20	Issue for comment	10
5	05/05/20	Issue for comment	10
6	06/06/20	Issue for comment	10
7	07/07/20	Issue for comment	10
8	08/08/20	Issue for comment	10
9	09/09/20	Issue for comment	10
10	10/10/20	Issue for comment	10
11	11/11/20	Issue for comment	10
12	12/12/20	Issue for comment	10
13	13/01/21	Issue for comment	10
14	14/02/21	Issue for comment	10
15	15/03/21	Issue for comment	10
16	16/04/21	Issue for comment	10
17	17/05/21	Issue for comment	10
18	18/06/21	Issue for comment	10
19	19/07/21	Issue for comment	10
20	20/08/21	Issue for comment	10
21	21/09/21	Issue for comment	10
22	22/10/21	Issue for comment	10
23	23/11/21	Issue for comment	10
24	24/12/21	Issue for comment	10
25	25/01/22	Issue for comment	10
26	26/02/22	Issue for comment	10
27	27/03/22	Issue for comment	10
28	28/04/22	Issue for comment	10
29	29/05/22	Issue for comment	10
30	30/06/22	Issue for comment	10
31	31/07/22	Issue for comment	10
32	31/08/22	Issue for comment	10
33	31/09/22	Issue for comment	10
34	31/10/22	Issue for comment	10
35	31/11/22	Issue for comment	10
36	31/12/22	Issue for comment	10
37	31/01/23	Issue for comment	10
38	31/02/23	Issue for comment	10
39	31/03/23	Issue for comment	10
40	31/04/23	Issue for comment	10
41	31/05/23	Issue for comment	10
42	31/06/23	Issue for comment	10
43	31/07/23	Issue for comment	10
44	31/08/23	Issue for comment	10
45	31/09/23	Issue for comment	10
46	31/10/23	Issue for comment	10
47	31/11/23	Issue for comment	10
48	31/12/23	Issue for comment	10
49	31/01/24	Issue for comment	10
50	31/02/24	Issue for comment	10
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52	31/04/24	Issue for comment	10
53	31/05/24	Issue for comment	10
54	31/06/24	Issue for comment	10
55	31/07/24	Issue for comment	10
56	31/08/24	Issue for comment	10
57	31/09/24	Issue for comment	10
58	31/10/24	Issue for comment	10
59	31/11/24	Issue for comment	10
60	31/12/24	Issue for comment	10



1:500 scale (metric)

<p>Office: Liverpool & Nottingham Halsall Lloyd Partnership Address: 53 Forest Road East Nottingham NG1 4HW Nottingham 0115 989 7959 www.hlpdesign.com</p>	<p>Drawing Title: Site Layout - Proposed Arrangement Project: Howe Road, Whitwick Client: North West Leicestershire District Council Scale: A3 1:500 Issue Date: March 2020 Drawn: SG Check: CS</p>
<p>Project No: N1646_101_G</p>	<p>Revision: [2] - FOR COMMENT</p>



Appendix 3

I hereby object to the Councils proposal to appropriate the Land off Howe Road, Whitwick currently held as Public Open Space to that of Housing Land.

The said land is an important recreational asset to the local residents.

It is vital to the health and well-being of the local community especially those residing in the Howe Court Retirement Homes.

The Land is vibrant with wildlife and woodland and I feel that the Council should be looking to protect these areas which help maintain the eco-logical balance of nature.

These pockets of Green Space are demising at a rapid rate within Coalville and surrounding villages and the Council should be doing more to address this.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this e-mail by return and provide a plan of the Land.

I am writing to strongly object to the proposal to develop the land off Howe Road, Whitwick. The space is a designated community asset, which is widely used by the residents for exercise, dog walking and social interaction – it is also the only green space in what is already a heavily developed and densely populated area.

Whilst I have requested details of the proposed development, this has not been received. I strongly feel that the overall feel of *any* development would erode what is in essence an important and only part of green infrastructure in an already heavily developed area. Any proposal represents an encroachment of development into the rural environment which should be protected for its own sake.

Developing an area which features many mature trees several of which have preservation orders attached, an area which houses wildlife, flora and fauna, is not in line with promoting sustainability and embracing environmental protection, especially as we live within the National Forest.

There should not be a need to use greenfield sites to meet future housing needs especially when there are many run-down and abandoned locations which would benefit from regeneration. A few that spring to mind are the site of The Oak public house in Whitwick that has been an eyesore for years and the property located off Church Lane (FS-Case-368632981) which has also been abandoned for many years.

Any development would cause a worsening of air quality, regardless of how many households are being proposed.

Moreover, further development without investment in infrastructure would put additional pressure on amenities serving the area, including schools, doctors and health services.

The construction of more dwellings would negatively impact the safety and social wellbeing of the residents. The existing road infrastructure is insufficient to cope with additional traffic, Howe Road in itself is a narrow road with five existing roads off it. With future households' potential having one or two cars or more each, this would equate to a significantly higher number of cars in the area. This would further impact traffic congestion and air quality, creating additional risk of accidents as residents go about their daily business and indeed increase risk for children who play outside, ride their bikes and walk to and from school.

Adding to the point above re the road infrastructure, when you add in construction traffic to the mix, there is further potential to increase risk substantially, notwithstanding the additional issues in terms of residents having to navigate large, unwieldy construction traffic in order to get in and out of their homes.

Construction noise is also a major issue, particularly as many of us remain working from home. The noise, dirt and disruption associated with living opposite a building site are all major issues. This is a quiet peaceful location and one that is conducive to being able to work from home, and indeed continue to earn a living. If construction goes ahead, I have major concerns over the impact this will have on me being able to continue to do my job successfully. Moreover, noise pollution from construction goes against our right as individuals to quiet enjoyment of our properties.

I have copied in Cllr. Tony Gillard and Andrew Brigden MP and would be interested in their views on this proposal especially as both election campaigns included the promise to protect the green wedge.

I am writing in reference to the parcel of land off Howe Road Whitwick, being used as housing land. I am opposing this idea, as I believe that it is detrimental to the two main forgotten age groups in the covid pandemic. This is an extremely popular piece of land with both the youngsters, who independently walk dogs, play football, climb trees, ride bikes and explore. This builds their resilience, teamwork, perseverance and independence for the children of whitwick. This is extremely important for their life skills. This is not possible at the park as it is enclosed and not safe to stay by yourself. It is not possible at the leisure centre, which is barely used by whitwick children and this will be even less used, apart from the affluent, when it moves nearer to coalville! It is also used by the old people who walk their dogs and stop to chat to each other. Both of these age groups have been hit hardly by the pandemic and this will now add to this!

This area is so popular that it is used from before 7.30 in the morning until after it is dark! I think that the decision has obviously been made without a lot of knowledge about the area and their needs!

We are writing with regard to your intended appropriation of the land off Howe Road, Whitwick. Ref 75558 as seen in the Coalville Times 22/10/21.

1. The NWLDC local plan document adopted November 2017 shows that this development is "outside the limits to development" and therefore this development should be refused on this alone
2. There is at least 1 TPO (248) on this land area and many other large trees shrubs and hedges. This habitat will contain a wealth of wildlife. There are bats clearly present in this area, as they are present in our garden, and I am sure many other species of wildlife.
3. As this developments outside the local plan using this land would eat into land which currently allows for village separation.
4. Previously this area has been prone to flooding and our land at 12 Howe Road was being eroded by floodwater and major ground works had to be implemented to prevent further erosion. Further housing developments would put extra pressure on the existing culvert. Have Severn Trent been informed of this development and what are their findings on the flooding issues caused by extra housing and roads on land that currently help absorb excess water.
5. If the proposed development requires use of the pumping station on Valley Way to remove sewage and the pipe work from the station, will this be adequate? Our concerns are amplified by the fact that these pipes run under our land close to our property.
6. Concerns with the extra traffic on a road that currently is difficult to navigate with parked cars on an incline and bend. This road is extremely difficult and dangerous to navigate in snow and icy conditions as residents can testify.
7. This will bring extra noise for the local residents. Particularly as this surrounds a development of elderly and infirm residents which I believe is council owned.

This is our current list of objections and concerns however we do require further information if this goes further.

We hereby wish to oppose the Councils plans for change of use of this Land from "Public Open Space" to that of "Housing Land"

The Council should be doing more to protect these small areas of Public Open Space rather than look to Build at the earliest opportunity.

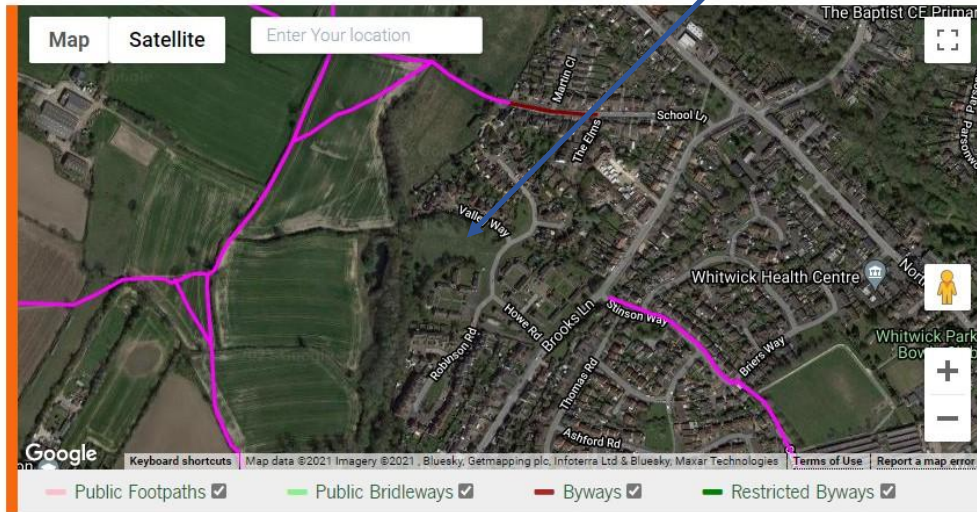
These areas should be protected community assets for the greater good of local residents especially during times of sustainability.

"Open Spaces" are important parts of Local Communities and I'm sure the Council could use this Land as part of its Environmental Programmes by planting more trees and encouraging nature and wildlife to thrive in these urban areas.

Appendix 4

Public footpaths

Proposed Housing



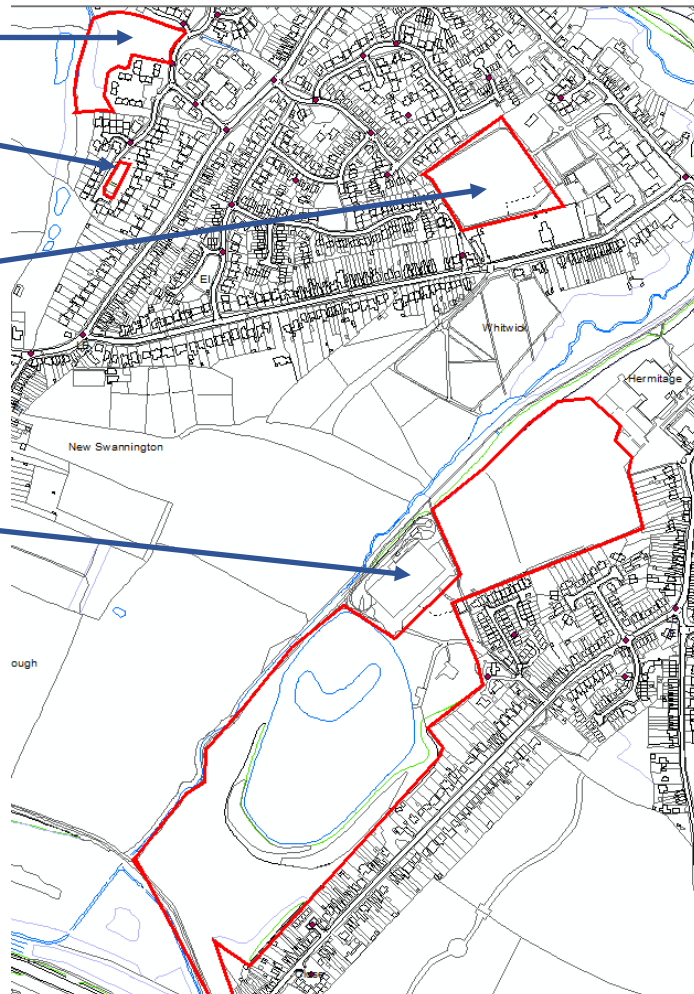
Recreational Land

Proposed Housing

Play Park – Robinson Road

Whitwick Park

Hermitage Recreation Ground



NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET – TUESDAY 29 MARCH 2022



Title of Report	2021/ 22 QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REPORT	
Presented by	Mike Murphy Head of Human Resources and Organisation Development	
Background Papers	Various documents collated from departments held electronically by the Performance team.	Public Report: Yes
Financial Implications	The quarter 3 financial position is outlined in more detail at the end of this report.	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	There are no direct legal implications arising out of this report.	
	Signed off by the Deputy Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications		
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	The report provides members of cabinet with information on the performance and progress made against the Council Delivery Plan actions and performance indicators for Quarter 3 (October to December 2021)	
Recommendations	That Cabinet notes the progress against the corporate objectives and performance indicators for Quarter 3 2021/22.	

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides an update of the Council's key objectives and performance indicators for the period October to December 2021. Performance is managed at a strategic, service, operational and individual level. This report provides information measured against the Council Delivery Plan agreed in September 2021. Previous quarterly performance reports have included information about Health and Safety, Employee sickness absence and customer performance data. We are intending to provide more graphical information about performance in these areas in the end of year quarter 4 report.

- 1.2 The quarterly performance reports seek to recognise good performance, share best practice across the organisation and to identify 'performance gaps' highlighting if and where action is required to meet targets. Once these gaps are identified, intervention plans will be created or adapted to improve performance towards the target. This will be part of a continual cycle of review and action.
- 1.3 The information contained in this report was considered by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 9 March 2022. A draft copy of the minutes of that meeting containing their feedback will be circulated prior to the meeting as an additional paper.

2. SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE QUARTER 2.

- 2.1 This report sets out the performance and progress against the Council Delivery Plan actions and key performance indicators.
- 2.2 A report on the progress made against the Council Delivery Plan actions and indicators is included in Appendix 1. In summary of the 35 actions in the Council Delivery Plan 6 had been achieved, and 29 are in progress at this stage. (or are on hold due to Covid-19 or reported as an annual target).
Looking at the 44 performance indicators, 19 had been achieved or were within tolerance, 8 had not been achieved and 17 are reported annually.
- 2.3 The following notable achievements in the third quarter of 2021/22 were: -

2.4 Supporting Coalville to be a more vibrant, family friendly town

- The construction contract for the Marlborough Square redevelopment has now been tendered and it is expected that the contract will be let at the end of February 2022.
- Following the successful launch of the Newmarket in September 2021 the team continues to support traders and several events have taken place to help increase footfall and to further promote the new facility. Many positive comments from customers have been lodged on social media channels.
- Officers are continuing to develop a shortlist of affordable options for the future use of the Hermitage Leisure Centre building and the recreation ground. The options will be refined during the final quarter of 2021/22 and then consideration will be given to communicating options more widely to members and wider stakeholders.

2.5 Our communities are safe, healthy, and connected

- Covid measures remained in place during the quarter and consequently most of the customer contact was managed by the call centre.
- A Customer Experience Strategy was drafted and approved by the Corporate Leadership team, and this will be subject to a consultation process in early 2022.
- Construction work continued on the new Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre and completion was expected to be completed in early February 2022. During the construction phase there have been significant benefits to the local economy.
- The council's leisure partner, Everyone Active, continued to try and increase participation levels at both Hermitage Leisure Centre and Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions and the subsequent reopening of the leisure centres. Fitness memberships returned to pre-pandemic levels, and the number of pupils in swimming lesson exceeded the pre-pandemic levels. There was a significant reduction against target during December 2021 attributable to the impact of the Omicron COVID-19 variant and further

restrictions being introduced. Despite this reduction, it is still anticipated that, due to the opening of the new Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre, pre-pandemic usage levels across both sites will still be achieved by May 2022.

- Working with partner agencies, four areas have been identified as priorities in North West Leicestershire. Overweight and obesity levels, Mental health, End of life care and Covid recovery. An action plan is being developed to address these areas, but it should be noted that with a renewed focus on the COVID-19 vaccination and booster programme during the quarter and early 2022, there may be a delay in meeting the April 2022 deadline.

2.6 Local people live in High quality, affordable homes

- Our target to deliver at least 10 additional NWL Council Homes in Osgathorpe, Newbold Coleorton and Ravenstone have been affected by development delays due to Covid factors, and consequently only Osgathorpe is expected to complete this financial year. The forecast outturn for this year is therefore now 4 new homes.
- 253 affordable homes have been delivered in the district so far this year following work with housing associations and partners, and subject to some supply issues being reported by developers, it is hoped that a further 50 will be delivered in quarter 4.
- Our programme of improvement works to Council tenants' homes has been impacted by the COVID pandemic, but we still plan to complete £3.2m of improvement works in the current financial year. We are rescheduling the plans and work where possible to seek to get back on target.
- There have also been delays to our plans to improve Council Homes estates, but the majority of the projects are anticipated to be completed by the end of the financial year.
- Planning permission has been secured for the redevelopment of the Appleby Magna Caravan Park and work will commence on site in March 2022.

2.7 Support for businesses and helping people into jobs

- An updated Economic growth plan has been developed and will be reported to members through the scrutiny committee stage in March 2022.
- A digital high street loyalty card has been launched across the main towns and shopping locations.
- As part of our plans to develop the districts visitor economy offer, a plan will be presented to the scrutiny committee and subsequently to Cabinet and will aim to deliver increased dwell times, spend and investment in local attractions.
- We have worked with the leisure centre construction contractor to increase local employment opportunities and an estimated £4.5m has been spent locally either through staff accommodation and expenses or through local materials and suppliers (out of an initial target of £2.2m). 12 new jobs have been created for local people since the works started on site (out of an initial target of 6) and 4 work experience placements have been created (out of an initial target of 4).
- We have continued to contribute with partners to the work of the East Midlands Development Corporation Interim Vehicle in implementing Year One deliverables included in the Business Plan. This includes developing a strategic masterplan/infrastructure plan and delivery strategy for the East Midlands Airport Area.
- We are significantly involved in the establishment of the East Midlands Freeport with private sector businesses, other local authorities, and government.


2.8 Developing a clean and green district

- We have been working with the National Forest to develop initiatives including the Heart of the Forest masterplan and a sustainable tourism accommodation design guide and accelerator programme.
- We have continued our programme of the installation of electric vehicle charging points with points now in place at 5 locations across the district. We are undertaking electric vehicle trials in our own vehicle fleet and charging points will be installed at appropriate council sites to support these trials and future demands.
- A zero-litter campaign document was considered by the Community Scrutiny committee during the quarter, and an action plan to support the proposals will be the focus of future activity.
- We completed work to 56 Council properties to deliver energy efficiency improvement works. These works were supported by the Green home's grants funding. We plan to undertake works to a further 30 homes during the final quarter of 2021/22.
- Several carbon reduction improvement measures in our Leisure Centres estate were implemented in the quarter by our contractor partners Everyone Active, and these are detailed in the report.

3.0 Summary of Performance Indicators and Actions

Performance Indicator 2021/22	Actual	Target	RAG
Number of targets achieved	15	44	★
Number of targets within 5% variance of target (10% financial)	4	0	●
Number of targets Not achieved	8	0	▲
Number of targets where target is annual, and the data is not yet available	17	0	

Actions 2021/22	Actual	Target	RAG
Number of Actions achieved	6	35	★

Number of Actions in progress		29		35		
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Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	This report documents the progress against all the priorities in the Council delivery plan as agreed by Council in September 2021.
Policy Considerations:	The actions cut across several policy areas – developing Coalville and wider regeneration considerations, Community support, post COVID-19 recovery and our climate agenda are some examples.
Safeguarding:	No specific considerations.
Equalities/Diversity:	No direct impacts
Customer Impact:	Detailed in the report.
Economic and Social Impact:	Detailed in the report
Environment and Climate Change:	Detailed in the report
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Not applicable
Risks:	As detailed in the corporate risk register.
Officer Contact	Bev Smith Chief Executive bev.smith@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Mike Murphy Head of Human Resources and Organisation Development mike.murphy@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

Supporting Coalville to be a more vibrant, family friendly town

Our aims

Coalville is a vibrant town – Local people choose to spend their time and money in Coalville town centre

– Coalville is a good place to do business

Key tasks 2021/22	Quarter 3 Performance
<p>Complete Coalville's Regeneration Framework and commence delivery.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>The form and content of the Regeneration framework has been agreed with members through the Coalville Oversight Board. Visuals are now being prepared by consultants with the intention of having the document completed by 31st March 2022. In parallel delivery of several projects has commenced.</p>
<p>Begin construction of Marlborough Square new public space.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>The construction contract has now been tendered and it is expected that the contract will be let at the end of February 2022.</p>
<p>Open Coalville's Newmarket once COVID -19 restrictions permit and continue to provide support, guidance, and funding for Coalville Market traders to grow their businesses.</p> <p>Achieved</p>	<p>Following the successful launch in September 2021 the team continues to support traders in their new ventures. Several events have taken place to help increase footfall to Newmarket including a Spooktastic Halloween event and various Christmas activities. Local families really enjoyed the children's craft activities put on by Elsa, Anya and Spiderman. Officers have received a lot of positive feedback on social media sites.</p> <p>Traders receive a monthly newsletter as well as an invite to the Newmarket Traders meeting. Officers also provided details of recent free digital training they could attend and any grants that they may be eligible to apply for.</p>
<p>Seek a cinema operator for Coalville.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>Market conditions at the current time indicate that a cinema for Coalville is only likely to be secured with direct council involvement. Discussions with a developer are underway and officers expect to receive a formal proposal shortly.</p>
<p>Develop a framework of opportunities for the land adjacent to the new Leisure Centre, the Hermitage Recreation Ground, and the existing Hermitage Leisure Centre Building.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>Officers are continuing to develop a shortlist of affordable options for the future use of the Hermitage Leisure Centre building and the recreation ground, ensuring they're aligned to community and other stakeholder consultation feedback but importantly affordability. To support this work, a condition survey of the leisure centre has been undertaken to understand the financial and operational implications of re-purposing part or all of the building. The options will be refined in Q4 and then consideration will be given to communicating options more widely</p>

to Community Scrutiny, Whitwick Parish Council, and members of the community.

Supporting Coalville to be a more vibrant, family friendly town - performance indicators

Coalville is a vibrant town – Local people choose to spend their time and money in Coalville

Coalville is a good place to do business

Performance Indicator	Actual	Target 21/22	Performance	Commentary
Increase footfall in Coalville town centre per annum		3%		Evidence is presented annually at Q4. Data is currently being collected.
Percentage of major residential development schemes scoring / performing positively against Building for a Healthy Life and the Council's Good Design Supplementary Planning Document	100%	90%	★	All major housing schemes determined in this quarter have scored positively against the building for life criteria.
High Street Retail Vacancy Rate in Coalville is below national average		< 13.7% * *Note: targets for 2021/22 /23 may vary as National Average varies		The annual vacancy survey is currently ongoing and will report in Q4
Increase the number of Coalville events attendees by 500 per year from baseline of 5000 in 2020/21	3000	5500	▲	One event was delivered in Q3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas in Coalville, Coalville Town Centre – despite

				<p>the curtailment of the event, footfall in the town centre was increased and attendance at the Christmas markets in Newmarket and Belvoir Shopping Centre was very good.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The entertainment and Christmas competitions running throughout December have proved popular and there has been significant engagement through the online voting process.
Trade Occupancy rates in Coalville's Newmarket.	57%	88%	<p>▲</p> <p>We have not met the occupancy target for this quarter however occupancy rates have continued to rise on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday with most Saturdays around 75% occupancy during December. Occupancy rates from 23.11.21 to</p>	<p>These have been successful in retaining most of our traders going into the New year. Officers have received several food trader applications which are being reviewed for Q4 potential.</p> <p>Officers are further supporting the food traders by giving them the opportunity to open in the evening for takeaway, Misto's Kitchen will open Thur-Sat until 9.30pm for takeaway and delivery.</p> <p>Officers are also</p>

			<p>18.12.21 show the following increases compared to the previous 4 weeks, Thursday 7%, Friday 9% and Saturday 20%.</p> <p>Officers have continued the promotion of free casual stalls on Tuesday and 50% discount on a Thursday if traders attend both days to help increase occupancy.</p> <p>Officers arranged a lot of activities during December to help increase footfall into Newmarket which included a live band, children's choir from Belvoirdale School, Santas Grotto and various children's activities.</p>	<p>launching Foodie Friday where the focus will be on food.</p> <p>Visits will now be recorded through the digital footfall counters trialled during this reporting period for launch in early Q4.</p>
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Our communities are safe, healthy, and connected

Our aims

Put our customer sat the heart of all we do – Increase connectivity (physically and virtually) throughout our communities





– Support safer neighbourhoods

Key tasks 2021/22	Quarter 3 Performance
<p>Make sure our customers can interact with us in a way which meets their needs, improving our services, promoting self-serve and digital options as well as providing face-to-face support compliant with COVID19 guidance.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>Covid measures remain in place with the majority of customer contact to the call centre.</p> <p>Customer Experience Strategy drafted and approved by CLT. Consultation process to complete early 2022 which will change the customer journey and deliver a digital transformation for the customer.</p>
<p>Work with our leisure partners to continue the construction of the new Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre with completion planned for July 2022 and increase participation at both this centre and Ashby Leisure Centre to where they were pre-COVID-19</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>Work continues on the new Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre which is now due to be completed in early 2022(Q4). During construction there have been significant benefits to the local economy realised. The council's leisure partner, Everyone Active, continues to try and increase participation levels at both Hermitage Leisure Centre and Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido following the reopening of the leisure centres. Fitness memberships have returned to pre-pandemic levels, and the number of swimming lesson pupils now exceeds the pre-pandemic levels. In addition, new sessions introduced to the programme include Parkour, Junior Football, Junior Futsal, and Winter Tots Tennis Camps.</p> <p>Upon reopening the centres, usage levels across both sites have generally been higher than anticipated and there was confidence that they would return to pre-Covid levels by the end of March 2022. However, there has been a significant reduction against target in December aligned to the Omicron variant entering the UK and further restrictions being introduced. Despite this reduction, it is still anticipated that, due to the opening of the new Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre, pre-pandemic usage levels across both sites will still be achieved by May 2022.</p>
<p>Encourage and support town and Parish Councils to write and prepare their own Neighbourhood plans.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>Advice is currently being provided to 5 Neighbourhood Plan groups, including one plan (Blackfordby) at Examination.</p>

<p>Consultation will take place with relevant stakeholders on emerging options for the Local Plan Substantive Review including the development strategy and potential site allocations for new development.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>Consultation scheduled to commence January 2022</p>
<p>As part of the Integrated Neighbourhood Team, and in partnership with the West Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, the North West Leicestershire GP Federation, Adult and Social Care, front line health care workers, and other key stakeholders, develop a locality based Healthy Communities plan aimed at tackling significant health inequalities in North West Leicestershire.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>Four areas have been identified by the Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT) as priorities in North West Leicestershire. These are.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overweight and obesity levels • Mental health • End of life care • Covid recovery <p>An action plan is being developed to help address these priority areas. Whilst it was anticipated this would become effective from April 2022, it needs to be noted that the focus for the NWL Clinical Commissioning Group has recently returned to Covid and the vaccination/booster programme. Therefore, many staff have been redeployed to support this effort which may impact on the group's ability to meet the April 2022 deadline.</p> <p>In preparation for the action plan, the following work has been undertaken.</p> <p><u>Overweight and obesity levels</u> A Health Needs Analysis (HNA) for NWL has been completed which has identified several gaps in service provision and recommendations. An implementation group of partners has been created which will meet January 2022. Their role will be to review the HNA and recommendations and to create a delivery/action plan, and then deliver the actions.</p> <p><u>Mental health</u> The INT has commenced work with Leicestershire Partnership Trust (LPT) to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish/build upon a mental health network • Agree a mental health accelerator area within the INT locality • Develop a multi-disciplinary team approach to mental health. <p>The target is to develop a workforce plan by March 2022.</p> <p><u>End of life care</u> NWL INT is piloting a piece of work identifying patients who have a high mortality risk. Those that don't have a care plan have been passed on to Adult Social Care who are processing care plans for them.</p>

Our communities are safe, healthy, and connected – performance indicators

Put our customer sat the heart of all we do – Increase connectivity (physically and virtually) throughout our communities – Support safer neighbourhoods

Performance Indicator	Actual	Target 21/22	Performance	Commentary
Number of online accounts Not Achieved	39091	40,000		Number of online accounts is on target, at the end of Q3 39,091 have been registered.
Number of online forms submitted by customers (transactions) Achieved	4404	4,000		During the quarter the monthly average form submission was 4404.
Percentage of customer satisfaction (Customer Services) Not Achieved	87.3%	95%		Combined Customer satisfaction score across speed of call answering agent and resolution. Individual breakdown: Satisfaction with Customer Service Officer @ 92% Satisfaction with Resolution @ 87% and speed of answer at 82% across the quarter.
The percentage of adults in North West Leicestershire who are overweight or obese.		71.3%		This is an annual indicator so no performance figures will be available in March 2022
Levels of participation at Hermitage / Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centres.	203,478	323,893		Despite the best efforts of our leisure partner, Everyone Active, in driving up usage levels at Hermitage Leisure Centre, targets are still not being achieved. New activities introduced at Hermitage in Q3 include Enrych disability sessions, junior volleyball, junior futsal, baby sensory sessions, and Stephenson's College PE sessions.

				<p>The targets were based on the centres being open on 1 April. As they didn't reopen until 12 April, almost 2 weeks of usage was lost. In addition to this, the lack of investment at HLC as compared to ACLC means a number of customers have migrated to ACLC creating higher usage than forecast there. Whilst it is unlikely usage figures at HLC will reach the levels they were at prior to the pandemic, it is anticipated that usage levels across both sites will have returned to pre-Covid levels by the end of the financial year.</p>
Levels of participation at Hood Park / Ashby Leisure Centre	284,483	371,526	▲	<p>Participation rates at Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido have exceeded the target for Q3 despite forecasts being based on the centres reopening on 1 April and they didn't reopen until 12 April. This is due to the range of interventions implemented by the council's leisure partner, Everyone Active, and the investment into the facility both prior to and during the pandemic. Consequently, it is anticipated that usage will have returned to pre-Covid levels across both leisure centre sites by the end of the financial year.</p>
NWL Local Plan – number of new homes		5,291		Annual return
		127		

built since the start of the Local Plan period in 2011 (target 481 homes annually)		(11 years x 481 homes)		
Number of new Neighbourhood Plans made		2		Annual return
Number of new locations for mobile CCTV cameras in partnership with local stakeholders including parish and town councils to help make our communities safer.	5	5	★	<p>4 new locations for mobile CCTV cameras have been identified in Castle Donington, through the safer street initiative. The locations chosen will address blackspots (areas) not covered by the planned fixed cameras due for installation in March.</p> <p>1 mobile CCTV camera has been installed on Garenden Road, Greenhill in response to a serious incident taking place.</p> <p>Work continues with Ravenstone, Ibstock and Measham Parish Councils on possible new locations.</p>

Local People live in high quality, affordable homes

Our aims

Increase the number of affordable homes in the district

Improve the quality of our council housing – Improve the quality of private rented accommodation

Key tasks 2021/22	Quarter 3 Performance
<p>New Council Housing Supply – ensure we deliver at least 10 additional NWL Council Homes In progress</p>	<p>One property in Kegworth is due to be re-acquired through the Right To Buy scheme buyback provisions in Q4.</p> <p>There are three sites nearing completion where the Council have agreed with the developers to acquiring properties built under the terms of Section 106 Planning agreements. These are in Osgathorpe, Newbold Coleorton and Ravenstone. All three have suffered from development delays due to Covid factors, with only Osgathorpe expected to complete this financial year. The forecast outturn for this year is therefore now 4 new homes.</p> <p>Council new build schemes in Moira, Measham, and Whitwick (2 sites) are being progressed, with the procurement of a developer currently underway. Further work is required to complete Planning Permission processes.</p> <p>Our New Build Project Officer leaves us in March 2022, and the current part time post is being recruited to full time to provide additional capacity to increase the speed with which we bring forward sites for development.</p>
<p>New Council Housing Supply - Complete feasibility assessment of potential new Council Housing build across the District, and progress to Planning Application stage if viable.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>There is currently a pipeline of sites currently being progressed.</p> <p>Planning has been secured for one, a planning application is awaiting determination for a second and work to bring a number of others to planning are underway.</p> <p>One new site for redevelopment has been acquired this year</p>
<p>New Housing Supply - Work with housing associations & partners to deliver over 100 new affordable homes per year to help meet local housing needs.</p> <p>Achieved /</p>	<p>253 affordable homes have been delivered within the district this year already more than achieving the annual target.</p> <p>Of these 91 were delivered within quarter 3.</p> <p>We are forecasting a further 50 in quarter four although some schemes expected to complete may be delayed as developers are reporting supply issues with materials</p>
<p>Maintaining & Improving Council Tenants Homes - Complete a programme of investment of up to £4.5m of improvement works to maintain our tenant's homes at the Decent Homes standard.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>The revised budget for Home Improvement works to tenants' homes for 2021/22 is now £5.3m. Due to the covid restrictions throughout the year, together with the delay finalising our plans, the In-house Repairs Team (IRT) have delivered £1.7m by the end of Q3 and aim to deliver a total of £3.2m of improvement work</p>

	<p>this financial year. Subject to approval, a proposal to deliver the estimated £2.1m carry forward, through a specific support contract will be considered by Cabinet in March 2022.</p>
<p>Commence a programme of additional improvement works, worth up to £2.4m to complete improvement works deferred from 2020/21 because of the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>When the 2021/22 budget was established, an estimated £2.4m of improvement work was forecast to be carried forward from the previous year. Due to further Covid restrictions not all this work could be incorporated into the 2021/22 programme, which was reassessed as being £5.3m. A revised forecast for work to be carried forward from 2021/22 to 2022/23 has been included in the draft Housing Capital Programme budget at £2.1m. This work will be delivered by an external contractor who will be appointed to work alongside the IRT, who will deliver the main 2022/23 Home Improvement Programme.</p>
<p>Maintaining Our Council Homes Estates - Invest up to £1.06m in estate improvements to improve the quality of life for residents of Council estates, including our tenants.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>Work is underway to deliver this programme, and although many projects have been delayed by Covid a majority is anticipated to be completed by the end of Q4, with a more detailed analysis of progress as part of Q4 reporting.</p>
<p>Other Housing Actions - Obtain Planning Permission, appoint a contractor and complete the delivery of the redevelopment of Appleby Magna Caravan Park, to provide a modern fit for purpose environment for the residents.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>Planning permission secured and the design phase nearing completion. Variation to original approval currently being progressed with Planning and Western Power</p> <p>A contractor (Alliance) has now been appointed and work is due to commence on site on the revised start date agreed with residents of 7 March 2022 with completion forecast by Q2 of 2022/23.</p>

Local People live in high quality, affordable homes – performance indicators

Performance Indicator 2020-21	Actual	Target 21/22	Performance	Commentary
Percentage of major residential development schemes scoring / performing positively	100%	90%	★	All major housing schemes determined in this quarter have scored positively against the building for life criteria.

Percentage of major planning applications determined within 13 weeks	85%	75%	★	85% of the major applications determined during this quarter were within the 13-week period which is above the specified target.
Percentage of minor planning applications determined within 8 weeks	70.83%	80%	▲	70.83% of all minor planning applications were determined in the 8-week period which is below the target. Whilst the figures are below target for the current quarter, cumulatively for Q1, Q2 and Q3 the average is exceeding the target at 82.7%. The volume of applications received by the team over the last quarter had significantly increased, impeding the team's ability to issue decisions within the timeframe in this quarter.
Percentage of other planning applications determined within 8 weeks	83.44%	85%	●	83.44% of all other planning applications were determined in the 8-week period which is below the target. Whilst the figures are below for the current quarter, cumulatively for Q1, Q2 and Q3 the average is exceeding the target at 87.2%. The volume of applications received by the team over the last quarter had significantly increased, impeding the team's ability to issue decisions within the timeframe in this quarter.
Percentage of all repairs completed within target	96.85%	97%	★	Despite the covid safe restrictions periodically in force during the year which impacts performance and the changeover from Housing Systems at the end of November, which has caused

				<p>some issues allocating work to trades operatives, the team worked hard to achieve an outturn that was extremely close to target. The performance for Q3 means that the cumulative total for the year to date is 97.5% which exceeds target. The focussed work required during Q3 to work around issues with the new system will be needed until issues are resolved to ensure performance hits target.</p>
<p>Average length of time taken to re-let a Council property when it becomes vacant</p>	32 days	25 days	▲	<p>Performance has not achieved the target as we have applied flexibility to tenancy start dates for tenants to move home due to Covid-19, particularly those who were testing positive or required to isolate. Also, due to some complications with reports in the new Housing ICT system, the information reported for Q3 does not include December. The standalone performance for Quarter 3, excluding December was 29 days which was a reduction of 10 days compared with the preceding quarter.</p> <p>The cumulative performance is 32 days with 188 properties being let during the year April to November.</p>
<p>Number of New Council Homes delivered within year. Built, Purchased, or through S106 Bid TOTAL</p>		10		<p>An Update will provided at the end of year,</p>

Number of New affordable homes delivered by Housing Associations & Partners within the year.	253 in year to date 91 in quarter 3	100	★	This new indicator shows new homes for rent delivered via Housing Associations & Partners.
Number, type & Value of components improved across NWL Council Homes in year. Bathrooms, Kitchens, Electrical Rewire, Roof, Heating or Other Total Components Total Spend		£6.9m		Due to complexity of delivering this year's programme of home improvement works to tenants' homes in a Covid affected environment, the detailed breakdown of the programme is not available. This will be corrected for 2022/23 with a detailed programme and performance against it supplied as part of Q1 monitoring in 2022/23.
Number, type & value of adaptations to homes for our most vulnerable tenants	£141k major adaptations £25k minor adaptations (Both cumulative to end of Q3)	£300k		36 Major Adaptations have been completed at a value of £141 K, with a further 37 at various stages of the delivery process, with a combined value of £143k. 82 Minor Adaptations have been completed with a value of £25k, with a further 67 applications currently being processed with a value of £11k.

Support for businesses and helping people into local jobs

Our aims

Match local people with skills and jobs – Support new and growing businesses to create jobs –
Help young people into work

Key tasks 2021/22	Quarter 3 Performance
<p>Update the North West Leicestershire Economic Growth Plan and commence delivery.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>The updated growth plan is to be presented to Scrutiny Committee in February and Cabinet in March 2022 for approval.</p>
<p>Enable business growth and inward investment in North West Leicestershire that contributes to the objectives of NWL Economic Growth Plan.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>For the months of October, November and December Economic Development provided direct support to 59 new unique business enquiries as well as ongoing investor support to Mars, Caterpillar, DSV, Arvato and Amazon.</p>
<p>Preserve the vibrancy of our High Streets by supporting Shop Local initiatives designed to reduce vacancy rates.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>We have recently launched the Hex retail loyalty card across NWL's towns and major shopping locations.</p> <p>Businesses are now being on-boarded to the new Digital High Street which will allow high street business to showcase their products for sale through a shared online 'click and collect' service. The Digital High Streets are expected to launch to the public in Q4.</p>
<p>Develop our "visitor economy" offer to encourage dwell time, local spend and investment in new and improved attractions.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>A new Visitor Economy Plan was presented to Scrutiny in January and will be put before Cabinet in February 2022 for adoption. Subject to approval implementation will begin in the 2022/23 Financial year and is expected to deliver increased dwell time, spend and investment in attractions.</p>
<p>Working with our leisure centre construction contractor increase local employment, training, and apprenticeship opportunities with a key focus on local supply chains in the construction of the new Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre.</p> <p>Achieved</p>	<p>Works to ensure maximum social value is achieved as a result of the delivery of the leisure centre are ongoing with all key parties engaging well in the process.</p> <p>The project is due to finish on site in Q4 2022 which is some months ahead of original expectations of July 2022 and we're now starting to understand the total levels of Social Value that have been achieved as a result of the Council's investment for the project as a whole.</p> <p>Whilst the final figures won't be known until the works are fully completed, we know that so far over 40 local companies have been engaged as part of the construction of the new leisure centre.</p>

	<p>To date, £4.5m has been spent locally either through staff accommodation and expenses or through local materials and suppliers (out of an initial target of £2.2m).</p> <p>12 new jobs have been created for local people since the works started on site (out of an initial target of 6) and 4 work experience placements have been created (out of an initial target of 4).</p> <p>The team has also engaged with over 200 school pupils and college students through the journey of the project and upwards of 150 youngsters have visited the site and had a tour of the development.</p>
<p>Contribute to the work of the East Midlands Development Corporation Interim Vehicle in implementing Year One deliverables included in the Business Plan. This includes developing a strategic masterplan/infrastructure plan and delivery strategy for the East Midlands Airport Area.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>Contribute to the work of the East Midlands Development Corporation Interim Vehicle in implementing Year One deliverables included in the Business Plan. This includes developing a strategic masterplan/infrastructure plan and delivery strategy for the East Midlands Airport Area.</p> <p>The Government published The Integrated Rail Plan (IRP) on 18th November 2021 which set out revised proposals for HS2 including a new high-speed line between Birmingham and East Midlands Parkway. This has necessitated reflection on the impact of the Business Plan and further discussions with Government regarding delivery and clarity on funding for the “Delivery Vehicle” which was included in the IRP publication.</p> <p>NWL has contributed information on sites to a commission funded by Homes England with the EM Dev Co to consider the opportunities and area of scope for the East Midlands Area which will help define the red line for developing a strategic masterplan. This will commence in January 2022 and completed by the end of the financial year.</p>
<p>Contribute to the establishment of the East Midlands Freeport with private sector businesses, other local authorities, and government.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>The Council has continued to contribute to the establishment of the East Midlands Freeport through the Board Attendance (Cabinet Portfolio holder supported by officers) and development of the Freeport full business case which will be submitted mid-February 2022. Work has continued to ensure no detriment to NWL finances through any changes to business rates required as part of the setting up of the Freeport.</p>


Support for businesses and helping people into local jobs

Performance Indicators

Match local people with skills and jobs – Support new and growing businesses to create jobs –
Help young people into work

Performance Indicator 2020-21	Actual	Target 21/22	Performance	Commentary
Support Inward Investment to the District	5 Businesses currently with one to join in Q4	5 large Businesses per year 1000 new jobs per year £1,000,000 of investment per year	★	<p>In Q3 the following inward investment clients went live:</p> <p>DHL/Caterpillar at SEGRO (creating an initial 50 jobs on site rising to 150).</p> <p>Amazon at SEGRO</p> <p>DHL/Mars at SEGRO (creating an initial 50 jobs on site rising to 550).</p> <p>DSV at Mercia Park (safeguarding around 150 jobs)</p> <p>John Lewis at Mount park (Creating an initial 200 jobs on site).</p> <p>Investor support work began with Arvato at SEGRO which will go live in Summer 2022 and will create an estimated 250 new jobs.</p>
Businesses supported to recover from the impacts of Covid-19	£4,190,000 in Restart Grants to 573 business.	<p>£500,000 of Restart Grant shared between up to 50 businesses.</p> <p>£250,000 of Growth Grant shared between up to 10 businesses</p>	★	<p>Since its launch North West Leicestershire District Council has award £4,190,000 in Restart Grants to 573 business.</p> <p>A further £3,648,800 has been paid in Additional Restrictions Grant awards to 402 local businesses. This includes:</p> <p>£21,000 to 21 businesses taking on vacant high street</p>

				property across the district and £850,000 Growth Grants to 22 business with high growth businesses creating new jobs during the pandemic.
Increase the number of jobs in the tourism sector in the District		2%		Evidenced by external statistics information and comparisons. *note - figure reduced by 59% from Dec 2019 due to Covid- 19. 2021 statistics are not available until June/July 2022
Increase annual Visitor spend		2%		Evidenced by external statistics information and comparisons. *note – figure reduced by 62% from Dec 2019 due to Covid-19. 2021 statistics are not available until June/July 2022
Increase the number of overnight stays in NWL year on year		2%		Evidenced by external statistics information and comparisons. *note – figure reduced by 63% from Dec 2019 due to Covid-19 2021 statistics are not available until June/July 2022
Work with schools / colleges and local businesses to improve employment skills / opportunities.	8 schools worked with across the district	Work with 5 schools per year across the district	★	Covid restrictions has limited the opportunity for collaborations with schools. However, in Q3, in collaboration with the Leicestershire Careers Hub virtual engagement sessions have been held with: Ashby School

				<p>Castle Donington College Forest Way School Ibstock Community College Ivanhoe College Castle Rock Stephenson College and The Newbridge School x 1</p> <p>In addition, working with the LLEP and the East Midlands Enterprise Gateway we have created two new careers videos to summarise the EMEG Area to encourage young people and adults to come and work across the site. These videos will be shared with career advisors and schools.</p> <p>A great place to work! The East Midlands Enterprise Gateway; information for adults - YouTube</p> <p>Careers at the East Midlands Enterprise Gateway for Young People - YouTube</p> <p>Finally, working alongside IM Properties and Winvic, Merica Park hosted a virtual ‘inspiring students into the world of construction’ session. 15 students from 11 schools attended.</p>
Support Market Town Businesses to respond to transformational opportunities	12 Digital Growth training sessions delivered 37 businesses accessed	Deliver 5 Digital Growth Training Sessions. Support 25 businesses to Access		Two cohorts comprising of 37 businesses have been taken through a 6-session digital training course, focussing on using Websites, Social Media, and Search Engines effectively

	Digital Growth training £19,000 of Digital Growth grants provided	Digital Growth Training. Provide £10,000 of Digital Growth Grants		to help market their business and improve online sales. 19 of these businesses also accessed our Digital Growth Grant of up to £1,000 following the training, to be put towards a digital improvement identified through the training.
% of construction materials used in the construction of the new Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre that are sourced in the local area.	36%	25%	★	Local sourcing of materials and supplies ranging from aggregate, brickwork, roofing material etc. been experienced thus far from the local market which is positive.
Local economic value to the local area as a result of the construction of the new Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre. (Target £2.2m)	£690k this quarter but £4.5m so far	£2.2m	★	These figures are a combination of spend in local shops, local hotels/B&B's/guesthouses etc as well as monies spent with material suppliers and local contractors/trades workers,

Developing a clean and green district

Our aims

Lead by example by delivering the council's Zero Carbon Roadmap's Action Plan and ambition to be zero carbon for its operations by 2030 – Reduce littering and fly tipping – Promote the work of the National Forest

Key tasks 2021/22	Quarter 3 Performance
<p>Increase recycling rates by at least 1% per annum through our Recycle more campaign.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>Data not available as the recycling rate for the district for 2021/22 will be confirmed by Defra in December 2022.</p>
<p>Support towns and villages to develop an identity associated with the National Forest open spaces.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>We have continued to work with the National Forest to develop the following initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heart of The Forest masterplan. A first draft has been circulated to partners for comment by the National Forest. Wider consultation was commenced in Q2 and concluded in Q3. The final report is anticipated in Q4. • Sustainable Tourism Accommodation design guide and Accelerator Programme was launched on 9 December. Work on this programme will continue in Q4 and throughout 2022/23.
<p>Review our employee travel and allowances to help deliver the Zero Carbon Roadmap.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>Negotiations are continuing with the Trade Unions.</p>
<p>Explore the setting up of a Carbon offset fund as part of the Local Planning process.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>We are currently awaiting advice from consultants and investigating the approach taken by other authorities</p>
<p>Develop a council wide strategy for more Electric Vehicle charging points on council car parks, housing land and corporate property land. Initial installations to be made at Lindon Way Depot to support electric vehicle trials</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>EV charging points are now in place in across 5 locations in the district (Ashby, Castle Donington, Thringstone, Whitwick, Coalville), with Margaret St, Coalville going live in October 2021. A Measham location is also being explored.</p> <p>Lindon Way installation is complete to support electric vehicles trials.</p> <p>Accommodation project team is aware of the requirement for EV charging at Whitwick Business Centre for fleet and discussions are underway.</p> <p>EV charging will also be installed at the new Leisure Centre in early 2022.</p> <p>Discussions are on-going with Housing teams to explore options on HRA land and contact has been made with Leics. County Council to register interest in their plans as they develop.</p>
<p>Develop a fleet management strategy to transition our fleet to a zero carbon/low</p>	<p>Having completed this action in Q3, officers are now engaged with the delivery of the</p>



<p>carbon solution by 2030 and start the first phase of procurement and purchase of vehicles.</p> <p>Achieved</p>	<p>action plan and meet regularly to manage the project. Procurement has commenced for refuse vehicles with tenders being reviewed in late January. Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) is to be procured by the end of January for our waste fleet and artwork for vehicles fuelled with HVO will be signed off in January.</p>
<p>Develop a property portfolio action plan and retrofit programme to make our assets fit for purpose and reduce our carbon footprint.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>Consultants have been appointed and are currently undertaking a review of our portfolio to establish current energy and carbon performance. The consultant has also identified a range of carbon and energy performance improvements that could be applied to each property. The next stage is to apply prioritisation and assess the quantum of benefit that can be achieved through the application of each of the identified improvements.</p>
<p>Develop and implement a new taskforce to tackle litter across the district by enhancing the work of volunteers and aligning with the work carried out by street cleansing.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>The 2-year zero litter campaign document was presented to Community Scrutiny on 24th November, and it received positive feedback. The final zero litter document was approved by Cabinet on 11 January 2022. The action plan will now be the focus of activity in Q4 and thereafter.</p>
<p>Deliver improvements to 56 of the least energy efficient Council tenant's homes through the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Phase 1B Programme, including the installation of additional insulation, air source heat pump systems, and photovoltaic electricity generation.</p> <p>Achieved</p>	<p>Works have been successfully completed to all 56 tenants' homes, using Council resources and Green Homes Grant Phase 1B external funding. Final account submissions made to the sponsoring Government agency (BEIS) and signed off successfully. Further award of an additional £150k of Green Homes Grant Phase 1B Extension grant funding was agreed in Q3, to deliver energy efficiency improvement works to a further 30 tenants' homes, with works to be completed by April 2022.</p>
<p>Reduce carbon emissions at the new Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre and Ashby Leisure Centre by 20% by 2024.</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>The council's leisure partner, Everyone Active, continues to reduce carbon emissions at Ashby Leisure Centre and Lido. Actions taken include.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The replacement of the Combined Heat and Power (CHP) unit with a Discount Energy Purchase (DEP) unit • The replacement of 2 lido pool pumps with lower energy units • The replacement of internal lighting with LED lamps • The reduction of pool temperatures by 0.5C • The installation of timers on car park and Astro-turf pitches <p>In addition, the use of plastics has been reduced through the removal of plastic overshoes and the replacement of plastic cups with compostable cups in vending machines, and users of the centre are encouraged to use</p>

	<p>forms of active travel to access the centre through the installation of bike racks, the displaying of bus timetables, and encouraging car sharing.</p> <p>At the new Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre – The new leisure centre will achieve a BREEAM Excellent rating that demonstrates a sustainability-focussed approach to the building and operating of the facility. The building incorporates a photovoltaic (PV) array mounted on the roof; EV charging bays in the carpark; energy-efficient LED lighting throughout and smart building controls via a state-of-the-art building management system (BMS). At the conclusion of 12 months from opening a review of the heating, cooling and electrical installations will be undertaken to ensure the building is operating efficiently, with any recommendations for improvement being taken forward accordingly.</p>
<p>Reduce vehicle emissions from licensed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles by encouraging taxi operators to move to vehicles that emit lower emissions (Euro 5).</p> <p>Achieved</p>	<p>Licensing policy requires all hackney carriage and private hire vehicles to be fitted with a euro 5 or 6 engine at the time of their licence renewal. A 15% discount on licence fees is offered to vehicles owners as an incentive. Monthly updates are provided to licence holders to encourage owners of vehicles with euro 4 engines to upgrade or replace.</p>


Developing a clean and green district - Performance indicators


Lead by example by delivering the council's Zero Carbon Roadmap's Action Plan and ambition to be zero carbon for its operations by 2030 – Reduce littering and fly tipping – Promote the work of the National Forest

Performance Indicator 2020-21	Actual	Target 21/22	Performance	Commentary
Number of trees delivered to the local community to increase the number of trees in the district's National Forest area	17,782	13,000	★	<p>17,782 trees were given away in November 2021 across North West Leicestershire.</p> <p>12,595 trees (both individual and part of the hedging scheme) were collected by residents within the National Forest boundary, meeting the</p>

				target agreed with the National Forest Company (NFC).
Percentage increase on yearly recycling rate by 1%		1%		Data is not available as the recycling rate for the district for 2021/22 will be confirmed by Defra in December 2022
Amount in kgs of household waste sent to landfill per house, per year	129.05kgs 96%	125kgs		The amount of non-recyclable waste sent to landfill, refuse derived fuel or energy from waste collected from each household during this quarter is 4.05.kg more than the target. However, this is expected as more non-recyclable waste is generated over the Christmas period as residents are provided with between 1 and 2 additional refuse collections in place of the garden waste collections which are suspended during this period.
% of the taxi vehicle fleet that are fitted with a Euro 5 engine or higher	96%	93%		193 of 201 licensed vehicles are fitted with a Euro 5 or 6 engine

Value for money performance indicators

Performance Indicator	Actual	Target 21/22	Performance	Commentary
Percentage of rent loss	1.24%	0.75%		As at the end of Quarter 3 the amount of rent loss due to properties being empty was £161,826.08 which is an improvement of £9,922.83 compared with the same period last year (£117,748.91). This is higher than target which is due a continuation of some covid restrictions on the number of operatives able to work in a

				property at the same time and greater time being given to incoming tenants to move in or view properties, especially those who were isolating due to covid.
Percentage of Council Tax Collected (in year target)	82.4%	96.7%		Latest figures available pertain to a cumulative figure as at December 2021- This is a cumulative Annual Measure
Percentage of National Non-Domestic Rates (in year target)	74.8%	99.20%		Latest figures available pertain to a cumulative figure as at December 2021- This is a cumulative Annual Measure
Number of days taken to process new claims	16.7 days	18.7 days		Latest figures available pertain to a cumulative figure as at December 2021- This is a cumulative Annual Measure
Percentage of rent collected from commercial tenants		98%		This is an Annual Measure
Percentage of commercial units occupied per annum		90%		This is an average figure presented annually in Q4
Amount of annual income achieved by the In-house Repairs Team	£1,250,000	£1,300,000		The financial extract could not be provided to Finance for this quarter due to issues with the new housing ICT system that went live during the last week of November 2021. However, the unverified estimated value of income is £1,250,000.

Finance

General Fund	Annual Budgeted Position	Q3 Annual Forecast Position	Forecast Variance	Movement from Q2
Budgeted Surplus/(Deficit)	£1,102,000	£142,000	(£960,000)	£0

The general fund forecast outturn had a number of favourable movements since the quarter two report, the most significant of which are:

- £212,000 fall in Property Service costs, which is largely due to reduced forecast spending on repairing the Council Offices in light of the accommodation project.
- £209,000 fall in Revenue and Benefits costs, which is the result of additional summons income (£54,000), lower contribution to the Partnership costs (£43,000) and lower spend on hardship payments (£108,000).
- £150,000 increase in the forecast planning fee income for the year.

There was also an adverse variance of £120,000, reflecting the estimated cost for building control work that is underway and predates the establishment of the shared service arrangement with Charnwood Borough Council.

The overall movement from the quarter 2 position is a favourable movement of £439,000. The J2SS savings target for 2021-22 have been reduced by this amount as a result, leaving £131,000 of savings to be found in the final quarter of the year.

Housing Revenue Account	Annual Budgeted Position	Q3 Annual Forecast Position	Forecast Variance	Movement from Q2
Budgeted Surplus/(Deficit)	£35,000	(£3,000)	(£38,000)	£81,000

The HRA forecast deficit of £3,000 is an £81,000 improvement on last quarter, which is the result of lower forecast spend following. This small fall is the result of the savings within departmental administration.

Special Expenses	Annual Budgeted Position	Q3 Annual Forecast Position	Forecast Variance	Movement from Q2
Budgeted Contribution to/(from) Reserves	(£113,000)	(£60,000)	£53,000	£29,000

The forecast contribution from special expenses reserves has reduced by £29,000 since quarter 2 as a result of reduced ongoing tree maintenance costs and increased burial fee income.

General Fund Capital Programme	Annual Budgeted Position	Q3 Annual Forecast Position	Forecast Variance	Movement from Q2
Budgeted Expenditure	£22.3 million	£16.8 million	(£5.5 million)	(£0.1 million)

Total spend on the general fund capital programme to quarter three was £11.6 million, which was mainly due to spend on the new leisure centre, at £11.0 million.

The forecast annual position has reduced by £0.1 million to £16.8 million, which is largely due to savings on Breedon on the Hill Gate (£27,000) and removing the inclusive toilet for Coalville Cemetery (£25,000) and demolition of the old market hall in Coalville (£75,000) from the programme.

Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme	Annual Budgeted Position	Q3 Annual Forecast Position	Forecast Variance	Movement from Q2
Budgeted Expenditure	£14.4 million	£6.6 million	(£7.8 million)	(£5.0 million)
<p>Total spend on the HRA Capital Programme to quarter three was £3.4 million, an increase of £1.0 million since the last quarter.</p> <p>The forecast position for the end of the year has fallen to £6.6 million. This is largely due to £3.1 million of the Home Improvement and £4.4 million of the New Supply Programmes being carried over into the next financial year.</p>				

Title of Report	FORMER TENANT RENT ARREARS, CURRENT TENANT RENT ARREARS, COUNCIL TAX, NON DOMESTIC RATES AND SUNDRY DEBTOR WRITE OFFS UNDERTAKEN IN FINANCIAL YEAR 2021/22	
Presented by	Councillor Nick Rushton Corporate Portfolio Holder	
Background Papers	All information used in compiling the report contain exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part 1 to Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972	Public Report: Yes
		Key Decision: Yes
Financial Implications	There is no additional financial effect as all the debts are met from the Authority's bad debt provision for previous years arrears or from in year income if the debts relate to the current financial year	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	None identified	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	None identified	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve write offs over £10,000 2. To advise cabinet of total annual write offs to date in accordance with agreed reporting guidance. 	
Reason for Decision	To comply with proper accounting practices.	
Recommendations	THAT CABINET <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. APPROVES THE NON-DOMESTIC RATES WRITE OFFS THAT ARE OVER £10,000 2. NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED WITHIN THE SUMMARY REPORT AS A TRUE REPRESENTATION OF WRITE OFFS UNDERTAKEN DURING 2021/22 TO DATE UNDER DELEGATED POWERS 	

1.0 WRITE OFFS

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to write off debts over £10,000

1.2 This report contains details of debts written off to date under delegated powers (under £10,000). Final details of overall write offs will be circulated annually.

- 1.3 Writing off debts is only considered where appropriate recovery and enforcement options have been taken, or, where the council are legally prohibited from pursuing the debt.

These include:

- Bankruptcy or a Debt Relief Order is in place;
- Deceased – No assets within the estate;
- Debtor Absconded / No Trace;
- Company in liquidation/dissolved or ceased trading with no assets;
- Severe hardship and/or serious health issues;

Statute barred i.e. we cannot legally pursue the debt as there has been six years since the debt fell due and no action has been taken to collect the debt; or

- Uneconomical to collect i.e. it is not financially viable to take further action for example due to the low level of the debt or they have gone abroad.

2.0 NON DOMESTIC RATES (NNDR)

- 2.1 There are 11 Non Domestic Rate debts over £10,000 for which Cabinet approval is sought amounting to £278,317.76.

Company	Financial Year	Status on Account	Amount to be Written Off
Limited Company	2019/20- £5,300.72 2020/21- £13,597.75 2020/22- £1,117.62	Absconded	£20,016.09
Limited Company	2019/20- £5,932.72 2020/21- £6,505.34 2021/22- £594.70	Absconded	£13,032.96
Limited Company	2019/20- £17,307.75 2020/21- £10,361.09	Company in Liquidation	£27,668.84
Sole Trader	Pre2016/17- £38,680.50 2016/17- £6,897.00 2017/18- £6,705.00 2018/19- £6,904.50 2019/20- £6,417.28	Uneconomical to pursue	£65,604.28
Limited Company	2019/20- £48,244.44	Company entered Administration on 29.01.2020	£48,244.44
Limited Company	2019/20- £10,148.50	Company entered Administration on 29.01.2020	£10,148.50
Limited Company	2019/20- £11,840.72	Company entered Administration on 29.01.2020	£11,840.72

Limited Company	Pre 2016/17- £11,869.82	Uneconomical to pursue	£11,869.82
Limited Company	2020/21- £17,920.70	Company entered into liquidation	£17,920.70
Sole Trader	Pre 2016/17- £11,750.04 2016/17- £271.34	Uneconomical to pursue	£12,021.38
Limited Company	2020/21- £35,461.26 2021/22- £4,488.77	Company entered Administration on 11.05.21.	£39,950.03
TOTAL			£278,317.76

2.2 For Business Rates, writing off debt is only ever considered as a last resort. In the above instances when companies, sole traders or partnerships become insolvent the Council is prohibited from taking any further action as all of their outstanding debts are included within the Administration, Liquidation or personal bankruptcy.

2.3 There are no write offs for consideration for any other fund that have a value of over £10,000.00.

3.0 SUMMARY OF WRITE OFFS TO DATE

3.1 For each Fund the total write offs completed are split into Cabinet approved (Over £10,000.00) and those written off under delegated powers (Under £10,000.00). Details of the original Bad Debt Provision and the value remaining at the end of the Financial Year are also stated.

The figures can be found below in 3.2 Write Offs Undertaken to date in Financial Year 2021/21.

3.2 Write offs Undertaken to date in Financial Year 2021/22

Fund	2021-22 Bad Debt Provision £	Cabinet Approved Write Offs £	Delegated Powers Write Offs £	Total Value of write Offs £	Bad Debt Provision Remaining £
Council Tax	3,784,364.81	0.00	279,163.32	279,163.32	3,505,201.49
National Non-Domestic Rates	1,512,671.71	0.00	69,740.99	69,740.99	1,442,930.72
Overpaid Housing Benefit	1,160,707.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,160,707.65
Housing Rent	1,112,085.05	0.00	13,771.89	13,771.89	1,098,313.16
Sundry Debtor Invoices	93,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	93,000

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	Value for Money
Policy Considerations:	Not applicable.
Safeguarding:	Not applicable.
Equalities/Diversity:	Not applicable.
Customer Impact:	Not applicable.
Economic and Social Impact:	Not applicable.
Environment and Climate Change:	Not applicable.
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Not applicable.
Risks:	Regular reviews of debts for write off mitigates the risk that the Council's accounts do not reflect the true level of recoverable income. It is also part of an effective arrears management strategy.
Officer Contact	Andy Gould Exchequer Services Team Leader andy.gould@nwleicestershire.gov.uk