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Meeting	<b>COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
Time/Day/Date	6.30 pm on Wednesday, 9 February 2022
Location	Council Chamber, Council Offices, Coalville
Officer to contact	Democratic Services (o1530 454512)

### AGENDA

Item	Pages
<b>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
<b>2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b>	
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.	
<b>3. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION</b>	
To receive questions from members of the public under rule no.10 of the Council Procedure Rules. The procedure rule provides that members of the public may ask any question on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties which affect the District, provided that three clear days' notice in writing has been given to the Head of Legal and Support Services.	
<b>4. MINUTES</b>	
To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2021.	<b>3 - 8</b>
<b>5. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME</b>	
To consider any items to be included in the work programme. The plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions and the current work programme are attached for information.	<b>9 - 22</b>
<b>6. FLOOD MANAGEMENT IN NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE</b>	
Report of the Head of Planning and Infrastructure	<b>23 - 30</b>
<b>7. EMPTY HOMES POLICY</b>	
Report of the Head of Community Services	<b>31 - 46</b>

<b>8.</b>	<b>NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH PLAN</b>	
	Report of the Head of Property and Economic Regeneration	<b>47 - 102</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>MARLBOROUGH SQUARE PUBLIC REALM</b>	
	Report of the Head of Property and Economic Regeneration	<b>103 - 114</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCRUTINY CROSS PARTY WORKING GROUP - SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMMING</b>	
	Report of the Strategic Director	<b>115 - 120</b>

Circulation:

Councillor J Houlton (Chairman)  
Councillor R L Morris (Deputy Chairman)  
Councillor C C Benfield  
Councillor A J Bridgen  
Councillor T Eynon  
Councillor J Geary  
Councillor M D Hay  
Councillor G Houlton  
Councillor J G Simmons  
Councillor M B Wyatt

MINUTES of a meeting of the COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Coalville on WEDNESDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2021

Present: Councillor J Hout (Chairman)

Councillors R L Morris, C C Benfield, A J Bridgen, T Eynon, J Geary, M D Hay, G Hout and J G Simmons

In Attendance: Councillors

Portfolio Holders: Councillors R Blunt and A C Woodman

Officers: Mr J Arnold, Mr C Colvin, Knight, Mr J Knight, Ms C Preston, Ms C Proudfoot, Mr P Sanders, Mrs M Scott, Walford, Mrs R Wallace, Miss E Warhurst and Mr P Wheatley

#### **16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M B Wyatt.

#### **17. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Councillor C Benfield declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8 – North West Leicestershire Cycling and Walking Draft Strategy as the Vice Chair of the Campaign to Re-Open the Ivanhoe Line.

#### **18. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

None.

#### **19. MINUTES**

Consideration was given to the minute of the meeting held on 26 October 2021.

In reference to minute number 15 – Draft Housing Strategy, it was noted that the action to circulate the questionnaires used during consultation had not been completed. The Democratic Service Officer would make the arrangements following the meeting.

It was moved by Councillor C Benfield, seconded by Councillor J Geary and

RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2021 be approved as a correct record.

#### **20. 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.

In response to a question, the Strategic Director confirmed that it was necessary for the Tourism Strategy to be considered by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee rather than the Community Scrutiny Committee due to reporting and decision timeframes.

A suggestion was put forward on behalf of Councillor M B Wyatt for an item regarding the social deprivation within the district. It was agreed to scope the item and consider going forward.

Reference was made to the 'Flood Management in North West Leicestershire' item scheduled for 9 February and the Strategic Director confirmed that suggestions made at the last committee had been put forward to officers. It was also agreed for the item duration to be amended from 15 minutes to 30 minutes, due to the nature of the discussion.

## **21. SHOP FRONT SCHEME UPDATE**

The Economic Development and Regeneration Team Manager presented the report to Members. The Leader of the Council also addressed the Committee and spoke in support.

Members spoke positively in relation to the scheme and felt that it had made a good impact on the town. However, a comment was made on the condition of the upstairs windows of some of the units and it was hoped that action could be taken to encourage all businesses to take pride in the whole unit, not just the initial shop front.

During discussion several questions were raised, and the following answers were provided:

- It was confirmed that all tenants who would benefit from the scheme were approached and there were some that declined the offer. All the tenants that applied to the scheme were successful.
- It was confirmed that there was a £50,000 cap on the grants available and none went above this.
- It was reported that there were several tenants and landlords with multiple units, and therefore benefited from multiple grants.
- It was confirmed that there was a clawback mechanism within the programme to reclaim the money granted in the event the business was sold and this had been used.

Following a request for further information, it was agreed for details of any repurposed funds from the scheme to be provided outside of the meeting.

In reference to the withdrawn grants listed within the report, the Economic Development and Regeneration Team Manager explained that the clawback mechanism did act as a deterrent for some as there was a risk for business owners if they needed to sell. He added that officers were looking at the flexibility of this mechanism going forward if the programme was to run again.

It was moved by Councillor J Geary, seconded by Councillor C Benfield and

**RESOLVED THAT:**

- 1) The progress of the Coalville Frontage Improvement Scheme to date be acknowledged.
- 2) Comments made by the Committee be considered as part of the final evaluation of the scheme and lessons to be incorporated into any similar programme.

## **22. ZERO LITTER STRATEGY**

The Head of Community Services presented the report to Members and the Community Services Portfolio Holder spoke in support. A presentation was also given by the Environmental Protection Team Manager and the Waste Services Team Manager.

The Portfolio Holder addressed the Committee and spoke in support of the proposals.

In reference to the trade waste fly tipping detailed within the report, a Member asked if officers had looked at recycling options for traders to assist with the problem. The Waste Services Team Manager confirmed that traders were currently offered collections for cardboard and glass recycling only, but officers were looking into other options for the future.

The level of fly tipping of trade waste was acknowledged, and it was suggested that the reason for this could be down to cheaper waste carriers who collected waste without a licence and then fly tipped to dispose of the waste whilst benefiting from the money received. It was felt that the fine was not high enough as the people who were running these illegal businesses made a lot of money and did not mind paying a fine when caught, therefore it was not a good enough deterrent.

Some concern was expressed in relation to the number of incidents of littering/fly tipping compared to the very few numbers of prosecutions. The Environmental Protection Team Manager explained that due to the more random and sporadic instances of fly tipping, it had become more difficult to establish an offender, however officers were working hard to go through each fly tip to enable prosecutions. It was noted that it was much more difficult to catch people for dog fouling as it relied on people coming forward with information, but prosecutions of this nature were possible if the evidence was available. In response to a request, it was agreed to look through historical records to ascertain if there had been any prosecutions for dog fouling in the past. It was suggested that officers use the Proceeds of Crimes Act, as other local authorities did, to reclaim the money collected rather than issuing a fine. The Environmental Protection Team Manager explained that it was a standard fine and therefore could not be changed, however, if evidence of organised crime was available then officers would prosecute. Members were informed that the Proceeds of Crime Act had been used successfully in the past for planning enforcement, so it would be used if the case allowed. It was requested that this additional information be included within the strategy. The Head of Community Services agreed to include the information within the action plan.

A discussion was had on the use of cameras as a deterrent for fly tipping and officers confirmed that funding had been received for more cameras around the district. Although success had already been achieved, officers were looking at more high-end options to assist, including rapid deployment cameras, to be purchased before the end of this financial year.

A discussion was had in relation to litter picking incentives and the deposit scheme promised by central government. A suggestion was made to lobby central government on the matter. The Head of Community Services confirmed that it was being monitored and officers were waiting for the scheme to be rolled out by central government. The Portfolio Holder reported that he had made inquiries on the matter to central government, and it had been predicted that implementation would be in 2024.

In response to a question from a Member, it was confirmed that any evidence presented by Councillors or the public could be used for prosecution purposes, so he urged all to report incidents if they were able to.

It was moved by Councillor C Benfield, seconded by Councillor J Geary and

RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) The update on dog fouling, littering and fly tipping work be noted.
- 2) Comments made by the committee be presented to Cabinet when it considers the strategy in January.

## **23. NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE CYCLING AND WALKING DRAFT STRATEGY**

The Head of Community Services addressed the Committee and introduced Paul Barret and Chris McFarlane from KKP Consultants who had been working with the authority to develop the strategy.

The Portfolio Holder addressed the Committee and spoke in support of the proposals. The report was then presented by the Leisure Services Team Manager and a presentation was given by the consultants outlining the draft strategy.

Members were very much in support of outdoor activity and what the strategy was trying to achieve, however the general opinion was that it was a very lengthy document full of lots of technical terms which they found difficult to read. There were also several inaccuracies throughout the document, and it was suggested that an officer meet with Councillor D Bigby to help identify these as he had noted them. The other general comment made was that the timeframe of 10 years was too long, Members wanted to see more ambition and action sooner.

Members were pleased to see the reference to the reopening of the Ivanhoe line and the link to the LMS line. Members were also pleased to see the proposed walking route through Scotlands Yard Playing Fields, as the current route was no longer accessible due to fencing installed by Network Rail.

In relation to the proposed traffic calming measures through the centre of Ashby, a Member questioned the needs as traffic was already slow due to the amount travelling through. Concerns were also raised about the added air pollution for people on foot if traffic was slowed down further. It was confirmed that this suggestion had come from the Town Council to make walkers and cyclist feel safer.

The Leisure Services Team Manager reported that the Members had in front of them an overarching strategy document to set the scene which would be refined and clarified as it developed. Members were informed that more information would become available once the Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan was developed, the draft strategy was the first step required in the process. In relation to the next steps, it was noted that the strategy was asking for a significant cultural and behavioural change across the district and was also dependant on funding, all of which out of officers control. However, once areas were prioritised then improvements would be made as quickly as possible.

Officers agreed to look at clarifying several details within the strategy including population and housing numbers, confidence levels, HS2, PCT assumptions and other ambitious figures presented.

Following further discussion on the technical nature of the document, the concerns were noted by officers, and it was agreed that a more user-friendly version be produced similar to what was produced for the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Members were thanked for their contributions as part of the consultation on the draft strategy.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.13 pm

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**Community Scrutiny Committee – WORK PROGRAMME (as at 01/02/22)**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>	<b>Agenda Item Duration</b>
<b>6 April 2022</b>				
6 April 2022	Linden Way, Coalville – Highway Extension	Paul Wheatley, Head of Property and Regeneration	-	15 minutes
<b>29 June 2022</b>				
29 June 2022	Planning Enforcement (Effectiveness)	Chris Elston, Head of Planning and Infrastructure	-	15 Minutes

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**Requests for Items**

<b>Date request Received</b>	<b>Requested by</b>	<b>Summary of request</b>	<b>Consideration by scrutiny Y/N</b>	<b>Reasons</b>
None at present				

## **Principles and Criteria used for Assessing Items Put Forward**

### **Identify** Issues for consideration by Scrutiny

- Consulting with members of Scrutiny Committees, senior officers, Cabinet members – horizon scanning on policy development
- Looking at the corporate priorities, Council Delivery Plan and Cabinet Forward plan – identify key issues/topics for investigation/inquiry
- Considering events and decisions in the Council's calendar which could require an input/consultation via scrutiny – eg budget setting, CDP development
- Considering requests from members – eg via another forum or scoping report submitted
- Evaluating the Council's performance – eg quarterly reports, end of year reports, reviewing success of a particular scheme or initiative
- Reviewing any follow up work required after previous scrutiny work

### **Prioritise** the potential list of scrutiny topics based on factors including

- the resources required to deliver it (from members, offices and financially)
- the value and level of impact which could be achieved
- link to the council's priorities
- whether it is a regular recurring item which requires consideration before Cabinet/Council approval
- consideration of the guidance for selecting scrutiny topics

Topics <b>are</b> suitable for Scrutiny when	Topics <b>are not</b> suitable for Scrutiny when
Scrutiny could have an impact and add value	The issue is already being addressed elsewhere and change is imminent
The topic is of high local importance and reflects the concerns of local people	The topic would be better addressed elsewhere (and will be referred there)
The resources are available that would be required to conduct the review – staff and budget	Scrutiny involvement would have limited or no impact on outcomes
It avoids duplication of work elsewhere	The topic would be sub-judice or prejudicial to the councils interests
The issues is one that the committee can realistically influence	The topic is too broad to make a review realistic
The issue is related to an area where the council or one of its partners is not performing well	New legislation or guidance relating to the topic is expected in the next year

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Please note that work is currently underway on the scrutiny work programming process and proposals will be considered by the Scrutiny Cross Party Working Group and both Scrutiny Committees in due course.

**Forward Plan Scoping Actions – Community Scrutiny Committee (as at 26.1.22)**

Item	Date requested	How requested	Who requested	Scoping Form Y/N	Officer responsible	Key Stakeholders	Task & Finish Group Y/N	Chair Agreed Y/N	Meeting scheduled
<b>Environmental Enforcement</b>	23 Oct 19	Committee	Cllr Wyatt	No	Clare Proudfoot/ Paul Sanders	LCC, Environment Agency	No	-	TBC
<b>Status:</b>									
Officers to scope with Councillor Wyatt.									

**Items raised at previous meetings to be considered in accordance with the new work programming process in due course:**

- Covid-19 and the Impact on the Community
- An anti-social behaviour update
- How the Development Corporation was affecting the Community
- Social Deprivation within the District

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# Notice of Executive Key Decisions

The attached notice lists the matters which are likely to be the subject of a key decision by the Council's executive and executive decision making bodies. This notice is produced in accordance with the Constitution adopted by North West Leicestershire District Council and will be published a minimum of 28 days before the date on which a key decision is to be made on behalf of the Council.

The date of publication of this notice is Friday, 28 January 2022. The Deadline for making any representations as to why items marked as private should be considered in public by **Cabinet on 1 March 2022 is 5pm Friday, 18 February 2022.**

## Key Decisions

A key decision means a decision taken by the Cabinet, a committee of the Cabinet, an area or joint committee or an individual in connection with the discharge of a function which is the responsibility of the executive and which is likely:

- (a) to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the Council;
- (c) for the purposes of (a) and (b) above £100,000 shall be regarded as significant in terms of expenditure or savings, and any issue which, in the opinion of the Leader is likely to have an impact on people, shall be regarded as significant in terms of impact on communities.

## The Council's Executive

The Council's executive committee is the Cabinet. The Cabinet comprises:

Councillor R Blunt	-	Leader	Councillor A Woodman	-	Community Services
Councillor R Ashman	-	Deputy Leader and Infrastructure	Councillor N J Rushton	-	Corporate
Councillor T Gillard	-	Business and Regeneration	Councillor R D Bayliss	-	Housing, Property & Customer Services
Councillor K Merrie MBE	-	Planning			

## Confidential Items and Private Meetings of the Executive

Whilst the majority of the Cabinet's business at the meetings listed in this notice will be open to the public and media organisations to attend, there will inevitably be some business to be considered that contains, for example, confidential, commercially sensitive or personal information. This is a formal notice under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 that part of the Cabinet meetings listed in this Forward Plan may be held in private because the agenda and reports for the meeting contain exempt information under Part 1 Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. Those Items where it is considered that they should be considered in private are identified on the Notice.

## Access to Agenda and Related Documents

Documents relating to the matters listed in this notice are available at least 5 clear working days prior to the date of decision as indicated below. Other documents relevant to the matters listed in this notice may be submitted to the decision maker.

If you wish to request or submit a document, or make representation in relation to any issue contained within this notice, please contact Democratic Services on telephone number 01530 454512 or by emailing [memberservices@nwleicestershire.gov.uk](mailto:memberservices@nwleicestershire.gov.uk)

## Executive Decisions

Decision	Decision Maker	Status of Decision	Public or Private  (and reason – where private)	Date of Decision	Contacts	Documents to be submitted to the Decision Maker	Considered by Scrutiny or other Committee
<b>Additional Cabinet - 15 February 2022</b>							
Marlborough Square Public Realm	Cabinet	Key	Public	15 February 2022	Councillor Richard Blunt Tel: 01530 454510 richard.blunt@nwleicester-shire.gov.uk  Head of Property and Regeneration Tel: 01530 454 354 paul.wheatley@nwleicester-shire.gov.uk	Report and appendices Marlborough Square Public Realm	To be considered at Scrutiny on 26th October 2021
Freeport - Business Rate Process	Cabinet	Key	Private Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	15 February 2022	Councillor Robert Ashman Tel: 01283 561700 robert.ashman@nwleicester-shire.gov.uk  Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454 707 dan.bates@nwleicester-shire.gov.uk	Freeport - Business Rate Process	Due to the timings of a decision being required and the information available, there is not time to take it to Scrutiny.
<b>1 March 2022</b>							



Decision	Decision Maker	Status of Decision	Public or Private  (and reason – where private)	Date of Decision	Contacts	Documents to be submitted to the Decision Maker	Considered by Scrutiny or other Committee
<p>Housing Revenue Account Disposal and Acquisition Update</p> <p>17</p>	Cabinet	Key	<p>Part Private Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) The report proposes to dispose of properties on the open market and provides independent estimations of the potential value of the property. This information is considered to be commercially sensitive at this stage of the process and is contained in the appendix.</p>	1 March 2022	<p>Councillor Roger Bayliss Tel: 01530 411055 roger.bayliss@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Housing Asset Management Team Manager</p> <p>jas.singh@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Disposal Policy approved by Cabinet on 21 September 2021 Housing Revenue Account Disposal and Acquisition Update</p>	Decision being sought under approved Disposal Policy
Kegworth Public Realm Project	Cabinet	Key	Public	1 March 2022	<p>Councillor Tony Gillard Tel: 01530 452930 tony.gillard@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Economic Development Officer Tel: 01530 454678 emily.marquez@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>	Report Kegworth Public Relam Project	To be confirmed

Decision	Decision Maker	Status of Decision	Public or Private (and reason – where private)	Date of Decision	Contacts	Documents to be submitted to the Decision Maker	Considered by Scrutiny or other Committee
Public Spaces Protection Order - Ashby De La Zouch	Cabinet	Key	Public	1 March 2022	Councillor Andrew Woodman Tel: 07970 520357 andrew.woodman@nwleicester.gov.uk  Community Safety Team Leader  paul.collett@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report and draft order as appendix. Public Spaces Protection Order - Ashby De La Zouch	Not to be considered by scrutiny committee as has been through public consultation.
Covid Recovery Support Contract for Home Improvement Work 18	Cabinet	Key	Public	1 March 2022	Councillor Roger Bayliss Tel: 01530 411055 roger.bayliss@nwleicestershire.gov.uk  Housing Commercial Services Manager  richard.james@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Report seeking delegated authority to award a Covid Recovery Support Contract for Home Improvement Work. Covid Recovery Support Contract for Home Improvement Work	Due to the timelines of the decision being made, it is going direct to Cabinet.
<b>29 March 2022</b>							
2021/22 Quarter 3 Performance Report	Cabinet	Key	Public	29 March 2022	Councillor Richard Blunt Tel: 01530 454510 richard.blunt@nwleicestershire.gov.uk  Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development Tel: 01530 454518 mike.murphy@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	2021/22 Quarter 3 Performance Report	Corporate Scrutiny Committee - 9 March 2022

Decision	Decision Maker	Status of Decision	Public or Private  (and reason – where private)	Date of Decision	Contacts	Documents to be submitted to the Decision Maker	Considered by Scrutiny or other Committee
Former Tenant Rent Arrears, Current Tenant Rent Arrears, Council Tax, Non Domestic Rates and Sundry Debtor Write Offs	Cabinet	Key	Public	29 March 2022	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk  Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454 707 dan.bates@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Former Tenant Rent Arrears, Current Tenant Rent Arrears, Council Tax, Non Domestic Rates and Sundry Debtor Write Offs  Former Tenant Rent Arrears, Current Tenant Rent Arrears, Council Tax, Non Domestic Rates and Sundry Debtor Write Offs	Not to be considered by a Scrutiny Committee. Under the constitution Cabinet are required to approve write-offs over £10,000.
Empty Homes Policy  16	Cabinet	Key	Public Information relating to any individual. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	29 March 2022	Councillor Andrew Woodman Tel: 07970 520357 andrew.woodman@nwleicestershire.gov.uk  Head of Community Services Tel: 01530 454832 paul.sanders@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Empty Properties	To be considered by Community Scrutiny - 9 Feb 2022
North West Leicestershire Economic Growth Plan 2022	Cabinet	Key	Public	29 March 2022	Councillor Tony Gillard Tel: 01530 452930 tony.gillard@nwleicestershire.gov.uk  Head of Property and Regeneration Tel: 01530 454 354 paul.wheatley@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	North West Leicestershire Economic Growth Plan 2022	To be considered by Community Scrutiny Committee 9 February 2022.

April 2022

Decision	Decision Maker	Status of Decision	Public or Private  (and reason – where private)	Date of Decision	Contacts	Documents to be submitted to the Decision Maker	Considered by Scrutiny or other Committee
There are no items to be considered.							
<b>June 2022</b>							
Treasury Management Stewardship Report 2021/22	Cabinet	Key	Public	7 June 2022	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk  Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454 707 dan.bates@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Treasury Management Stewardship Report 2021/22	Audit and Governance Committee - 20 April 2022
Former Tenant Rent Arrears, Current Tenant Rent Arrears, Council Tax, Non Domestic Rates and Sundry Debtor Write Offs	Cabinet	Key	Public	7 June 2022	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Tel: 01530 412059 nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk  Head of Finance Tel: 01530 454 707 dan.bates@nwleicestershire.gov.uk	Former Tenant Rent Arrears, Current Tenant Rent Arrears, Council Tax, Non Domestic Rates and Sundry Debtor Write Offs  Former Tenant Rent Arrears, Current Tenant Rent Arrears, Council Tax, Non Domestic Rates and Sundry Debtor Write Offs	Not to be considered by a Scrutiny Committee. Under the constitution Cabinet are required to approve write-offs over £10,000.

Decision	Decision Maker	Status of Decision	Public or Private (and reason – where private)	Date of Decision	Contacts	Documents to be submitted to the Decision Maker	Considered by Scrutiny or other Committee
Minutes of the Coalville Special Expenses Working Party	Cabinet	Key	Public	7 June 2022	<p>Councillor Andrew Woodman Tel: 07970 520357 andrew.woodman@nwleicester.gov.uk</p> <p>Head of Community Services Tel: 01530 454832 paul.sanders@nwleicester.gov.uk</p>	Minutes of the Coalville Special Expenses Working Party	Coalville Special Expenses Working Party - 27 April 2022
Empty Homes Compulsory Purchase Orders  21	Cabinet	Key	Private Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	7 June 2022	<p>Councillor Andrew Woodman Tel: 07970 520357 andrew.woodman@nwleicester.gov.uk</p> <p>Environmental Protection Team Manager Tel: 01530 454564 clare.proudfoot@nwleicester.gov.uk</p>	Empty Homes Compulsory Purchase Orders	Not being considered by Scrutiny as decision being sought under approved Empty Homes Policy

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## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY, 10  
FEBRUARY 2021

<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>FLOOD MANAGEMENT IN NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE</b>	
<b>Presented by</b>	Chris Elston Head of Planning and Infrastructure  Mike Murphy Head of HR and OD (Emergency Planning lead)	
<b>Background Papers</b>	Leicestershire County Council Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee - January 2021 <a href="http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1044&amp;MID=6392">http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1044&amp;MID=6392</a>	<b>Public Report:</b> Yes
<b>Financial Implications</b>	Detailed in the Section 3 of the report below. <b>Signed off by the Section 151 Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Legal Implications</b>	None <b>Signed off by the Monitoring Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Staffing and Corporate Implications</b>	The Council has emergency 24/7 on-call arrangements and procedures in place to deal with flooding incidents <b>Signed off by the Head of Paid Service:</b> Yes	
<b>Reason Agenda Item Submitted to Scrutiny Committee</b>	This report was requested by the Community Scrutiny Committee to consider the continuing problems with sewage, surface water and flooding in North West Leicestershire.	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>THAT SCUTINY:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>CONSIDER AND COMMENT ON THIS REPORT ON FLOOD MANAGEMENT IN NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE</b></li> <li>2. <b>NOTE THE INTENTION TO BRING AN ANNUAL DISTRICT FLOOD MANAGEMENT REPORT, TO INCLUDE AN UPDATE ON PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES.</b></li> <li>3. <b>NOTE THE INTRODCUTION OF THE NEW COUNTY WIDE FLOOD REPORTING SYSTEM BY LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL</b></li> </ol>	

**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The reason for suggesting this topic for consideration by the Community Scrutiny Committee was because Members have raised concerns that there are a number of sites in the District that suffer from ongoing problems with flooding. They are aware

that the responsibility for flood management is distributed across a number of authorities including Leicestershire County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), Severn Trent Water (STW) as responsible for sewage, landowners having riparian rights. The Council is responsible as the Planning Authority and as the source of immediate help in their emergency planning role. Members are concerned that there is a risk of responsibility falling between agencies and there is community concern and a lack of faith in the institutional response.

1.2 The following examples have been provided to support the concerns stated above:

- An area under the Tamworth road rail bridge floods whenever there is heavy rain and blocks the road into Ashby from the A42 junction 12.
- There is regular flooding at Moira are Measham Road, where local knowledge on poor drainage was not taken proper account of, and Bath Lane, where planning did not identify necessary infrastructure improvements when permissions were granted for Via Devana and other, smaller developments in the locality.
- Residents near Hemington/Lockington blame the SEGRO development for increased flooding over recent years.
- Problems with flooding in Hugglescote are attributed locally to an overwhelmed Victorian sewage system.

## **2. THE EXTENT OF NWLDC's RESPONSIBILITY FOR FLOODING**

2.1 The Council has two areas of responsibility for flooding, as Local Planning Authority and in emergency planning resulting from major flooding incidents.

2.2 In relation to the Councils role as Local Planning Authority, the adopted North West Leicestershire Local Plan was informed by a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) which identifies those areas most at risk of flooding in the district and, amongst other things, outlined a range of mitigation measures that can be employed to reduce the risk of flooding from new development. These mitigation measures can be taken into account when determining planning applications where potential flooding issues have been highlighted. Policy Cc2 in the Local Plan deals with flood risk and details how proposals will be supported. In addition, Policy Cc3 requires that sustainable drainage systems be incorporated into new developments

2.3 The Local Plan is currently being reviewed. The SFRA is currently considered to be up-to-date, but this will be kept under review. It will be used to inform the identification of potential development sites to be allocated as part of the Local Plan review.

2.4 A key piece of evidence to support the review will be an Infrastructure Delivery Plan. This will identify the different types of infrastructure required to support planned development across the district. It will also identify the potential cost of such infrastructure and how they might be funded, including via developer contributions.

2.5 When dealing with planning applications, due consideration needs to be given to flood risk and surface water disposal as material planning considerations. As a result, the Council will consult with both STW and the LLFA as our statutory advisors on flooding matters, in particular on major planning applications but also on more minor applications where a flooding concern has been raised locally. Officers do rely on the comments and responses received from STW and the LLFA to inform the recommendations they make on planning applications in respect of flooding matters. However, officers are prepared to challenge the responses provided when further information from any local



consultation is received to ensure that the final advice has fully considers all matters raised by local residents.

### **3. EMERGENCY PLANNING AND RECENT GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL GRANT SCHEMES FOR RESIDENTS.**

- 3.1 The Council has a responsibility under the Civil Contingencies act as a Category 1 responder to support residents and its communities during civil emergencies, which includes significant flood events. This includes working with wider partners at the County Council, Severn Trent, blue light services, Environment Agency etc often through the local resilience partnership arrangements and structures. While there is a responsibility to provide emergency support to people who are the victims of flooding there is a clear responsibility for householders who may live in flood risk areas to take preventative measures and make arrangements to minimise the possibility of damage to their properties. The Council has helped in previous flood events through the provision of sandbags through collection arrangements at the Linford Way depot (which have been more complicated during the COVID pandemic due to pressures on the workforce and restrictions around COVID safe working). The efficacy of sandbags is limited in severe flooding situations due to the need to rapidly deploy the protection, and depending on the nature of the flood risk, but there is no question that they have provided a level of protection in certain circumstances where we have issued these to individual householders during a number of flood events during the past few years.
- 3.2 In an effort to provide a level of flooding protection to those areas in the district most at risk, the Council made contact with a number of Parish Councils in 2021 and put in place local stocks of gel bags (a lighter more easily stored version of a sandbag). These stocks are now in place at the following parish council areas – Appleby Magna, Breedon, Castle Donington, Kegworth, Lockington cum Hemington, Long Whatton and Diseworth, Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe and Acresford and Whitwick. Those that have been provided with gel bags are being monitored and a stock review is taken annually (in September) in conjunction with the town and parish councils.
- 3.3 Throughout the district, the NWLDC Resilience Officer along with the Community Focus team has identified communities at risk and encouraged a community resilience plan in conjunction with the Local Resilience Forum. This document includes flooding measure as well as other extreme events. The communities that currently have resilience plans are; Castle Donington, Coleorton, Donisthorpe, Measham, Kegworth, Long Whatton, Lockington & Hemington, Ashby de la Zouch, Diseworth, Breedon on the Hill, Sawley Marina and Appleby Magna. In 2022/23 the plan will be to encourage more community resilience plans and to make sure existing plans are reviewed so they are up to date and relevant.
- 3.4 The County Council through the LLFA and resilience partnership co-ordinated a series of meetings involving all partner organisations involved in flood management during 2021 to seek to put in arrangements to ensure more effective co-ordination between partners during periods of severe weather (particularly flooding). One area identified for improvements was the logging of flood report problems in a central location to enable a more targeted response by the right agency. A shared database location has now been established using the County Council sharepoint site, which should become operational in the coming months.
- 3.5 This Council has also engaged with government departments to access funding for households to help those people who were impacted by the storm events Ciara (November 2019) and Dennis (February 2020). The Council was eligible to apply for funding for the two specific storm events which involved two types of grant.

One of the grants was administered by MHCLG (now DLUHC) the “Community recovery grant” which was a one-off grant of £500 to help those whose residential properties had been affected by flooding. This Council administered and publicised this scheme throughout the early COVID pandemic and the following number of payments were made.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Property numbers</b>
Appleby	
Magna	5
Ashby	1
Breedon	
on the Hill	4
Cavendish	
Bridge	5
Diseworth	6
Long	
Whatton	12
Moira	1
Oakthorpe	1
Tonge	1
Wilson	1
Sawley	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>38</b>

- 3.6 The second grants scheme which applied to households affected by Dennis and Ciara was administered through DEFRA – the “Property Flood Resilience Scheme” which provides for a grant of up to £5,000 per household to put in place measures with the aim of reducing the risk of future flooding and/or minimising the effects of future flooding. The conditions relating to the Property flood resilience scheme required householders to seek professional advice on the best measures to provide future flood resilience. The administrators of the scheme in this Council received excellent professional support from the County Council’s LLFA (see paragraph 4 of this report) on a number of the individual flood applications where expert advice or a wider view of the flooding situation and measures in the vicinity of a particular property was needed.

The following table shows the amounts allocated to households by area to date through the Property flood resilience scheme.

Area	Sum of Amount of PFR November Scheme (Ciara)	Sum of Amount of PFR for February Scheme (Dennis)	Total
Appleby Magna	£10,420.00	£2,218.51	£12,638.51
Breedon on the Hill		£20,552.28	£20,552.28
Cavendish Bridge	£8,231.60	£9,756.00	£17,987.60
Diseworth	£10,767.00	£8,218.00	£18,985.00
Long Whatton	£33,157.52	£9,968.00	£43,125.52
Moiria		£4,900.00	£4,900.00
Oakthorpe	£3,257.87		£3,257.87
Sawley		£1,146.00	£1,146.00
Grand Total	£65,833.99	£56,758.79	<b>£122,592.78</b>

3.7 The combined impact of the two government funded schemes administered by this Council has been to assist householders living in some of our most vulnerable residential properties to put in place measures to minimise the future impacts of flooding. The funding schemes for the Dennis and Ciara storm events will be coming to a close during 2022 – both schemes have been extended to allow householders more time to apply given the limitations caused by the pandemic. It should also be noted that householders were also able to claim Council Tax relief from the Council for the duration of the period their properties were uninhabitable.

#### 4. THE ROLE OF THE LLFA IN FLOODING

4.1 The LLFA are required to lead in managing local flood risks (i.e. risks of flooding from surface water, ground water and ordinary (smaller) watercourses) across the county of Leicestershire. Their duties include investigating major flooding incidents, regulating activities on ordinary watercourses and acting as a statutory consultee for planning. Their role includes ensuring cooperation between Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) in their area. RMA's are organisations who have a responsibility for water management and therefore flooding. Such organisations include Severn Trent Water, Anglian Water, the Environment Agency, District Councils, Internal Drainage Boards, Highways England and the Local Highway Authority.

4.2 The LLFA has a statutory responsibility to publish a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. The current version of this Strategy was agreed by the Cabinet on 11 September 2015 and provides a framework to enable the LLFA to lead and co-ordinate flood risk management across Leicestershire. It is currently being reviewed and will be the subject of consultation in due course.

In practice, the County Council as the LLFA will:

- Investigate instances of flooding where one of the thresholds has been met: loss of life or serious injury; critical infrastructure flooded or nearly flooded from unknown or multiple sources; internal property flooding from unknown or multiple sources.
- Identify the RMA's who may have a role in a specific flooding incident.
- Co-ordinate and work with those RMA's to identify potential solutions.
- Encourage the responsible RMA's to implement that solution.

4.3 The LLFA have limited powers under the Land Drainage Act 1991 to regulate ordinary watercourses (outside of internal drainage districts) to maintain a proper flow by:

- issuing consents for altering, removing or replacing certain structures or features on ordinary watercourses; and
- enforcing obligations to maintain flow in a watercourse and repair watercourses, bridges and other structures in a watercourse.

Importantly, the LLFA does not have responsibility or powers to: a. implement a solution to a flooding incident; or b. make other RMA's implement a solution; or c. maintain ordinary watercourses.

4.4 Leicestershire County Council set up a Flooding Scrutiny Review Panel to consider the role of the Council as LLFA and their findings were reported to the meeting of the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2021. The Panel made 25 recommendations which can be viewed along with the report to the January 2021 Scrutiny Committee on the link above in the background papers. These recommendations are currently being reviewed as part of LCC's annual update on progress which will be published in due course.

## 5. THE ROLE OF SEVERN TRENT WATER IN FLOODING

5.1 Severn Trent Water is responsible for managing flood risk from sewers. Severn Trent are a statutory sewerage undertaker, and their duties and responsibilities associated with the provision, maintenance and management of the sewerage network are defined within the Water Industry Act 1991. They also have flood risk management duties and responsibilities associated with managing flood risk from sewers and also working with other RMA's. These are detailed in the Flood and Water Management Act 2020.

5.2 Severn Trent is responsible for managing approximately 90,000km of sewers in the Severn Trent operating area. This area covers 28 Lead Local Flood Authorities and over 70 Local Planning Authorities.

5.3 Flooding from sewers can occur because of defects or blockages in the sewerage network. Sewer flooding can also occur during periods of intense or prolonged heavy rain when surface water runoff from the urban area can exceed the capacity of the sewer system. Severn Trent work to reduce instances of sewer flooding as much as possible. Further details can be found in the links below on the Severn Trent web site in response to "How flooding pollution, particularly sewerage is dealt with?"

- Our customers can contact us by various means: <https://www.stwater.co.uk/help-and-contact/contact-us/> or if they prefer just by the normal emergency contact number - 0800 783 4444 (24/7).

- Here is what to do guide if you experience sewer flooding  
<https://www.stwater.co.uk/my-supply/waste-water/sewer-flooding/>
- Our handy guide which has lots of information about sewer flooding  
<https://www.stwater.co.uk/content/dam/stw/my-water/document/your-guide-to-sewer-flooding.pdf>
- Also a link to our website where we outline the flooding responsibilities in a visual. Might be helpful for your constituents. Link <https://www.stwater.co.uk/in-my-area/flooding/>

5.4 Severn Trent are currently developing a scheme to improve the sewer capacity in the vicinity of Hugglescote, such that it can accommodate the new development proposed between Coalville and Hugglescote (south east Coalville). Current indications (subject to approvals and final cost benefit) are that scheme is aimed be completed by Autumn 2024 and the preferred option is a new 600/900mm diameter Sewer extending the 600m sewer that flows from the new development to Station Road, and associated upsizing of the downstream SPS. Members are advised that this proposal is not fixed in stone and that assessments are ongoing to ensure they are delivering the right solution.

5.5 The other scheme of note that impacts on Coalville alongside the network improvements detailed above in paragraph 4.4, is their AMP7 scheme at Snarrows Waste Water Treatment Works (WwTW), the solution for which will include the transfer of treated effluent to the River Trent, (excluding a small amount of treated effluent that will continue to discharge to the Grace Dieu Brook to maintain its ecological health). This should enable Severn Trent to accommodate the proposed growth in Coalville, whereas the current WwTW arrangement is constrained by the environmental capacity of the Grace Dieu Brook and unable to receive increased flows above the current permitted daily volume, even when treated to the highest standard feasible through current best available technology, without deterioration of river water quality.

## 6. THE ROLE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

6.1 The Environment Agency is responsible for taking a strategic overview of the management of all sources of flooding and coastal erosion. This includes, for example, setting the direction for managing the risks through strategic plans; providing evidence and advice to inform Government policy and support others; working collaboratively to support the development of risk management skills and capacity; and providing a framework to support local delivery. The Agency also has operational responsibility for managing the risk of flooding from main rivers, reservoirs, estuaries and the sea, as well as being a coastal erosion risk management authority. As part of its strategic overview role, the Environment Agency has published a [National Flood and Coastal Risk Management Strategy for England](#). The strategy provides a lot more information designed to ensure that the roles of all those involved in managing risk are clearly defined and understood.

6.2 The Environment Agency's web site provides information on how to prepare for flooding. In addition, "Flood Risk Maps for Surface Water in England – December 2019" shows the number of inhabitants that could be affected by flooding from surface water in each flood risk area and the potential impact on the services they use.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 This report identifies the different roles that the key organisations have to play in relation to flooding matters in North West Leicestershire. It also identifies the mechanisms that

have been put in place to support our communities working closely with the LLFA and resilience partners.

- 7.2 Information received from partners and residents on future flooding incidents will be co-ordinated on the LCC sharepoint data base which will identify where flooding is happening, record new flooding incidents and will enable the most suitable organisation to respond and deal with the incident, whether that be the Council, LLFA, Severn Trent Water or the Environment Agency.
- 7.3 Officers will now be in a position to present an annual report to the Community Scrutiny Committee on flood management from a district wide perspective and updating on the work that has been carried out with our key LRF partners working closely with our communities.

<b>Policies and other considerations, as appropriate</b>	
Council Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting Coalville to be a more vibrant, family-friendly town</li> <li>- Support for businesses and helping people into local jobs</li> <li>- Developing a clean and green district</li> <li>- Local people live in high quality, affordable homes</li> <li>- Our communities are safe, healthy and connected</li> </ul>
Policy Considerations:	Local Plan Policies Cc2 and Cc3 deal with flood risk and sustainable drainage systems.
Safeguarding:	None identified.
Equalities/Diversity:	The Council and partner agencies have list of vulnerable individuals in our communities.
Customer Impact:	Information received from customers on flooding incidents will be recorded on the LCC sharepoint system to ensure a targeted response from the relevant partner/agency.
Economic and Social Impact:	None identified.
Environment and Climate Change:	The arrangements identified in the report will form part of mitigating the impact of flooding in conjunction with LRF partners.
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Where communities identify sites or areas at risk of flooding, the Council and LRF will engage to put measures in place to mitigate the impact.
Risks:	Corporate risk register on emergency planning.
Officer Contact	Chris Elston Head of Planning and Infrastructure <a href="mailto:chris.elston@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">chris.elston@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a> Mike Murphy Head of Human Resources and Organisation Development <a href="mailto:mike.murphy@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">mike.murphy@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a>

## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY, 9  
FEBRUARY 2022

<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>EMPTY HOMES POLICY</b>	
<b>Presented by</b>	Paul Sanders Head of Community Services	
<b>Background Papers</b>	<p>Returning houses to homes policy  <a href="#">Microsoft Word - Returning Houses to Homes Policy and Procedures.doc</a>  <a href="#">(nwleics.gov.uk)</a></p> <p>Housing Strategy <a href="#">Housing Strategy 9 March 2016 with glossary.pdf</a>  <a href="#">(nwleics.gov.uk)</a></p>	<b>Public Report:</b> Yes
<b>Financial Implications</b>	<p>All costs will be reviewed prior to action being instigated to ensure that costs are recovered via an appropriate legal process.</p> <p><b>Signed off by the Section 151 Officer:</b> Yes</p>	
<b>Legal Implications</b>	<p>External advice has been sought from NPLaw in the preparation of this report and they have worked in conjunction with the in house legal team.</p> <p><b>Signed off by the Monitoring Officer:</b> Yes</p>	
<b>Staffing and Corporate Implications</b>	<p>None</p> <p><b>Signed off by the Head of Paid Service:</b> Yes</p>	
<b>Reason Agenda Item Submitted to Scrutiny Committee</b>	To continue the work to bring empty properties back into use.	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>COMMUNITY SCRUTINY ARE REQUESTED TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT EMPTY HOMES POLICY AHEAD OF CONSIDERATION BY CABINET ON 28 MARCH.</b>	

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 bring empty homes back into use for the benefit of local people and their communities.

### 3.0 WORK TO DATE

3.1 Over the last 5 years, the Empty Homes Officer has had a number of communications and successes with empty homes 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.

<b>Policies and other considerations, as appropriate</b>	
Council Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developing a clean and green district</li> <li>- Local people live in high quality, affordable homes</li> </ul>
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 <a href="mailto:paul.sanders@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">paul.sanders@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a>

# **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](http://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:

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

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
<b>Communication through website</b>	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.
<b>National Empty Homes Week</b>	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.
<b>Working with local Estate Agents</b>	Links have been established with local estate agents to encourage their involvement in bringing long term empty properties back into use.
<b>Letters to home owners</b>	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.
<b>Policy and Forums</b>	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><b>Empty Dwelling Management Order (EDMO) and Final Management Order (FDO)</b></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><b>Delegated officer powers to serve notices</b></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"> <li>• Building Act 1984,</li> </ul> <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"> <li>• Town and Country Planning Act 1990</li> </ul> <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><b>Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)</b></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><b>Enforced Sale</b></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><b>Demolition Orders</b></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

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY, 9  
FEBRUARY 2022

<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH PLAN</b>	
<b>Presented by</b>	Barrie Walford Economic Development Manager	
<b>Background Papers</b>	<a href="#">Economic Growth Plan Cabinet 09.04.19</a>  <a href="#">Economic Recovery Plan Cabinet 10.11.20</a>	<b>Public Report:</b> Yes
<b>Financial Implications</b>	The majority of the NWL Economic Growth Plan will be delivered within existing council capacity and resources or through collaboration with external partner organisations.	
	<b>Signed off by the Section 151 Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Legal Implications</b>	None.	
	<b>Signed off by the Monitoring Officer:</b> Yes/No	
<b>Staffing and Corporate Implications</b>	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.	
	<b>Signed off by the Head of Paid Service:</b> Yes/No	
<b>Reason Agenda Item Submitted to Scrutiny Committee</b>	For Community Scrutiny Committee to provide feedback to help shape the refreshed North West Leicestershire Economic Growth Plan ahead of publication and presentation to Cabinet.	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. TO REVIEW THE WORKING DRAFT OF THE REFRESHED NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH PLAN 22-25 AND THE ASSOCIATED EVIDENCE BASE.</li> <li>2. TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THE REFRESHED NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH PLAN AHEAD OF CABINET IN MARCH.</li> </ol>	

## 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 provide 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 2021 - 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. The final version 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 initial feedback 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, Leicestershire County Council, the Enterprise Partnerships, SMB Group (Formerly Stephenson College) and the Department for Work and Pensions.

3.2 Following feedback from Community Scrutiny Committee, the Economic Development Team will undertake further engagement with the aforementioned partners to ensure they approve and support the plan and the objectives within relating to their organisations.

3.3 Using the graphic design skills within the council’s Communications Team, the final draft of the refreshed Economic Growth Plan will published into visually focused document, similar to the 2019 plan, and then presented to Cabinet in March 2022 for approval.

### 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.

<b>Policies and other considerations, as appropriate</b>	
Council Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting Coalville to be a more vibrant, family-friendly town</li> <li>- Support for businesses and helping people into local jobs</li> <li>- Developing a clean and green district</li> <li>- Local people live in high quality, affordable homes</li> <li>- Our communities are safe, healthy and connected</li> </ul>
Policy Considerations:	Council Delivery Plan
Safeguarding:	No safeguarding considerations.

Equalities/Diversity:	No equalities/diversity considerations.
Customer Impact:	The attached refreshed Economic Recovery Plan sets out a series of actions to support residents and businesses.
Economic and Social Impact:	The attached refreshed Economic Recovery Plan sets out a series of actions to support residents and businesses.
Environment and Climate Change:	The attached refreshed Economic Recovery 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 <a href="mailto:barrie.walford@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">barrie.walford@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a>

## North West Leicestershire Economic Growth Plan refresh 2022 – 2025

### Chapter 1 - Introduction

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

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 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 which required significant changes to the way we, our customers and our businesses worked.

The global coronavirus pandemic meant that some industries had to close and most industries had to adapt to new ways of working through the pandemic. 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 2019 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 they were in 2019. In addition 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 areas' 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's Delivery Plan, individual service plans and the council's Zero Carbon Roadmap, creating a pathway of activity to support post-Covid recovery growth and create a framework to deliver key priorities, objectives and to focus resources.

Furthermore, a baseline of the most recent available economic data has been collected to inform the refresh of this Growth Plan 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.

## **Chapter 2 - Our Location**

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 the three counties of 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 them to the rest of the United Kingdom, Europe and onwards to the rest of the world.

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 and it is planned to connect to the East Midlands Hub Station at East Midlands Parkway.

The district lies at the heart of the National Forest which is rapidly developing as a tourism destination. The National Forest provides 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.

North West Leicestershire contains a number of leisure and visitor attractions and facilities such as Donington Race Circuit, 1620's House at Donington le Heath, Moira Furnace, Conkers Visitor Centre, Ashby Castle and a number of prestigious hotels and conferencing facilities.

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.

## **Chapter 3 – Refresh - Journey from 2019, through 2020, 2021 and beyond.**

This refreshed Growth Plan will create a clear pathway to support local growth and create 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 and 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 Coronavirus pandemic, the 2019 Economic Growth Plan delivered a number of successful projects.

- Case Study: The delivery of pre-employment customer care training and introducing new logistics training at East Midlands Airport Academy.
- Case Study: Inward investment and recruitment support for new employers such as the Very Group, GXO, Games Workshop and Kuehne & Nagel
- Case Study: 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.
- Case Study: The launch and delivery of new business grants through the Enterprising Fund that made over £175,000 in grant payments to local businesses that generated £1.25million in private sector leverage and created over 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.

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 Coronavirus outbreak and the realignment of resources to meet the challenges faced by our businesses and communities.

- Case study: Maintained front line 1:2:1 business support services providing a point of contact for over 1,000 businesses during the pandemic.
- Case study: The creation of a Community Hub and collaborating with food manufacturers and retailers to provide welfare packages to support vulnerable individuals during the pandemic.
- Case study: 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.
- Case Study: Administered the delivery of a number of coronavirus business support grant programmes.
- Case Study: Provided advice and direct intervention to support businesses in need to access various different grant programmes through the pandemic.
- Case Study: Delivery of Digital High Streets training and grants to support high street business to improve their digital capacity.
- Case Study: Delivered a number of safety measures, events and support programmes through the Reopening High Streets Safely initiative and the Welcome Back Fund.
- Case Study: Researched and prepared numerous intelligence briefings that were used to inform decision making and shaping regional policy and strategy during the pandemic

- Case Study: 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 we also delivered shop local campaigns and business start-up support.

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. The council’s Delivery Plan 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.

#### **Chapter 4 – Zero Carbon**

In June 2019 North West Leicestershire District Council declared a Climate Emergency and appointed specialist environmental consultants to help develop the council’s 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, along with the accompanying Action Plan, was adopted by the council on 31 March 2020. The Action Plan 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 of the North West Leicestershire District Council’s Zero Carbon Roadmap has been published on the council’s website: [www.nwleics.gov.uk/climate\\_change](http://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 and 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, to demonstrate leadership in this area and to show how the connection between growth in jobs and homes and the natural environment are connected and how these 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 the plans 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 to achieve its Zero Carbon ambitions and support our businesses and communities to adapt and mitigate climate change.

## **Chapter 5 – Key Sectors**

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
- Manufacturing
- Logistics and Distribution
- Construction
- Creative/Cultural/Tourism Sector

Despite some of these sectors being adversely impacted during the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, 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.

## **Chapter 6 - Working in Partnership**

To support the growth of North West Leicestershire, 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, 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.

## **Chapter 7 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 is 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, however, 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 stark economic challenges for businesses and those unable to work.

### **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 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 ensure that the workforce needs of businesses are met and help to raise skill levels and productivity
- 4) Work with partners to ensure that the skill and training provision can best meet the changing technological needs across different sectors



- 5) Encourage local businesses to become Disability Confident Employers and to adopt a more open recruitment policy so that those furthest from the labour market can 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
- 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.

## **Chapter 8 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, hosting East Midlands Airport, the Strategic Rail Freight Interchange at SEGRO, East Midlands Parkway station and are served by the A42/M42, A50 and M1 corridors.

Providing the necessary environment for businesses is essential in order 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 provision 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. The council will look to support sustainable developments and make best endeavours to reduce negative impacts that contribute to pollution, carbon emissions and adversely impact 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 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 to deliver the Heart of the Forest Masterplan
- 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 help to identify gaps in provision by working with developers and partners, 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) 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) 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.

## **Chapter 9 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 opportunities are maximised. Growth is generated by new business start-ups, indigenous 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 SME's, 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.

### **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) Continue to provide support to businesses providing key local services within our towns, highstreets, rural communities and markets
- 36) Enable programmes of support specifically relevant to the growth and development businesses in the creative sector.
- 37) 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
- 38) Ensure there is sufficient workspace and support for new enterprises and business start-ups
- 39) 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.
- 40) Facilitate programmes that assist businesses in staff recruitment and upskilling. For example, hosting jobs and skills fairs with particular emphasis on those furthest from the labour market and promoting a more open recruitment policy.
- 41) Increase innovation activity amongst the wider SME and business base through initiatives such as the MIT Regional Entrepreneurship Acceleration Program
- 42) Ensure there is a "soft landing" package for potential investors to make informed decisions about locating to North West Leicestershire
- 43) Continue to collaborate with IM Properties to facilitate the Employment Partnership throughout the construction and occupation phase of Mercia Park

- 44) 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
- 45) Help local businesses and education providers to collaborate on upskilling workforce and readying future generations for work within the local economy.
- 46) Provide advice and support to existing businesses to cut energy costs, reduce and off set carbon emissions, reduce waste, recycle more, increase efficiency and promote a circular economy.
- 47) Engage with organisations on key business parks in North West Leicestershire to discuss potential for photovoltaics, electric vehicle charging points and another carbon reducing measures
- 48) Encourage local businesses to reduce the carbon intensity of their operations and improve energy efficiency in a Local Business 'Carbon Action' group.
- 49) Promote opportunities for exporting and global trade to support business growth post EU Exit.
- 50) 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 refreshed Economic Growth Plan has to be flexible to adapt and respond to changes in government policy and external events and global pressures.

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.

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 be a measure of the delivery of the Growth Plan and to what further actions or adjustments are needed to support continued economic growth.

Progress on the delivery of the strategy will be overseen by the Economic Development and Regeneration service area 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 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.

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

**North West Leicestershire  
Economic Growth Plan  
Evidence Base**

**2022 - 2025**

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# 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 Midland's 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 UKs 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 Freeport**

- 3.5 Another significant new opportunity is the emerging East Midlands Freeport, 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 Freeport, 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<sup>1</sup> and is expected to rise by around 31% by 2043<sup>2</sup>. 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<sup>3</sup>. The main settlements in the District are, Coalville (34,575) and Ashby de la Zouch (12,370)<sup>4</sup>. 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%)<sup>5</sup>. 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 <sup>6</sup>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.

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<sup>1</sup> ONS Population Estimates 2021 NOMIS

<sup>2</sup> ONS/CLG 2016 based Population & Household Projections

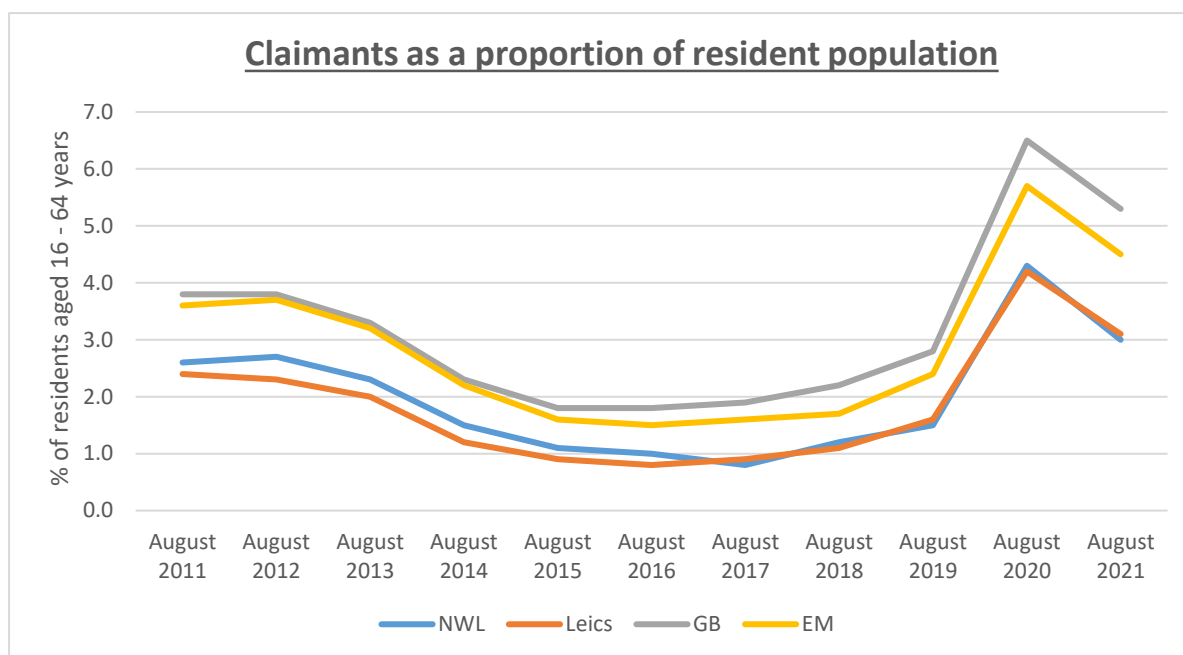
<sup>3</sup> ONS Mid-year population estimates 2020

<sup>4</sup> 2011 Census

<sup>5</sup> ONS Population Survey July 2020 – June 2021 Published 2021

<sup>6</sup> NOMIS DWP October 2021

**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<sup>7</sup>, 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.

<sup>7</sup> ONS annual Population Survey 2021 January – December 2020

- 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.
- 4.11 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.

### 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.

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

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

**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)

## Key Objectives – People.

- 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 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 ensure that the workforce needs of businesses are met and help to raise skill levels and productivity
- 4) Work with partners to ensure that the skill and training provision can best meet the changing technological needs across different sectors
- 5) Encourage local businesses to become Disability Confident Employers and to adopt a more open recruitment policy so that those furthest from the labour market can 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
- 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.

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## 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.
- 5.13 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.

### **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.

- 5.24 The Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019. Ensuring that new development minimises carbon emissions will be a key aim of the local plan review. Evidence has been commissioned to identify ways in which this can be done through new policies.

### **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 carparks 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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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%.
- 5.46 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%)

### **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.

## Key Objectives – Place.

- 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 to deliver the Heart of the Forest Masterplan
- 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 help to identify gaps in provision by working with developers and partners, 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 roll out of Superfast Leicestershire to improve digital connectivity of homes and businesses across the district
- 28) 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) 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.

DRAFT



## 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 Istock Brick (Building Materials).
- 6.2 In research undertaken by De Montfort University looking at the Top 200 Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland businesses by turnover, 2019, 52 were based in the District<sup>8</sup>. 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<sup>9</sup> 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 & Insurance; Property; Public Administration & Defence and Education. The following sectors are slightly under represented: Agriculture; Forestry & Fishing; Construction; Retail; Accommodation & Food Services; Information & Communication; Professional, Scientific and Technical; Business Administration & Support Services; Health and Arts, Entertainment, Recreation & other Services.

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<sup>8</sup> De Montfort University research - Top 200 Companies Survey based upon turnover and site of business Registered Office

<sup>9</sup> An enterprise is the smallest combination of legal units (generally based on VAT and/or PAYE records) which has a certain degree of autonomy within an Enterprise Group

**Table 2. - Business Enterprises by Sector 2020**

	NWL (Number)	NWL (% of Total)	Leics (% of Total)	EM (% of Total)	GB (% of Total)
Agriculture, Forestry & 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 & Storage	280	6.5	5.3	7.0	4.5
Accommodation & Food Services	220	5.1	5.0	5.9	5.9
Information & Communication	245	5.6	5.6	5.4	8.4
Finance & Insurance	125	2.9	3.2	2.8	2.3
Property	175	4.0	3.8	3.5	3.7
Professional, Scientific & Technical	685	15.8	15.3	13.8	17.3
Business Administration & Support Services	365	8.4	8.8	7.7	8.7
Public Administration & 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 & Other Services	260	6.0	5.8	6.6	6.4
Total	4,340	100	100	100	100

Source: Inter Departmental Business Register ONS 2021

- 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 & 2020**

	NWL 2010	NWL (% of Total)	NWL 2020	NWL (% of Total)	% change 2010- 2020
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	185	5.2	195	4.5	5.4
Mining & 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 & Storage	225	6.4	280	6.5	24.4
Accommodation & Food Services	205	5.8	220	5.1	7.3
Information & Communication	185	5.2	245	5.6	32.4
Finance & Insurance	65	1.8	125	2.9	92.3
Property	100	2.8	175	4.0	75.0
Professional, Scientific & Technical	495	14.0	685	15.8	38.4
Business Administration & Support Services	230	6.5	365	8.4	58.7
Public Administration & 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 & 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.

**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 & national averages though below the County average.

**Table 5. - Count of Births of New Enterprises 2014, 2017, 2018 & 2019**

	2014	2017	2018	2019	% Change 2014-19	% Change 2018-19
NWL	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 & 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
GB	55	60	64	57	56	59

Source: ONS Business Demography 2020 & Population Data 2021

- 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 & 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
NWL	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
GB	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
GB	398	413	435	445	442	451

Source: ONS Business Demography 2020 & Population Data 2021

- 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 & 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%
GB	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 & Storage. In 2018 these had the largest share of employees.

**Table 11. - NWL Industrial Breakdown 2018**

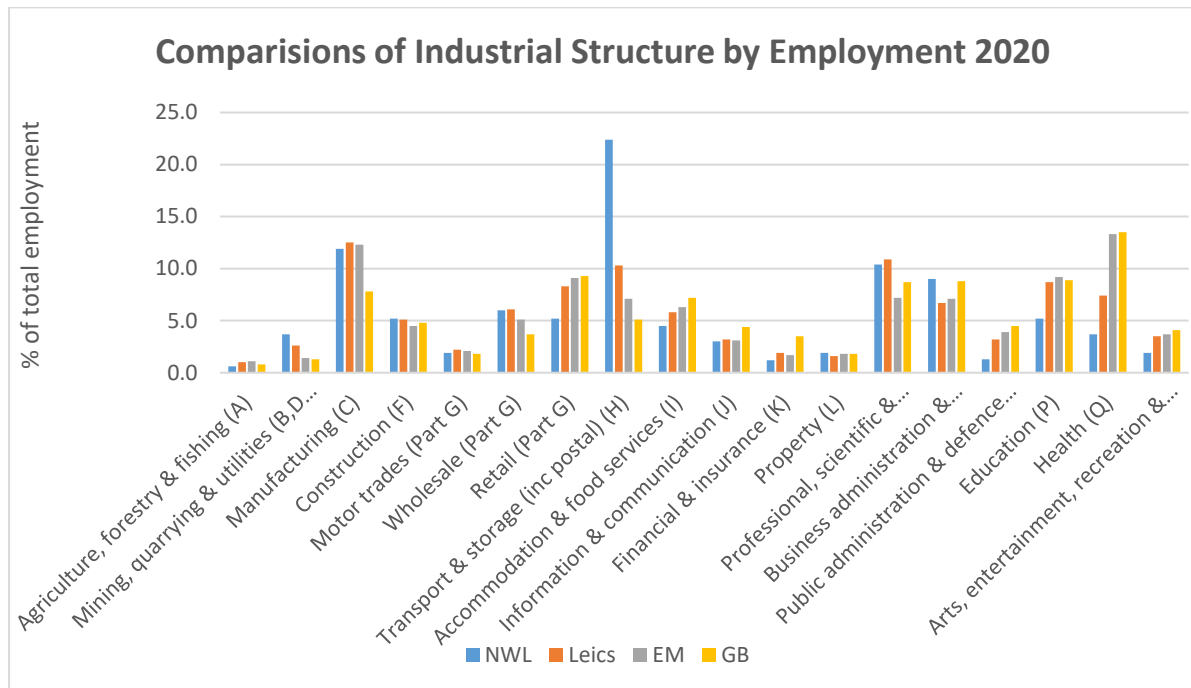
Industry (Broad Industry Area)	2018 Employees	2018 GVA
1 : Agriculture, forestry & fishing (A)	340	23,829,508
2 : Mining, quarrying & utilities (B,D and E)	2,625	288,563,933
3 : Manufacturing (C)	8,130	563,577,409
4 : Construction (F)	3,700	355,645,325
5 : Motor trades (Part G)	1,625	92,231,961
6 : Wholesale (Part G)	3,750	180,967,276
7 : Retail (Part G)	3,500	119,985,915
8 : Transport & storage (inc postal) (H)	9,375	476,589,551
9 : Accommodation & food services (I)	3,650	69,074,646
10 : Information & communication (J)	1,705	92,610,976
11 : Financial & insurance (K)	700	60,530,768
12 : Property (L)	1,125	142,219,020
13 : Professional, scientific & technical (M)	5,325	206,632,775
14 : Business administration & support services (N)	7,565	225,857,060
15 : Public administration & 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 & 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.

6.16 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 (2020)**



Source: BRES 2021 Broad Industry Group Classification

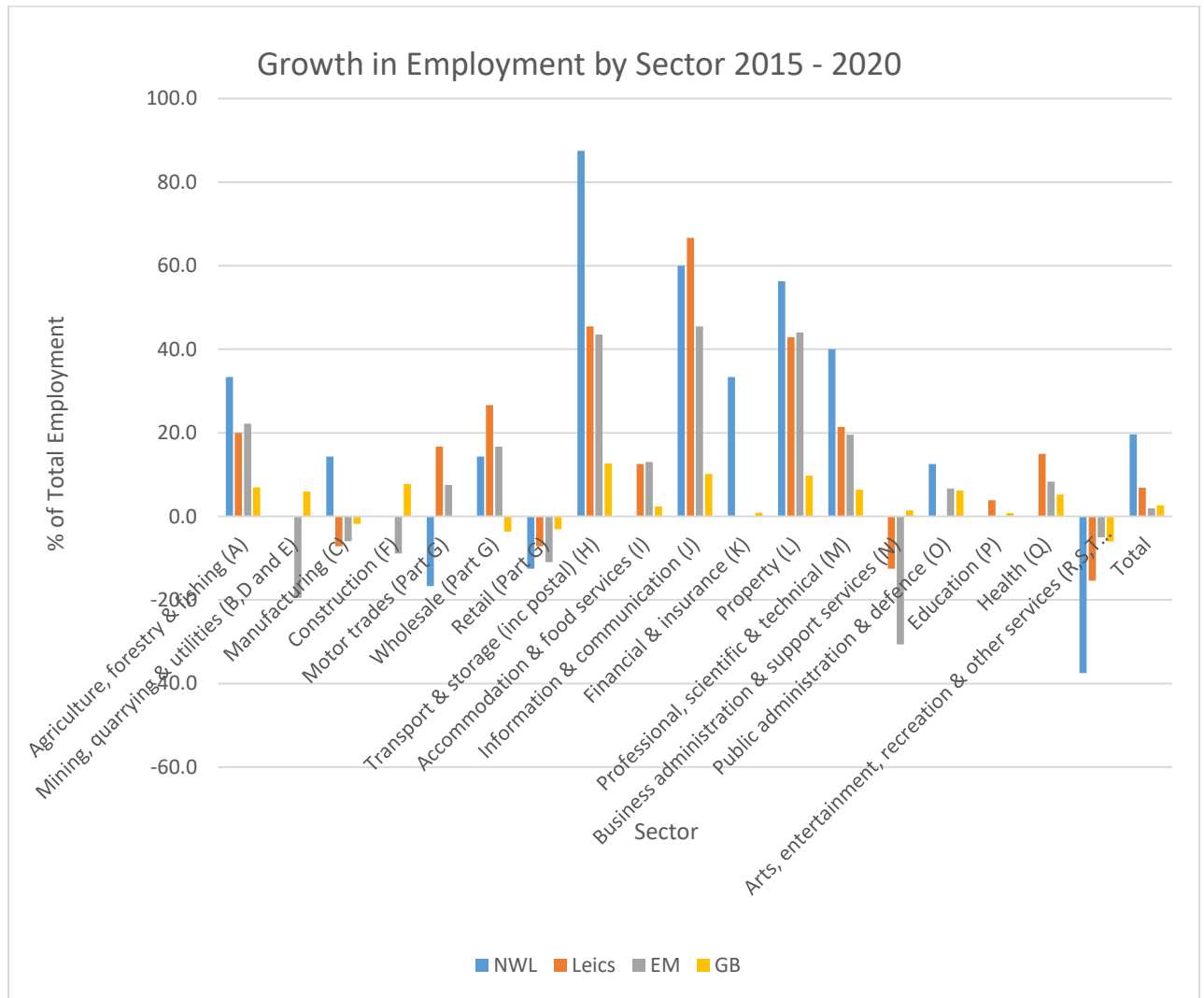
6.17 Chart 2 shows the sectors where North West Leicestershire has a much higher proportion of workers is in Transport and Storage – unsurprising with East Midlands Airport residing in the District and the home to major logistics companies such as DHL; UPS; Amazon and GXO and many other national and 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 & Storage; Information & Communication; Property; Professional, Scientific & Technical; Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing; Financial & Insurance & Manufacturing.

**Chart 3. – Growth in Employment by Sector**



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.

## Key Objectives – Business.

- 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) Continue to provide support to businesses providing key local services within our towns, highstreets, rural communities and markets
- 36) Enable programmes of support specifically relevant to the growth and development businesses in the creative sector.
- 37) 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
- 38) Ensure there is sufficient workspace and support for new enterprises and business start-ups
- 39) 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.
- 40) Facilitate programmes that assist businesses in staff recruitment and upskilling. For example, hosting jobs and skills fairs with particular emphasis on those furthest from the labour market and promoting a more open recruitment policy.
- 41) Increase innovation activity amongst the wider SME and business base through initiatives such as the MIT Regional Entrepreneurship Acceleration Program
- 42) Ensure there is a “soft landing” package for potential investors to make informed decisions about locating to North West Leicestershire
- 43) Continue to collaborate with IM Properties to facilitate the Employment Partnership throughout the construction and occupation phase of Mercia Park
- 44) 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
- 45) Help local businesses and education providers to collaborate on upskilling workforce and readying future generations for work within the local economy.
- 46) Provide advice and support to existing businesses to cut energy costs, reduce and off set carbon emissions, reduce waste, recycle more, increase efficiency and promote a circular economy.
- 47) Engage with organisations on key business parks in North West Leicestershire to discuss potential for photovoltaics, electric vehicle charging points and another carbon reducing measures
- 48) Encourage local businesses to reduce the carbon intensity of their operations and improve energy efficiency in a Local Business ‘Carbon Action’ group.
- 49) Promote opportunities for exporting and global trade to support business growth post EU Exit.

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

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## **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 & 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://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/22/contents)

**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/government/policy-papers/national-planning-policy-framework)

**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/government/policy-papers/build-back-better-our-plan-for-growth)

#### **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/government/policy-papers/net-zero-strategy-build-back-greener)

**UK Government: Greening Finance: A Roadmap to Sustainable Investing – [A Roadmap to Sustainable investing.](https://www.gov.uk/government/policy-papers/greening-finance-a-roadmap-to-sustainable-investing)**

**UK Government: The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution – [Ten Point Plan for A Green Industrial Revolution.](https://www.gov.uk/government/policy-papers/ten-point-plan-for-a-green-industrial-revolution)**

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.midlandsconnect.co.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](#)

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 & Infrastructure
- Keeping people safe & 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

**The Strategic Growth Plan for Leicester & Leicestershire 2050: Our vision for growth (2018) - Leicestershire and Leicester 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 & 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 \(llstrategicgrowthplan.org.uk\)](#)

**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 \(nationalforest.org\)](#)

**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 \(nwleics.gov.uk\)](http://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>

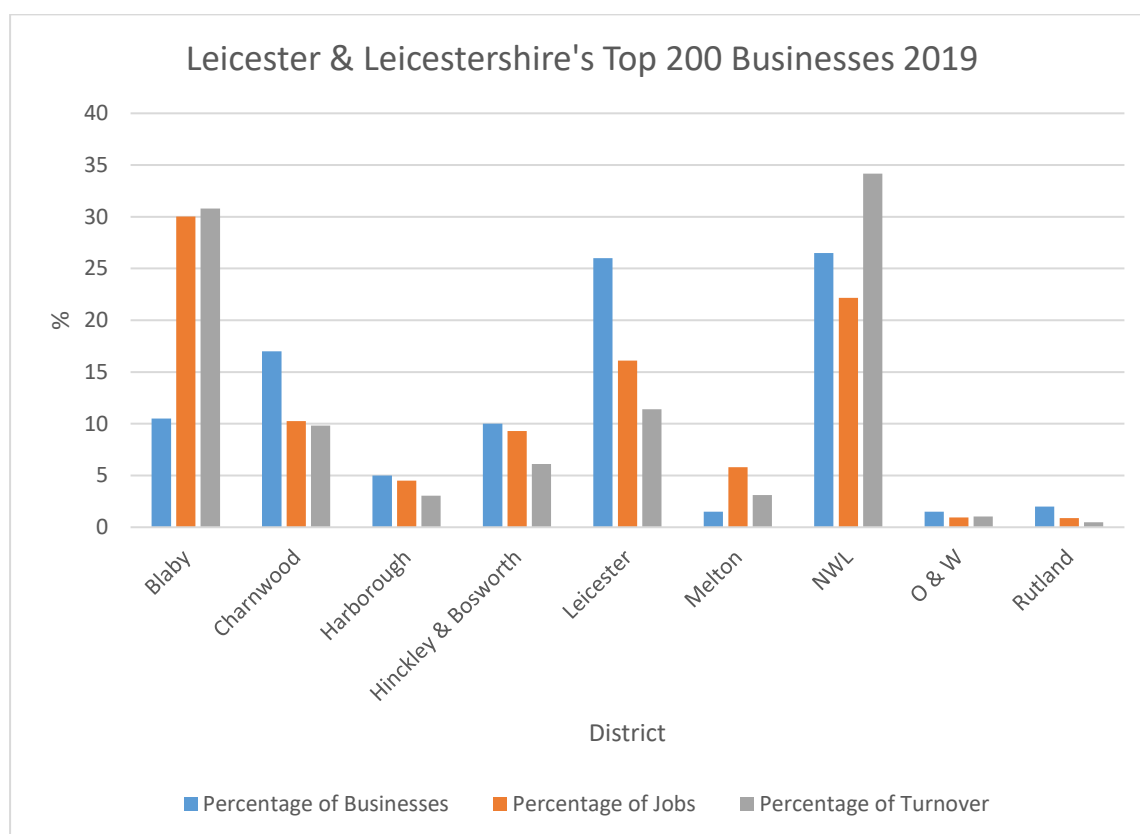
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## **Appendix B - 2019 Leicestershire's Top 200 Businesses – Great Performance by NWL Businesses**

- 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 & 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 Caudon Ltd; Wilson Vale Catering; J A Ball (Construction); & 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**



Source: De Montfort University 2021

**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	1,178	£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	lstock
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
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 Cepcor Ltd)	75	£27,830,000	Crushing equipment supplier	Coalville
161	155	Vitax (Synchemicals)	210	£25,577,000	Horticultural Chemical Supplies	Coalville
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

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## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE -

9 FEBRUARY 2022



<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>MARLBOROUGH SQUARE PUBLIC REALM</b>	
<b>Presented by</b>	Paul Wheatley Head of Property and Regeneration	
<b>Background Papers</b>	<p><a href="#">The Prince's Foundation's Regeneration Strategy for Coalville (2009).</a> <a href="http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/files/documents/princes_foundation_regeneration_strategy">www.nwleics.gov.uk/files/documents/princes_foundation_regeneration_strategy</a></p> <p><a href="#">Four Squares and Streets Investment Plan (2010).</a> <a href="http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/files/documents/four_squares_and_streets_plan">www.nwleics.gov.uk/files/documents/four_squares_and_streets_plan</a></p> <p>Report to Cabinet (13 June 2017) Building Confidence in Coalville – Proposals and Funding. <a href="http://prodmodgov:9070/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=126&amp;MId=1551&amp;Ver=4">http://prodmodgov:9070/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=126&amp;MId=1551&amp;Ver=4</a></p> <p>Report to Cabinet (16 January 2018) Marlborough Square Refurbishment <a href="http://prodmodgov:9070/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=126&amp;MId=1557&amp;Ver=4">http://prodmodgov:9070/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=126&amp;MId=1557&amp;Ver=4</a></p>	<p><b>Public Report:</b></p> <p>YES</p>
<b>Financial Implications</b>	<p>A budget of £1,899,426 (made up of existing capital allocations and LLEP Grants remaining to be claimed) is available to deliver the project.</p> <p>Remaining project costs are set out in the paper.</p> <p>The Stage 2 tender price for the construction works will not be known until 2 February 2022 and may not be received before the deadline to print this report. In this situation the tender price will be submitted as an update prior to the scrutiny meeting</p> <p>In the event that the tender price (once received) and the other remaining project cost estimates are in excess of available budget then a request for additional budget allocation to enable the scheme to proceed can be put before Council on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022</p> <hr/> <p><b>Signed off by the Section 151 Officer:</b> Yes</p>	

<b>Legal Implications</b>	<p>The project is to be delivered on Public Highway within the control of Leicestershire County Council. A Section 278 process has been followed by the district council in order to obtain permission for the works. The Formal S278 agreement will be signed before works commence.</p> <p><b>Signed off by the Deputy Monitoring Officer: Yes</b></p>
<b>Staffing and Corporate Implications</b>	<p>The project is being managed within existing staffing resources supported by specialist consultants where necessary.</p> <p><b>Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes</b></p>
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	<p>To present the latest proposals for the redevelopment of Marlborough Square as a public square.</p> <p>To outline next steps towards completing project implementation, subject to the tender price received.</p>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p><b>THAT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:</b></p> <p><b>1) CONSIDERS AND COMMENTS ON THE UPDATE IN THIS REPORT ON THE REDEVELOPMENT OF MARLBOROUGH SQUARE AS A PUBLIC REALM PLACE.</b></p> <p><b>2) SUBJECT TO THE ABOVE AND THE OUTCOME OF THE TENDER EXERCISE, SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET:</b></p> <p><b>THAT CABINET:</b></p> <p><b>1. BASED ON THE OUTCOME OF THE TENDER EXERCISE AND THE ESTIMATED OTHER PROJECT COSTS SET OUT IN THE REPORT, AGREESTO PROCEED TO AWARD THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AND IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT.</b></p> <p><b>2. DELEGATES AUTHORITY TO THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR(PLACE) TO:</b></p> <p><b>A) ENTER INTO THOSE HIGHWAYS AGREEMENTS NECESSARY TO DELIVER THE PUBLIC REALM PROJECT;</b></p> <p><b>B) AGREE THE TERMS OF THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT; AND</b></p> <p><b>C) COMPLETE SUCH OTHER AGREEMENTS AS SHALL BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT WITHIN THE APPROVED BUDGET.</b></p>

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Proposals to redevelop Marlborough Square as a predominantly pedestrian focused space emerged out of the Princes Foundation Regeneration Strategy for Coalville produced in 2009 and were then set out in more detail in the Four Squares and Streets Investment Plan of 2010.



- 1.2 NWLDC subsequently made the project to redevelop Marlborough Square a Corporate Objective in 2018 and the following brief was drawn up:
- To reduce the vehicle domination of the square, reduce vehicle speeds and remove street clutter.
  - To make the square more flexible for events.
  - To create a square that is easier for pedestrians (shoppers) to move around.
  - To create a better waiting area for public transport users.
  - To introduce new hard landscaping and trees to improve the visual appeal of this part of the town centre.
  - To increase the amount of turnover in parking spaces, to allow more shoppers per hour to park in the square and get to businesses within the square more easily
- 1.3 Initially NWLDC commissioned Leicestershire County Council as delivery partner. Unfortunately this approach was frustrated by LCC being unable to find a contractor who was prepared to undertake the works within the available budget.
- 1.4 Faced with an inability to proceed with LCC, Cabinet agreed to pursue a “hands on” project management approach which has very much required the project to be “restarted from step 1”.
- 1.5 The project has presented many complex problems for officers to solve before tenders for the construction contract could be sought. Particular challenges worthy of note are:
- The project sits entirely on highways land and therefore requires a section 278 agreement with Leicestershire County Council to be in place before construction can begin. The Average time in which all the surveys and information needed for a S278 can be produced and approved is 12 to 18 months, but for many cases takes longer. There have been a host of other highways and associated approvals that have had to be sought such as S106 Water Industry Act and Section 50 Highways approval.
  - There are a large number of properties surrounding Marlborough Square each with unique rights. We have had to engage on numerous occasions with each landowner to ensure that their rights wouldn't be impinged and the proposals objected to.
  - Marlborough Square is used as an access and egress route by a wide range of vehicle types visiting properties on residential and commercial streets surrounding Marlborough Square. We have prove that each and every one of these vehicles can track around the proposed new layout at Marlborough Square.
  - There have been technical issues with utility companies that have needed resolution before both designs could be completed and works tendered.
  - Significant time has been invested into developing the palette of materials to be used to ensure quality, cost, availability and source factors are in accordance with objectives.

- Proposals have had to be developed alongside other projects where there are inter-relations e.g. Newmarket and proposals for redevelopment of Needhams Walk which are taking access from Belvoir Road.
- 1.6 A full description of the preparatory activities undertaken to ready the project for implementation are set out in appendix 1. The extent of these activities is further evidenced in the finance section of this report where preparatory cost expenditure is reported.
- 1.7 The project has now progressed to a stage whereby it is appropriate for Cabinet to consider whether they wish to proceed to construction.

## **2.0 Summary Of Proposals**

- 2.1 Marlborough Square in Coalville currently comprises a gyratory, motor vehicle dominated highway arrangement with a vehicular route East to West on the southern side of the Square and West to East on the north side of the Square. Parts of Jackson Street and Belvoir Road complete the gyratory arrangements. The Central part of Marlborough Square has traditionally been used as car parking.
- 2.2 The Square is “built up” on all four surrounding sides with neighbouring uses including retailers, service sector businesses, childcare facilities, religious institutions and licensed establishments. It is worth noting that the council’s Newmarket fronts on to the south side of Marlborough Square and the Marlborough Centre Building, which the council has recently agreed to purchase, also fronts the square.
- 2.3 Through the Marlborough Square Public Realm Project it is proposed to remove gyratory traffic from the Square. Vehicles will only be permitted to drive through Marlborough Square on the southern side in a west to east direction (to carry on their journey via Belvoir Road). Vehicular access to Marlborough Square will be via Owen Street, as per current arrangements.
- 2.4 The north side of Marlborough Square will become a primarily pedestrian place (pedestrian zone) with vehicles only able to drive along this route between certain hours for the purpose of deliveries.
- 2.5 The central area of Marlborough Square (currently used for parking) will become a pedestrian only space, laid out with benches, lighting bollards, planters and other high quality street furniture. This space has also been designed to accommodate events, fayres and open air markets. The flexibility that has been designed into the space will allow it to be promoted as a place for open air dining (during good weather) served by the many eateries that currently exist around the square.
- 2.6 Other points to note in respect to the current design are as follows:
- Free car parking previously provided in Marlborough Square has already been relocated to Margaret Street and James Street Car Parks
  - Disabled parking spaces, taxi Ranks and Bus Stands have been retained within the new layout arrangements.
  - Surface treatments are proposed to be high quality and hard-wearing granite setts and flags including across significant parts of the driven highway proposed on the southern side of the square.

2.7 Plans and illustrations showing the proposed works are shown in appendix 2

### **3.0 Project Benefits**

3.1 Delivery of the Marlborough Square project is anticipated to bring the following benefits to Coalville:

- Establish Marlborough Square as a pedestrian dominated space, which is an attractive and safe place for shopping, informal gathering and events.
- Creates an area which projects quality and a positive aesthetic such that it becomes an area which locals are proud of, providing the same kind of public realm experience that can be found in more prosperous towns.
- Increased retail footfall as a result of greater willingness to shop in places that feel safe and attractive.
- Increased range of retailers as a result of a greater willingness by new retailers to “give it a try” in locations which are attractive and popular.
- Reduced vehicular movements through concentration of car parking in strategic locations (fewer movements associated with hunting for car parking).
- Greater willingness by others to invest in the built fabric of Coalville.

### **4.0 Procurement**

4.1 A suitably approved contractor with the necessary permits and experience to deliver public realm works on the highway has been sought via the Procure Partnerships Framework, using a two stage tender approach. This involved initially approaching a number of contractors on the framework, to determine whether they were interested in tendering for the job.

4.2 Those contractors who expressed an interest in tendering for the construction contract were then asked to make a stage 1 submission in Autumn 2021. This involved provision of Preliminaries and Overhead and Profit rates, plus answering a number of questions on quality of workmanship, customer care and their green credentials. All contractors making submissions were interviewed by the project team and an evaluation matrix was completed, scored for both cost and quality. At the end of the first stage tender in Mid December 2021 a “Preferred Contractor” was selected

4.3 At Stage 2 of the tender process the Preferred Contractor was requested to submit a fully developed price (having been provided with a detailed specification of works and construction drawings) . A return date of 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022 was initially set for Stage 2 tenders however, it became apparent during the tender preparation period that a number of materials suppliers and sub-contractors were struggling to meet this date and we therefore agreed an extension to 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

4.4 As a result of the above mentioned submission extension, the print deadline for papers to be presented to this Community Scrutiny Committee meeting is earlier than the Stage 2 tender submission deadline. The Tender price will therefore be provided by way of an update paper circulated just in advance of the Scrutiny meeting..

## 5.0 Finance

- 5.1 The council has (up to December 2021) incurred £533,107 of expenditure on preparatory works (designs, surveys, consent applications etc) for the Marlborough Square Public Realm project.
- 5.2 The remaining budget allocation for delivery of the project set out in the council's capital programme is £1,648,905. In addition to this there is a further £250,521 of grant support for the project from Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) to be claimed. The total funding currently available to complete the project is therefore £1,899,426.
- 5.3 Anticipated remaining project expenditure is

<b>Expenditure Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Fees (supervision, legal and QS)	£55,000
Permits, Connections, Utilities	£25,000
Construction Works	To be advised
Equipment	£40,000
Commutated Sums	£50,000
Contingency	£50,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	To be advised

## 6.0 Liabilities

- 6.1 As a result of converting Marlborough Square from carriageway to pedestrian dominated public realm, maintenance costs are likely to increase. Physical maintenance will need to be undertaken to a higher standard (in order to prevent slips trips and falls) whilst the cost of repairs are likely to be greater due to the type of surfacing material that has been selected and the comparative difficulty of laying (Tarmac is relatively cheap and easy to repair compared to granite setts). An enhanced cleaning regime will also be required to keep the public realm looking attractive and there will be new costs arising from maintaining the planting areas (irrigation, pruning and restocking) and the operation of the LED feature lighting scheme (electricity charges).
- 6.2 The square will remain public highway and therefore physical repair of the hard surfaces will rest with Leicestershire County Council as part of their Highway function. LCC have indicated that they will require a commuted sum from the district council to cover the additional maintenance costs associated with non-standard surfacing. Negotiation of the exact sum to be paid to LCC remains to be concluded. A line item has been included in the project budget based on LCC's initial estimate.
- 6.3 Some maintenance costs will also fall on NWLDC. The costs of replacing street furniture such as bins, benches bollards and planters will fall to the district council along with any of the infrastructure necessary to support the outdoor market. Offices have sought to minimise the future cost and inconvenience of these maintenance obligations by ensure that a small stock of spare street furniture is bought and held in stores at the initial implementation phase.
- 6.4 The following additional revenue costs associated with operating the square as public realm will fall on NWLDC:
- Street Cleansing including waste bin emptying
  - Erecting / dismantling outdoor market stalls
  - Power for feature lighting scheme
  - Irrigation of planting areas

- Pruning and restocking planting areas.
- Redecoration of street furniture

6.5 Operation of the square will be by the Community Services Department. Funding to cover the associated costs has been included in their future years budget projections

## **7.0 Next Steps**

- 7.1 As part of their tender submission the Preferred Contractor have submitted a provisional programme for the works, which projects a commencement on site ten weeks after contract award (roughly early May 2022 with the work anticipated to take thirty two weeks (completed roughly the end of November 2022). This timetable is based on an expectation that the contract is awarded by the end of February 2022. A more accurate programme will be issued once the contract has been awarded.
- 7.2 Road space booking (TTRO) has already been submitted LCC to secure the opportunity to carry out the works during the desired window, certain that there wont be any conflicting roadworks underway at the same time. Whilst the anticipated construction period is 32 weeks a longer period of road space booking has been made (following discussion with LCC Highways) to allow for any unforeseen delays.
- 7.3 Members are asked to note that the programme identified by the Preferred Contractor is their best estimate. They have flagged with us that material delivery (granite from quarries in Europe) and delays due to Covid Pandemic impacts on labour availability may result in the need to amend the programme.

## **8.0 Conclusion**

- 8.1 The proposed public realm improvement project at Marlborough Square is a key part of the Regeneration Framework for Coalville and will work with other ongoing and recently completed projects such as Newmarket, the Marlborough Centre and the shopfront improvement to Metrostores to turn this part of the town into an attractive destination on the town retail circuit. The project will also work in concert with other schemes that council officers have been working with private sector partners to facilitate such as improvements to the Belvoir Shopping Centre, development of new leisure accommodation and establishment of the shopping centre car park as the primary high quality parking provision for the town centre.
- 8.2 The project has been extremely difficult to develop to its current stage with many problems having to be resolved along the journey to ensure that the initial aspirations for quality a purpose are retained. Consents for creation of the public realm have been negotiated and can be signed once a contractor has been appointed.
- 8.3 A Preferred Contractor has been sourced and a price (tender) for the construction contract is due following the publication of this report, which will be provided by way of an update paper.
- 8.4 Should this scrutiny committee wish to see the Marlborough Square Public Realm project delivered then they are asked to offer their support to Cabinet in the form set out in the recommendations section of this paper.

<b>Policies and other considerations, as appropriate</b>	
Council Priorities:	The implementation of the Marlborough Square Public Realm project is an identified priority within the Council Delivery Plan
Policy Considerations:	None
Safeguarding:	None
Equalities/Diversity:	The Public Realm solution shown has been designed to accommodate all user groups and has been the subject of engagement with user groups
Customer Impact:	The project will make a positive improvement to residents and visitors experience of Coalville
Economic and Social Impact:	The project is expected to increase confidence and pride in an important part of the town centre
Environment and Climate Change:	The project aims to improve the Coalville town centre environment. The materials selected are naturally occurring and have a very long life. The contractor proposed to be appointed has demonstrated their commitment to reducing their carbon footprint and minimising construction waste.
Consultation/Community Engagement:	The project has been the subject of significant publicity and repeated public engagement.
Risks:	Financial failure of contractor – appropriate checks of the contractors financial standing have been undertaken by the council’s Finance Department. Unexpected physical obstacle to delivery of works – extensive due diligence has been undertaken. The contractor is very experienced at delivering public realm projects. We retain a contingency sum within the project budget. Covid Delays – The contractor has been asked to develop contingencies.
Officer Contact	Paul Wheatley Head Of Property And Regeneration <a href="mailto:Paul.wheatley@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">Paul.wheatley@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a> 07855149240

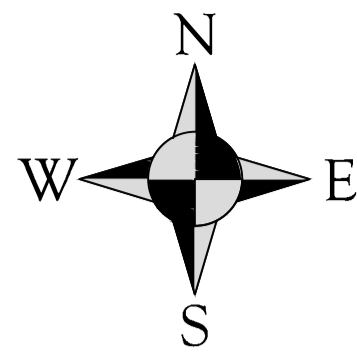
## Marlborough Square Public Realm

**Summary Of Activities Undertaken To Prepare Project For Construction.**

1. Establish Utility Service constraints within the square (Gas, electricity, CCTV, Water, streetlighting etc.)
2. Establish extent of Severn Trent (STW) Sewers through the square and identify those areas where the sewer easements would prevent tree planting and street furniture / structures. Discuss with Severn Trent what scope for deviation from “nothing within easement” might be permitted. Note LCC did not carry out this exercise as part of their design work.
3. Develop and propose new concept layout that works within STW easement constraints.
4. Carry out engagement with all stakeholders occupying property around Marlborough Square and who regularly use Marlborough Square to identify potential issues.
5. Identify all vehicle types that currently pass through Marlborough Square
6. Commission swept -path measurements for vehicles where tracking details aren't held on database. This involved actually obtaining an example of the vehicle, measuring vehicle length, axle width, overhang, wheelbase etc and then plotting its turning circle.
7. Carry out computer based swept-path analysis (tracking) for all vehicles identified as using Marlborough Square.
8. Identify conflict / pinch-points between vehicle tracks and buildings / pedestrian areas / planting areas / street furniture. Tweak designs to ensure vehicles can run clean.
9. Add mobile hazards (buses at bus-stops, parked cars, taxis in taxi-ranks etc) to highway model and re-run tracking. Further adjustment of layout to ensure all vehicles can run clean.
10. Drainage design prepared taking account of finalised kerb positions (post tracking)
11. Tracking, drainage and kerblines drawings submitted to LCC for initial comments.
12. Revise layout post receipt of initial comments from LCC Highways.
13. Consult user groups such as bus operators, taxi companies, Church etc to confirm that provisions within layout are sufficient for their needs.
14. Commission proposals for shallow planting beds and discuss with LCC Highways.
15. Commission planting scheme for planting beds.
16. Commission Irrigation system design.
17. Commission Street Furniture designs
18. Commission lighting scheme.
19. Commission hard surfacing design
20. Review and consult on surfacing materials
21. Confirm open air market proposals (including type and size of stall to be used)
22. Confirm planning position – deemed to be a revision of existing highways arrangements so no new consent required
23. Check whether open air market requires planning consent – Covid relaxations indicate not required.
24. Check that placement of street furniture within the square permits cleansing and maintenance with existing council equipment.
25. Check that proposed bearing capacity of surface (materials used and proposed construction method) provide sufficient bearing capacity for anticipated uses.
26. Commission detailed construction drawings for S278 submission.

27. Commission Traffic Statement document to accompany S278
28. Commission signing and lining design.
29. Submit S278 information pack to LCC for “in principle” approval
30. Develop works phasing plan
31. Make provisional road space booking with LCC via TTRO.
32. Commission Quantity Surveyor to produce Tender package.
33. Formal submission of S278
34. Identify appropriate procurement process.
35. Construction contract procurement (tendering) – Two Stage process used
36. Tender evaluation at stage one to identify Preferred Contractor
37. Work with contractor at stage two to help develop final tender price
38. Operate internal governance process.
39. Member approval and liaison activities



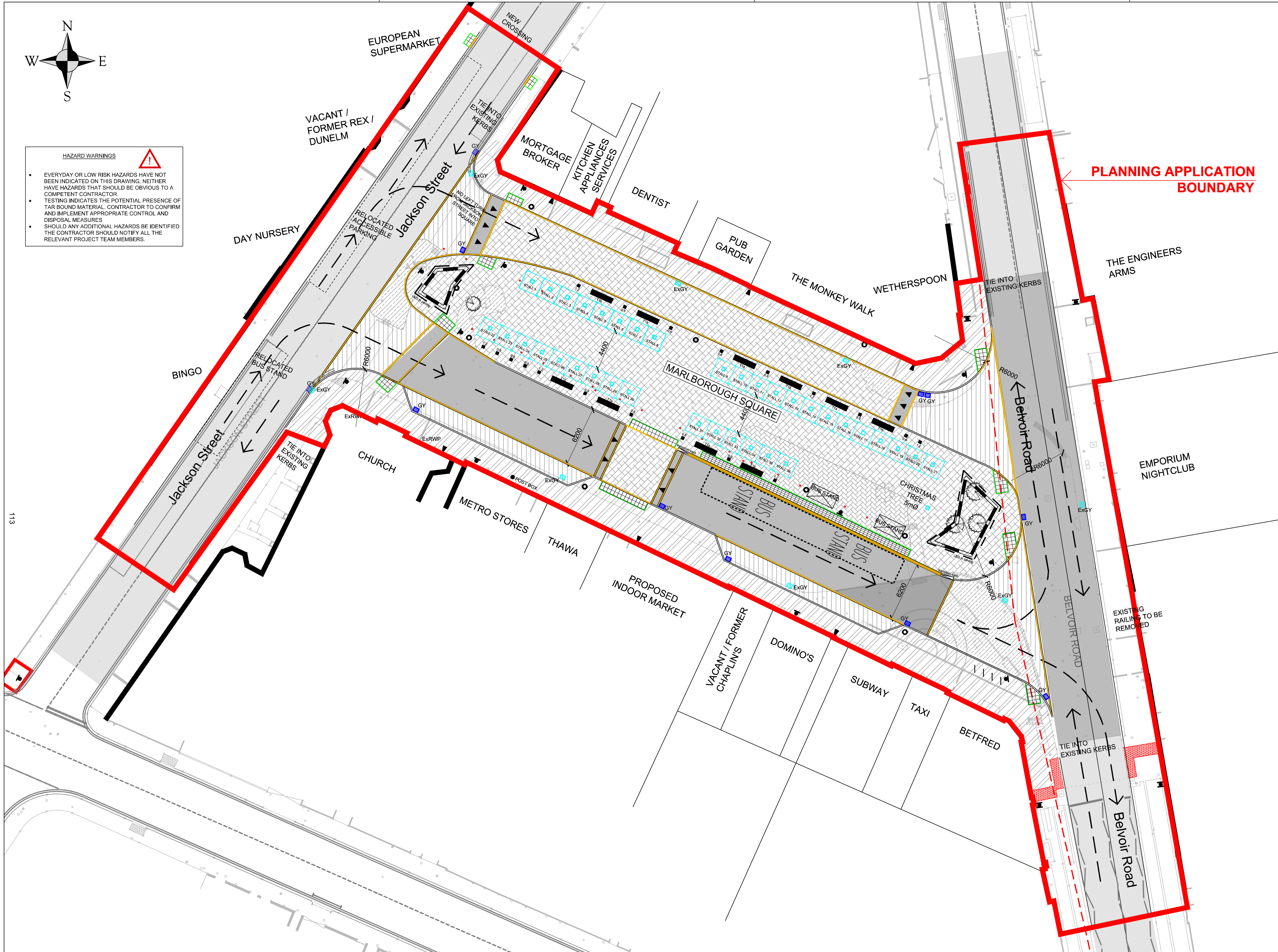


**HAZARD WARNINGS**

EVERYDAY OR LOW RISK HAZARDS HAVE NOT BEEN INDICATED ON THIS DRAWING. NEITHER HAVE HAZARDS THAT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS TO A COMPETENT CONTRACTOR.

TESTING INDICATES THE POTENTIAL PRESENCE OF TAR BOUND MATERIAL. CONTRACTOR TO CONFIRM AND IMPLEMENT APPROPRIATE CONTROL AND DISPOSAL MEASURES.

SHOULD ANY ADDITIONAL HAZARDS BE IDENTIFIED THE CONTRACTOR SHOULD NOTIFY ALL THE RELEVANT PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS.



**PLANNING APPLICATION BOUNDARY**

- Key:**
- Existing carriageway to remain
  - Existing surface to be milled to an average depth of 40mm K1-40 tack coat to be applied to milled surface and following pavement layers to be applied:
    - AC20 dense bin 100/150 rec binder regulating course (depth to suit)
    - 40mm thickness of 30% 15mm 40/60 pen Hot Rolled Asphalt surface course with 20mm 63 PSV precoated chippings applied
  - VEHICULAR PAVEMENT:** Excavate existing surface to proposed formation and following pavement layers to be applied:
    - 350mm subbase Type 1 803 to the MCHW
    - 110mm AC32 base 40/60 rec base course
    - 50mm AC20 dense bin 100/150 rec binder course
    - 40mm thickness of 30% 15mm 40/60 pen Hot Rolled Asphalt surface course with 20mm 63 PSV precoated chippings applied
  - VEHICULAR ACCESSIBLE ZONE:** Existing surface to be milled to an average depth of 130mm. K1-40 tack coat to be applied to milled surface and following pavement layers to be applied:
    - 60mm AC20 dense bin 100/150 rec binder regulating course
    - Block paving to Architect's specification laid on 30mm bedding sand (compacted)
  - PEDESTRIAN ZONE:** Excavate 205mm of existing make-up and following pavement layers to be applied:
    - 100mm of subbase type 1 803 to the MCHW
    - Block paving to Architect's specification laid on 30mm bedding sand (compacted)
  - PEDESTRIAN ZONE:** Existing surface to be milled to an average depth of 100mm and following pavement layers to be applied:
    - Block paving to Architect's specification laid on 30mm bedding sand (compacted)
  - PEDESTRIAN ZONE:** K1-40 tack coat to be applied to existing surface and following pavement layers to be applied:
    - AC20 dense bin 100/150 rec binder regulating course
    - Block paving to Architect's specification laid on 30mm bedding sand (compacted)
  - VEHICULAR PAVEMENT:** Excavate existing surface to proposed formation and following pavement layers to be applied:
    - 350mm subbase Type 1 803 to the MCHW
    - 110mm AC32 base 40/60 rec base course
    - 50mm AC20 dense bin 100/150 rec binder course
    - Block paving to Architect's specification laid on 30mm bedding sand (compacted)
  - Proposed vehicle to vehicle visibility splay (2.4m x 43m)

- Notes:**
- All works in accordance with Leicestershire Design Guide unless stated otherwise
  - Vertical faces of joints in surface course shall be saw cut and hot bitumen applied to the exposed face
  - If stripped layers are encountered during milling the milling depth is to be increased to the approval of the Supervisor
  - Any soft spots encountered are to be excavated and backfilled with type 6F5 capping material
  - Refer to Architect's layout and specification for proposed block paving and kerb finishes
  - Where subbase is proposed a minimum design CBR of 2% has been applied. Contractor to confirm CBRs and report to Engineer/Supervisor
  - All works to be carried out to the approval of Leicestershire County Council inspector.
  - All works to comply with the Leicestershire County Council standard drawings and specifications and as detailed on the approved drawings within the notes.

RED LINE BOUNDARY MOVED - SURFACING MAKEUPS CHANGED					
P6	JEG	19 11 2021	SDH	19 11 2021	SDH
REDLINE BOUNDARY AMENDED					
P5	CSB	20 04 2021	SDH	21 04 2021	SDH
UPDATED TO LATEST ARCHITECTS LAYOUT					
P4	CSB	14 04 2020	SDH	21 04 2020	SDH
REV	DRAWN	DATE	CHECKED	DATE	APPROVED

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CLIENT  
**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

PROJECT  
**MARLBOROUGH SQUARE DEVELOPMENT, COALVILLE**

TITLE  
**PAVED AREAS LAYOUT**

**Hamson Barron Smith**  
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Venture House, 1 Capital Court, Smeeth Industrial Estate, Exeter, Devon, EX2 7YW, Fax: 01392 351000, Email: office@hamsonbarronsmith.com

SCALES <b>1:200</b>	DISCIPLINE <b>CIVIL ENGINEER</b>	PROJECT NUMBER <b>18-8-1131</b>
DRAWING NUMBER <b>HBS-DR-C-(00)-050</b>	REV CODE <b>P6</b>	
STATUS CODE <b>S2</b>	PURPOSE OF ISSUE <b>INFORMATION</b>	DRAWN BY <b>CSB</b>

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## NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY, 9  
FEBRUARY 2022

<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCRUTINY CROSS PARTY WORKING GROUP - SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMMING</b>	
<b>Presented by</b>	James Arnold Strategic Director of Place	
<b>Background Papers</b>	Minutes of the meetings of the scrutiny cross party working group	<b>Public Report:</b> Yes
<b>Financial Implications</b>	None identified at this stage.	
	<b>Signed off by the Section 151 Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Legal Implications</b>	None identified at this stage.	
	<b>Signed off by the Monitoring Officer:</b>	
<b>Staffing and Corporate Implications</b>	The creation of any new working group impacts on resources which are relied upon to service the meetings and write reports. It is considered that the impact on resources will be minimal.	
	<b>Signed off by the Head of Paid Service:</b>	
<b>Reason Agenda Item Submitted to Scrutiny Committee</b>	To seek the agreement of each of the Scrutiny Committees on a proposal to better manage their respective work programmes.	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p><b>(1) THAT THE PROPOSAL OF THE SCRUTINY CROSS PARTY WORKING GROUP, AS SET OUT IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE REPORT, BE ENDORSED.</b></p> <p><b>(2) THAT 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.</b></p>	

**1. BACKGROUND**

1.1 The Scrutiny Cross Party Working Group was established to deliver the outcomes of the corporate peer review in 2019. Whilst the Cross-Party Working Group is not a decision-making body, the group was asked to:

- Monitor the progress of the project against the agreed action plan.
- Act as 'critical friends' providing feedback and comments throughout the project.
- Acts as 'champions' for the successful delivery of the project within their respective groups by ensuring that the progress of the project was regularly reported back to all group members.

- Make recommendations to appropriate decision-making bodies based on the consensus of the Group.

1.2 The membership of the Scrutiny Cross Party Working Group comprises

- Councillor Robert Ashman, Deputy Leader
- Councillor Dan Harrison, Conservative
- Councillor Nigel Smith, Conservative
- Councillor Terri Eynon, Labour
- Councillor Sean Sheahan, Labour
- Councillor Tony Saffell, Independent

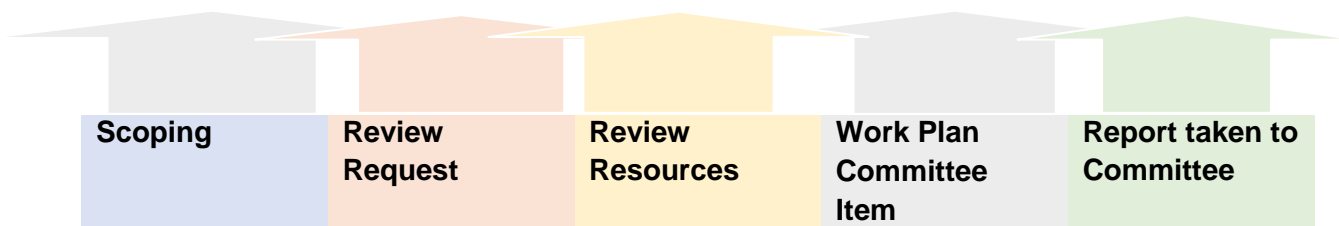
1.3 On 26 October 2021, the Cross-Party Working Group agreed proposals which captured its views on how this work should be progressed.

1.4 The aims of the proposals are

- The role of scrutiny to ensure that policy is refined and delivered following the agreement of policy by Cabinet
- Improve engagement and work planning - following requests from Scrutiny Work Planning Group & Scrutiny Members.
- Improve the process around scoping reports – keeping track of them and reporting back on whether the matter will go forward onto the agenda.
- A clear and manageable system to be driven by Members with support from Directors

1.5 Where requests for agenda items are proposed, the following process is applied

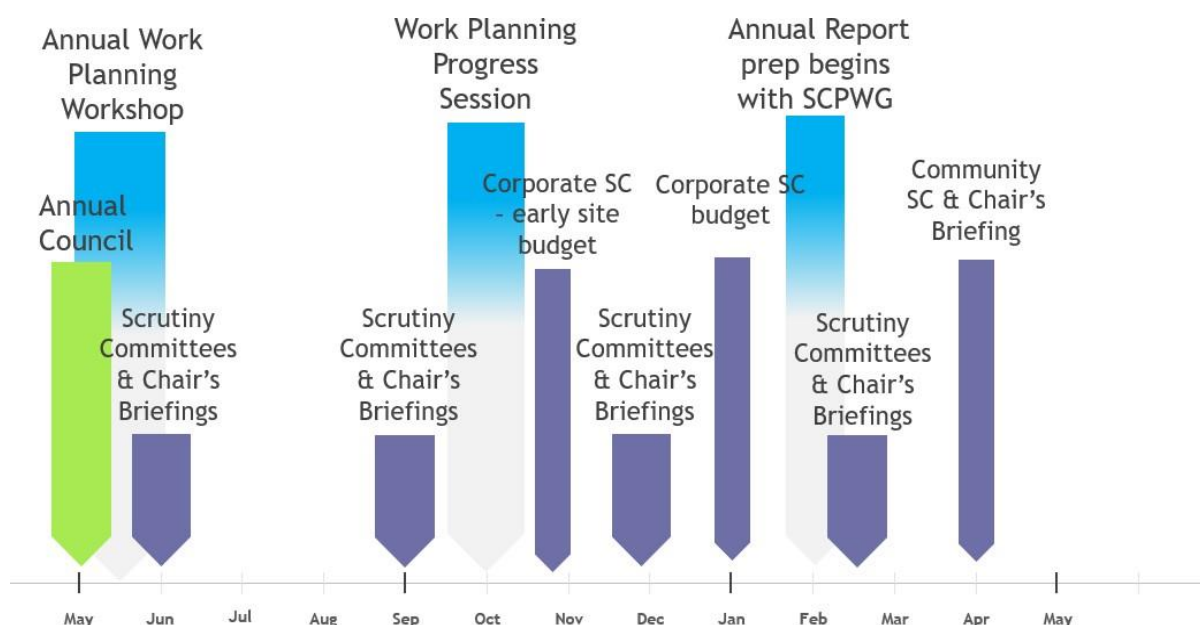
A scoping form to be filled in to gain more information on subject. Discussions to be held between officers/member if needed	Chairman, with support from Director, to review the scoping form using the criteria. If a valid request, item to be placed on work plan	Director to review resources available to pull together the report and to consider timeframes for consideration at Committee. If request declined, Member informed with reasons.	Scoping form to be included in work plan item on next committee agenda, with explanation of the review process. To be included whether request accepted or not	Report to be considered at committee as planned.
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## 2. PROPOSAL

- 2.1 Much work has been done on improving the scrutiny function following the recommendations arising from the Corporate Peer Review and a presentation was made at the Working Group's last meeting where a number of further considerations on suggested improvements to the scrutiny work planning process were proposed. It was considered that more proactive work should be undertaken ahead of the meetings to agree the details of its work programme.
- 2.2 It was considered that the best vehicle to enable this is the establishment of a Scrutiny Work Programming Group.
- 2.3 The diagram below sets out the proposed work planning process

1. Annual Informal Work Planning Workshop (May/June)
2. Work Planning Progress Session
3. Agenda Briefings (before each meeting)
4. Annual Reporting



- 2.4 It is proposed that a Scrutiny Work Programming Group be established to include the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees, the Directors and members of the opposition.
- 2.5 The Scrutiny Work Programming Group would run for a year. This would allow time to determine whether a more formal arrangement, such as a Scrutiny Commission, would likely be an effective addition to the process.

## 3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 3.1 The proposed terms of reference of the Scrutiny Work Programming Group are set out below:-

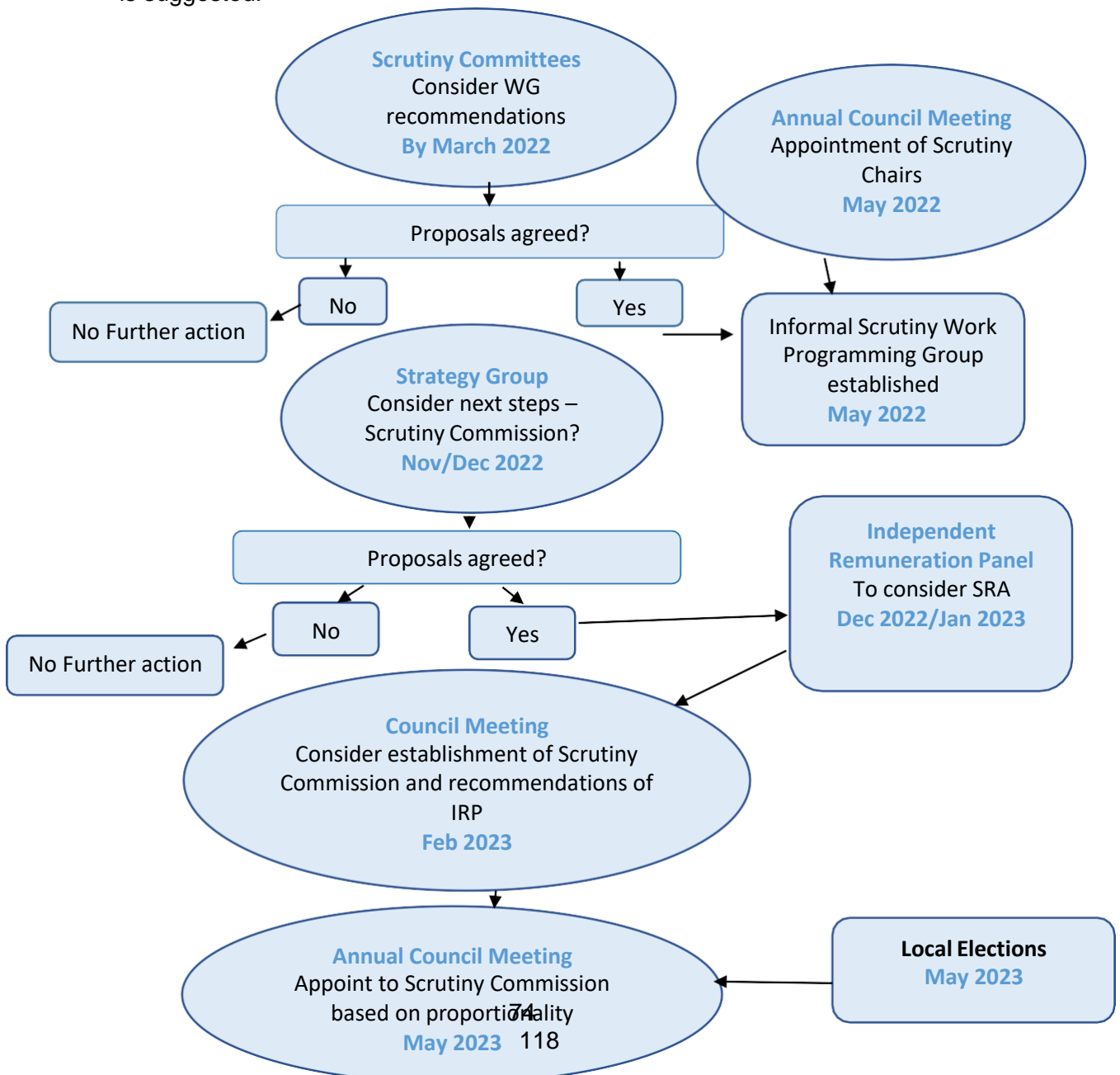
Lead Officers	Strategic Directors
Terms of Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider requests for inclusion on the work programmes of each Scrutiny Committee;</li> <li>• Consider whether there are other ways of receiving information;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult with members of Scrutiny Committees, Senior Officers, Cabinet Members for horizon scanning on policy development;</li> <li>Look at the corporate priorities, Council Delivery Plan and Cabinet Forward plan and identify key issues/topics for investigation/inquiry</li> <li>Consider events and decisions in the Council's calendar which could require an input/consultation via Scrutiny</li> <li>Review any follow up work required after previous scrutiny</li> </ul>
Membership	Membership to comprise the chairs of the two scrutiny committees and an opposition scrutiny committee member from each group.
Meetings	The Work Programming Group will meet approximately every 2 months (6 meetings a year)

#### 4. TIMELINE

4.1 This report was considered and endorsed by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 5 January 2022.

4.2 In order to implement the changes, the following timeline for consultation and approval is suggested.



<b>Policies and other considerations, as appropriate</b>	
Council Priorities:	All
Policy Considerations:	Not applicable
Safeguarding:	No issues identified
Equalities/Diversity:	No issues identified
Customer Impact:	No issues identified
Economic and Social Impact:	No issues identified
Environment and Climate Change:	No issues identified
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Strategy Group, Scrutiny Cross Party Working Group and to be considered by both Scrutiny Committees.
Risks:	No issues identified
Officer Contact	Melanie Long Democratic Services Team Manager <a href="mailto:melanie.long@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">melanie.long@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a>

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