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Meeting	CABINET
Time/Day/Date	5.00 pm on Tuesday, 28 July 2026
Location	Abbey Room, Stenson House, London Road, Coalville, LE67 3FN
Officer to contact	Democratic Services (01530 454512)

AGENDA

Item	Pages
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	
Under the Code of Conduct members are reminded that in declaring interests you should make clear the nature of that interest and whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest, registerable interest or other interest.	
3. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION	
4. MINUTES	
To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11 June and 23 June 2026	3 - 10
5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION UPDATE	
Report of the Chief Executive Presented by the Leader of the Council	11 - 18
6. GENERAL FUND FINANCE UPDATE - 2025/26 PROVISIONAL OUTTURN	
Report of the Strategic Director of Resources Presented by the Finance and Corporate Portfolio Holder	19 - 36
7. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) FINANCE UPDATE - 2025/26 PROVISIONAL OUTTURN	
Report of the Strategic Director of Resources Presented by the Finance and Corporate Portfolio Holder	37 - 46

8.	HOUSING FLEET RENEWAL	
	Report of the Strategic Director of Communities Housing, Property and Customer Services Portfolio Holder	47 - 58
9.	ACQUISITIONS AND DISPOSALS - SECTION 106 ACQUISITION	
	Report of the Strategic Director of Communities Presented by the Housing, Property and Customer Services Portfolio Holder	59 - 64
10.	WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE COALVILLE STRATEGIC GROWTH AREA - RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
	Report of the Strategic Director of Place Presented by the Planning Portfolio Holder	65 - 112
11.	NEW RECYCLING CONTAINERS PROJECT UPDATE	
	Report of the Strategic Director of Communities Presented by the Community, Environment and Climate Change Portfolio Holder	113 - 168
12.	EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC	
	The officers consider that the press and public should be excluded during consideration of the following items in accordance with Section 100(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 as publicity would be likely to result in disclosure of exempt or confidential information. Members are reminded that they must have regard to the public interest test and must consider, for each item, whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption from disclosure outweighs the public interest in making the item available.	
13.	CUSTOMER SERVICES TELEPHONY CONTACT CENTRE SOLUTION CONTRACT	
	Report of the Strategic Director of Resources Presented by the Housing, Property and Customer Services Portfolio Holder	169 - 172

Circulation:

Councillor R Blunt (Chair)
Councillor M B Wyatt (Deputy Chair)
Councillor T Gillard
Councillor K Merrie MBE
Councillor A C Saffell
Councillor A C Woodman

MINUTES of a meeting of the CABINET held in the Stenson House, London Road, Coalville, LE67 3FN on THURSDAY, 11 JUNE 2026

Present: Councillor R Blunt (Chair)

Councillors M B Wyatt, T Gillard, N J Rushton, A C Saffell and A C Woodman

In Attendance: Councillors J Legrys and J G Simmons

Officers: Mrs A Thomas, Mr J Arnold, Mrs A Crouch, Ms R Tapping, Mrs C Hammond, Mr C Elston and Mr T James

13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor K Merrie.

14. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no interests declared.

15. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

There were no questions received.

16. MINUTES

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on the 19 May 2026.

It was moved by Councillor T Gillard, seconded by Councillor T Saffell and

RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the meeting held on the 19 May 2026 be approved and signed by the Chair as an accurate record of the proceedings.

Reason for decision: The Cabinet (Executive) Procedure Rules require that the minutes of the previous meeting are considered and confirmed as a correct record.

17. PROPOSED NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL PLAN (REGULATION 19)

The Infrastructure Portfolio Holder presented the report to members. He placed his thanks on record to the officers in the planning policy team for all their hard work to date and also to Councillors J Simmons and J Legrys for all their cross-party support and work through the Local Plan Committee. He announced the consultation would run for eight weeks rather than the statutory six weeks.

The Leader invited Councillor J Legrys to address the Cabinet.

Councillor J Legrys placed on record his thanks to all the staff that had worked above what was expected on the draft Local Plan and also to the Chair of Local Plan Committee and the Portfolio Holder. He reminded members that all both Cabinet and Council were being asked to do was allow officers to proceed to the Regulation 19 consultation and that Council would consider the Local Plan again in November following the consultation, before it went to the examiner.

It was moved by Councillor N J Rushton, seconded by Councillor A Woodman and

RESOLVED THAT:

Cabinet recommends to Council that:

- (I) The proposed submission Draft Local Plan (appendix B) and policies map (appendix C) and sustainability appraisal (appendix D) are approved for a minimum six week consultation in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement, The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and Regulations 19 and 20 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, subject to the finalisation of evidence base studies and there being no substantive issues for the Council to reconsider.
- (II) Following the public consultation, Full Council will be invited to consider the representations received on the draft plan and prior to considering whether the plan should be submitted to the Secretary of State under Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
- (III) Authority be delegated to the Strategic Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Infrastructure to make minor amendments to the Local Plan and accompanying sustainability appraisal before publication and before submission to the Secretary of State.
- (IV) Authority be delegated to the Strategic Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Infrastructure to make amendments to the wording of policies EC6, AP3, AP4, AP7, AP9, H4, H5 H10 and H11 and to agree any subsequent revised sustainability appraisal prior to publication.
- (V) Authority be delegated to the Strategic Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Infrastructure to agree the final content of the Local Plan appendices including the glossary, monitoring framework and housing trajectory
- (VI) Authority be delegated to the Strategic Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Infrastructure to prepare and consult on main modifications to the Local Plan during the examination process, if required, to address issues of soundness.

Reason for decision: To enable the view of Cabinet to be forwarded to Council when Council considers the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan (Regulation 19) at its meeting on 11 June 2026.

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm

The Chair closed the meeting at 5.06 pm

MINUTES of a meeting of the CABINET held in the Abbey Room, Stenson House, London Road, Coalville, LE67 3FN on TUESDAY, 23 JUNE 2026

Present: Councillor R Blunt (Chair)

Councillors M B Wyatt, K Merrie MBE, A C Saffell and A C Woodman

In Attendance: Councillors

Officers: Mrs A Thomas, Mr J Arnold, Mrs A Crouch, Ms B Leonard, Mrs C Hammond, Ms H Panter and Ms E Lant

18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor T Gillard and Councillor N Rushton.

19. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no interests declared.

20. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

There were no questions received.

21. MINUTES

It was noted that the minutes of the 11 June would be considered at the meeting of 28 July 2026.

22. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STEWARDSHIP REPORT 2025/26

The report was presented by the Finance and Corporate Portfolio Holder.

The report was noted and members were thanked for their comments.

Reason for decision: Informing Cabinet of the Council's Treasury Management Activity is a statutory requirement.

23. SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES AND CAPITAL APPROVALS

The report was presented by the Finance and Corporate Portfolio Holder.

It was moved by Councillor K Merrie, seconded by Councillor A Woodman and

RESOLVED THAT:

The movement of the Capital Schemes detailed in paragraph 2.2 from the development pool to the active programme be approved.

Reason for decision:

The Council's Financial Procedure Rules, Section 2, paragraphs A24 to A28 stipulate the procedures for virements and supplementary estimates, whilst the Council's Capital Strategy sets out the Governance of the Capital Programme.

24. CORPORATE BUSINESS CONTINUITY POLICY

The report was presented by the Finance and Corporate Portfolio Holder.

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

RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) The adoption of the Council's Business Continuity Policy be approved.
- 2) It be noted that service-level business continuity plans were already in place, and that the policy provided organisation-wide governance, consistency and best-practice assurance.
- 3) It be noted that business continuity training for Senior Leadership was being procured to strengthen strategic readiness and response.
- 4) Authority be delegated to the Head of Paid Service to make any necessary minor, non-material amendments to the policy prior to publication.

Reason for decision: This is a corporate policy which requires Cabinet approval in accordance with the Constitution.

25. FOOD SAFETY SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2026-27

The report was presented by the Community, Environment and Climate Change Portfolio Holder.

It was moved by Councillor M Wyatt, seconded by Councillor K Merrie and

RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) The Environmental Health Food Safety Service Delivery Plan 2026/27 be approved.
- 2) The performance and achievements in 2025/26 be noted.

Reason for decision: To enable the Council to discharge its statutory duties under the Food Safety Act 1990 and comply with the Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement by approving the Food Safety Service Delivery Plan 2026/27.

26. EAST MIDLANDS FREEPORT CONTRIBUTIONS SPD

The report was presented by the Planning Portfolio Holder.

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

RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) The proposed revisions to the draft East Midlands Freeport Strategic Infrastructure and Contributions Supplementary Planning Document be supported.
- 2) It be recommended that, subject to no material comments being received from the statutory consultation bodies on the screening report for strategic environmental assessment and habitats assessment, the Local Plan Committee adopts the East

Midlands Freeport Strategic Infrastructure and Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (appendix B).

3) Authority be delegated to the Strategic Director of Place to review and recommend any minor modifications to the final draft East Midlands Freeport Strategic Infrastructure and Contributions Supplementary Planning Document prior to adoption at Local Plan Committee.

Reason for decision: The Council's Constitution (Part 2, Section D5, paragraph 2.2.1) requires the Local Plan Committee to receive reports from Cabinet on proposed SPDs.

27. CUSTOMER SERVICE PERFORMANCE UPDATE 2025/26

The report was presented by the Housing, Property and Customer Services Portfolio Holder.

Comments from the Community Scrutiny Committee on the report were considered and acknowledged in turn.

The report was noted and members were thanked for their comments.

Reason for decision: To ensure Cabinet Members are aware of Customer Services activity and transactions during the last financial year given the Service's cross-cutting delivery.

28. CORPORATE COMPENSATION AND REMEDIES

The report was presented by the Housing, Property and Customer Services Portfolio Holder.

Comments from the Community Scrutiny Committee on the report were considered and acknowledged in turn.

It was moved by Councillor A Woodman, seconded by Councillor K Merrie _and

RESOLVED THAT:

1) The Compensation and Remedies policy be approved.

2) Authority be Delegated to the Director of Resources to make minor amendments to the policies as required to address changes in national policy and local priorities.

Reason for decision:

To agree amendments to the Council's Compensation Policy as set out above.

29. ANNUAL CORPORATE COMPLAINTS 2025/26

The report was presented by the Housing, Property and Customer Services Portfolio Holder.

Comments from the Community Scrutiny Committee on the report were considered and acknowledged in turn.

It was moved by Councillor A Woodman, seconded by Councillor K Merrie and

RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) The comments made by Corporate Scrutiny Committee on 18 June 2026 be noted.
- 2) The details of the Annual report 2025/26 be noted.
- 3) The self-assessment at Appendix 1 be reviewed and confirmed that the Council is compliant.

Reason for decision: The Housing Ombudsman's Complaints Code requires the Council to report on complaints annually to the governing body.

30. HOUSING SERVICE PERMISSION TO CONSULT – COMPLIANCE POLICIES

The report was presented by the Housing, Property and Customer Services Portfolio Holder.

It was moved by Councillor A Woodman, seconded by Councillor K Merrie and

RESOLVED THAT:

The public consultations on the policies listed in paragraph 2.1 be approved.

Reason for decision: Approval of the scope and content of public consultations where deemed necessary by the Head of Paid Service is reserved to Cabinet.

31. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

RESOLVED THAT:

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

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

32. PROPERTY SERVICES RESPONSIVE REPAIRS AND MINOR WORKS CONTRACT

The report was presented by the Housing, Property and Customer Services Portfolio Holder.

It was moved by Councillor A Woodman, seconded by Councillor K Merrie and

RESOLVED THAT:

The recommendations in the report be approved.

Reason for decision: Cabinet approval is required in line with Part 3, Section G -

Contract Procedure Rules, of the Constitution.

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm

The Chair closed the meeting at 5.17 pm

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NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET – TUESDAY, 28 JULY 2026



Title of Report	LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION UPDATE	
Presented by	Councillor Richard Blunt Leader of the Council PH Briefed ☐	
Background Papers	Cabinet report – 9 January 2025	Public Report: Yes
	Cabinet report – 25 February 2025 Cabinet report - October 2025 LGR Decision Letter for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland	Key Decision: Yes
Financial Implications	Not applicable.	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	Cabinet is currently responsible for the Council’s preparations for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), pending the Structural Changes Order (SCO) becoming law. The process of reorganisation is statutory, primarily through the SCO and then further directions that will be made. The report details these processes further including the legal implications and considerations.	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	Not applicable.	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	To update Cabinet on the current position and next steps in the LGR process. To seek endorsement for actions to prepare for, and engage with the Government’s LGR process following the decision from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)	

Reason for Decision	To ensure Cabinet is kept up to date with progress in relation to LGR. To enable voluntary joint arrangements between the LLR authorities.
Recommendations	THAT CABINET: 1. NOTES THE REPORT, GOVERNMENT DECISION AND FURTHER UPDATES REGARDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION. 2. DELEGATES AUTHORITY TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, TO RESPOND TO THE DECISION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION. 3. APPROVES, SUBJECT TO THE SIMILAR APPROVAL BY ALL LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND (LLR) COUNCILS, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE OR MORE VOLUNTARY JOINT COMMITTEES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 101 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972. 4. DELEGATES AUTHORITY TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, TO NOMINATE REPRESENTATIVES TO SUCH VOLUNTARY COMMITTEE(S). 5. DELEGATES AUTHORITY TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, TO NOMINATE AND APPOINT ANY SUBSTITUTE MEMBER TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE(S). 6. DELEGATES AUTHORITY TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, TO APPROVE THE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE VOLUNTARY JOINT COMMITTEE(S) AND MAKE MINOR AMENDMENTS TO THE SAME.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In December 2024, the Ministry of Communities, Housing and Local Government (MHCLG) published the English Devolution White Paper. Within the Paper, the Government set a clear expectation that in two-tier areas, such as Leicestershire, local government be reorganised with new unitary councils established to replace district, borough and county councils. The Government stated that this would lead to better outcomes for residents, save significant money and improve accountability.

- 1.2 Councils were invited to work collaboratively with other local authorities in their area to develop a proposal for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).
- 1.3 Within Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) three proposals were submitted on the 28 November 2025, within the timescales established. These were a two unitary proposal from Leicestershire County Council, a two unitary proposal with an expanded City boundary from Leicester City Council and a three unitary proposal from the seven District and Borough councils in Leicestershire and Rutland County Council.
- 1.4 A seven-week period of public consultation led by Government was undertaken from 5 February 2026 and based on these three proposals. Councils within Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland did not receive feedback of the consultation.

Government Decision

- 1.5 On 16 July 2026, Government announced the decision of reorganisation for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The decision which can be found on the link below, is for two unitary authorities: one for an expanded Leicester City; and one for the County areas and Rutland with the city expansion areas removed.
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6a58d25b5ca06bf11ccb42f8/Local_government_reorganisation_-_decision_letter_to_Leicestershire_Leicester_and_Rutland_council_leaders.pdf

Design Phase

- 1.6 Now that a decision has been made, all Councils affected will be required to undertake a significant amount of work to ensure that the new authorities are established in a safe and legal manner by April 2028. This will require working in a large partnership environment on a multitude of complex issues. While the Councils can learn from other unitary examples such as Northamptonshire, Surrey and the Devolution Priority Programme (DPP) areas, there will be issues that are bespoke to LLR.

Structural Changes Order

- 1.7 The legal mechanism which enables reorganisation is the making of secondary legislation through a Structural Changes Order (SCO). An SCO will establish the new single tier of local authority for the relevant area and make provision to abolish the predecessor councils.
- 1.8 Government is currently drafting the SCO for LLR and has asked the predecessor councils a range of questions which will provide the basis of the SCO. The SCO must be approved by both Houses of Parliament and will legislate on matters such as the set-up of the new unitaries, initially as shadow authorities, elections to the new shadow authorities and the responsibilities both the current and successor councils will have in implementing LGR. The SCO is expected to be laid before Parliament in late 2026 and is anticipated to come into force in March 2027, following Parliamentary approval.
- 1.9 The Order will also create the new warding arrangements for the unitary councils and work is ongoing between the ten LLR councils to determine the structure. It should be noted that warding arrangements will be developed in line with Boundary Commission Guidance and follow as much as possible existing arrangements such as district/borough wards, county divisions or parish boundaries.

- 1.10 The current composition of all LLR councils will remain unchanged until April 2028. All councillors will continue to serve in their existing roles throughout this period.

Voluntary Joint Committees and Joint Committees

- 1.11 The government has confirmed that joint committees must be formally established within 14 days of the SCO coming into force. The joint committees, one for each new unitary authority, will bring together members from the existing predecessor councils to begin planning the transition. They will meet until the new shadow authorities are formed following the May 2027 elections. The SCO will confer powers to the joint committees.
- 1.12 The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is also encouraging voluntary arrangements to be put in place ahead of the SCO coming into force. The existing councils already have the legal authority to establish a joint committee at any time, regardless of the SCO and LGR. The constituent councils see the benefit in optimising the length of preparation period leading up to the shadow authority elections in May 2027. For this reason, councils are recommended to establish a joint committee on a voluntary basis (voluntary joint committees), as soon as possible, to enable such preparatory work to commence, albeit the specific functions will not be confirmed until the SCO has been made.
- 1.13 Once all councils in the geographical area of LLR agree to collectively establish the relevant joint committees, the joint committees shall arrange to meet to appoint a Chair, appoint an officer implementation team, and agree their forward work programme.
- 1.14 The draft terms of reference for the voluntary joint committees should mirror as closely as possible, the provisions anticipated in the SCO when it comes into force, which is anticipated to be March 2027.
- 1.15 An officer implementation team will support the joint committees until they are dissolved. To date, the current LLR councils have been working together to prepare for LGR through existing meetings including the Chief Executives and Leaders Groups, the Finance Officers Group, the Monitoring Officers Group, and the other thematic groups.
- 1.16 It is anticipated that at its first meeting, the joint committees will appoint an officer implementation team, who will support the joint committees in delivering an implementation plan to transition to the new unitary authorities. A more detailed paper will be presented to members in September.
- 1.17 The delegation sought within this report will facilitate proceeding with the creating of the voluntary joint committees.

Shadow Elections

- 1.18 In May 2027, elections for the councillors who will form the shadow authorities will take place. These elected members will work alongside the existing predecessor councils in a preparatory role for one year and the joint committees will dissolve at this point. The shadow authorities will not have any service delivery responsibilities until vesting day and the launch of the new unitary authorities but will oversee preparations for the new

authorities coming into effect in April 2028. Those members then continue as members of the new unitary authority until the expiry of their term.

Transition Period – Shadow Elections to Vesting Day

- 1.19 During the transitional period, the shadow authorities will prepare for the delivery of services for the new area and take over the implementation plan from the joint committee.

This includes:

- Establishing governance arrangements, including drafting and adopting a constitution, adopting codes of conduct and members' allowances etc.
- Appointing statutory positions - Head of Paid Service, Chief Finance Officer (Section 151) and Monitoring Officer
- Setting budgets, financial strategies and council tax
- Coordinating with existing councils, staff transfer, transfer of functions, service disaggregation / aggregation, asset and contract novation

- 1.20 The Government will also issue a direction under Section 24 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, requiring predecessor councils to secure the consent of the new shadow authority for certain financial decisions as below:

- 1.20.1 Disposal of any land if the consideration for the disposal exceeds £100,000
- 1.20.2 Entering into any capital contracts where consideration exceeds £1m; or which includes a term allowing the consideration payable to be varied
- 1.20.3 Entering into any non-capital contract which exceeds £100,000 where the period of the contract extends beyond a date set out in the direction; or under the terms of the contract, the period may be extended beyond that date
- 1.20.4 Including an amount of financial reserves in a calculation under section 31A(3) or 42A(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

Expected Time Scales

- 1.21 Existing councils will continue to be responsible for the delivery of services and will be subject to a duty to cooperate with each other and the new authorities. An indicative timeline is set out below:

July 2026	Decision on future of LGR for LLR made
Autumn 2026	Voluntary Joint Committees formed
	Draft SCO Expected
Spring 2027	SCO expected to be approved in Parliament
May 2027	Shadow Authorities established to begin transition
	Elections to Shadow Authorities

During 2027	Recruitment to key senior posts (including statutory officers)
April 2028	Vesting Day – New Authorities formally take effect for service delivery

2.0 PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT PROGRESS

- 2.1 Throughout 2026, the predecessor councils have been focusing on ‘no regrets’ activities for work that will be required irrespective of the decision that has now been made by Government. This has been based on best practice and advice from MHCLG. A programme management structure was established and all chief executives across the ten councils have been meeting since February 2026 to discuss LGR related matters.
- 2.2 These are supported by a Steering Group with a representative from each of the County Council, City Council, Rutland County Council one from the District and Boroughs. Thematic groups have also been set up, each with a Chief Executive sponsor and an initial work programme. The groups cover Workforce and HR, Finance, Legal and Governance, Transition and Resources, ICT and Cyber, Procurement and Contracts, Asset Management, Communications and Elections and Boundaries. Across the ten councils a large number of staff are now engaged in these groups.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no new financial implications as a result of this report. Council agreed, as part of its 2026/7 budget, to set aside a sum of £2million to support the transitional work required by the Council in support of LGR. With the “minded to” decision now made, officers will undertake a review to understand whether this budget meets the original requirement or needs to be increased to incorporate any new commitments for this Council or the emerging transitional cost share for delivering the new model. Any recommendations will form part of a separate report to member in the autumn.

4.0 OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 Not to establish voluntary joint committees

- 4.1.1 Rather than establishing voluntary joint committees now, there may be a preference to wait until the formal joint committees are required by the SCO. This option is not recommended as it would not assist with the initial planning and preparation, and is not in accordance with MHCLG Guidance

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	- Planning and regeneration - Communities and housing - Clean, green and Zero Carbon - A well-run council
Policy Considerations:	None directly arising from the report.
Safeguarding:	None directly arising from the report.
Equalities/Diversity:	In developing the draft final proposal regard was given to equality implications and how the proposals might affect those groups with protected characteristics and there are no areas of concern.
Customer Impact:	None directly arising from the report although depending on the future structure of local government services customers may be impacted. This will need to be given detailed consideration.
Economic and Social Impact:	None directly arising from the report.
Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon:	None directly arising from the report.
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	A comprehensive public and stakeholder engagement programme was undertaken between 9 June 2025 and 20 July 2025. The report sets out how the engagement was carried out and the public and stakeholder engagement report has informed the draft final submission document.
Risks:	Local Services could be impacted negatively - it is noted that during any period of change our services need to continue to be delivered in the best interests of the Council's residents. Resources will be directed as appropriate and any additional resource be sourced. Resourcing implications of continuing to deliver services during a period of change - the Council will ensure that resources are directed appropriately and reserves utilised to ensure that there is as little impact on service delivery as possible during a period of change. The proposal is not chosen for implementation - the councils are committed to continuing to share data and engaging constructively with each other, Leicester City Council and Leicestershire County Council to deliver whichever model is chosen.
Officer Contact	Allison Thomas Chief Executive allison.thomas@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

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NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET – TUESDAY, 28 JULY 2026



Title of Report	2025/26 FINANCIAL PROVISIONAL OUTTURN - GENERAL FUND	
Presented by	Councillor Keith Merrie MBE Finance and Corporate Portfolio Holder PH Briefed <input type="checkbox" value="Yes"/>	
Background Papers	Published draft accounts Statement of Accounts 2025-26 (unaudited).pdf Cabinet – 16/12/2025 2025/26 Quarter 2 General Fund Finance Update	Public Report: Yes
		Key Decision: Yes
Financial Implications	The outturn position on the General Fund is a saving of £1.15m, this is an increase from the quarter 2 forecast saving of £0.496m. Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	There are no direct legal implications arising from the report.	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	There are no direct implications arising from the report.	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	To present an overview of the Council's General Fund financial outturn for 2025/26.	
Reason for Decision	As required under Financial Procedure Rule A19.	
Recommendations	THAT CABINET: 1. NOTES THE SAVING OF £1.15m ON THE GENERAL FUND FOR 2025/26 TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE MTFP RESERVE. 2. NOTES THE SLIPPAGE OF £15.97M ON THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 3. RECOMMENDS TO FULL COUNCIL THE APPROVAL OF THE CREATION OF THE FOLLOWING NEW EARMARKED RESERVES IN EXCESS OF £100,000: • PLANNING APPLICATION INCOME RESERVE (£179,879). • ICT CYBER ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK GRANT RESERVE (£150,000).	

	4. RECOMMENDS TO FULL COUNCIL THE APPROVAL OF THE ADDITION OF £7.309m TO THE BUSINESS RATE RESERVE. 5. NOTES AND APPROVES THE APPLICATION OF £0.984m OF BROUGHT-FORWARD UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (UKSPF) GRANT FUNDING TO SUPPORT EXPENDITURE INCURRED DURING 2025/26.
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1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 It is good practice for local authorities to publish the General Fund outturn position, as this promotes transparency and accountability in the management of public finances. Providing a clear and timely summary of the financial outturn enables councillors, stakeholders and the public to scrutinise how resources have been utilised against the approved budget. Furthermore, this openness helps build trust in the authority's financial stewardship and supports informed decision-making regarding future spending priorities and resource allocation.
- 1.2 The Council is required to produce Financial Statements each year that 'give a true and fair view' of the financial position and transactions of the Council. The draft accounts for 2025/26 were published on the Council's website on 29 June 2026. This report presents the provisional final outturn position for the General Fund 2025/26. The General fund reported a saving of £1.15m for the financial year. This position reflected a combination of adverse and favourable variances across services. This surplus contributes to increasing the Council's reserves position. The outturn may change following the audit of the Statement of Accounts, any significant amendments will be reported to Cabinet once finalised.
- 1.3 Throughout the report, pressures and savings are referred to. A pressure is an instance whereby costs have exceeded budget or income has not met target - these are shown as a 'positive' value. A saving occurs where expenditure is lower than budget or forecast income is higher than the target - these are displayed as a 'negative' value, using brackets.

2.0 REVENUE OUTTURN

- 2.1 The outturn position on the General Fund is summarised in Table 1 below. The outturn position shows a saving of (£1.15m) for the year. A more detailed summary is shown in appendix 1. Details on the significant variances are detailed below in section 2.2.

Table 1 2025-26 General Fund Revenue Outturn

Directorate & Service Area	Revised Budget	Outturn	Outturn Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive Directorate	3,013	3,001	(12)
Place Directorate	2,247	3,008	761
Community Services Directorate	7,951	8,673	722
Resources Directorate	5,310	5,684	374
Corporate & Democratic Core (CDC) & Other Budgets	629	312	(317)
NET COST OF SERVICES	19,150	20,678	1,528
Net Recharges from General Fund	(1,714)	(2,799)	(1,085)
NET COST OF SERVICES AFTER RECHARGES	17,436	17,879	443
Corporate Items & Financing	1,638	567	(1,071)
NET REVENUE EXPENDITURE	19,074	18,446	(628)
TOTAL FUNDING AVAILABLE	(19,074)	(19,597)	(523)
(SAVING) / PRESSURE 2025/2026	0	(1,151)	(1,151)

2.2 The significant variances comparing the revised budget to outturn are set out below:

Chief Executive

The Chief Executive's Section reported a saving of (£0.012m) in 2025/2026. Within this, there was a saving of (£0.248m) across the directorate on salaries and a pressure of £0.266m on agency. There was also a transfer from earmarked reserves of (£0.051m) to fund Legal agency costs and (£0.013m) to fund additional hours in Communications.

Other variances were pressures on corporate training of £0.017m, senior officer recruitment of £0.026m and Investor's in People (IIP) accreditation of £0.017m, but most of these were funded by reserves. Legal income was (£0.031m) higher than budget.

Place Directorate

The Place Directorate reports a pressure of £0.761m in 2025/26. Included within this figure is £0.455m of staffing costs that have been identified for recharge to the capital programme. The corresponding credit is included within the £1.085m saving reported through net General Fund recharges. In addition to this, following an assessment it was established that £0.130m relating to the demolition of the former Council Offices could not be capitalised and was therefore charged to revenue in accordance with accounting requirements. There is no overall corporate impact. The total demolition cost was £0.250m, of which £0.120m was funded from the Business Rates Reserve, this cost will be funded through the overall general fund variance but maintains the balance of the reserve.

Commercial Properties reported a pressure of £0.167m. This included £0.142m of increased repairs and maintenance expenditure and rental income being £0.076m below budget due to vacant units. Property maintenance costs have been funded

from the Property Maintenance Reserve, which was established to support investment in the Council's property portfolio. The drawdown was not completed during the financial year, therefore as part of the closedown of the accounts the £0.142m will be transferred to the MTFP reserve. This reflects the use of the reserve and ensures that the general fund does not fund this expenditure. Details of this can be seen in the reserves summary at appendix 2.

These are technical accounting adjustments and do not represent an underlying structural pressure for the Directorate. Whilst in-year budget monitoring provides an estimated year-end position, the final outturn incorporates a number of adjustments and technical accounting entries that are only confirmed during the closure of accounts process.

Other pressures were:

- £0.118m from Whitwick Business Centre which incurred higher than expected cost of utility bills charged to vacant units which was paid by the council.
- Planning application fee income exceeded budget by (£0.408m). Of this, £0.180m is proposed to be transferred to an earmarked reserve to fund additional staffing capacity, improving resilience and helping address recruitment challenges associated with hard-to-fill specialist posts. The remaining £0.228m will help offset the overall overspend position of the Directorate.

Community Services Directorate

The Community Services Directorate reported a pressure of £0.722m in 2025/2026. This position reflects several adverse variances, including increased staffing, overtime and agency costs within Waste Services to cover sickness and vacancies of £0.398m, additional vehicle hire costs arising from delays in procuring new refuse vehicles of £0.244m, higher than budgeted fleet maintenance costs of £0.220m and recharges to the Housing Revenue Account for Fleet services were lower than expected at £0.184m. These pressures were partially offset by reduced fuel costs of £0.138m.

On Leisure Services, there was a saving of (£0.150m) on the Sports and Leisure Management Ltd contract. This was primarily due to utility costs being lower than budgeted, with claims from Everyone Active estimated at (£0.055m) compared with a budget of £0.215m. The remaining variance relates to lower management fee costs of approximately £0.010m. The 2026/27 budget has been updated to reflect the latest forecast costs.

Strategic Housing reported a saving of (£0.135m), primarily driven by homelessness and asylum seeker grant income exceeding budget by £0.365m. This favourable variance was partially offset by additional staffing and agency costs of (£0.199m).

Resources Directorate

The Resources Directorate reported a pressure of £0.374m. Staffing and agency costs within Finance were £0.420m above budget following the use of £0.421m of earmarked reserves, bad debt provision for sundry debts was £0.158m more than budget and ICT had increased maintenance costs of £0.166m. These pressures were partially offset by additional summons income generated by Revenues and Benefits of (£0.127m) and a saving of (£0.292m) on benefits payments (rent allowances).

Non-Distributed Costs & Corporate and Democratic Core

There was a pressure of £0.034m on Non-Distributed costs (retirement benefits - £0.005m and surplus assets +£0.039m).

Corporate and Democratic Core reported a pressure of £0.018m. Audit fees were £0.021m higher than budget. However, this includes grants received for Redmond Review and Local Audit Backstop of (£0.073m) to offset this and a (£0.013m) contribution from reserves. There was a pressure of £0.009m on Treasury Management Consultancy and recharges were £0.032m more than budget.

The total contingency budget for 2025/26 was £0.529m. During the year, £0.196m was vired to remove the vacancy factor from selected cost centres, leaving an available contingency budget of £0.333m, which was not utilised and therefore contributed to the overall surplus position.

Corporate Items and Financing

Corporate Items and Financing reported a saving of (£1.071m). Investment income exceeded budget by (£0.668m), reflecting higher-than-anticipated returns generated from surplus cash balances arising from slippage within the capital programme. Financing costs were (£0.403m) lower than budgeted, primarily due to reduced borrowing requirements and higher levels of investable cash balances throughout the year.

Funding

The Council received additional Extended Producer Responsibility grant of (£0.474m).

3.0 CAPITAL OUTTURN

3.1 The table below details the outturn for the year on the Council's general fund capital programme.

Table 2 – 2025/26 General Fund Capital Programme Outturn

General Fund Capital Programme	Revised Budget	Final Outturn	(Under)/Over Spend	(Slippage)
Schemes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Coalville Regeneration Projects	2,681	362	(2,319)	(2,015)
UK Shared Prosperity Investment Plan Programme (UKSPF) & REPF	2,401	1,760	(641)	(1,358)
Carbon Zero	535	24	(511)	(511)
Systems/ICT Schemes	220	186	(34)	(34)
Vehicle, Plant and Equipment	8,327	149	(8,178)	(8,178)
New Construction or Renovation	4,751	666	(4,085)	(3,869)
Special Expenses	22	20	(2)	(2)
General Fund Total Capital Programme	18,937	3,166	(15,771)	(15,967)

3.2 The revised General Fund capital budget for 2025/2026 was £18.937m, with a final outturn of £3.166m, representing 16.72% of the approved programme. This resulted in a slippage of £15.967m to be used in future years. Please see attached appendix 4 for further information.

3.3 The primary factors contributing to the saving and associated budget slippages are:

- The Fleet Replacement Programme had an approved budget of £8.327m, with actual expenditure of £0.149m. A total of £8.178m has been reprofiled to future years due to long lead times for vehicles to be delivered and delays in the procurement process.

- The Food Waste Rollout Programme – The vehicles and containers have been ordered but will be delivered in the 2026/27 year due to long manufacture build timescales. The budget has, therefore, been reprofiled to the following year.
- Disabled Facilities Grant and other REFCUS projects (capital expenditure on assets which are not Council-owned) had an approved budget of £2.114m, with actual expenditure of £0.759m. A total of £1.355m will be carried forward to future years. Delivery of the disabled facilities grant programme is demand led, as grants are awarded to support essential adaptations that enable residents to maintain independence within their homes. The grant cannot be used to support investment in the Council's own properties.
- The UKSPF and Rural England Prosperity Fund programmes had an approved budget of £0.287m, with actual expenditure of £1.271m. This project had a brought-forward budget of £.0984m (fully funded by grant) and this contributed towards the funding of in-year expenditure.
- New Construction or Renovation programme had a budget of £4.660m, but total expenditure was £0.416m. Some of the schemes in this programme have been delayed and budgets reprofiled to future years, and this includes Stenson Square Public Realm project (£1m budget) and the new Enterprise Park (£1.9m budget). Work is ongoing on the Marlborough Centre Purchase and Renovation project, expenditure in the year was £0.2m (mainly on design fees).

4.0 RESERVES

- 4.1 The Council holds earmarked reserves which are set aside for known or predicted future spending needs. These are monitored alongside the budget as part of budget monitoring.
- 4.2 Earmarked reserves are requested at year-end by departments to carry forward unspent balances. Requests may relate to retaining existing reserves or creating new ones where an underspend aligns with the reserve's intended purpose. All requests are reviewed by the Finance Team before being submitted to the Section 151 Officer.
- 4.3 The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) reserve has a balance of £8.3m at 31 March 2026 and is used to provide resources that support service improvement and enhance business efficiency but was also set up to smooth any budget fluctuations. This reserve enables the Council to implement the necessary transformation and changes required to meet its funding objectives over the period covered by the MTFP. By maintaining this reserve, the Council ensures it has the flexibility and financial capacity to manage future challenges, invest in key projects, and adapt to changing circumstances, ultimately supporting the delivery of its strategic priorities.
- 4.4 When utilised in accordance with their agreed timescales, reserves provide an effective mechanism for utilising surpluses and underspends to support the delivery of projects.

- 4.5 Table 4 below summarises the Council's reserve position. A detailed breakdown by service is provided in Appendix 2 and newly created reserves are listed in Appendix 3.

Table 4: Usable Reserves as at 31 March 2026

Reserves	Balance at 1/4/2025 £m	In Year changes £m	No longer required £m	Balance at 31/03/2026 £m
<u>General Fund</u>				
General Fund Earmarked Reserves	19.06	6.10	(0.22)	24.94
General Fund General Reserves (agreed minimum balance)	1.54	0.00	0.00	1.54
Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Reserve	8.16	(0.08)	0.22	8.30
	28.76	6.02	(0.00)	34.78
<u>Other</u>				
S106	1.78	0.25	0.00	2.03
	30.54	6.27	0.00	36.81

- 4.6 In 2025/26, £3.43m of the £19.06m General Fund earmarked reserves brought forward were utilised, as detailed in Appendix 2.

In 2025/26, earmarked reserve requests totalling £9.45m were approved. In accordance with the Council's financial procedures, Cabinet approval is required for the creation of earmarked reserves exceeding £0.100m. The reserves requiring approval are the Planning Income Reserve (£0.180m), the Cyber Assessment Framework Reserve (£0.150m) and the Business Rates Reserve (£7.374m). Further details of all reserve requests are provided in Appendix 3.

- 4.7 The Cyber Assessment Framework is a grant that was received late in 25/26, the plan is to spend this on our cyber security obligations, including funding a Security Officer role for 2 years and to boost our endpoint security by investing in a more advanced antivirus and antimalware solution.
- 4.8 The Business Rates Reserve is to provide a contingency in case of any future Business Rates Collection Fund deficit and also to fund parts of the capital programme.
- 4.9 Planning Income Reserve is to be used to fill vacant and difficult to fill posts including the Planning Enforcement Team Leader, Senior Conservation Officer, Planning Support Team Leader and potentially Tree Officer. As Planning have failed to recruit, they are looking to fill some of these posts with consultants. The reserve will also pay for agency cover when needed. It may also be used to cover any shortfall in planning fee income received in a financial year.

5.0 SPECIAL EXPENSES

- 5.1 The outturn for Special Expenses is £0.667m, representing a pressure of £0.021m against the approved budget of £0.646m. The budget assumed a £0.007m contribution to Special Expenses reserves; however, the final outturn required a £0.028m contribution from reserves.
- 5.2 The pressure was primarily due to higher than budgeted repairs and maintenance costs at parks and recreation grounds (£0.020m) and Hugglescote Cemetery (£0.010m). This was further compounded by lower than anticipated burial fee income at Hugglescote Cemetery (£0.013m) and Coalville Cemetery (£0.012m). These pressures were partly mitigated by reduced expenditure on Hugglescote asset protection (£0.016m), event salaries, overtime and associated costs (£0.007m), parks and recreation grounds electricity (£0.006m) and insurance recharges (£0.003m). Further details are provided in Table 5.

Table 5: Special Expenses Revenue Outturn

	Approved Budget	Outturn	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
SPECIAL EXPENSES			
Special Expenses	664	645	(19)
Net Financing Costs	(18)	0	18
Contribution to Earmarked Reserves	0	22	22
Expenditure Requirement	646	667	21
Precept	639	639	0
Transfer from/(to) reserves	7	28	21

- 5.3 As shown in Table 6, the Special Expenses Reserve opened at £0.084m and has reduced by £0.028m. The reserve now stands at £0.056m.

Table 6: Special Expenses Reserves

	Outturn
	£'000
SPECIAL EXPENSES	
Special Expenses Reserves 01.04.25	84
Earmarked Reserves - returned to balances	0
Contribution from Reserves 2025/26	(28)
Special Expenses Reserves 31.03.26	56

- 5.4 During 2025/26, Special Expenses required a £0.028m contribution from reserves. Significant work in previous years has strengthened financial sustainability across the Special Expenses accounts to ensure compliance with the requirement to maintain minimum balances of 10% for each area. As at 31 March 2026, two accounts were in deficit, while the remaining four held balances above the minimum threshold. For those Special Expense accounts in deficit, precepts will be increased through the annual budget process to recover the shortfall.

6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1 The Council has delivered a provisional General Fund saving of £1.15m for 2025/26, increasing from the £0.496m forecast reported at Quarter 2. The outturn reflects a combination of service pressures, offset by favourable investment income, additional grant funding and prudent financial management. The resulting surplus strengthens the Council's financial resilience through the proposed transfer to the Medium-Term Financial Plan Reserve, while the capital programme and reserve movements outlined in this report support the delivery of future priorities.

7.0 Looking Ahead

- 7.1 Following the conclusion of the 2025/26 financial year, officers will undertake a review of the reporting process for 2026/27 reporting. Following this review engagement with the Chief Executive, Directors and Cabinet will take place. It is expected that a refreshed reporting format will be introduced to improve readability and provide clearer explanations of key financial information, helping Members and other readers better understand the Council's financial performance and emerging issues.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	A well-run council
Policy Considerations:	Council Delivery Plan Treasury Management Strategy Capital Strategy
Safeguarding:	None.
Equalities/Diversity:	None.
Customer Impact:	None.
Economic and Social Impact:	None.
Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon:	None.
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	None.
Risks:	None
Officer Contact	Anna Crouch Head of Finance and Deputy S151 Officer anna.crouch@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

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2025/2026 GENERAL FUND REVENUE OUTTURN POSITION

Directorate & Service Area	Revised Budget	Outturn	Outturn Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive			
Chief Executive	226	230	4
Human Resources	806	801	(5)
Legal & Support Services	1,981	1,970	(11)
Total Chief Executive Directorate	3,013	3,001	(12)
Place			
Strategic Director of Place	154	145	(9)
Property & Economic Regeneration	829	1,678	849
Planning & Infrastructure	1,260	1,182	(78)
Joint Strategic Planning	4	3	(1)
Total Place Directorate	2,247	3,008	761
Community Services			
Community Services	7,359	8,216	857
Strategic Housing	592	457	(135)
Total Community Services Directorate	7,951	8,673	722
Resources			
Strategic Director of Resources	258	296	38
Audit	161	126	(35)
Customer Services	1,114	1,006	(108)
Finance	1,182	1,851	669
Revenues & Benefits	1,289	928	(361)
ICT	1,300	1,477	177
Business Change	6	0	(6)
Total Resources	5,310	5,684	374
Corporate & Democratic Core (CDC) & Other Budgets			
Corporate & Democratic Core	109	90	(19)
Contingency	333	0	(333)
Non Distributed Costs	187	222	35
Total CDC & Other Budgets	629	312	(317)
NET COST OF SERVICES	19,150	20,678	1,528
Net Recharges from General Fund	(1,714)	(2,799)	(1,085)
NET COST OF SERVICES AFTER RECHARGES	17,436	17,879	443
Corporate Items & Financing			
Net Financing Costs	1,788	1,385	(403)
Investment Income	(150)	(818)	(668)
Total Corporate Items & Financing	1,638	567	(1,071)
NET REVENUE EXPENDITURE	19,074	18,446	(628)

Financed By	Revised Budget	Outturn	Outturn Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
New Homes Bonus	(679)	(679)	0
Transfer from/(to) Collection Fund - CT Prev Yrs Surplus/(Deficit)	0	(40)	(40)
Council Tax	(6,269)	(6,266)	3
Business Rates Income	(8,674)	(8,674)	0
Minimum Funding Guarantee	(1,577)	(1,577)	0
Revenue Support Grant	(131)	(131)	0
Other Grants	(1,744)	(2,230)	(486)
TOTAL FUNDING AVAILABLE	(19,074)	(19,597)	(523)

UNDERSPEND / (OVERSPEND) 2025/2026	29	0	1,151	1,151
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North West Leicestershire District Council

Reserves at 31/3/26

TEAM	Balance as at 1/4/25 £	Contributions to fund 25/26 £	Contributions from fund/ commitments 25/26 £	Transfers (to)/from other reserves 25/26 £	No longer required £	Balance as at 31/3/26 £
Earmarked Reserves:						
Chief Exec	100,000	0	(19,398)	0	0	80,602
Human Resources	30,000	0	(56,758)	53,035	(26,276)	0
Legal & Support Services	103,998	46,000	(64,133)	18,000	0	103,865
Community Services	1,042,323	189,080	(264,613)	93,910	(95,782)	964,918
Strategic Housing	393,850	0	0	0	0	393,850
Planning	1,629,557	440,319	(248,828)	0	0	1,821,048
Property & Economic Regeneration	497,502	52,677	(381,491)	453,400	0	622,088
Joint Strategic Planning	146,866	43,678	0	0	0	190,544
Director of Resources	80,260	0	0	509,150	(1,275)	588,135
Customer Services	7,400	0	(6,820)	43,716	0	44,296
Business Change	549,070	0	(135,644)	76,923	0	490,348
ICT	0	150,000	(2,264)	42,644	0	190,380
Internal Audit	0	0	0	60,000	(60,000)	0
Revenues & Benefits	0	0	(45,150)	45,150	0	0
Finance	345,695	0	(786,917)	992,960	(41,194)	510,544
Business Rates Reserve	14,134,633	7,373,755	(1,562,141)	(1,152,570)	0	18,793,677
MTFP Reserve	8,160,841	1,293,417	0	(1,236,318)	224,528	8,300,518
Total Earmarked Reserves - General Fund	27,221,995	9,588,925	(3,574,159)	0	0	33,236,761
Total Earmarked Reserves - Special Expenses	99,140	21,540	(18,263)	0	0	102,416
TOTAL EARMARKED RESERVES	27,321,135	9,610,465	(3,592,422)	0	0	33,339,177
Other reserves General Fund:						
General Balance (minimum level of reserves)	1,544,493	0	0	0	0	1,544,493
Total other Reserves - General Fund	1,544,493	0	0	0	0	1,544,493
Other reserves Special Expenses:						
General Balance	83,939	0	(27,521)	0	0	56,417
Total other Reserves - Special Expenses	83,939	0	(27,521)	0	0	56,417
TOTAL ALL RESERVES - GENERAL FUND & SPECIAL EXPENSES	28,949,567	9,610,465	(3,619,943)	0	0	34,940,087

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North West Leicestershire District Council
Reserves approved from 25/26 budget

TEAM	Amount £	Grant (Y/N)	Ringfenced (Y/N)	Purpose of reserve
GENERAL FUND				
<u>Legal & Democratic Services</u>				
Election Fund	46,000	N	-	To fund the next Council Election
<u>Community Services</u>				
Community Lottery Scheme	14,471	N	Y	To provide grants to local community groups
Closed Churchyards: St Mary's, Coleorton	2,000	N	-	Path repairs - new layer of slate chippings or gravel
Closed Churchyards: St John the Baptist, Whitwick	3,000	N	-	Replace internal fencing
Hermitage Recreation Ground	24,435	Y	Y	Eco Park works
Food Waste Rollout	93,284	Y	Y	To fund one off costs for food waste rollout
Domestic Abuse Link Worker	17,035	Y	Y	Domestic abuse link worker contract & additional piece of work
Food Safety Inspections	9,900	N	-	To complete food safety inspections to meet FSA requirements
Calorie and labelling grant	1,883	Y	Y	Enforcement of regulations
Renters Right Act	23,072	Y	Y	Implementation of Renters Right Act
<u>Planning</u>				
Neighbourhood Plans	14,372	Y	N	Neighbourhood Referendums
Planning income	179,879	N	-	£70k - to fund the newly created Senior Planning officer post. £300k - transfer of in year planning application income budget surplus
Biodiversity Net Gain	27,142	Y	Y	Unspent 24/25 ring fenced grant
Development Management Fund Grant	92,341	Y	Y	Unspent 24/25 ring fenced grant
Digital Planning Improvement Fund	50,000	Y	Y	Digital Planning Improvement Fund (DPIF) Round 4.2
Improve & Dev Agency - Graduate Training	40,000	Y	Y	Graduate training
Local Plan Implementation Funding	36,585	Y	Y	To support Local Planning Authorities that are progressing a local plan in the legacy plan making system
<u>Property & Economic Regeneration</u>				
UKSPF	52,677	Y	Y	Unspent 2025-26 UKSPF balance transferred to 26-27
<u>Joint Strategic Planning</u>				
JSPM Post	43,678	N	Y	Balance of Partner & NWL Contributions for JSPM Post
<u>ICT</u>				
Cyber Assessment Framework	150,000	Y	Y	To fund security officer for 2 years and other security related spend.
<u>Business Rates</u>				
Business Rates	7,373,755	N	N	Additional Business Rates income received in year and Truck Cartel compensation to be used to fund future year's capital programme.
Total New Earmarked Reserves	8,295,508			
<u>Corporate</u>				
MTFP Reserve	1,293,417	N	-	Transfer to reserve of in year budget surplus
Total Earmarked Reserves - General Fund	9,588,925			
SPECIAL EXPENSES				
<u>Community Services</u>				
Broomleys Cemetery	4,470	N	-	Path repairs - sealing pathways
Coalville Park	10,729	N	-	Green Space & Garden Improvements
Greenhill Recreation Ground	1,816	N	-	Pavilion graffiti removal
Hugglescote Cemetery	1,500	N	-	Northern boundary - areas to be fenced off
Whitwick Cemetery	3,025	N	-	Repairs to tarmac
Total Earmarked Reserves - Special Expenses	21,540			

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Project Name	2025/26 Revised Budget	2025/26 Outturn	(Under)/Over Spend	Carried forward to 2026/27		Funding of Capital Expenditure					
						Grant	Capital Receipt	Revenue	Business Rates Reserve	EMR	Total
ACTIVE PROGRAMME											
Coalville Regeneration Projects											
Marlborough Square Improvements	61,039	118,325	57,286						118,325		118,325
Marlborough Centre Purchase and Renovation	500,000	152,525	(347,475)	(347,475)					152,525		152,525
Capitalisation of Salaries	500,000	452,000	(48,000)	(48,000)					452,000		452,000
Total Coalville Regeneration Projects	1,061,039	722,850	(338,189)	(395,475)		-	-	-	722,850	-	722,850
UK Shared Prosperity Investment Plan Programme (UKSPF)											
UK Shared Prosperity Investment Plan Programme	145,859	228,035	82,176			228,035					228,035
Total UK Shared Prosperity Investment Plan Programme (UKSPF)	145,859	228,035	82,176	0		228,035	-	-	-	-	228,035
Zero Carbon											
Solar EV Hub Moneyhill	300,000	-	(300,000)	(300,000)							-
Total Zero Carbon	300,000	-	(300,000)	(300,000)		-	-	-	-	-	-
Systems/ICT Systems											
Laptop Replacement	92,000	93,256	1,256						93,256		93,256
Replacement Windows Server	50,000	46,120	(3,880)	(3,880)					46,120		46,120
Wide Area Network (WAN)	50,000	46,168	(3,832)	(3,832)					46,168		46,168
Replacement Audit Visual Equipment	27,554	-	(27,554)	(27,554)							-
Total Systems/ICT Systems	219,554	185,543	(34,011)	(35,266)		-	-	-	185,543	-	185,543
Vehicles, Plant and Equipment											
Refuse Bins and Recycling Containers (Annual Programme)	200,000	147,039	(52,961)	(52,961)					147,039		147,039
Food Waste Collections(Vehicles & Containers)	1,154,138		(1,154,138)	(1,154,138)							-
Refuse Bins and Recycling Containers (Project)	1,674,000		(1,674,000)	(1,674,000)							-
Fleet Replacement Programme	4,708,000		(4,708,000)	(4,708,000)							-
Total Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	7,736,138	147,039	(7,589,099)	(7,589,099)		-	-	-	147,039	-	147,039
New Construction or Renovation											
The Courtyard Roof Repair	200,000	6,052	(193,948)	(193,948)					6,052		6,052
Service Road Resurfacing	500,000	750	(499,250)	(499,250)					750		750
Car Park Resurfacing	164,000		(164,000)	(164,000)							-
Customer Contact Centre Refurbishment	17,450	17,450	0						17,450		17,450
Moirs Furnace	490,000	530,562	40,562			515,930			14,632		530,562
St John Ambulance Building	270,000	273,000	3,000						273,000		273,000
Hermitage Recreational ground EcoPark	90,878	74,471	(16,407)	(16,407)		74,471					74,471
New Print and Post Room (WBC)	23,000	23,504	504						23,504		23,504
Total New Construction or Renovation	1,755,328	925,789	(829,539)	(873,605)		590,401	-	-	335,388	-	925,789
TOTAL ACTIVE PROGRAMME											
	11,217,918	2,209,256	(9,008,662)	(9,193,445)		818,436	-	-	1,390,820	-	2,209,256
DEVELOPMENT POOL											
Coalville Regeneration Projects											
Coalville Regeneration Framework - Wolsey Rd	1,500,000		(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)							-
Demolition of Council Offices	120,000		(120,000)	(120,000)							-
Total Coalville Regeneration Projects	1,620,000	-	(1,620,000)	(1,620,000)		-	-	-	-	-	-
Zero Carbon											
Electrical Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure Strategy	40,000		(40,000)	(40,000)							-
Solar Panels - Ashby Leisure Centres	195,000	24,409	(170,591)	(170,591)		24,226			183		24,409
Total Zero Carbon	235,000	24,409	(210,591)	(210,591)		24,226	-	-	183	-	24,409

Project Name	2025/26 Revised Budget	2025/26 Outturn	(Under)/Over Spend	Carried forward to 2026/27		Funding of Capital Expenditure					
						Grant	Capital Receipt	Revenue	Business Rates Reserve	EMR	Total
Systems/ICT Systems											
CCTV Replacement		1,750	1,750						1,750		1,750
Total Systems/ICT Systems	-	1,750	1,750	0		-	-	-	1,750	-	1,750
Vehicle, Plant and Equipment											
Fleet Replacement Programme (replacement programme)	591,000		(591,000)	(591,000)							-
Total Vehicle, Plant and Equipment	591,000	-	(591,000)	(591,000)		-	-	-	-	-	-
New Construction or Renovation											
Hermitage Leisure Centre Demolition	146,068		(146,068)	(146,068)							-
Stenson Square Public Realm	1,000,000		(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)							-
Enterprise Park	1,850,000		(1,850,000)	(1,850,000)							-
Total New Construction or Renovation	2,996,068	-	(2,996,068)	(2,996,068)		-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT POOL	5,442,068	26,159	(5,415,909)	(5,417,659)		24,226	-	-	1,933	-	26,159
REFCUS											
Disabled Facilities Grants (Blaby)	1,614,059	509,135	(1,104,924)	(1,104,924)		509,135					509,135
Castle Donington 3G Pitch Development	250,000	250,000	0						250,000		250,000
Rural England Prosperity Fund	140,699	152,260	11,561			140,699			11,561		152,260
Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund	250,000		(250,000)	(250,000)							-
Total REFCUS	2,254,758	911,395	(1,343,363)	(1,354,924)		649,834	-	-	261,561	-	911,395
SPECIAL EXPENSES											
Coaville Cemetery - Meadow Lane (Broomley's)	22,000	19,635	(2,365)	(2,365)				19,635			19,635
TOTAL SPECIAL EXPENSES	22,000	19,635	(2,365)	(2,365)		-	-	19,635	-	-	19,635
TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME	18,936,744	3,166,446	(15,770,298)	(15,968,393)		1,492,496	-	19,635	1,654,314	-	3,166,446

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET – TUESDAY, 28 JULY 2026



Title of Report	2025/26 FINANCIAL PROVISIONAL OUTTURN - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA)	
Presented by	Cllr Andrew Woodman Housing, Property and Customer Services portfolio holder PH Briefed ☐ Yes	
Background Papers	Cabinet – 16/12/2025 <u>Quarter 2 2025/26 Housing Revenue Account Finance Update</u>	Public Report: Yes
	Published draft accounts <u>Statement of Accounts 2025-26 (unaudited).pdf</u>	Key Decision: Yes
Financial Implications	The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) has a provisional deficit position of £1.690m during 2025/26 as a result of increased expenditure pressures, particularly within Repairs and Maintenance and asset impairment costs. It is proposed that the deficit is funded through a transfer from HRA General Balances, reducing unrestricted reserves from £3.263m to £1.573m. The HRA remains financially sustainable, however, continued focus will be required to manage ongoing cost pressures and protect reserve levels in future years. Any further financial implications are detailed within the body of the report.	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	There are no direct legal implications arising from this report, however, regular reporting on financial outturn is an important part of the monitoring process to ensure the Council maintains a balanced budget.	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	Any staffing implications are detailed in the body of the report.	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	To update Members on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) outturn position for 2025/26, including income, expenditure and capital programme performance, and to highlight significant variances from the approved budget.	
Reason for Decision	To enable Cabinet to consider the outturn position and ensure appropriate oversight of the financial performance of the HRA.	

Recommendations	THAT CABINET: 1. NOTES THE 2025/26 HRA REVENUE PROVISIONAL DEFICIT OF £1.690M WHICH HAS PROVISIONALLY BEEN FUNDED THROUGH DRAWING DOWN FROM THE HRA GENERAL RESERVES; 2. RECOMMENDS TO FULL COUNCIL THE APPROVAL OF THE USE OF £1.69M OF HRA GENERAL RESERVES TO FUND THE 2025/26 DEFICIT POSITION; AND 3. NOTES THE POSITION OF THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT CAPITAL PROGRAMME, AS DETAILED IN TABLE 2. 4. RECOMMENDS TO FULL COUNCIL THE ACCELERATION OF THE HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME OF £1.260M, STOCK CONDITIONS SURVEYS OF £0.012M AND ROOFING PROGRAMME OF £0.988M TO BE FUNDED THROUGH THE MAJOR REPAIRS RESERVE.
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1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 It is considered good practice for local authorities to publish the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) outturn position, as this promotes transparency and accountability in the management of public finances. Providing a clear and timely summary of the financial outturn enables councillors, stakeholders and the public to scrutinise how resources have been utilised against the approved budget. Furthermore, this openness helps build trust in the authority's financial stewardship and supports informed decision-making regarding future spending priorities and resource allocation.
- 1.2 The HRA is legally ringfenced, meaning that its income and expenditure must be used solely for housing services. The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the HRA including the Capital Programme for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. It sets out the progress made against the approved programme and highlights any significant variations.
- 1.3 This report presents the provisional outturn position for the HRA for 2025/26. The outturn may change following the audit of the Statement of Accounts, any significant amendments will be reported to Cabinet once finalised. The HRA delivered a balanced outturn after reserve movements, in-line with Quarter 2 forecasts which projected the HRA to be on budget. However, an acceleration of costs in some areas like Responsive Repairs have caused financial pressures but have made a significant impact on the waiting times for tenants. The report outlines the key factors contributing to this variance and provides an overview of performance against both the revenue and capital budgets.
- 1.4 The report also outlines the level of Council capital resources available to support the programme. In doing so, it enables members to consider the adequacy of available resources, assess the financial sustainability of the programme, and support effective decision-making in relation to future capital investment within the HRA.

- 1.5 Throughout the report, pressures and savings are referred to. A pressure is an instance whereby costs have exceeded budget or forecast income has not met target - these are shown as a 'positive' value. A saving occurs where expenditure is lower than budget or forecast income is higher than the target - these are displayed as a 'negative' value, using brackets.

2.0 HRA INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

- 2.1 Table 1 below shows the outturn and variance for the HRA for 2025/26. Further information regarding the outturn can be found in Appendix A.

Table 1 – HRA 2025/26 Outturn Position

	Budget £'000	Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
Income	(21,930)	(21,659)	270
Operating Expenditure	17,595	19,114	1,520
Operating (saving)/pressure	(4,335)	(2,545)	1,790
Interest Payable	1,862	1,724	(138)
Interest Receivable	(293)	(697)	(404)
Net Cost of services after financing	(2,766)	(1,518)	1,248
Appropriations	2,766	1,518	(1,248)
Net (surplus)/deficit	-	-	-

- 2.2 Income was £0.270m below budget, primarily caused by lower-than-expected dwelling rents (£0.149m below budget) and service charges (£0.138m below budget).

- 2.3 Operating Expenditure was £1.520m over budget. The variances included:
- £2.474m pressure on Repairs and Maintenance due to clearing an historic backlog of cases, during the year the backlog of cases reduced from c1500 to 900 which is a 40% reduction.
 - £0.255m pressure in relation to heating servicing and repairs costs.
 - (£0.645m) proceeds from Council House sales generating income above budget.
 - Other Variances of £0.355m, which included support and corporate services recharges to Repairs being £0.343m higher than budgeted due to increases in the underlying costs being recharged, including higher finance costs due to temporary staffing, HR and legal.

Variances reported in operating expenditure with have no impact on the overall HRA position as they net off through accounting adjustments in Appropriations:

- a variance of £1.789m relating to depreciation and Impairment of Fixed Assets, due to a downwards revaluation of the stock.
 - Grant income received of £2.710m from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) in excess of original target.
 -
- 2.4 There was a saving on Interest Payable of (£0.138m), primarily due to slippage in the capital programme which resulted in lower borrowing requirements during the period.

- 2.5 Interest Receivable income was (£0.404m) above budget, driven by the continuation of elevated market interest rates throughout the period.
- 2.6 Appropriations were £1.248m lower than budgeted with a budgeted £1.5m revenue contribution towards capital spending not taking place. Contributions to capital spend were not required due to capital slippage, resulting in lower-than-anticipated expenditure during the financial year.

3.0 HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- 3.1 Table 2 below provides a summary of the HRA Capital Programme outturn for 2025/26. A detailed breakdown of all capital schemes, including expenditure, slippage, funding sources and reprofiling requirements, is provided in Appendix B.

Table 2 – HRA 2025/26 Capital Programme Position

HRA Capital Programme	Revised Budget	Final Outturn	(Under)/Over Spend	(Slippage)
Schemes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Stock Investment	9,715	10,425	710	710
Fleet Replacement	100	0	(100)	(100)
Estate Improvement	500	503	3	3
Other Capital	2,250	841	(1,409)	(1,409)
New Supply	3,013	602	(2,411)	(2,411)
HRA Total Capital Programme	15,578	12,371	(3,207)	(3,207)

- 3.2 The Stock Investment Programme had net budget position of £0.710m which includes slippage of £1.551m and accelerated schemes of £2.260m. Key deliverables during the year included:
- 883 properties with roofing works, 113 windows replaced, 109 boiler replacements, 16 new bathrooms and work to kitchens under the decent homes programme.
 - Survey and removal of asbestos from many properties
 - Over £3m spent on the zero-carbon programme to do work including 15 external wall insulations, 112 Solar PV installations, 70 loft insulations and 134 mechanical installations among others.
- 3.3 This acceleration and slippage of the programme will be offset against the equivalent indicative budgets for future years. This means that the original targeted programme will remain the same.
- 3.4 The Estate Improvement Programme delivered projects across footpath and unadopted roads including provision of parking bays, tarmac and drainage works. Road resurfacing works were also carried out in Kegworth and Coalville. Whilst the overall spend was broadly in line with budget, this included accelerated spend on off-street parking and footpaths, offset by slippages on estate project works and garage demolitions.
- 3.5 Other HRA Capital Programme has total slippage of £1.409m. This includes:
- £0.700m on Sheltered Housing Improvements due to procurement delays and staffing shortages. The budget has been reprofiled to 2026/27 when the work is expected to begin.

- £0.350m on Scheme Lighting due to workforce shortages and procurement delays
 - £0.324m on the Passive Fire Safety scheme to be used in future years.
- 3.6 Expenditure incurred under the major aid and adaptations scheme included work to install ramps, level-access bathrooms, stair-lifts and hand-rail installations. Various fire safety works were also undertaken such as removal and work to cladding, fire door replacements, signage works and arson prevention.
- 3.7 New Supply relating to the building and acquisition of additional properties had slippage of £2.410m in the year. Some developments including Queen Street and Standard Hill experienced delays resulting in slippage. Main Street, Oakthorpe is scheduled to complete in Quarter 1 2026/27 and Standard Hill is due to complete in Quarter 4 2026/27. Two property acquisitions were made in year as well as spend on refurbishment work on previously purchased properties to make them lettable.
- 3.8 Slippage across the HRA capital programme in 2025/26 reflects a combination of delivery constraints, project specific delays and the impact of historical programme backlogs. Staffing shortages and delays in procurement equally impacted on the delivery of programmes. Work is underway to increase the workforce to speed up the delivery of capital projects in future years.

4.0 HRA RESERVES

- 4.1 The HRA holds earmarked reserves set aside for specific purposes and to meet known or anticipated future expenditure.
- 4.2 HRA reserves increased by £3.033m during the year, primarily due to higher HRA capital receipts. However, the unrestricted HRA reserves have fallen from £3.263m to £1.573m due to the financial pressures arising from higher operating costs, subject to Council approval. There will need to be a renewed focus on Repairs and Maintenance costs next year to ensure these are sustainable and do not cause unrestricted reserves to fall further. The Major Repairs Reserve reduced as planned, reflecting its use to fund the capital programme.
- 4.3 Table 3 below shows the movements on HRA Reserves during 2025/26.

Table 3 – HRA Reserves as at 31/03/26

Reserves	Balance at 01/04/2025 £'000	Receipts in year £'000	Payments in year £'000	Balance at 31/03/2026 £'000
HRA - Earmarked Reserves	115	0	0	115
HRA - General Balance	3,263	0	(1,690)	1,573
	3,378	0	(1,690)	1,688
HRA Capital Receipts	13,254	5,851	0	19,105
Major Repairs Reserve	1,174	3,851	(4,980)	46
Total	17,806	9,702	(6,670)	20,839

5.0 Looking Ahead

- 5.1 Following the conclusion of the 2025/26 financial year officers will undertake a review of the reporting process for 2026/27 reporting. Following this review engagement with the Chief Executive, Directors and Cabinet will take place. It is expected that a refreshed reporting format will be introduced to improve readability and provide clearer explanations of key financial information, helping Members and other readers better understand the Council's financial performance and emerging issues.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	A well-run council.
Policy Considerations:	There are no specific policy considerations arising from this report.
Safeguarding:	No direct implications identified.
Equalities/Diversity:	There are no direct equalities implications.
Customer Impact:	No direct implications identified.
Economic and Social Impact:	The Council is investing in developing additional affordable housing to support residents.
Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon:	None.
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	None.
Risks:	None.
Officer Contact	Anna Crouch Head of Finance and Deputy S151 Officer anna.crouch@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

2025/26 HRA OUTTURN POSITION

	Budget (£'000)	Outturn (£'000)	Variance (£'000)
INCOME			
Rent and Service Charges	(21,609)	(21,322)	287
Non-Dwelling Rents	(64)	(62)	2
Other Income	(257)	(275)	(18)
TOTAL INCOME	(21,930)	(21,660)	270
EXPENDITURE			
Repairs and Maintenance	9,003	11,913	2,910
Supervision and Management	4,328	4,539	211
Depreciation & Impairment	4,162	5,951	1,789
Debt Management Expenses	3	0	(3)
Provision for Doubtful Debts	100	65	(35)
Proceeds from sale of Council Housing		(645)	(645)
Taxation and non-specific Grant Income		(2,710)	(2,710)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE	17,595	19,115	1,520
Operating (Surplus)/Deficit	(4,335)	(2,545)	1,790
Interest Payable	1,862	1,724	(138)
Interest Receivable	(294)	(698)	(404)
NET COST OF SERVICES	(2,766)	(1,518)	1,248
APPROPRIATIONS			
Revenue funded from Capital under Statute	1,290	0	(1,290)
Revenue Contribution to Capital	1,476	0	(1,476)
Transfer to/(from) Reserves	0	(1,690)	(1,690)
Movements in Reserve Statement adjustments	0	3,208	3,208
	2,766	1,518	(1,248)
NET (SURPLUS)/DEFICIT	(0)	0	0
GENERAL RESERVES BROUGHT FORWARD	937	3,263	2,326
(SURPLUS)/DEFICIT	63	(1,690)	(1,753)
GENERAL RESERVES BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	1,000	1,573	573

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Project Name	2025/26 Revised Budget	2025/26 Outturn	(Under)/Over Spend	Carried forward to 2026/27		Funding of Capital Expenditure					
						Grant	Capital Receipt	RCCO	Major Repairs Reserve	Internal Borrowing	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
PROGRAMMES											
Stock Investment											
Home Improvement Programme	4,500	5,760	1,260	1,260					1,597	4,163	5,760
Asbestos	400	5	(395)	(395)					5		5
Roofs	500	1,488	988	988					1,488		1,488
Commercial Boilers	250	-	(250)	(250)							-
Stock Condition Surveys	65	77	12	12					77		77
Zero Carbon	4,000	3,094	(906)	(906)		2,710			385		3,094
Total Stock Investments	9,715	10,425	710	710		2,710	-	-	3,552	4,163	10,425
Estate Improvements											
Off-Street Parking	300	333	33	33					333		333
Estate Projects	100	6	(94)	(94)					6		6
Footpaths and Unadopted Roads	50	148	98	98					148		148
Garage Demolition	50	15	(35)	(35)					15		15
Total Estate Improvements	500	503	3	3		-	-	-	503	-	503
Fleet Replacement											
Vehicles	100	-	(100)	(100)							-
Total Fleet Replacement	100	-	(100)	(100)		-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Capital											
Sheltered Scheme Improvements	700	-	(700)	(700)							-
Passive Fire Safety	800	476	(324)	(324)					476		476
Scheme Lighting	350	-	(350)	(350)							-
Major Aids and Adaptations	400	365	(35)	(35)					365		365
Total Other Capital	2,250	841	(1,409)	(1,409)		-	-	-	841	-	841
Total Active Programme	12,565	11,768	(797)	(797)		2,710	0	0	4,895	4,163	11,768
DEVELOPMENT POOL											
New Supply	3,013	602	(2,410)	(2,410)			518		84		602
Total Development Pool	3,013	602	(2,410)	(2,410)		-	518	-	84	-	602
											-
TOTAL HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME	15,578	12,371	(3,207)	(3,207)		2,710	518	0	4,980	4,163	12,371

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NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET – 28th July 2026

Title of Report	HOUSING FLEET RENEWAL – AWARD OF CONTRACTS	
Presented by	Councillor Andrew Woodman Housing, Property and Customer Services Portfolio Holder PH Briefed ☐ Y	
Background Papers	Premarket assessment and option paper to reach position set out in the report.	Public Report: Yes
		Key Decision: Yes
Financial Implications	The financial implications are set out in Section 2.0 of the report.	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
LGR Implications	The Council are not currently subject to a Structural Changes Order or Section 24 direction as part of the LGR process. Once the Council are under these, there are likely to be restrictions on what contracts that Council may enter into (based on value) without permission of the new authority. As this order is being placed as a single contract now, it is unlikely to be impacted. Should the order however be split into smaller contracts, further advice should be sought in this regard.	
Legal Implications	Officers will undertake compliant procurement procedures that meets the requirements of the Procurement Act 2023 and the Council's constitution. Where a Framework is to be used, the rules in relation to that Framework must be complied with. Legal Services must be engaged in reviewing/drafting the relevant terms and conditions.	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	Contract management, oversight and monitoring by Council Officers to ensure best value and performance of the contractor.	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	

Purpose of Report	To seek approval to procure contracts for the provision of a replacement Housing Repairs fleet as set out in Annex A, and to delegate authority to award the contracts following completion of the procurement process.
Reason for Decision	To replace the Housing Repairs fleet, which is at the end of its operational life, in order to maintain service delivery, improve reliability, reduce operational risks and support the Council's environmental commitments.
Recommendations	THAT CABINET: 1. APPROVES THE PROCUREMENT OF CONTRACTS FOR THE PROVISION OF A REPLACEMENT HOUSING REPAIRS FLEET AS DETAILED IN ANNEX A, WITHIN THE IDENTIFIED FINANCIAL LIMITS. 2. DELEGATES AUTHORITY TO THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR HOUSING, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE HOUSING, PROPERTY AND CUSTOMER SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER AND THE SECTION 151 OFFICER, TO AWARD THE CONTRACT TO THE CHOSEN SUPPLIER AND ENTER INTO ALL NECESSARY AGREEMENTS APPLICABLE TO THE CONTRACT AWARD.

1.0 Background

1.1 The Council's Housing Repairs fleet is currently at the end of its operational life, resulting in increased maintenance costs, reduced reliability, and disruption to service delivery. The fleet, which supports the Responsive Repairs, Voids and Minor Works service, consists of 58 vehicles, many of which are operating beyond the Council's adopted lifecycle.

1.2 This has led to increased breakdowns, delays in repairs and void turnaround times, and a growing risk to tenant satisfaction and service performance. A full review of the fleet has therefore been undertaken, including market analysis, vehicle trials, and an assessment of future operational and environmental requirements.

1.3 The review identified that a full transition to electric vehicles is not currently feasible due to operational and infrastructure constraints, particularly around home charging availability. An Electric Vehicle (EV) Trade Operative Eligibility Review was undertaken and confirmed that a proportion of operatives are unable to support EV adoption due to factors such as property tenure, lack of off-road parking, or charging constraints.

1.4 As a result, a practical EV-first, mixed fuel approach is required. Electric vehicles will be prioritised where operatives meet the necessary criteria and infrastructure allows, with alternative fuel vehicles utilised where this is not currently feasible.

1.5 A full fleet replacement programme is now required to ensure service continuity, improve operational efficiency, and support the Council's environmental commitments. This will involve replacing all 58 vehicles through a phased delivery programme over two years.

1.6 In parallel, the Council has reviewed the preferred maintenance approach and has determined that vehicle maintenance will continue to be delivered in-house through the Council's fleet depot. A formal Service Level Agreement (SLA) will be introduced to strengthen performance, improve turnaround times, and ensure consistent service delivery.

1.7 The Council intends to utilise an established vehicle procurement framework provided by The Procurement Partnership Limited (TPPL), which has been used successfully by the Waste service for previous vehicle replacement programmes. The use of this framework is expected to provide a compliant, efficient and value-for-money route to market whilst reducing procurement timescales and risk. Advice has been sought from the Council's procurement team who have advised that this is an appropriate method of procurement.

1.8 Officers will work with TPPL to confirm the requirements of the proposed mini-competition and ensure that the framework can fully meet the Council's operational, technical and environmental requirements for the Housing Repairs fleet replacement programme.

1.9 Subject to the framework meeting the Council's requirements, the Council will proceed with a mini-competition through the TPPL framework. Should the framework not meet the Council's requirements, an alternative compliant framework will be identified and utilised to deliver the procurement.

2.0 Financial Implications

2.1 Provision for the fleet renewal programme has already been made within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme by Council, with an overall allocation of approximately £3 million budgeted in 2026/27.

2.2 The estimated contract value for the fleet procurement is in the region of £2.45 million to £2.86 million, depending on final pricing and delivery approach. The final value will only be known following the intended procurement process.

2.3 A full financial appraisal has been undertaken comparing lease and purchase options. This concludes that leasing represents the best overall value for money, offering a lower whole-life cost when compared to purchasing an equivalent fleet. Leasing provides predictable revenue costs, avoids borrowing requirements and associated interest costs, and offers flexibility during a period of organisational change.

2.4 This flexibility is particularly important in the context of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), as it reduces long-term capital commitment and allows for greater adaptability in how fleet resources may need to be configured or rationalised under any future organisational arrangements.

3.0 Fleet Strategy (EV First Approach)

3.1 The fleet will be delivered on an EV-first basis, meaning electric vehicles will be allocated as the primary option where operationally viable.

3.2 Allocation of EVs will be based on clear criteria, including:

- Residency within operational range
- Completion of probation
- Availability of off-road parking
- Ability to install a home charging solution
- Agreement to required operational and data-sharing conditions

Where operatives do not meet these criteria, alternative fuel vehicles (HVO) will be provided to ensure service delivery is not impacted.

This approach ensures:

- Progress towards carbon reduction objectives
- A practical and deliverable transition to EVs
- No adverse impact on operational performance or workforce terms and conditions

4.0 Maintenance Model

4.1 Following further review, it is proposed that maintenance of the fleet will remain with the Council's internal garage at Linden Way.

4.2 A formal Service Level Agreement (SLA) will be introduced to improve performance and address historical challenges. This will include clear expectations around servicing, MOT scheduling, turnaround times, communication and vehicle availability.

This approach provides:

- Retention of in-house expertise and operational control
- Cost efficiencies compared to external maintenance provision
- Greater flexibility in prioritising vehicles in line with service demand
- Improved accountability through formalised performance management

The SLA is intended to mitigate previous risks associated with internal maintenance by introducing structured performance monitoring and defined service standards.

5.0 Delivery Model

5.1 The fleet replacement will be delivered on a phased basis, aligned to procurement outcomes, supplier availability and operational priorities.

5.2 The detailed delivery timeline will be confirmed following contract award and will be dependent on supplier lead times, manufacturing capacity and vehicle availability.

This approach supports financial planning, reduces operational disruption, and maintains service continuity while the new fleet is introduced.

6.0 Options Considered

6.1 Do Nothing

Under this option, the existing fleet would continue to be utilised beyond its recommended operational lifecycle with vehicle replacements undertaken only when individual vehicles become uneconomical to repair.

Advantages

- No immediate procurement costs.
- Defers capital and revenue expenditure.

Reasons Discounted

- The current fleet is already beyond its adopted replacement lifecycle.
- Vehicle reliability is continuing to deteriorate, resulting in increased breakdowns and service disruption.
- Increased maintenance costs would continue to place pressure on budgets.
- Delays to responsive repairs and void turnaround times would adversely impact tenant satisfaction and service performance.
- Does not support the Council's environmental objectives or fleet modernisation requirements.

This option was therefore considered unsustainable and presents an unacceptable operational risk.

6.2 Full Electric Vehicle Fleet

This option considered replacing the entire Housing Repairs fleet with electric vehicles and transitioning all operatives to EV usage.

Advantages

- Maximises carbon reduction and air quality benefits.
- Supports the Council's ambition to become a Zero Carbon Authority.
- Reduces future reliance on fossil fuels.

Reasons Discounted

- The EV Trade Operative Eligibility Review identified that a significant proportion of operatives are unable to support home charging due to property tenure, lack of off-road parking, or infrastructure limitations.
- Centralised charging hubs were assessed but are not operationally practical due to the dispersed nature of the workforce and the requirement for operatives to travel directly to appointments from home.
- A full EV fleet would introduce service delivery risks where charging infrastructure is not available.
- Significant additional infrastructure investment would be required.

Whilst EVs remain the preferred option wherever feasible, a full fleet transition is not currently achievable without unacceptable operational disruption.

6.3 Purchase Fleet Outright

This option considered purchasing all replacement vehicles through the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme.

Advantages

- Full ownership of fleet assets.
- Potential residual value at the end of vehicle life.
- Greater flexibility over disposal and future use.

Reasons Discounted

- Higher whole-life cost than the lease option.
- Requires significant capital investment and borrowing.
- Exposes the Council to depreciation and residual value risks.
- Reduces flexibility during a period of uncertainty associated with Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

A detailed financial appraisal concluded that leasing offers better value for money and greater flexibility.

6.4 External Fleet Maintenance

This option considered outsourcing all vehicle maintenance to an external provider as part of a fully managed fleet arrangement.

Advantages

- Fixed maintenance costs.
- Reduced requirement for internal fleet resources.
- Potential access to specialist manufacturer expertise.

Reasons Discounted

- Higher overall cost compared to utilising the Council's existing fleet depot.
- Loss of operational control and flexibility.
- Does not maximise the value of the Council's existing fleet maintenance facilities and workforce.
- An improved Service Level Agreement can address historic performance issues whilst retaining the benefits of in-house provision.

Following review, retaining maintenance at Linden Way depot supported by a formal SLA was identified as the preferred approach.

6.5 Preferred Option

The preferred option is an EV-first mixed-fuel fleet replacement programme delivered through a leased vehicle arrangement, with maintenance retained in-house under a formal Service Level Agreement.

This approach provides the best balance between operational resilience, value for money, environmental performance, and flexibility during the period of Local Government Reorganisation, whilst ensuring continuity of service delivery for Responsive Repairs, Voids and Minor Works.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	- Communities and housing - A well-run Council
Policy Considerations:	Housing Asset Management Plan 2022/24 Housing Repairs and Maintenance Policy 2024 Damp, Mould and Condensation Policy 2025
Safeguarding:	A key part of contract delivery and ongoing fleet operations will be to consider and report any safeguarding concerns identified when accessing tenants' homes. All operatives are expected to act in line with the Council's safeguarding procedures.
Equalities/Diversity:	No adverse impacts have been identified. The proposed approach supports equitable service delivery through improved reliability and responsiveness. Contractors and operatives are required to comply with the Council's equality and diversity policies as part of contractual obligations.
Customer Impact:	The provision of a modern, reliable fleet will support the timely delivery of repairs, reduce missed appointments, and improve overall tenant satisfaction. Any health and safety concerns identified during service delivery will be reported and addressed promptly.
Economic and Social Impact:	The proposals support continued delivery of essential housing services. No significant adverse economic or social impacts have been identified.
Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon:	The fleet replacement programme supports the Council's climate commitments through an EV-first approach, reducing emissions where operationally feasible. This aligns with wider housing and asset management objectives to improve the efficiency and sustainability of the Council's housing stock and associated services.

Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	While there has been no specific consultation on the procurement itself, engagement has taken place through wider housing service delivery and asset management activities, which have informed the need for improved service reliability and performance.
Risks:	The approval and implementation of this procurement will mitigate risks associated with: • Continued use of an ageing and unreliable fleet. • Service disruption, missed appointments and delays to repairs, voids and minor works programmes. • Non-compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements arising from vehicle downtime or maintenance issues. • Delays in fleet replacement due to vehicle supply chain constraints and extended manufacturer lead times. • Reduced vehicle availability caused by increasing maintenance requirements and breakdowns within the existing fleet. • Inability of the in-house maintenance service to meet required service standards, resulting in extended downtime, delayed MOTs and servicing, and reduced operational performance. This risk will be mitigated through the introduction of a formal Service Level Agreement with defined performance standards and monitoring arrangements. • Supplier performance and delivery risks following contract award, which will be managed through the use of an established procurement framework, contract management arrangements and ongoing performance monitoring.

	Failure to proceed would result in increasing operational, financial, service delivery and reputational risks to the Council.
Officer Contact	Megan Hodgett Responsive Repairs, Voids and Minor Works Team Manager MEGAN.HODGETT@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

**ANNEX A - HOUSING CONTRACT LIST OF CONTRACTS
TO APPOINT**

Contract Purpose, Reason for Appointment and Route	Period (Years)	Annual Value (£)	Total Contract Value (£) (incl. extensions)	Appointment Method	Procurement Route
Housing Fleet Provision of a replacement Housing Repairs fleet comprising 58 vehicles to support the delivery of Responsive Repairs, Voids and Minor Works services. The procurement will deliver leased vehicles aligned to operational requirements and the Council's environmental objectives, with an EV-first approach applied where feasible. Maintenance will be delivered separately through the Council's internal fleet depot under a formal Service Level Agreement. The procurement will appoint a single contractor for the entire duration of the contract.	4 years (aligned with lease lifecycle)	Approximately £600,000 – £700,000	£2.45 million – £2.86 million	Mini Comp	Framework

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NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET – TUESDAY, 28 JULY 2026



Title of Report	ACQUISITIONAL AND DISPOSALS - SECTION 106 ACQUISITION	
Presented by	Cllr Andrew Woodman Housing, Property, and Customer Services PH Briefed ☒	
Background Papers	Bloor Homes STD Purple SPEC - Version 7 November 2025	Public Report: Yes
		Key Decision: Yes
Financial Implications	The report seeks Cabinet's endorsement for an additional £3,700,000 to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme, funded from Right to Buy Receipts, to be spent over three financial years. Full Council approval will be needed to add the scheme onto the Capital Programme as its meeting on the 15 September 2026 in accordance with the Constitution.	
	Signed off by the Acting Section 151 Officer: Yes	
LGR Implications	The Council are not currently subject to a Structural Changes Order or Section 24 direction as part of the LGR process. Once the Council are under this direction/order, there are likely to be restrictions on what contracts the Council may enter into (based on value) without permission of the new authority. As these properties are being acquired through a single contract prior to such restrictions, it is unlikely to be impacted.	
Legal Implications	Under section 8 of the Housing Act 1985 (as amended) ('the Act') the Council has a duty to consider housing conditions in its district and the needs of the district with respect to the provision of providing further housing accommodation. Under section 9 of the Act the Council has power to provide housing accommodation by building or acquiring such accommodation and must keep the needs of the district in relation to such housing under review. The processes set out within the paper accord with the Council's legal processes and procedures including the Constitution. As with any property transaction, Legal Services will need to be instructed to ensure a due diligence process is carried out in terms of relevant searches, ownership and title matters prior to acquisition.	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	

Staffing and Corporate Implications	No Staffing implications directly. Purchases assist with meeting the Council's housing needs and assists with addressing other Council Delivery Plan targets such as carbon reduction.
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes
Purpose of Report	To seek Cabinet approval to purchase 22 properties in the Ashby-De-La-Zouch area over the coming three years.
Reason for Decision	To comply with the constitution of the Council as this report requires Cabinet approval as it is in excess of £100k and to ensure Right to Buy Receipts are spent within their statutory timeframes.
Recommendations	THAT CABINET: 1. ENDORSES THE ADDITION TO THE COUNCIL'S HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) CAPITAL PROGRAMME OF £3.7M, FUNDED FROM RIGHT TO BUY RECEIPTS AND RECOMMENDS THIS EXPENDITURE TO COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL AT ITS MEETING ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2026. 2. SUBJECT TO (1) ABOVE, ENTERS INTO A SINGLE CONTRACT WITH BLOOR HOMES (THE DEVELOPER) TO ACQUIRE TWENTY-TWO PROPERTIES OF VARYING ARCHETYPES FOR £3.7M OVER THREE YEARS, AS SET OUT IN THE REPORT, SUBJECT TO COUNCIL APPROVING THE ADDITION TO THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME. 3. DELEGATES AUTHORITY TO THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR HOUSING TO FINALISE AND AGREE ALL NECESSARY LEGAL AND CONTRACTUAL DOCUMENTS AND TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE PROCEDURAL AND OPERATIONAL STEPS TO DELIVER THE ABOVE.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council has committed to acquiring at least ten properties per year to partially mitigate loss of stock via Right to Buy (RTB) and disposals. Acquisition via buy-back of former Council properties, off the shelf purchase and self-delivery are all recognised as viable options for new housing supply.
- 1.2 In this case, as a Registered Provider of affordable housing, the Council has been approached by a developer to offer on properties that have been built and made available as part of the Section 106 agreement with the planning authority.
- 1.3 In April 2026, the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government (MHCLG) confirmed they will be bringing forward further reforms to Right to Buy. These include A 35-year new build exemption period so new social homes cannot be sold under the

Right to Buy for 35 years after they are built. At the current time , the vast majority of properties are subject to Right to Buy. However, Section 131 of the Housing Act 1985 outlines the approach for setting a cost floor when determining discount for properties.

2.0 ACQUISITION OF PROPERTIES

Money Hill, Ashby de la Zouch

- 2.1 It is proposed to acquire twenty-two properties currently under construction by Bloor Homes. These properties address housing needs across the district (primarily single and two-bed properties) due to their varying archetypes. The breakdown of the property types are:
- a. six one-bedroom, two-person maisonettes
 - b. one four-bedroom, six-person house
 - c. eleven two-bedroom, four-person houses
 - d. four two-bedroom, three-person bungalows
- 2.2 These properties include in roof solar panels leading to an expected Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of B.
- 2.3 The supply of these homes will be committed at the signing of the original contract with their delivery phased over the next three years as they are built out. The exact release and timing of this is yet to be fully programmed, however, the first release is contained in the below table.

Financial Year and total completions	Property Type
2026/27 - 8	2 bed 4 person House
	2 bed 4 person House
	2 bed 4 person House
	2 bed 4 person House
	1 bed 2 person Flat
	1 bed 2 person Flat
	1 bed 2 person Flat
	1 bed 2 person Flat
2027/28 - 3	1 bed 2 person Flat
	1 bed 2 person Flat
	4 bed 6 person House
2028/29 - 11	2 bed 4 person House
	2 bed 4 person House
	2 bed 4 person House
	2 bed 4 person House
	2 bed 4 person House
	2 bed 4 person House
	2 bed 4 person House
	2 bed 3 person Bungalow
	2 bed 3 person Bungalow
	2 bed 3 person Bungalow
	2 bed 3 person Bungalow

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There is an approved budget of £3.5m within the 2026/27 HRA Capital Programme for New Supply. This has been earmarked for other developments. As such, this report requests an additional £3.7m budget over three financial years.
- 3.2 Due to the nature of how these properties come to the Council, as part of the stipulations of the Section 106 planning agreement to provide social housing to the district, a discount is applied to purchase price. This discount is in excess of 25% of open market value.
- 3.3 For the appraisal, it has been assumed that no major works will be completed within 10 years of the purchase date this coincides with the 10-year new build guarantee and Decent Homes Standard lifecycles.
- 3.4 Additionally, the appraisal assumes an affordable rent income across the properties, a voids and bad debts percentage of 3%, service costs of £235 per unit per annum, maintenance costs of £843 per unit per annum, and management costs of £305 per unit per annum. These are projected over 50 years with an uplift of CPI across all metrics with rental income and maintenance costs being CPI+1%. Major works are costed at current rates for replacement of Decent Homes Standard components uplifted at CPI+1%.
- 3.5 Uplifts have been applied to the yearly maintenance and major costs for this Net Present Value (NPV) calculation to accommodate for increased costs of materials and borrowing following the economic crisis.
- 3.6 Restrictions on the amount of RTB receipts which can be attributed to a purchase have been altered allowing for up to 100% funding. The below table shows the correlation between usage of RTB receipts against the impact on NPV and loan repaid year. It is expected that the purchase will be 100% funded from RTB receipts.

RTB Funding Percentage (%)	Net Present Value (£)	Loan Repaid Year
40	2,217,291	21
60	2,998,766	12
80	3,780,242	6
100	4,218,163	1

3.7 Breakdown of Cost

Item	Value
Acquisition	£3,214,104
Works	£0
Fees*	£295,083
Contingency	£14,754
Interest	£168,313
Total	£3,692,254

* Fees are inclusive of estimated legal fees, Stamp Duty Land Tax, valuation fee, clerk of work's fee and developer's and administrative fee,

3.8 Breakdown by Financial Year

Financial Year	Value
2026 – 2027	£1,436,556
2027 – 2028	£418,005
2028 – 2029	£1,837,693
Total	£3,692,254

- 3.9 There is currently sufficient RTB reserve funding available to cover this additional commitment alongside the existing capital plans over the next 3 years. However, if the costs of other developments were to increase, we would need to review the timing of these commitments or possibly look at funding mix if other cost increases lead to the RTB reserves become fully utilised within the next few years.

4.0 Project Risks

No	Risk	Impact	Mitigation
1	Seller requesting more money	Low	This is an agreed offer between NWLDC and the developer
2	Additional work to meet NWLDC standard	Low	Specification changes are expected to be minor and costs are already allocated for.
3	Appraisal assumptions too conservative	Low	Appraisals have been generated with contingency.
4	Supporting services delays legal, finance, etc.	Low	Ensure deadlines are upheld and clearly stated.
5	Sale via RTB after purchase	Low	Although sales can be applied for under the current RTB provisions there are sections within the Housing Act that prevent selling a property via RTB at less than cost as per Section 131 (1) of the Housing Act 1985

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	· Communities and housing · Clean, green and Zero Carbon · Consumer Standards, providing suitable, safe, warm, and affordable homes to meet the diverse needs of vulnerable people
Policy Considerations:	Properties are purchased in line with the Asset Management Plan objectives to maximise the number of social homes that the Council provided through a programme of acquisitions, new build, conversions, re-modelling, and regeneration.
Safeguarding:	No additional safeguarding concerns outside of housing process and procedure
Equalities/Diversity:	These properties will be allocated through the Choice Based Lettings System in line with the Council's Allocations Policy ensuring they best suit the needs of the individuals placed within them.
Customer Impact:	Providing good quality sustainable homes to residents.

Economic and Social Impact:	These properties will have a positive social impact on the area as it will directly address the needs of the district.
Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon:	The properties have an EPC rating of B and solar photovoltaic panels to mitigate their environment impact.
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	No consultation has been undertaken by NWLDC.
Risks:	General housing needs information has been used to determine the spread of properties to purchase.
Officer Contact	Michael Fowell New Build Project Officer michael.fowell@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET – TUESDAY, 28 JULY 2026



Title of Report	WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE COALVILLE STRATEGIC GROWTH AREA – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
Presented by	Councillor Tony Saffell, Portfolio Holder for Planning PH Briefed <input type="checkbox" value="Y"/>	
Background Papers	<u>Community Scrutiny Committee Paper – 25 June 2026</u>	Public Report: Yes
	<u>Establishment of the Task and Finish Group Report</u>	Key Decision: No
Financial Implications	There are no direct financial implications arising from the Community Scrutiny Task and Finish Group Recommendations.	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. There may be legal implications arising from the implementation of any recommendations and advice will be provided as necessary.	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	No additional staffing or corporate implications. Actions related to the recommendations will be managed within existing resources.	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	This report considers the recommendations and final report of the Community Scrutiny Task and Finish Group on Water Management in the Coalville Strategic Growth Area.	
Reason for Decision	To receive and then decide on actions stemming from the Community Scrutiny Task and Finish Group on Water Management in the Coalville Strategic Growth Area.	
Recommendations	THAT CABINET:	

	1. THANKS THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP FOR ITS WORK ON THIS ISSUE. 2. AGREES THE ACTIONS FOR EACH SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATION FROM THE WORK AS SET OUT IN SECTION 2 OF THE REPORT.
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1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The Task and Finish Group was established by the Community Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 26 June 2025, the scope of the group is detailed within the committee report which is listed in the background papers above
- 1.2. The Group membership was agreed as Councillors M Ball, A Barker, T Eynon, R Morris, E Parle and J Simmons. Councillor T Eynon was appointed as Chair of the Group.
- 1.3. The Group was supported in the review by Stuart Young and Andrew Pritchard from East Midlands Councils.
- 1.4. The Group held four meetings over the period from October 2025 to May 2026, which included attendance from Council officers, Lead Local Flood Authority, local residents, ward members and Severn Trent Water who was invited to give evidence.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP

- 2.1 Attached at Appendix A is the final report of the Task and Finish Group which includes a series of recommendations that were agreed at the meeting of the Community Scrutiny Committee on 25 June 2026. Appendix B contains a copy of the minute of that meeting.
- 2.2 Set out below are the recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee to Cabinet alongside a response and suggested approach to each recommendation for Cabinet's consideration and decision. For clarity each scrutiny recommendation is set out in italics with the suggested response set out in plain text.
- 2.3 As some matters relate to Planning Committee functions which are non-executive functions, these matters will need to be considered by the Planning Committee.
- 2.4 **Scrutiny Recommendation 1**
- 2.5 *We have concluded that it is legally possible for the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to reject or to impose 'Grampian conditions' on new development where it is acknowledged that a lack of sewer or water treatment capacity exists – if it has sufficient evidence from the water company. As a result, the Council should ask Severn Trent Water (STW) to review its approach to responding to full and outline planning applications in NW Leicestershire to ensure that robust technical evidence is made available which reflects STW's publicly stated view that the sewer system in Coalville is currently over capacity. The Council should ask STW to provide a full response on water infrastructure requirements through the regulation 19 Local Plan consultation process.*

2.6 Response:

- At Community Scrutiny Committee on 25 June 2026, this recommendation was supported with the request that the Council refer to the Regulation 19 Local Plan Consultation and seek engagement from STW. This is included in the recommendation to Cabinet below.
- The Task and Finish report carefully sets out the complexity of the issues in relation to the role of the Local Planning Authority and wastewater infrastructure requirements. It confirms that under the “Water Industry Act 1991”, Water Companies are legally required to provide water and sewerage services to developments and developers have a right to connect drains to the main sewers operated by water companies (para 6.30). Necessary enhancements are funded by investment through the Water Companies and set out within Asset Management Plan periods (par 6.32).
- In paragraph 6.39 of the report it states in context of it being legally possible for a Local Planning Authority (LPA) to reject development that *“a planning decision relying on the evidence of a water company is overturned at appeal, it is the LPA that could be liable for costs, not the water company”*. This provides significant financial risk for a Council and legal and planning advice will be required as part of seeking further engagement with STW. This is included in the recommendation to Cabinet below.
- Officers consider that the Council through the Planning Service has sought to engage with Severn Trent Water through both Local Plan and Planning Application consultations and that historically there has been limited engagement from STW. The work of the Task and Finish Group provides the opportunity to reset and enhance engagement in line with national planning policy guidance. Officers welcome the positive engagement received from STW through the Task and Finish Group.
- Whilst the Scrutiny comments are noted in respect of Planning Committee functions, these are non-executive functions and therefore not within Cabinet’s power and would need to be considered by the Planning Committee

Recommendations to Cabinet for Scrutiny Recommendation 1:

That Cabinet requests the Strategic Director with responsibility for Planning writes to Severn Trent Water and requests a review of their approach taken in responding to planning applications and seek further engagement between Planning Officers and STW in this matter, including the Regulation 19 Local Plan consultation commencing in July 2026.

That Cabinet notes the financial risks in relation planning applications being overturned at appeal

2.7 Scrutiny Recommendation 2

- 2.8 *Whilst we welcome STW’s commitment to fix the current capacity issues through further investment by 2030, we believe the current situation in Coalville is untenable and will only be made worse when development, which already has planning permission, is built out over the next four years. The Council should ask STW to*

redouble its efforts to implement interim mitigation measures to reduce the impact of pollution on people and the local environment.

2.9 Response:

- Welcome the clarity provided by Community Scrutiny Task and Finish Group in respect of the Long-Term Strategy and Short-Term Mitigation set out in Paragraphs 6.4 to 6.45 of the report at Appendix A.

Recommendation to Cabinet for Scrutiny Recommendation 2:

That Cabinet accepts Recommendation 2 and requests the Strategic Director for Place to write to STW requesting additional interim mitigation measures to reduce the impact of pollution on people and the local environment.

2.10 Scrutiny Recommendation 3

2.11 *The Council should ask STW to provide any evidence of ingress, infiltration or misconnection relating to the operation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes (SuDS) in South East (SE) Coalville to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), to enable the LPA to reach a view as to whether enforcement action against developers (or homeowners) would be justified or proportionate. In parallel, the Council should explore the use of additional planning controls to ensure that future SuDS are built consistent with the approved design, for example, through the use of conditions on any planning permissions granted.*

2.12 Response:

- Welcome the clarity provided by Community Scrutiny Task and Finish Group in respect of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) for South-East Coalville and set out in Paragraphs 6.46 – 6.54.
- Although the Lead Local Flood Authority provides advice at the planning application stage, they have no responsibility for checking the completed work or adopting the management of SuDS. The Local Planning Authority neither have the expertise or capacity for checking SuDS (Paragraph 6.53). This is a current issue where the system is not working and considered by Community Scrutiny Task and Finish Group in Recommendation 4.
- Subsequent discussions with the Planning and Development Team have identified the potential to consider additional planning conditions that require a Developer to provide the submission of a Validation Statement confirming the implementation of SuDS systems in accordance with the approved plans. This could be dealt with by Planning as part of the discharge of condition process and consideration given to providing independent external assessment. A recommendation to Cabinet is included below in this respect.
- Whilst the Scrutiny comments are noted in respect of Planning Committee functions, these are non-executive functions and therefore not within Cabinet's power and would need to be considered by the Planning Committee.

Recommendation to Cabinet for Scrutiny Recommendation 3:

That Cabinet requests the Planning and Development Team to engage with Severn Trent Water.

2.13 Scrutiny Recommendation 4

2.14 *The Council should make political representations through the local MP to press for the enactment of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, consistent with the commitments made by Ministers in post in 2023. This would enable SuDS Approval Bodies (SABs) to be designated and for SuDS to be adopted as public infrastructure, ending the current ambiguity around their status and ongoing maintenance.*

2.15 Response:

- Paragraphs 6.55 to 6.58 of the Community Scrutiny Task and Finish Group report sets out further the issues in relation to SuDS. Paragraph 6.55:
“Given their importance, we were concerned to hear that there is no single public body responsible for SuDS infrastructure. In addition, the SE Coalville Strategic Growth Area is being delivered by multiple developers in different phases, rather than by a single entity. As a result, surface water drainage arrangements are typically dealt with on a site-by-site basis. There are questions about the quality of construction by developers of SuDS. and their ongoing maintenance by private management companies”
- The additional part of Recommendation 3 to Cabinet above to consider the use of additional planning conditions may deal with part of the system problem identified by Community Scrutiny.
- The report refers to the previous Government review in 2023 which concluded that:
“...there were no specific checking regimes in place to ensure that SuDS had been constructed as agreed, leaving concerns about unsatisfactory standards of design and construction, and of difficulties of ensuring proper maintenance once the developer has left the site”. As a result, then Ministers committed to implementing Schedule 3 of the 2010 Floods & Water Management Act which would have designated the County Council as the “SuDS Approval Body (SAB)”. The SAB would formally adopt SuDS which have been designed and constructed to appropriate standards.
- The Community Scrutiny Task and Finish Group has recommended that the Council makes political representations to support the implementation of SAB. Officers support the principle but recommend concerns are raised in respect of ensuring adequate resourcing to councils to undertake this role and fund the ongoing liabilities. This could include the consideration of Developer commuted sum payments for maintenance of SuDS over the long term.

Recommendation to Cabinet for Scrutiny Recommendation 4:

That Cabinet supports Recommendation 4 and requests the Chief Executive Officer to write on behalf of the Council to the local MP setting out the findings of the Community Scrutiny Task and Finish Group and makes representation in respect of the enactment of Schedule 3 of the Floods and Water Management Act 2010.

That Cabinet requests officers to carefully consider ongoing SuDS liabilities and raises these matters with the MP when making representations on Schedule 3 and the implementation of SAB.

2.16 Scrutiny Recommendation 5

2.17 *We have seen evidence of sanitary products, condoms and nappies being discharged via storm overflows. Regardless of the capacity of the sewer system in Coalville, this material should not be present in foul water flows. The Council should work with STW to reinforce public messaging about what is acceptable/unacceptable to dispose of down the lavatory.*

2.18 Response:

- Paragraphs 6.59 to 6.61 set out Community Scrutiny Task and Finish Group response to Partnership Working and Communication following the positive engagement with STW. The Group welcomed STW's stated willingness to improve partnership working through earlier engagement in the planning process and clearer communications with the Council.
- It is recommended that efforts should be made by the Council and STW to raise awareness of appropriate sewer use and the impact of household behaviour on flooding and pollution.
- Officers consider that there is an opportunity for North West Leicestershire's Communication Team to work with STW and explore opportunities to re-inforce/align public messaging and explain the impact on our communities.

Recommendation to Cabinet for Scrutiny Recommendation 5:

That Cabinet supports Recommendation 5 and requests the Council's Communication Team to engage with STW and explore opportunities to reinforce public messaging.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications resulting from the five Scrutiny recommendations and any staffing implications will be managed within existing resources.
- 3.2 The key financial risk identified in paragraph 2.14 relates to Recommendation 4 and the request for political representations to support the implementation of the SuDS Approval Body (SAB). The recommendation to Cabinet asks officers to consider ongoing SuDS liabilities when making representations, to mitigate this risk.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	Planning and regeneration Communities and housing
Policy Considerations:	Local Plan Zero Carbon Roadmap
Safeguarding:	No issues identified.
Equalities/Diversity:	The review has been prompted by complaints made by local residents about levels of sewerage pollution along the River Sence from storm overflows, linked to the impact of new housing development and sought to make recommendations to reduce pollution.
Customer Impact:	The Task and Finish Group makes recommendations to seek to reduce sewerage pollution along the River Sence for the benefit of residents in North West Leicestershire.
Economic and Social Impact:	The Task and Finish Group makes recommendations to seek to reduce sewerage pollution along the River Sence. If successful, this will have social benefits to public health and create improved water quality.
Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon:	The work of the Task and Finish Group has sought to provide recommendations that will reduce the pollution of water environments, support biodiversity and enhance the appearance of the District.
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	Engagement with external community partners was undertaken as part of gathering evidence to inform recommendations.
Risks:	No risks identified.
Officer Contact	James Arnold Strategic Director - Place james.arnold@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

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Community Scrutiny Committee

Water Management in the Coalville Strategic Growth Area

Task and Finish Group

Final Report

1. Background

- 1.1 North West Leicestershire District Council's Community Scrutiny Committee recommended that a task and finish group be established to review issues associated with water management in the Coalville Strategic Growth Area. The review has been prompted by complaints made by local residents about levels of sewerage pollution along the River Sence from storm overflows, linked to the impact of new housing development¹.
- 1.2 The Coalville Strategic Growth Area Task and Finish Group met for the first time on 24 October 2025 to appoint its chair, to consider and agree its terms of reference, and the principal areas for review. The agreed terms of reference are attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.3 The Task and Finish Group held four meetings on 27 November 2025, 16 and 24 April and 1 May 2026, and were supported in the consideration of matters through the attendance of Council partners, East Midlands Councils (EMC) advisors and its own officers. A site visit was undertaken on 17 March 2026. Individual briefing notes were also provided by advisors and officers.
- 1.4 The report includes those issues that are most relevant to the agreed terms of reference and are within the influence of Severn Trent Water, regulatory agencies, and the Council either through their own activity, or which it is able to shape through its work with partners. To inform this, a number of recommendations are made to the Community Scrutiny Committee for subsequent consideration and decision by Cabinet.
- 1.5 Members would like to thank Hugglescote and Donington le Heath Parish Council, Mary Lorimer, Cllr Russell Johnson and community representatives for their contributions to this review, Severn Trent Water (STW) and Leicestershire County Council in their role as the Lead Local Flood Authority for their constructive engagement. Members would also like thank NWLDC officers and East Midlands Councils for their advice and support to the Task and Finish Group throughout its review.

¹ [Sewer upgrades promised after 'disgusting' spills - BBC News](#)

2. Objectives of the Review

2.1 The objectives of the Coalville Strategic Growth Area Task and Finish Group are:

- a) To review the issues of water management within the parish of Hugglescote and Donington le Heath.
- b) To review the actions being taken by STW to address the issues.
- c) To review the strategic planning and stakeholder coordination which the Council undertook and consider how this might be improved when approaching other large-scale developments in the future.
- d) To offer constructive recommendations to the Council, STW and/or wider partners in order to deliver tangible solutions or mitigations.

3. Membership of the Task and Finish Group

3.1 The Membership of the Task and Finish is set out below:

- Cllr M Ball – Alliance
- Cllr R Morris – Alliance
- Cllr J Simmons – Alliance
- Cllr A Barker – Labour
- Cllr Eynon – Labour (Chair)
- Cllr E Parle – Labour

4. Evidence Considered

4.1 To understand the range of water management concerns relating to the Coalville Strategic Growth Area, the Task and Finish Group was informed by input from a range of partners and supporting documentary evidence.

4.2 The following written submissions were considered:

Local Planning Authority:

- Regulation 18 Representation Extract (local plan consultation response from STW).
- Information from Head of Planning and Infrastructure on planning responses from STW.
- Email exchange with STW regarding flooding at Millfield (October/November 2025).
- Response from STW to consultation on Local Plan Review Issues and Options (November 2022).

- Responses from STW regarding planning application 13/00956/OUTM – 2700 dwellings, Hugglescote.

Hugglescote and Donington le Heath Parish Council:

- Submission from local resident Mary Lorimer.
- Submission from local resident Steve Palmer including East Midlands Today news report (video link).

Russell Johnson (Local District and Parish Councillor):

- Email/photographs exchange with STW (September 2024).

Lead Local Flood Authority (Leicestershire County Council):

- Note from Michael Warner, Senior Flood Risk Engineer (April 2026).

Severn Trent Water:

- Response for request for information from the Task and Finish Group: November 2025.
- Presentation made to Task and Finish Group on the 1 May 2026.

East Midlands Councils:

- Water Quality in Coalville: Background Paper (November 2025).
- NWLDC Coalville Water Quality Review: Planning Discussion Paper (April 2026).

4.3 The Task and Finish Group undertook a site visit on the 17 March 2026 to areas affected by flooding and sewerage discharge guided by Cllr Russell Johnson, starting at the Hugglescote (Millfield) Recreation Ground and walking down to the Townsend Lane storm outflows on the River Sence on land owned by Mary Lorimer.

4.4 The Task and Finish Group held two in-person evidence gathering sessions at Stenson House with the following witnesses:

24 April 2026:

- Mary Lorimer, Local resident, Hugglescote
- Michael Warner, Senior Flood Risk Engineer, LCC (Lead Local Flood Authority)
- Chris Elston, Head of Planning and Infrastructure, NWLDC

1 May 2026:

- Stephanie Crawley, Director of Operations, STW
- Chris Bramley, Strategic Catchment Planner, STW
- Max Fitzpatrick, Asset Planning Lead, STW

5. Recommendations

5.1 Based on a thorough consideration of all the evidence, the following five recommendations are proposed by the Task and Finish Group:

Recommendation 1

We have concluded that it is legally possible for the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to reject or to impose 'Grampian conditions'² on new development where it is acknowledged that a lack of sewer or water treatment capacity exists – if it has sufficient evidence from the water company. As a result, the Council should ask STW to review its approach to responding to full and outline planning applications in NW Leicestershire to ensure that robust technical evidence is made available which reflects STW's publicly stated view that the sewer system in Coalville is currently over capacity.

Recommendation 2

Whilst we welcome STW's commitment to fix the current capacity issues through further investment by 2030, we believe the current situation in Coalville is untenable and will only be made worse when development, which already has planning permission, is built out over the next four years. The Council should ask STW to redouble its efforts to implement interim mitigation measures to reduce the impact of pollution on people and the local environment.

Recommendation 3

The Council should ask STW to provide any evidence of ingress, infiltration or misconnection relating to the operation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes (SuDS) in SE Coalville to the LPA, to enable the LPA to reach a view as to whether enforcement action against developers (or homeowners) would be justified or proportionate. In parallel, the Council should explore the use of additional planning controls to ensure that future SuDS are built consistent with the approved design, for example, through the use of conditions on any planning permissions granted.

Recommendation 4

The Council should make political representations through the local MP to press for the enactment of Schedule 3 of the Floods and Water Management Act 2010, consistent with the commitments made by Ministers in post in 2023. This would enable SuDS Approval Bodies (SABs) to be designated and for SuDS to be adopted as public infrastructure, ending the current ambiguity around their status and ongoing maintenance.

² A "Grampian condition" is planning condition attached to a decision notice that prevents the start of a development until necessary off-site works have been completed on land not controlled by the applicant. The name is derived from the case of Grampian Regional Council v City of Aberdeen (1984). It can be alternatively known as Pre-Commencement Condition'

Recommendation 5

We have seen evidence of sanitary products, condoms and nappies being discharged via storm overflows. Regardless of the capacity of the sewer system in Coalville, this material should not be present in foul water flows. The Council should work with STW to reinforce public messaging about what is acceptable/unacceptable to dispose of down the lavatory.

6. Findings

Sewerage Pollution Incidents on the River Sence

- 6.1 The House of Commons Library publishes Environment Agency monitoring information on sewerage spills by Parliamentary Constituency³. The data shows that in 2024, across the 56 storm overflows in the NW Leicestershire Constituency, there were 1,647 sewerage spills lasting a total of 15,145 hours.
- 6.2 In relation to the River Sence and its tributaries in NW Leicestershire, there were 341 incidents lasting a total of 2,645 hours. Detailed figures are set out below. Just two locations contributed to 62% of the incidents and 87% of the time.

Storm Overflow	Incidents (No)	Duration (hrs)	Average Duration (hrs)
Donington-Le-Heath Townsend Lane	135	1,284	9.5
Coalville South Pumping Station	78	1,029	13.2
Forest Road	33	78	2.4
Heather - Mill Lane	12	42	3.5
Heather Pumping Station	6	27	4.5
Snibston - St Marys Lane	10	16	1.6
Hugglescote Station Road	10	13	1.3
Hugglescote Station Road	7	12	1.7
Dennis Street Storm Overflow	0	0	0
Coalville - Central Road	10	14	1.4
Sinope Sewage Pumping Station	12	32	2.7
Station Road Pumping Station	1	1	1.0
The Hollow	14	78	5.6
Belcher Bar Pumping Station	0	0	0
Coalville London Road	13	19	1.5
Total	341	2,645	7.8

Source: commonslibrary.shinyapps.io/edm 2024/

- 6.3 Nationally, the independent 'Top of the Poops' website⁴ uses the same data to rank rivers from worst to best by water company. The analysis suggests that the River Sence in the Severn Trent area is the 62nd worst performing river out of 4,104 across England and Wales⁵ in 2024, with 993 incidents lasting a total of 8,262 hours. Whilst we understand that the equivalent data for 2025 from the Environment Agency shows a reduction in both the number and duration of

³ commonslibrary.shinyapps.io/edm 2024/

⁴ [Top of the Poops | Rivers](https://www.topofthepoops.co.uk/)

⁵ Some rivers cross more than one water company area.

spills into the River Sence, it is clear to us from the evidence we received that fundamental problems remain.

- 6.4 Photographs provided to us by Cllr Johnson taken in October 2023 show raw sewage erupting from a manhole cover on the Hugglescote recreation ground as it slopes down towards station road, which we understand continues to be a regular occurrence following heavy rainfall and has impacted on local resident's gardens. Whilst STW has improved its clean-up responses following local representations, the spillages still represent a health hazard to local people and result in an element of residual pollution.



Figure 1: Sewage discharges on the Hugglescote (Millfield) recreation ground (October 2023).

- 6.5 On our site visit we visited land owned by Mary Lorimer which contains two combined sewer overflows close to the River Sence we saw physical evidence of numerous sewerage spills despite efforts by STW to clean up.
- 6.6 In our in-person evidence session of 24 April 2026, Mary told us of repeated storm discharges onto her land over several years, including raw sewage, sanitary products, and waste being deposited onto grazing land and vegetation. This included a public footpath (National Forest Way), raising concerns around public health, amenity, and tourism. Mary also described the emotional, health, and practical impacts, including restrictions on land use for family and livestock.



Figure 2: Detritus from sewage discharges on land owned by Mary Lorimer (November 2025).

Planning & Development

- 6.7 Coalville has been identified by the Council as a location for strategic growth. In particular, ‘South East Coalville’ comprises several areas which together form a strategic site allocated in the North West Leicestershire Local Plan with planning permission for 3,500 dwellings (site H1h)⁶.
- 6.8 The planning application for the largest of these sites was considered by the District Council’s Planning Committee on 2 December 2014 which resolved to grant outline planning permission subject to Section 106 obligations for mixed use development, including up to 2,700 dwellings⁷.
- 6.9 STW is not a statutory consultee for planning applications, meaning they were not legally required to be consulted in this instance. However, STW is routinely consulted on applications by the Council to provide an opportunity for expert advice on the potential impacts on drainage, water supply, and infrastructure, and to ensure new developments align with STW’s investment plans, to promote sustainable drainage, and to provide pre-development enquiry services for developers to discuss potential drainage proposals. We are clear that STW made no substantive comment on any these planning applications.

⁶ [Adopted Written Statement 2021 - public copy \(4\).pdf](#)

⁷ [A4.pdf](#) NWLDC Committee Report 2014

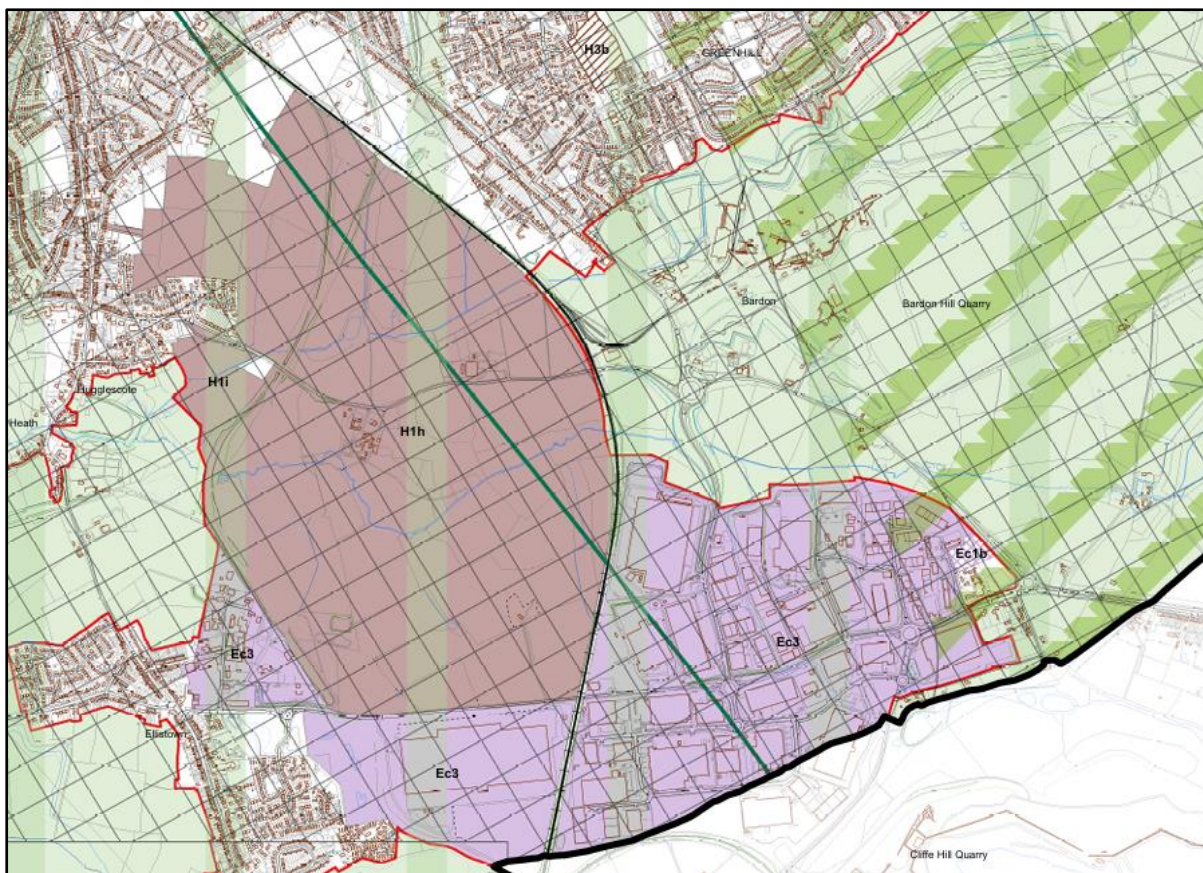


Figure 2 SE Coalville Strategic Growth Area (Source: [Adopted Local Plan Inset Maps 2017.pdf](#))

- 6.10 A detailed Water Cycle Study was undertaken by AMEC for NWLDC in July 2012⁸ to inform the development of the Council's then Core Strategy. AMEC carried out network modelling to assess sewer capacity and the need for improvements in Ashby, Coalville and Packington. The results indicated that the levels of growth set out in the Draft Core Strategy could be accommodated with only minor modifications to the sewer network.
- 6.11 In relation to Coalville, the study did identify that surface water flows were limiting capacity at the wastewater treatment works serving the Coalville area (Snarrows), which could only accommodate an additional 2,500 homes based on existing flows. Reducing 'infiltration' from ground water and watercourses would free up capacity to deal with additional foul flows from new development.
- 6.12 The report considered this to be feasible, including through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs) for new development. In addition, applying Level 3 of the then Code for Sustainable Homes could reduce foul flows from new homes. However, the report noted that '*additional localised*

⁸ [North West Leicestershire District Council](#)

capacity improvements’ to the sewerage network would also be required to prevent local flooding.

- 6.13 It seems that network modelling undertaken by AMEC only included consideration of additional foul water flows, as it was assumed that SuDS would deal with additional surface runoff. AMEC also believed that the base model appeared to over-estimate the level of sewerage spills compared to observed data.
- 6.14 We understand the then Government withdrew the Code for Sustainable Homes in March 2015 to address viability concerns, and that Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, which would have made SuDS compulsory for all new development over 100m^{Sq.} and established SuDS Approval Bodies (SABs) has yet to be implemented by any Government. However, it understood that all new development in SE Coalville has used SuDS to prevent rainwater infiltrating the sewerage system.
- 6.15 Of the 3,500 homes that received outline planning permission SE Coalville in 2014 it is currently understood that 1,952 also have detailed permission (i.e. fully consented) and 1,293 have been built. Just over 2,200 homes therefore remain to be constructed.

Investment by STW

- 6.16 To deal with foul flows arising from the new development, STW established an investment programme for the Coalville area, the first phase of which involved a new £1.2m link sewer completed in 2016⁹. This was required to align with the developer’s build profile and provided the first section of a gravity sewer required to enable a ‘long-term strategy’ to accommodate planned strategic growth. The work allowed connection of 105 dwellings at the end of 2015 and a further 550 dwellings by the end of the AMP6 period (2015-2020). It is understood that approximately 1,800 dwellings will eventually gravitate through the new link sewer.
- 6.17 The new link sewer was 700m in length and 600mm in diameter and runs from Grange Road, Hugglescote to the southwest through private land, woodland and the Hugglescote (Millfield) Recreation Ground (a former landfill site).

⁹ [South East Coalville Growth Scheme \(2016\)](#) |



Figure 3: Diagram showing route of foul link sewer constructed in 2016.

- 6.18 A 225mm diameter 'temporary connection' was made from the south side of the recreation ground to the existing 300mm diameter sewer in Station Road.



Figure 2: Temporary connection to existing 300m diameter sewer (at the top of the picture) in Station Road.

- 6.19 We understand the new link sewer was designed to relieve existing overloaded sewers, therefore, reducing the risk of sewer flooding/pollution. It allowed for

further future development in the area to connect to a gravity sewer avoiding the need for STW to adopt two new developer pumping stations that would otherwise be required to pump flows from the future development. It also enabled the decommissioning of the existing Sewage Pumping Station in Grange Road by removing the flow from the 115 dwellings that were previously connected, providing an operational cost saving to STW.

- 6.20 NWLDC published an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) in June 2016¹⁰. The IDP was designed to provide a robust evidence base to support the Local Plan and to inform the development of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- 6.21 The IDB drew on the 2012 Water Cycle Study and repeated its general conclusion *‘that with minor modifications to the existing infrastructure, there are unlikely to be significant constraints on growth’*, notwithstanding the limited capacity the Snarrows wastewater treatment works.
- 6.22 Additional desk studies were also undertaken by STW to inform the IDP to identify the level of potential impact on the existing sewerage infrastructure of the proposed development sites. This additional work highlighted that:
“A number of the existing planning permissions have been identified as having a high impact, these include...The Farm, Manor Road - Donington le Heath, Loughborough Road - Thringstone, Frearson Road - Hugglescote, North and South of Grange Road - Hugglescote and (N. of Grange Rd) Bardon Grange - Coalville. The reason for the high impact on the majority of these sites being the existing network being at or over capacity.” But that: *“These capacity issues have been considered as part of the application process and appropriate conditions have been put in place to mitigate any issues.”*
- 6.23 From this, it must be assumed that STW believed that the investment made 2016 would be sufficient to deal with the impact of at least initial levels of new development, albeit as the first stage of a ‘long term’ investment strategy for the area. Certainly, STW raised no concerns about SE Coalville in its consultation response to the outline application in 2014, nor did it raise concerns through the subsequent local plan process. The 2016 Infrastructure Delivery Plan itself does not appear to have been challenged by either STW or the Inspector at Examination.
- 6.24 However, a local resident (Steve Palmer) brought our attention to a BBC report of 16 October 2025 where STW’s Director of Operations accepted that the sewer system in Coalville was over-capacity saying:

¹⁰ [NWLDC IDP Final Version.pdf](#)

‘We have new houses that have been built that the sewers were not designed to be capable of those extra flows. So, we have work to do. We are committed to doing that, we’ve a commitment to complete that by 2030’.

- 6.25 In our in-person evidence session on 1 May 2026, STW confirmed this remained their view. This raised two important questions for us:
- What had happened to the rest of the ‘long term strategy’ promised by STW when the new link foul sewer was constructed in 2016?
 - If the sewer system in Coalville is over capacity, why is STW not object to, or seek to condition, new applications for housing development when consulted?
- 6.26 On the first question, we were told that there had been further investment in the Coalville area since 2016, including increasing capacity at the Snarrows Wastewater Treatment Works and additional pumping station storage capacity. However, the tougher targets resulting from the previous Government’s Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan (published in September 2022 and updated in September 2023¹¹) meant that the original plans for Coalville would not meet the necessary standards, and that alternative strategy would be required to deal with the new development.
- 6.27 STW was able to provide an overview of their emerging revised plans for Coalville in a presentation which is contained in Appendix 2.
- 6.28 In relation to the second question, STW told us that as they were not a ‘statutory consultee’ and that they believed that they could not object to planning applications or propose so-called ‘Grampian conditions’ linked to the completion of infrastructure upgrades.
- 6.29 However, information provided by East Midlands Councils helpfully clarified the key legislative and policy issues relating to both the planning system and the regulation of the water industry – which leads us to a different conclusion.
- 6.30 We understand that water companies are legally required, under the Water Act 1991, to provide water and sewerage services to new developments within the region they serve. In practice, this means that new developers have a right to connect their drains to the main sewers operated by water companies.
- 6.31 The cost of connecting new homes to the sewerage network is the responsibility of the developer. Developers can either do this themselves or pay the water

¹¹ [Storm overflows discharge reduction plan - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115555/storm-overflows-discharge-reduction-plan.pdf)

company to do it for them. It is the responsibility of the water company to ensure that there is sufficient sewerage network and wastewater treatment capacity to deal with the impact of existing and new development.

- 6.32 Any necessary enhancements are funded by private capital investment, the servicing cost of which is ultimately met by billpayers. The level of investment and the scale of bills is controlled by the regulator OFWAT through a five- year price control regime known as Asset Management Plan (AMP) periods.
- 6.33 In terms of the planning system, our attention was drawn to paragraph 20 (b) of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (December 2024), which requires LPAs to set out strategic policies in their local plans for: *“...infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);”*
- 6.34 Government Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) highlights that ‘early discussions’ between LPAs and water and sewerage companies *“...can help to ensure that proposed growth and environmental objectives are reflected in company business plans. Growth that requires new water supply should also be reflected in companies’ long-term water resources management plans. This will help ensure that the necessary infrastructure is funded through the water industry price review.”*
- 6.35 In terms of wastewater specifically, Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) highlights that plan-making may need to consider:
- the sufficiency and capacity of wastewater infrastructure
 - the circumstances where wastewater from new development would not be expected to drain to a public sewer
 - the capacity of the environment to receive effluent from development in different parts of a strategic policy-making authority’s area without preventing relevant statutory objectives being met
- 6.36 It is for the LPA to decide whether the capacity of wastewater infrastructure is a relevant consideration to a specific planning application. The NPPF requires the LPA to consider *“the availability and capacity of infrastructure...both existing and proposed – as well as their potential for further improvement” (paragraph 129c).*
- 6.37 We, therefore, conclude that that it is legally possible for an LPA to refuse permission if there is proven to be insufficient wastewater treatment capacity which cannot be mitigated within the development’s timescales. We have also seen legal opinion confirming that an LPA could grant planning permission subject to a condition requiring that the development be not occupied until

mitigation measures have been implemented (known as a ‘Grampian condition’)¹² – as demonstrated by a recent appeal decision in East Sussex¹³. However, for an LPA to refuse or condition an application on this basis it must have sufficient evidence.¹⁴

- 6.38 Although water companies are not statutory consultees for development management decisions at present, we have seen evidence that they **can** make objections to planning applications. For example, Anglian Water has begun to take a more robust attitude to objecting to planning applications where it believes there is insufficient water treatment capacity¹⁵ – although this has not always been welcomed by LPAs under pressure to deliver housing targets.
- 6.39 However, it is worth noting that if a planning decision relying on the evidence of a water company is overturned at appeal, it is the LPA that could be liable for costs, not the water company.

Recommendation 1

We have concluded that it is legally possible for the LPA to reject or to impose ‘Grampian conditions’ on new development where it is acknowledged that a lack of sewer or water treatment capacity exists – if it has sufficient evidence from the water company. As a result, the Council should ask STW to review its approach to responding to full and outline planning applications in NW Leicestershire to ensure that robust technical evidence is made available which reflects STW’s publicly stated view that the sewer system in Coalville is currently over capacity.

Long Term Strategy and Short-Term Mitigation

- 6.40 STW outlined its Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP) obligations and confirmed a commitment to deliver a full solution by 2030. This includes reducing spills to fewer than 10 per year on average, removing environmental harm where it is identified through water quality modelling, and delivering major infrastructure interventions such as catchment reconfiguration, additional storage, new pumping stations, and abandonment of sewer sections affected by historic mining subsidence.
- 6.41 At our in-person evidence session on the 1st May 2026 STW clarified the distinction between flooding incidents, permitted Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) spills, and pollution incidents, and it was emphasised to the panel that

¹² [GRAMPIAN CONDITIONS - JENNY WRIGLEY KC - Landmark Chambers 15 Oct 2023.pdf](#)

¹³ Chailey Homes against Wealdon District Council, March 2025 [Appeal Decision](#)

¹⁴ [Leigh-Day-KC-Opinion.pdf](#)

¹⁵ [Anglian Water report Appendix A.pdf](#)

the planned investment aims to reduce the number of spills from Donington le Heath (off Townsend Lane CSO) to an average of 10 spills per annum. It was noted that the investment also aimed to reduce spills from other WINEP CSOs to a similar level.

- 6.42 Whilst we recognise that this represents a very significant reduction from current levels, we are concerned that this target lacks a degree of specificity. We understand a single spill event may last from minutes to several days but is recorded as one occurrence, and that spill counts alone do not reflect the duration or environmental impact of discharges.
- 6.43 We welcomed the confidence of STW that the planned investment will be delivered by 2030, and that it will address the pollution problems experienced by the local community. However, we are concerned about the length of time before infrastructure improvements will be delivered, with the reality being the local community must endure unacceptable conditions for a further four years before any significant improvements will be made.
- 6.44 It was noted that temporary measures installed to date have not delivered significant improvement, particularly during wet winter periods. The clearing of detritus or 'rag material' following these discharge events, while essential, does not address the ongoing pollution and degraded ecological condition of watercourses.
- 6.45 To do nothing and wait until 2030 is unacceptable, and we requested clarity from STW on what additional short-term measures could realistically be implemented to reduce ongoing harm ahead of the long-term investment solution.

Recommendation 2

Whilst we welcome STW's commitment to fix the current capacity issues through further investment by 2030, we believe the current situation in Coalville is untenable and will only be made worse when development which already has planning permission is built out over the next four years. The Council should ask STW to redouble its efforts to implement interim mitigation measures to reduce the impact of pollution on people and the local environment.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

- 6.46 Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) are designed to manage rainwater in towns and cities in a more natural and environmentally friendly way. Instead of

directing water straight into drains and sewers, SuDS slow the movement of water, store it temporarily, and allow it to soak into the ground where possible.

- 6.47 SuDS reduce the risk of flooding by slowing down water flow, improve water quality by filtering out pollutants, encourage water to soak into the ground, and support wildlife and green spaces by creating more natural features within developments.
- 6.48 We noted that the original water system modelling carried out in 2014 assumed that no surface water would enter the sewer system from the new development in SE Coalville, and that the new link sewer constructed in 2016 was designed to deal with foul flows only.
- 6.49 However, we were told on the site visit that it was suspected that excess surface water was a contributory factor given that the flooding events generally followed periods of heavy rainfall. As a result, the effectiveness of the SuDS constructed to mitigate the impact of the new development was questioned.
- 6.50 In understanding how SuDS are designed to operate, we were grateful for the insight and advice of Michael Warner from Leicestershire County Council, the Lead Local Flood Authority.
- 6.51 We were told that just because attenuation ponds did not appear to fill up during heavy rainfall does not necessarily mean that SuDS were not working, as they are generally future proofed to accommodate extreme weather events and designed to release water slowly, primarily into the ground. That said, it is very important that SuDs are kept separate from the foul systems and that surface water is not allowed to infiltrate foul sewers.
- 6.52 We understand that surface water has the potential to discharge to the foul system on new developments in the following instances:
- Misconnections between the surface and foul systems.
 - Ground water seeping into foul systems through poorly constructed sewer joints (joints between pipes or at chambers) or through damaged pipes.
 - Surface water entering through manhole covers (unusual considering routing of surface water is limited in modern design for smaller events).
 - Incorrectly mapped existing surface water systems which discharge to a combined system downstream.
 - Emergency storage tanks for adopted foul pumping stations on-site allowing surface water to infiltrate into the tank.
 - Foul pumping station overflows set too low and being surcharged with surface water from a ditch or watercourse. This risks surface water entering a pumping station via these overflows.

- 6.53 However, we were told that none of this is the responsibility of the Lead Local Flood Authority to check. If misconnection has occurred or if SuDS have been constructed incorrectly, this would be a breach of planning control – but we were also told by the LPA that it had currently neither the skills nor resources to take enforcement action.
- 6.54 We heard from STW that there has been evidence of '*ingress, infiltration and mis connection*' in SE Coalville – which STW had taken steps to address where possible. However, it seems clear that water is continuing to enter the new foul link sewer following periods of heavy rain which is contributing to the storm overflows. This is despite fact that link sewer itself was designed to provide some temporary storage (being 600m in diameter) for foul flows.

Recommendation 3

The Council should ask STW to provide any evidence of ingress, infiltration or misconnection relating to the operation of SuDS in SE Coalville to the LPA, to enable the LPA to reach a view as to whether enforcement action against developers (or homeowners) would be justified or proportionate. In parallel, the Council should explore the use of additional planning controls to ensure that future SuDS schemes are built consistent with the approved design, for example through the use of conditions on any planning permissions granted.

- 6.55 Given their importance, we were concerned to hear that there is no single public body responsible for SuDS infrastructure. In addition, the SE Coalville Strategic Growth Area is being delivered by multiple developers in different phases, rather than by a single entity. As a result, surface water drainage arrangements are typically dealt with on a site-by-site basis. There are questions about the quality of construction by developers of SuDS. and their ongoing maintenance by private management companies.
- 6.56 As well as making SuDS compulsory, Schedule 3 of the Floods & Water Management Act 2010 would designate the County Council as the 'SuDS Approval Body (SAB)'. The SAB would formally adopt SuDS which have been designed and constructed to the appropriate standards. In the absence of this formal arrangement, it is not clear to us who is ultimately responsible for ensuring that SuDS operate as intended.
- 6.57 We understand that the previous Government undertook a review of the current arrangements which was published in 2023¹⁶ and similarly concluded that:

¹⁶ [The review for implementation of Schedule 3 to The Flood and Water Management Act 2010](#)

“...there were no specific checking regimes in place to ensure that SuDS had been constructed as agreed, leaving concerns about unsatisfactory standards of design and construction, and of difficulties of ensuring proper maintenance once the developer has left the site.”

- 6.58 As a result, then Ministers committed to implementing Schedule 3 of the 2010 Act in full by the end of 2024. However, the General Election intervened, and the present Government have so far failed to act.

Recommendation 4

The Council should make political representations through the local MP to press for the for the enactment for the Schedule 3 of the Floods and Water Management Act 2010, consistent with the commitments made by then Ministers in 2023. This would enable SuDS Approval Bodies (SABs) to be designated and for SuDS to be adopted as public infrastructure, ending the current ambiguity around their status and ongoing maintenance.

Partnership Working and Communication

- 6.59 We welcomed STW’s stated willingness to improve partnership working through earlier engagement in the planning process, better sharing of technical information and clearer communications with the Council.
- 6.60 Although we are appalled at the scale of sewerage spills in Coalville, we share STW’s frustration that sewers are being used by people inappropriately. Flushing non-biodegradable items like wet wipes, sanitary products, condoms, and nappies down lavatories is never acceptable and results in increased costs for consumers and environmental damage.
- 6.61 We believe that efforts should be made by the Council and STW to raise awareness of appropriate sewer use and the impact of household behaviour on flooding and pollution, particularly in the Coalville area, and practical steps residents can take to reduce surface water runoff.

Recommendation 5

We have seen evidence of sanitary products, condoms and nappies being discharged via storm overflows. Regardless of the capacity of the sewer system in Coalville, this material should not be present in foul water flows. The Council should work with STW to reinforce public messaging about what is acceptable/unacceptable to dispose of down the lavatory.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 This review has identified serious and ongoing sewerage pollution issues affecting the River Sence. The available data demonstrates both a high frequency and prolonged duration of sewer overflows. In 2024 alone, there were 1,647 spill events across North West Leicestershire, with 341 incidents, lasting a total of 2,645 hours, directly impacting the River Sence and its tributaries. A small number of locations were responsible for a disproportionate share of these incidents, highlighting clearly defined pressure points within the system. Evidence gathered from residents and site visits confirms that raw sewage is repeatedly discharged onto both public spaces and private land, reinforcing the scale and persistence of the problem.
- 7.2 These pressures must be understood in the context of significant planned housing growth in Coalville, where up to 3,500 homes have been approved within the South East Coalville Strategic Growth Area. While earlier assessments suggested that the existing system could accommodate this level of growth with only minor adjustments, the evidence reviewed indicates that the sewer network was already operating at or near capacity in several areas. It is notable that STW did not raise substantive concerns during the planning stages, yet more recent evidence confirms that the system is now over capacity and requires further investment.
- 7.3 Although STW has undertaken infrastructure improvements, including investment in sewer capacity, these measures have not kept pace with the combined impacts of development and increasingly stringent environmental requirements. Earlier assumptions and plans have required revision, and a new long-term strategy is now being developed. STW has acknowledged that the system is overloaded and has committed to delivering a comprehensive solution by 2030. While this commitment provides some reassurance, it does not address the immediate challenges faced by communities. Residents are likely to experience continued disruption and environmental risk for several years, and the mitigation measures implemented to date have not proven effective, particularly during periods of heavy rainfall.
- 7.4 The effectiveness of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), which were intended to play a central role in managing surface water and reducing pressure on the sewer network, is also in question. Surface water continues to enter the foul sewer system, particularly during wet weather, contributing to overload conditions and overflow event – despite less than 40% of the homes intended for SE Coalville having been built. This may be due to a combination of factors, including misconnections, groundwater infiltration, and issues with design or construction. STW has identified instances of such problems, but their persistence indicates that they have not been fully resolved.

- 7.5 In addition to technical concerns, there are broader issues relating to governance and oversight. Responsibility for SuDS is fragmented, with multiple developers delivering infrastructure in phases and ongoing maintenance typically assigned to management companies with limited external scrutiny. There is no single body accountable for ensuring that these systems are functioning effectively over the long term, and the Council currently lacks the resources and specialist capacity to enforce compliance where problems arise. As a result, there is considerable uncertainty about whether these systems are operating as intended or being adequately maintained.
- 7.6 Fundamentally, the findings of this review demonstrate that wastewater infrastructure in Coalville has not kept pace with the scale and timing of housing growth. This has resulted in persistent pollution and environmental harm, to the detriment of local communities. The situation reflects a combination of factors, including an underestimation of infrastructure constraints during the planning process, delays and limitations in water infrastructure investment, uncertainty around the performance and management of SuDS, and a lack of effective short-term measures while longer-term solutions are developed. It is a stark illustration of the problems that arise when infrastructure investment is functionally separated from the planning system and housing delivery.

Appendix 1: Terms of Reference for the Water Management in the Coalville Strategic Growth Area Task and Finish Group

1. What is the role of the Water Management in the Coalville Strategic Growth Area Task and Finish Group?

To review issues associated with water management in the Coalville Strategic Growth Area.

2. What are the Principles of the Review?

- To review the issues of water management within the parish of Hugglescote and Donington le Heath.
- To review the actions being taken by Severn Trent to address the issues.
- To review the strategic planning and stakeholder coordination which the Council undertook and consider how this might be improved when approaching other large-scale developments in the future.

3. What is expected of members of the Task and Finish Group?

Whilst the Task and Finish Group will not be a decision-making body, the group will be asked to:

- Review the information available on Water Management in the Coalville Strategic Growth Area and take evidence from a range of stakeholders.
- Consider what lessons can be learned for the future.
- Act as critical friends during key aspects of the report, in relation to the scrutiny function, providing comments and feedback as required.
- Agree a majority consensus for recommendation back to the Community Scrutiny Committee.

4. Who has voting rights on the recommendations?

Only elected Members (or their substitutes) have voting rights.

5. Members of the Task and Finish Group

- Alliance – Cllr M Ball
- Alliance – Cllr R Morris
- Alliance – Cllr J Simmons
- Labour – Cllr A Barker
- Labour – Cllr T Eynon
- Labour – Cllr E Parle

Where any of the above councillors are not able to attend a meeting, they may select a councillor of their choosing to take their place.

6. What is expected of officers of the Task and Finish Group?

- Provide professional advice, as required, throughout the task and finish group.
- Ensure effective administration of the group including provision of agendas and minutes.
- Help formulate the views of members into a number of recommendations for consideration by Community Scrutiny Committee

7. Officers of the Task and Finish Group

- James Arnold, Strategic Director of Place
- Rachel Wallace, Democratic Services Officer
- Andrew Pritchard, Stuart Young, East Midlands Councils
- Other officers/representatives as appropriate or requested.

8. How often will the Group meet?

- Meetings will be held, as required, culminating in a draft report for consideration by the Community Scrutiny Committee in March 2026. Meetings may be face to face and/or virtual.

Appendix 2: Presentation on Long Term Investment Strategy by Severn Trent Water

(see separate attachment)

Appendix 3: Background Note on the Water Industry

1. Water Industry Regulation

- 1.1 The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has overarching responsibility for the water environment in England.
- 1.2 The water sector is made up of private regional monopolies responsible for providing water and sewerage services. Severn Trent Water Ltd operates in North West Leicestershire and much of the Midlands. Ultimately, water companies are responsible for minimising storm overflows in line with their legal obligations. Regulators are responsible for ensuring compliance and enforcing sanctions.
- 1.3 The economic regulator is Ofwat, which is responsible for setting the price of water and for agreeing water company investment plans. The Water Industry Act 1991 defines Ofwat's statutory duties, powers and regulatory framework. These are used to ensure compliance of water companies with their obligations. Defra sets priorities for Ofwat through a statutory strategic policy statement (last updated March 2022¹⁷). Ofwat must have regard to this statement when carrying out its duties.
- 1.4 In May 2025 Ofwat published its price determination for the period up to 2030, which it hopes will generate £104bn of investment over the next 5 years across England & Wales. In the Severn Trent area this will result in average water bills rising from £398 in 2024-25 to £583 in 2029-30, along with a requirement to spend £2 billion to reduce storm overflow spills by 49% on 2021 levels.
- 1.5 The environmental regulator is the Environment Agency (EA). The Environment Act 1995 established the EA and set out its functions, powers and duties. These were updated by the Environment Act 2021.
- 1.6 Water companies discharging sewage through storm overflows are required to apply for an environmental permit from the EA. This is part of the EA's wider environmental permitting regime under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016. Each storm overflow requires a storm overflow discharge permit, and this will set out conditions about when it can and cannot be used.
- 1.7 If water companies are found to be in breach of their environmental permits, the EA can open an enforcement investigation and issue fines. The Water (Special Measures) Act 2025 introduced additional requirements for water companies

¹⁷ [February 2022: The government's strategic priorities for Ofwat - GOV.UK](#)

and powers for regulators, including for the EA to levy fixed monetary penalties for water company pollution.

2. National Policy Context

- 2.1 The UK's sewerage system was largely constructed in the Victorian era and has limited capacity to deal with extreme weather or heavy rainfall. House building, urbanisation, and growing numbers of users have increased the volume of water flowing through the system. To prevent combined sewers from becoming overwhelmed when the existing infrastructure is unable to cope with a surge in the volume of water flowing through it, water companies are permitted to use storm overflows in certain conditions.
- 2.2 In 2021, the Government's 'Storm Overflows Taskforce' found that the complete separation of combined sewerage systems would cost between £350 billion and £600 billion, with the potential to increase household bills by between £569 and £999 per year. The report concluded that it would be "highly disruptive and complex" to deliver such a change in infrastructure across England¹⁸.
- 2.3 Subsequently, Defra published the Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan was in September 2022 and updated in September 2023¹⁹. It sets targets for water companies, regulators and the government to reduce the number of sewage discharges from storm overflows in England.
- 2.4 Water companies are also required to produce enhanced Drainage & Wastewater Management Plans, reflecting new statutory guidance published in May 2025²⁰

3. Water Industry Reform

- 3.1 Reflecting widespread concern with the water industry, the new Government commissioned Sir John Cunliffe to lead a review and make recommendations for change.
- 3.2 The independent report published in July 2025²¹ proposes an enhanced regulatory framework and a new single regulatory body bringing together Ofwat, the Drinking Water Inspectorate, and the water environment functions of the Environment Agency and Natural England. However, the report stops short of recommending nationalisation of the water companies in England and Wales.

¹⁸ [Storm overflows evidence project - GOV.UK](#)

¹⁹ [Storm overflows discharge reduction plan - GOV.UK](#)

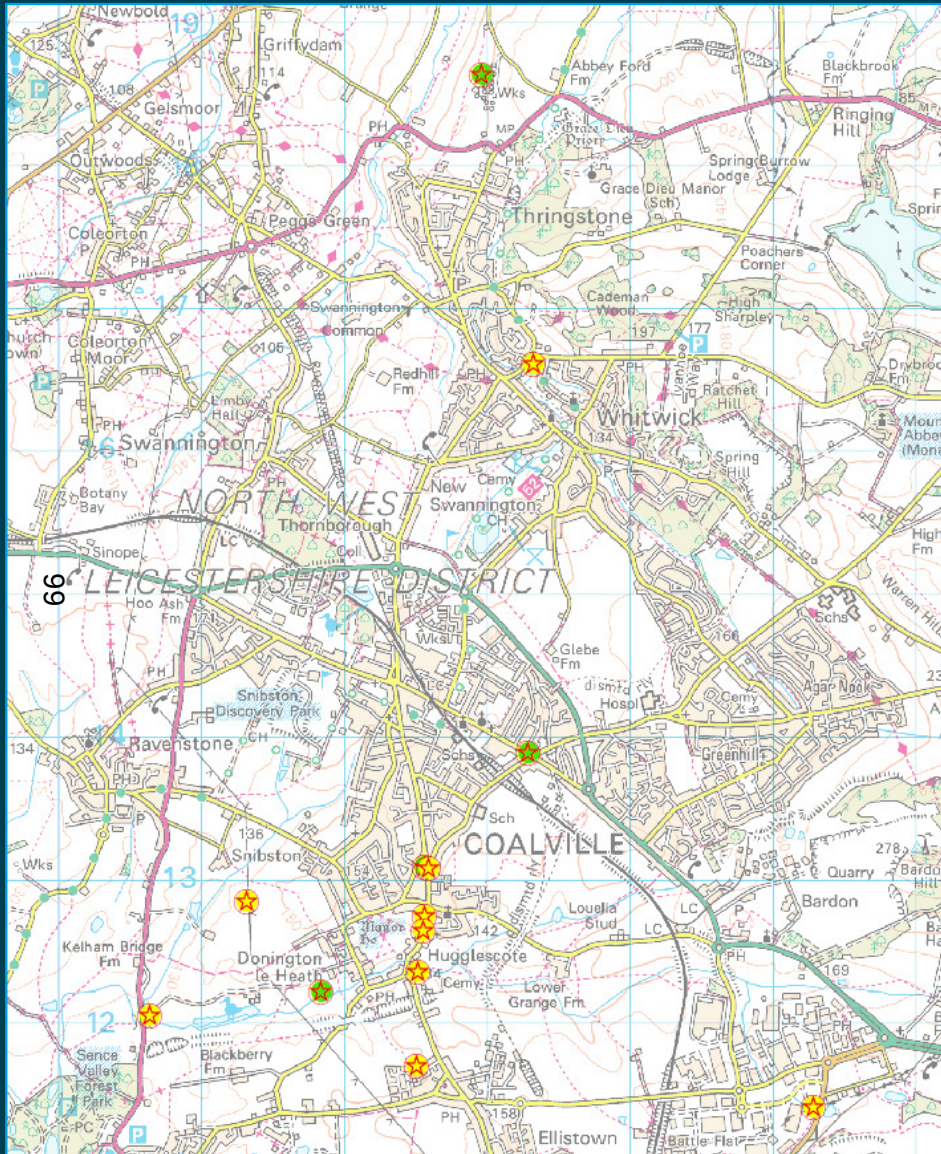
²⁰ [About the guidance and planning for drainage and wastewater management - GOV.UK](#)

²¹ [Independent Water Commission Final Report](#)

----- END -----

SNARROWS

Coalville Catchment of interest



SEVERN

TRENT

WONDERFUL ON TAP

PROJECT COMMITMENTS

Reduce spills from Donnington le heath – off Townsend Lane CSO to an average of less than 10 spill per year

Resolve any Harm to the watercourse If water quality modelling indicates harm

Deliver the system improvements by 2030

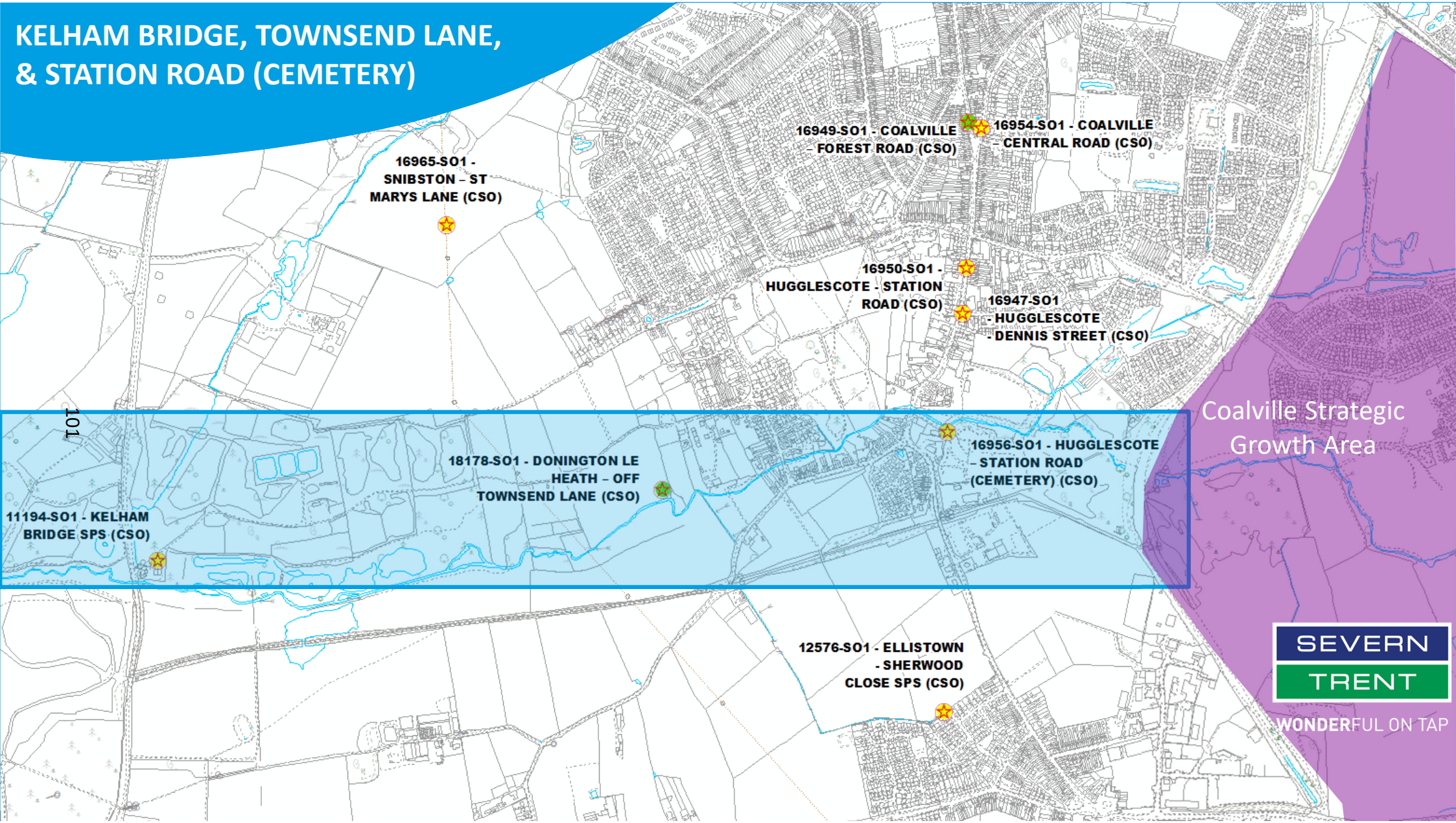
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Reduce Spills from other WINEP CSO's to an average of less than 10 spills per year (exact CSO's to be confirmed as part of modelling).

Resolve any Harm to the watercourse If water quality modelling indicates harm

Deliver the system improvements by 2030

**KELHAM BRIDGE, TOWNSEND LANE,
& STATION ROAD (CEMETERY)**



Coalville Strategic
Growth Area

SEVERN
TRENT
WONDERFUL ON TAP

KELHAM BRIDGE, TOWNSEND LANE, ST MARY'S & HUGGLESCOTE STATION ROAD (CEMETERY)

Concept – solution
to be developed

- Historic Growth Solution, new Trunk Main from Sewer upstream of Hugglescote Station Road to Townsend lane CSO.
- Solution required to resolve Flooding issues within Hugglescote, must include crossing of the River Sence near Station Road.
- 102 • Growth Solution proposed a further section of upsizing down to Kelham Bridge, but land stability is a concern to due historic settlement of assets in this location.
- Resolve flooding at station road but Increased spills at Townsend Lane are therefore anticipated as a result of the growth scheme if next section not completed.
- Additional Storage upstream of Townsend Lane needed to mitigate the spill impact and reduce spills to less than 10
- Additional Drivers to deliver CSO improvements
- Key Risks
 - Levels suitable for crossing under River Sence adjacent to Hugglescote Station Road
 - Developing a solution that can re-cross the River Sence adjacent to Townsend lane
 - Historic Settlement / Subsidence
 - Mining area and High-Water Table
 - Pass forward flow limitations at Kelham Bridge based on Snarrows Capacity and condition of existing Rising Main
 - Based on unverified Model

Part of Catchment
Re-configuration

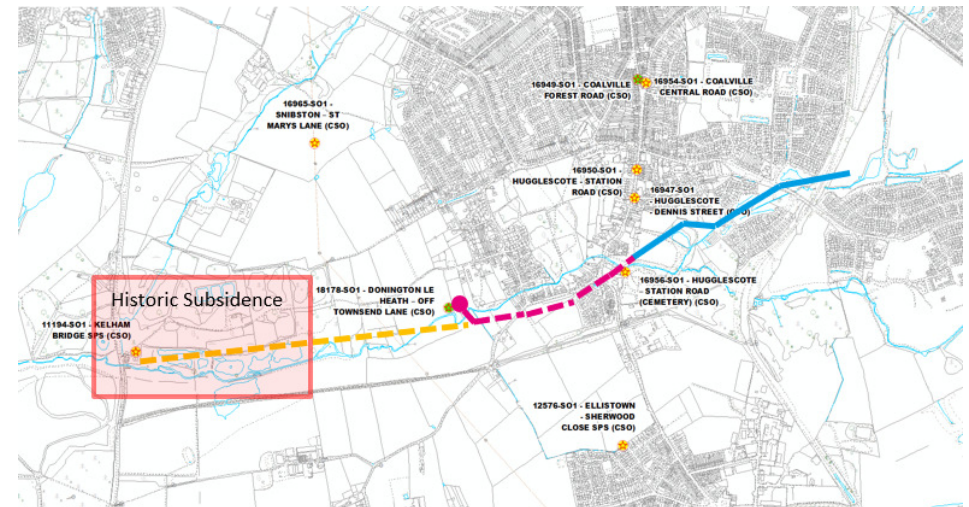
KELHAM BRIDGE, TOWNSEND LANE, ST MARY'S & HUGGLESCOTE STATION ROAD (CEMETERY)

Options for Consideration in conjunction with new Growth Sewer

- New Shaft Tank collecting high level flows only and returning to system downstream of Townsend lane **(option under consideration)**
- New Shaft Tank collecting all flows from new sewer and Pumping to Kelham Bridge **(option discounted)**
- New Shaft Tank collecting all flows from new sewer and Pumping to Highpoint before gravitating towards Snarrows **(Option needs to be assessed as part of a wider Coalville approach linking to Parsonwood Hill)**
- New Shaft Tank collecting all flows from new sewer and Pumping to Ibstock WwTW **(Option discounted due to Ibstock WwTW being at the TAL for Phosphates)**
- New WwTW at Townsend Lane **(Option discounted due to current Phosphate limits on the watercourse and impacts on the SSSI downstream)**

Concept –solution to be developed

Part of Catchment Re-configuration



Key

- Completed additional Sewer
- - - Historically Proposed Additional Sewer
- - - Current Review
- ★ WINEP CSO
- ★ Associated CSO

SOLUTIONS

- Infiltration removal, and Surface water ingress
 - we will escalate any areas of concern about infiltration internally using latest flow survey results and verified model.
 - Work is continuing to identify and remove these connections where possible
- Online Storage
 - ¹⁰⁴ Storage volumes needed are unlikely to be sufficient however some online storage is included within the proposed solution
- Temporary updates
 - New static screen installed in Townsend Lane CSO to try and reduce rag discharged to the watercourse

Hierarchy	Status	Review
Removing Infiltration / Ingress	✗	Our proposed solution involves abandoning the gravity CWS between Townsend Lane CSO and Kelham Bridge SPS. This section of sewer is thought to be a source of infiltration.
Network / Existing Asset Optimisation	✗	No viable options following review of Kelham bridge capacity
Green Solutions & Separation	✗	Currently no viable green solutions have been identified due to the large storage volume required to meaningfully reduce spills. This will be reviewed again with the verified model
Catchment Flow Transfer & PFF/FFT Increase	✓	Proposed new RM and Gravity route to Snarrows to alleviate pressure on Kelham bridge. Work is proposed at Snarrows WwTW to increase the treatment capacity at the WwTW by 2030
Gravity Fill & Return (Below Ground) Storage	✓	Proposed storage in new oversized tunnel from Cemetery, to reduce shaft size
Pumped Fill (Above Ground) Storage	✗	3 above ground tanks have been constructed at Kelham bridge to reduce spills at this location
Pumped Return (Below Ground) Storage	✓	Shaft needed due to large volume

CATCHMENT RE-CONFIGURATION

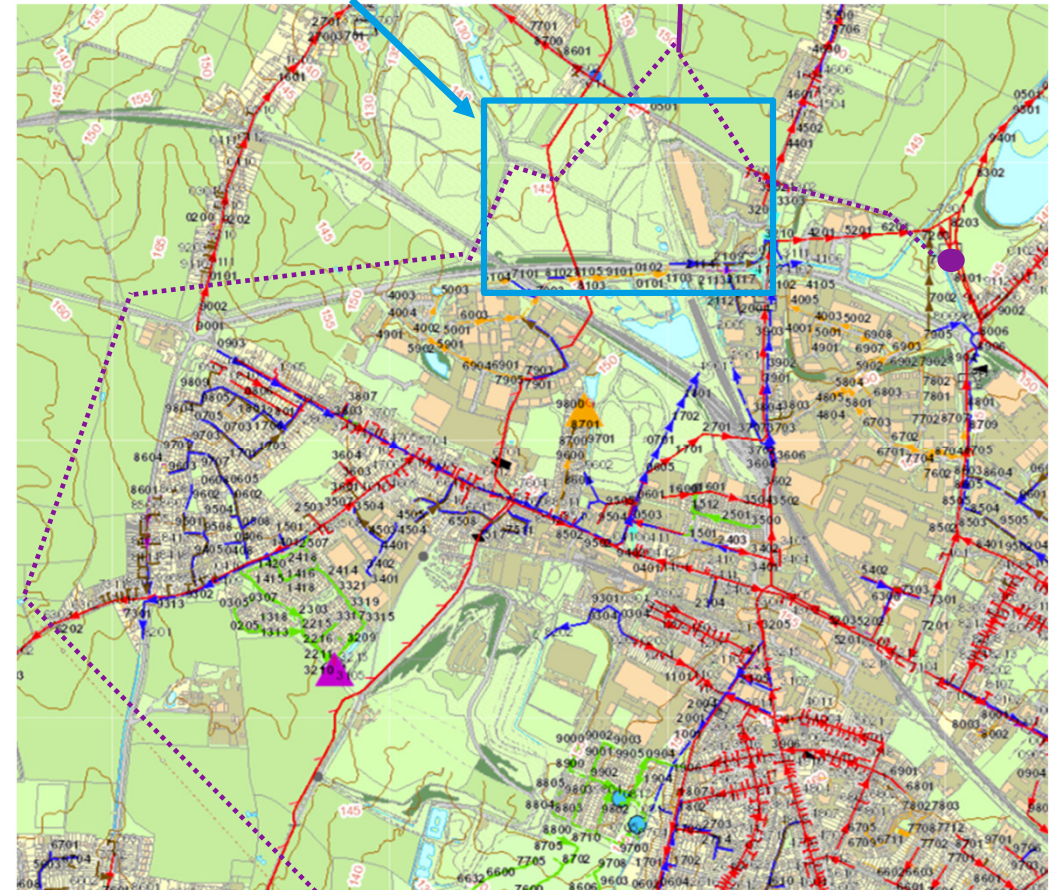
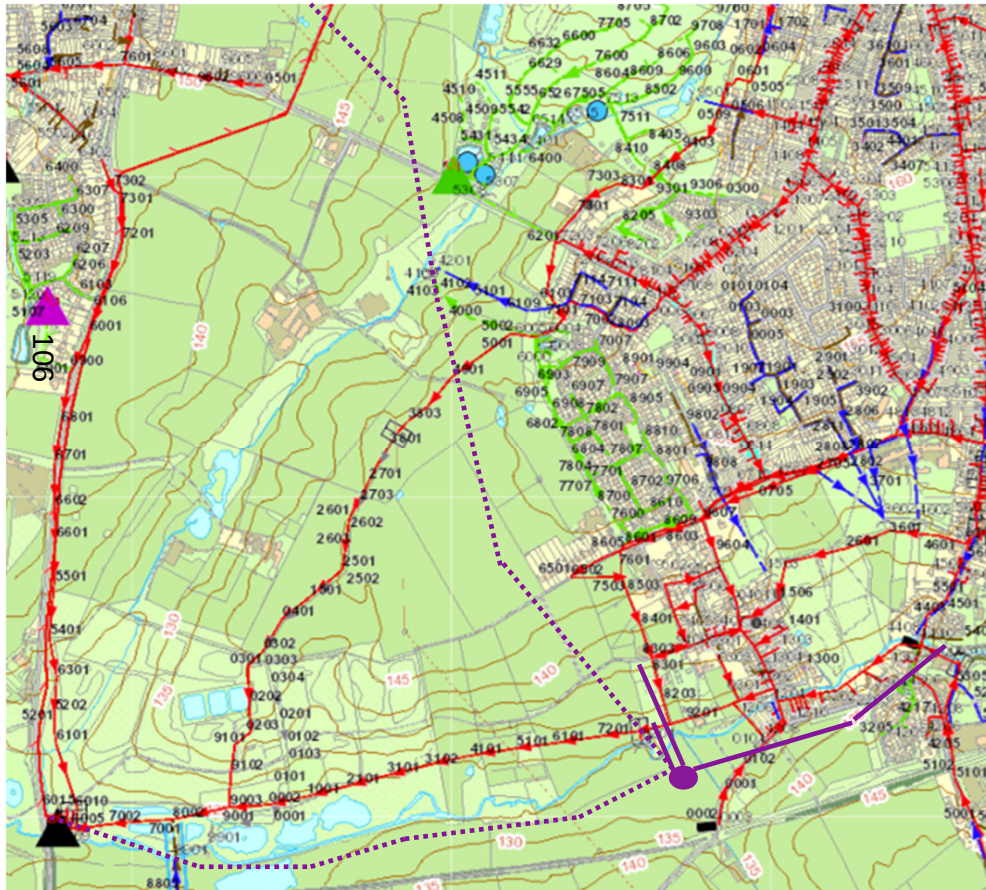
Concept – solution
to be developed

- This solution involves improvements to Townsend Lane, Kelham Bridge, Parsonwood Hill and Station Road Cemetery
- A new Pumping station Located at Townsend Lane, which Pumps to the high point locally before draining via Gravity to the north.
- A new Pumping station near Coalville Leisure Centre to intercept high flows heading towards Parsonwood Hill and transfer to proposed Gravity Trunk Sewer
- New Pumping station to the north of Thringstone to pump flows into the Snarrows WwTW
- Increase Flow to full treatment at WwTW

CATCHMENT RE-CONFIGURATION

Location for
Mine Shaft 3

Concept – solution
to be developed

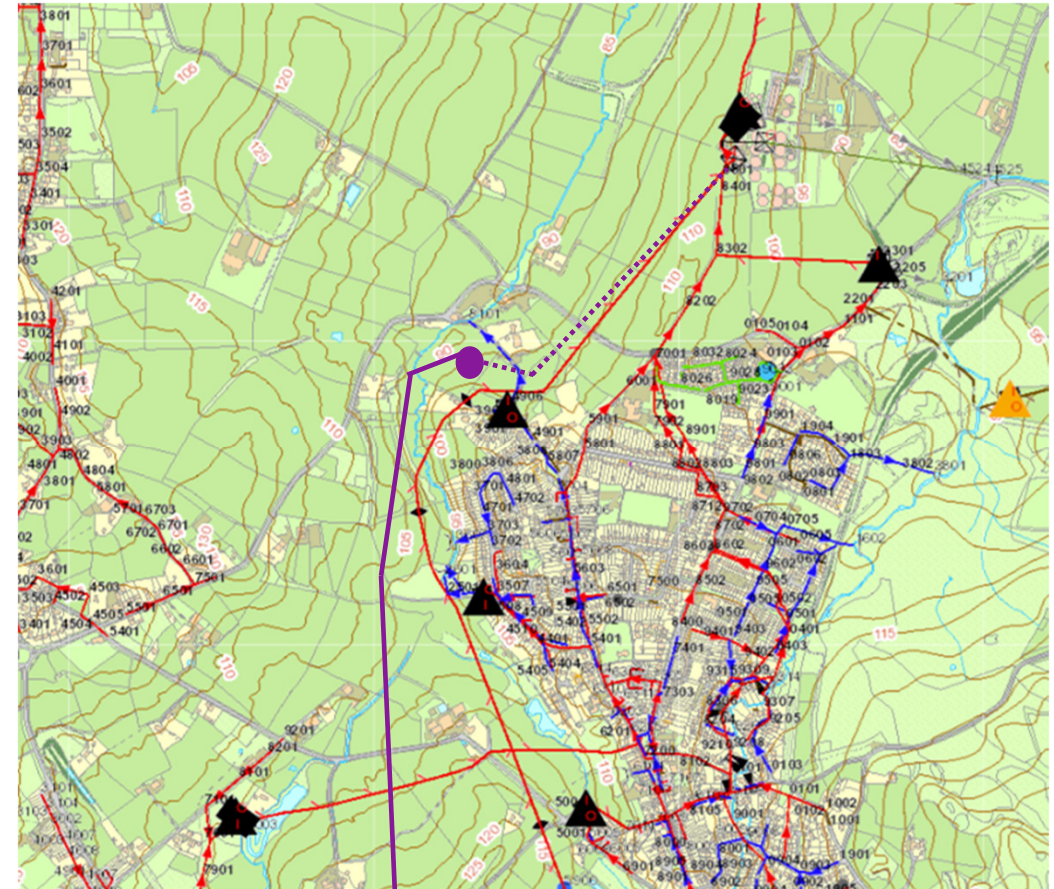
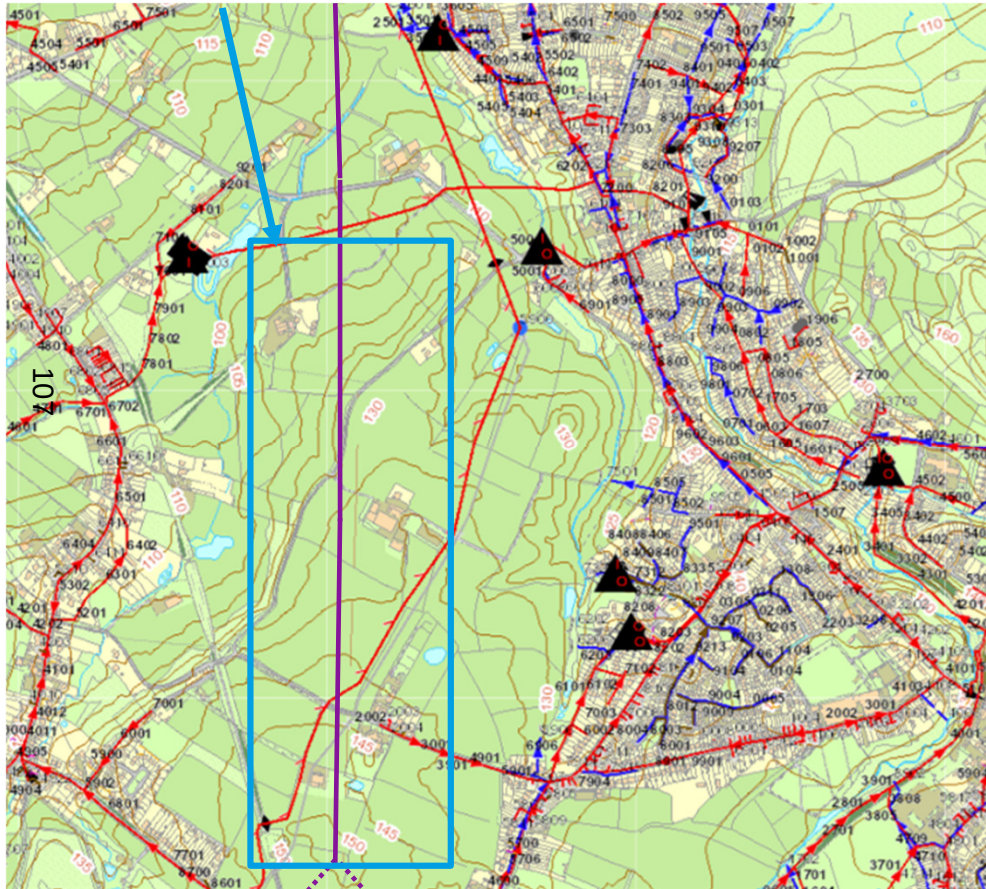


- Gravity Sewer
- Rising Main
- Pumping Station / Shaft Tank

CATCHMENT RE-CONFIGURATION

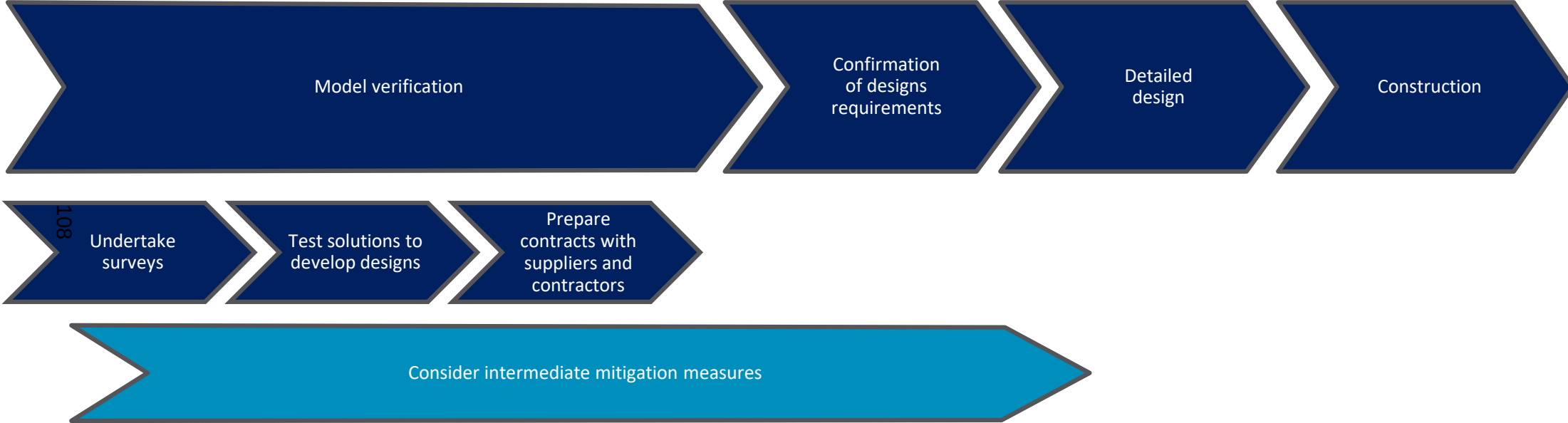
Concept – solution
to be developed

Historic Mining area



- Gravity Sewer
- Rising Main
- Pumping Station / Shaft Tank

PROJECT CONSTRAINTS



PROJECT CONSTRAINTS

- Balance pass forward flow to WwTW and storage at the CSO's to mitigate risk of flooding / spill both at CSO's and WwTW
- Grace Dieu and High Sharpley SSSI located to the north of Parsonwood Hill CSO – early conversations with Ecology team indicate Natural England are likely to refuse any solution passing through this are due to risk to the geological and environmental significance of the SSSI. – **Alternative solution identified**
- Coal Mining area, additional risks that need to be accounted for within the design process – **Coal mining risk assessments carried out**
-  Landfill Located near one of the WINEP CSO's additional risk when developing solution and potential cost for disposal of materials
- Whilst the Solutions are for CSO improvements there are significant flooding issues in two parts of the Snarrows Catchment, that Residents are concerned by and need to be considered to ensure no detriment and where possible improvements are made – **Outside of direct project scope, but improvements anticipated because of the proposed solutions.**
- Seasonally Dry Watercourses, it has been confirmed by Risk validation that London Road CSO spills to a Seasonally Dry Watercourse as such can only spill once between May and September each year - **Solution change and increased as a result**

PROJECT COMMITMENTS

Reduce spills from Donnington le heath – off Townsend Lane CSO to an average of less than 10 spill per year

Resolve any Harm to the watercourse If water quality modelling indicates harm

Deliver the system improvements by 2030

110

Reduce Spills from other WINEP CSO's to an average of less than 10 spills per year (exact CSO's to be confirmed as part of modelling.

Resolve any Harm to the watercourse If water quality modelling indicates harm

Deliver the system improvements by 2030

EXTRACT OF MINUTES of a meeting of the Community Scrutiny Committee held at Stenson House, London Road, Coalville, LE67 3FN on Thursday, 25 June 2026

Present: Councillor T Eynon (Chair),

Councillors A Barker, M Ball, D Bigby, S Lambeth, P Lees, E Parle, J Windram and L Windram

Portfolio Holder: Councillor A Woodman

Officers: Mr J Arnold, Mr Z Fazil, Mr G Hall, Ms A Morgan, Mr P Sanders, Mr A Wallace and Mrs R Wallace

9. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE COALVILLE STRATEGIC GROWTH AREA TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Councillor T Eynon, addressed the Committee as the Chair of the Task and Finish Group to present the recommendations as detailed within the report.

It was noted that an amendment was required within the Task and Finish Group report regarding the role of a resident which was incorrectly stated as a parish councillor. This would be amended prior to consideration by Cabinet.

The Committee agreed with the concerns of the task and finish group regarding sewer capacity in Coalville, sewerage discharges into the River Sence and the disconnect between housing growth, planning decisions and infrastructure delivery. Andrew Pritchard, from East Midlands Councils, who had assisted the group in undertaking the review, was invited to address the committee and provide some clarity on the concerns raised.

The Chair acknowledged that Councillor S Lambeth had submitted a briefing paper on the matter, listing concerns and possible actions, and it was noted that it was not possible to consider it at the meeting. Councillor S Lambeth was invited to address the Committee regarding his submission and a discussion ensued. It was agreed to take the paper to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Work Programming Group for further discussion, with an invite being offered to Councillor S Lambeth to attend.

A discussion was had on the sewer infrastructure and the links to the planning process; questions were raised regarding the implications of the Local Plan and concerns about the enforcement of sustainable drainage systems. It was suggested that Severn Trent should provide a stronger response through the Regulation 19 Local Plan Consultation Process to ensure infrastructure issues were fully considered. All Members were in support, and it was agreed to add this into recommendation one of the task and finish group report.

The Committee commended the work of the Task and Finish Group and were in support of the recommendations to cabinet, with the inclusion of the comments made above. Therefore, recommendation one was amended as follows:

'We have concluded that it is legally possible for the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to reject or to impose 'Grampian conditions' on new development where it is

acknowledged that a lack of sewer or water treatment capacity exists – if it has sufficient evidence from the water company. As a result, the Council should ask STW to review its approach to responding to full and outline planning applications in NW Leicestershire to ensure that robust technical evidence is made available which reflects STW's publicly stated view that the sewer system in Coalville is currently over capacity. The Council should ask STW to provide a full response on water infrastructure requirements through the regulation 19 Local Plan consultation process'

RESOLVED THAT:

The recommendations of the Water Management in the Coalville Strategic Growth Area Task and Finish Group as detailed within the report, and as amended above, be put to Cabinet at its meeting on 28 July 2026.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET – THURSDAY, 28 JULY 2026



Title of Report	NEW RECYCLING CONTAINERS PROJECT UPDATE	
Presented by	Cllr Michael Wyatt Community, Environment and Climate Change Portfolio Holder	
Background Papers	Food Waste Cabinet Aug 2024 Cabinet Paper April 2025 Full Council May 2025 Procurement and Contract Award of Recycling Containers at Cabinet December 2025 (Private) Update on Procurement of Vehicle Fleet for Recycling Containers Project Cabinet May 2026 (Private)	Public Report: Yes
		Key Decision: Yes
Financial Implications	This report is not seeking any additional financial commitment as these are already in place through previous Cabinet and Council decisions made in respect of this project	
	Signed off by the Acting Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	The implications are set out in the April 2025 Cabinet report and are repeated as below: The notice required by Leicestershire County Council (The Waste Disposal Authority) regarding a change in how the Council collects and disposes of recycling from households in the district will be issued for the change in container collection method. At the end of November 2024, the Government confirmed the requirements for Simpler Recycling. Councils will need to collect the following materials using four different containers:	

	1. Residual (non-recyclable) waste 2. Food waste (mixed with garden waste if appropriate) 3. Paper and cardboard 4. All other dry recyclable materials (plastic, metal and glass) The adoption of a new Waste and Recycling Collections Service Statement constitutes the exercise of the Council's statutory waste collection functions under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The Council must ensure that it is applied reasonably, proportionately and in accordance with public law principles. There is a risk of challenge (including complaint to the Ombudsman or judicial review) where the Service Statement is applied inflexibly or without regard to individual circumstances. The inclusion of discretion within the Statement is therefore important to mitigate this risk. The Council must also ensure compliance with its duties under the Equality Act 2010, including making reasonable adjustments where required.
	Signed off by the Deputy Monitoring Officer: Yes
Staffing and Corporate Implications	The implications are set out in the April 2025 Cabinet report
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes
Purpose of Report	To provide an update on the progress made to date in preparing to start the roll out of the new container system in early November 2026 and to comment on detailed draft plans for Phase One, the colours of the bins and a new policy in respect of the Council's approach to household waste and recycling collections.
Reason for decision	To comment on the progress being made by this project to date and formally approve the proposals in regard to the new bin colours, the approach to phase one and the Service Statement
Recommendations	THAT CABINET: 1. CONSIDERS THE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING ON 25 JUNE 2026

	2. COMMENTS ON THE PROGRESS AND PLANS MADE TO DATE IN PREPARING TO ROLL OUT THE NEW SCHEME 3. APPROVES THE RATIONALE FOR PHASE ONE 4. AGREES THE PREFERRED PROPOSAL FOR BIN LID COLOURS 5. ADOPTS THE WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS SERVICE STATEMENT SUBJECT TO OFFICERS APPLYING THE POLICY WITH APPROPRIATE DISCRETION AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH INDIVIDUAL HOUSEHOLD CIRCUMSTANCES.
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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Cabinet and Council gave the go-ahead and resources required for a new simpler twin bin recycling container scheme to be introduced in the districts households at meetings held in April and May 2025 respectively. In addition, Cabinet approval was given to the implementation of a new weekly food waste collection service at its meeting held in August 2024.
- 1.2 The Council intends to introduce food waste collections at the same time as introducing the new twin bins as this will be clearer for the district's residents to understand and can be promoted as a single new recycling system. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has been formally notified of the Council's plans in this regard.
- 1.3 On 31 March 2026, the Government's Simpler Recycling regime came into effect. In summary, the new default requirement for most households is the allocation of four recycling containers for the collection of the following:
- Fortnightly collection of residual (non-recyclable) waste
 - Weekly collection of food waste (mixed with garden waste if appropriate)
 - Fortnightly collection of paper and card
 - Fortnightly collection of all other dry recyclable materials (plastic, metal and glass)

The new recycling containers are intended to ensure lower levels of contaminated materials being rejected after collection if it is not economically viable to re-process them, therefore, reducing the amount of material recycled. This is particularly relevant to paper and card which is vulnerable to cross-contamination from food and liquid commonly found on other recycling, which can significantly reduce quality of collected material.

For further information on Simpler Recycling, see the following link: [Simpler Recycling in England: policy update - GOV.UK](#)

2.0 MOBILISATION FOR ROLL OUT

- 2.1 A Project Delivery Team, was established in May 2025 and has been making good progress in preparing for the new scheme. The project remains on the programme presented to Cabinet and Scrutiny at their meetings in March and April 2025. Once the Phase One roll out has been implemented a detailed review will be undertaken to learn what went well and what did not go so well in order that future phases can be more effective and efficient.

Phase one	Implementing the new service to 12,500 households November 2026
Phase two	Implementing the new service to 12,500 households March 2027
Phase three	Implementing the new service to 12,500 households July 2027
Phase four	Implementing the new service to 12,500 households November 2027

The roll out of the phases after phase one will be brought forward if this is possible and subject to earlier phases working well.

Vehicle Procurement

- 2.2 The Council has ordered 17 of the 19 vehicles required for the new collection regime from Dennis Eagle and delivery will begin in early October 2026. The contract will see the manufacturer supplying nine new vehicles to replace aging lorries in the Council's waste fleet, plus an additional seven 'split-back' vehicles. These are designed to collect the type of wheeled recycling bins the Council will be adopting whilst keeping the contents separated and free from cross contamination. Dennis Eagle will also provide familiarisation training for the Council's waste crews as part of the contract. Cabinet approval to commission vehicles 18 and 19 (a narrow vehicle and a JCB) was secured at its meeting in May.

Container Procurement and Delivery

- 2.3 Cabinet at its meeting in December 2025, agreed for the containers to be procured not only for the new twin bins but all future household bin purchases. This contract will also include provision for the delivery of the new twin bins directly to households. This procurement went live on an approved Council framework on 12 May and once evaluated the contract and order will be placed. Food waste container delivery will be aligned with the twin bin deliveries. The red boxes not required by households will be collected separately by the Council's delivery team.

Food Waste Vehicles and Containers

- 2.4 The Council has ordered the required eight food waste collection vehicles with the supplier Terberg Matec UK. The kitchen and kerbside caddies have been ordered from IPL Global Plastics Limited and the vehicles and containers will be delivered in phases from early October. The Council will be running a competition from late August amongst local school pupils who will be invited to name the new food waste vehicles.

Staff Engagement

- 2.5 Staff have been actively engaged throughout the project, with involvement in the specification and selection of the new refuse collection vehicles. This has ensured that operational and practical requirements from crews and drivers have been reflected in the final vehicle design.
- 2.6 Key features of the new vehicles include low-entry, high-visibility cabs to improve driver awareness and support compliance with Direct Vision Standard requirements. The vehicles also include fully compliant bin lifting equipment, designed in line with recent legislative changes, with improved controls and safer operator positioning.
- 2.7 Staff will continue to be kept informed and involved through quarterly all-staff meetings, where more detailed updates will be shared, and through information displays on a dedicated noticeboard at the Council's Linden Way Depot.

Communications

- 2.8 The project is backed by a regularly reviewed communications strategy, detailing the Council's activity to keep residents engaged and informed at every stage of the programme. There is a dedicated page on the Council's website with information on progress and a frequently asked questions section.
- 2.9 The dedicated web page includes details on the initial public consultation and the subsequent results, as well as publicising each of the project's key milestones via the local press and social media, particularly following key Cabinet decisions.
- 2.10 As the project approaches the rollout of the new containers to households, this messaging will become more targeted and instructional, using a variety of appropriate channels and methods to support the Council in embedding the new waste and recycling collection system in phases across the district.

Contract with Leicestershire County Council as Disposal Authority

- 2.11 The Council delivers its waste collection services in partnership with Leicestershire County Council in its role as the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA). The WDA is responsible for determining the facilities to which collected waste should be delivered.
- 2.12 The disposal locations set out below reflect those currently designated and form part of the wider countywide waste management infrastructure, ensuring compliance with legislative requirements and supporting efficient and sustainable service delivery.
- 2.13 For food waste, multiple approved facilities are available. As the Council is not required to meet fixed tonnage targets at individual food waste locations, this provides flexibility to utilise more than one location, supporting efficient routing and service resilience. All disposal arrangements are undertaken in accordance with direction from the Waste Disposal Authority. The designated disposal locations have been confirmed by the County Council as follows:

Commodity	Operator	Location
Residual Waste	Biffa	Shepshed
Dry Recycling (NEW)	Casepak	Leicester
Garden Waste	Suez	Lount
Food Waste	Biogen	Atherstone
Food Waste (NEW)	Severn Trent	Derby
Food Waste (NEW)	Leicestershire County Council	Bardon

The County Council will agree a new contract in the summer with the district council to reflect these new arrangements.

Local Government Reform and Devolution

- 2.14 The Council is aware of potential future changes to local government structures. The approach to container design seeks to maintain operational flexibility should governance arrangements change in the future. This would mean that the current structure, whereby the statutory responsibilities for waste collection and disposal are split between the District Council and Leicestershire County Council, would no longer be the case under a new unitary council. To allow ultimate flexibility for this future structure the bins and containers will have no branding applied and the vehicles will have simple transfer applications that can easily be changed in the future.

3.0 Draft Twin Bins Colour Appraisal

- 3.1 To provide the most flexible, adaptable and efficient bin supply to households all future wheeled bin purchases will have a black body and a coloured lid. With garden bins being green lidded and residual waste bins being black lidded it is important that the new twin bins are of an appropriate colour. Seven criteria have been used to come to a recommendation, and these are more closely set out within **Appendix A**. In summary, these are as follows:

1. Residents - familiarity and positive behaviour
2. Residents - visual impairment and colour vision deficiency
3. Residents - use of bins in low light
4. Waste operatives - operational visibility
5. Waste operatives - familiarity and anticipation of contents inside recycling bins
6. Waste and Resource Action Programme (WRAP) advice
7. Best practice amongst other councils

Following the completion of an Equality Impact Assessment and an engagement exercise with operational staff, officers recommend an orange lidded bin for plastics, cans, tins, foil and aerosols and a blue lidded bin for card and paper.

4.0 Draft Phase One Rationale

- 4.1 **Appendix B** sets out the reasons for introducing phase one of the new recycling container system to 12,832 households in the Wednesday collection zone, covering Coalville, Whitwick, New Swannington and parts of Hugglescote and Thringstone.
- 4.2 The area was selected because of its close proximity to the Council's waste and recycling depot, it fits within a single collection day, includes a broad mix of housing types and demographics, and aligns with some of the Council's existing food waste and FlexCollect trials operating in the area. This makes it a practical and controlled setting

to test the new arrangements, identify issues early, and refining the approach before further rollout.

- 4.3 Officer-led street assessments of 50 terraced streets have been carried out, alongside site-specific consideration of flats/communal sites and shared bin collection points. The fieldwork examined pavement space, shared access arrangements, bin presentation and storage, providing an evidence base for identifying where standard arrangements can be implemented and where specific arrangements will be required.
- 4.4 The findings indicate that the majority of households in the phase one area can accommodate the standard 180 litre recycling bins, with detached and semi-detached properties generally having sufficient storage and pavement space. Shared bins for flats and communal households will be managed through collaboration with housing providers, alongside site visits.
- 4.5 The main issue identified relates to 32 terraced households, where restricted and narrow pavement space would not safely accommodate the two standard 180 litre recycling bins on collection day. For these addresses, the proposed solution is to provide two smaller 140 litre wheeled bins, with supported and targeted face-to-face resident engagement. Smaller 140 litre bins will normally be provided where physical constraints are identified, although each case will be assessed on its individual merits.
- 4.6 A further issue has been identified for some detached and semi-detached properties on newer estates, which use designated bin collection points. Under the current collection arrangements, the two recycling bins would be presented alongside the garden waste bin, then on the following week only the general waste bin would be collected. To reduce pressure on space at these collection points, it is proposed that the garden waste bin and general waste bin are collected on the same week.
- 4.7 Overall, the research and fieldwork confirmed the phase one is operationally viable, that identified risks are understood, and appropriate solutions and communications are in place to support implementation.

5.0 Draft Communications Programme for Phase 1

- 5.1 Residents in the Wednesday collection zone will receive communications through a variety of channels to ensure they are engaged and informed about the recycling collection service change launching in early November, empowering them to feel confident on how to use the new recycling bins.
- 5.2 The communications form part of the project's wider communications strategy, which includes:
 - Four printed communications in September, October, November and early 2027 delivered directly to households. Further information on these is detailed below:
 - A press release prior to launch
 - Instructional videos for use on the website, social media and emails
 - Three emails to residents in September, October and November
 - Social media posts from September through to December
 - Face to face promotion at events in the Wednesday collection zone

6.0 Draft Waste and Recycling Collections Service Statement

- 6.1 The Council already has an established [Refuse and Recycling Collections Policy](#) based on the bags and boxes container system, and this will remain in place for all residents who remain on this system of recycling until the entire district transitions to the new recycling container system. The policy provides a framework for service delivery but will be applied with appropriate flexibility to reflect individual household circumstances where necessary.
- 6.2 Having such a document reflects national best practice and provides a clear and consistent framework for the delivery of Council waste and recycling services. It sets out expectations for residents, supports fair decision making by officers, and addresses emerging issues such as recycling performance, service arrangements and contamination.
- 6.3 Residents in North West Leicestershire have made significant efforts to recycle as much of their waste as possible under the existing system, with the district currently having the highest recycling rate in Leicestershire. It is, therefore, important that this momentum is maintained. To support this, a new draft Waste and Recycling Collections Service Statement has been drafted which clarifies how the new recycling container system will operate and importantly ensures compliance with the Government's Simpler Recycling requirements. The Service Statement at Appendix C, which is in a different format, is largely the same as the 2022 policy referred to in paragraph 6.1 and some of the key changes are outlined below:

Batteries and Mobile Phones

- 6.4 Batteries and mobile phones will continue to be collected, however, the opportunity to recycle these more frequently will be extended, alongside the weekly food waste collections.

Textiles

- 6.5 Textiles will no longer be included as part of the kerbside recycling collection service. There is no statutory responsibility to collect textiles as part of Simpler Recycling, and approximately seven tonnes of textiles are collected by the Council each year. Of this, a proportion of textiles are of too low quality for reuse and have limited recycling options due to challenging global end markets, most gets incinerated. Residents will be advised to donate good quality clothing to charity shops and take textiles to a collection point, such as their local Recycling and Household Waste Site.

Excess Waste

- 6.6 As a general principle, only waste and recycling contained within the wheeled bins and food waste caddy will be collected. However, the Council may exercise discretion in exceptional circumstances where justified. Any waste or recycling left beside the wheeled bins or food caddy will not be collected. This keeps manual handling for both residents and operatives to a minimum and ensures operatives are not put at risk when loading waste and recycling into the rear of the collection vehicle. The rear of the vehicles are equipped with rear mounted lifting mechanisms designed to support safe handling of wheeled bins and maintain defined safety zones for operatives. Residents will be encouraged to flatten, squeeze and squash their recycling to make efficient use of space within their recycling bins. Households of four or more residents may request two larger 240l bins where additional capacity is needed and will be assessed on a case-

by-case basis. The Council will apply this approach with appropriate discretion where exceptional circumstances are demonstrated.

Food Waste Liners

- 6.7 The Council decided in 2019 to start and fund a trial of 4,000 households with food waste collections, which it has maintained on the basis that the government would fund the wider rollout across the whole district.
- 6.8 For the rollout, all households will receive an initial roll of 52 food waste caddy liners, providing approximately one year's supply. This initial provision has been made possible through Government funding to support the roll out of the food waste collection service.
- 6.9 After the initial roll has been used, residents will be encouraged to provide their own liners for ongoing use. This will also include the 4,000 households on the existing trial, as currently ongoing liners have been provided, but this will end as the government funding does not support it.
- 6.10 When providing their own food waste liners, residents will be encouraged to use compostable liners, paper or newspaper. Alternative liners may be acceptable where compatible with treatment processes, and guidance will be provided to residents to minimise contamination. Black bags should not be used in the food waste caddy as black plastic cannot be easily detected by sorting equipment at recycling and treatment facilities, and cannot be separated effectively from food waste, leading to contamination. In some other English council areas residents are advised that liners do not need to be used provided residents are content to wash their caddies.

The Waste and Recycling Collections Policy in **Appendix C** sets this out in detail.

7.0 Recycling rates

As a Council, there is an aspiration within the Council Delivery Plan to achieve a 60% recycling rate by 2028. The new twin bin collection scheme and particularly the food waste collection service is seen as the key drivers to achieve these higher rates of recycling. Currently the Council has a recycling rate of 43.5% which is the highest in Leicestershire. (Latest 2024/2025 DEFRA):

Local Authority	Recycling Rate
North West Leicestershire District Council	43.5%
Harborough District Council	43.4%
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	41.7%
Charnwood Borough Council	41.3%
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council	40.6%
Blaby District Council	40.3%
Melton Borough Council	40.0%

8.0 Community Scrutiny Committee 25 June 2026.

A members briefing was held on 25 June before Community Scrutiny and at both events members were appreciative of the update and having more detail on the plans. The Service Statement has been revised in the light of scrutiny's comments in respect of the use of bags for the food waste caddies. The comments are at **Appendix D** for Cabinet's consideration.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	Developing a clean and green district by providing residents the maximum opportunity to conveniently recycle Ensure where possible all waste is sent for recycling or reprocessing, diverting it away from landfill or incineration. The Council's current delivery plan commits to "Being a carbon neutral Council by 2030".
Policy Considerations:	The Fleet Management Strategy under the Council's Zero Carbon roadmap commits the Council to explore available fleet options which will be governed by the type of recycling container system introduced. Demonstration/confirmation the recycling container system introduced complies with the Governments Simpler Recycling policy.
Safeguarding:	N/A
Equalities/Diversity:	An Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment has been carried out on the container system to ensure that any issues with moving to different container systems are identified and mitigated. Currently those residents who are physically unable to put out waste, garden waste, and recycling containers are able to apply for assisted service, this would remain in place. The service ensure waste operatives collect and return waste and recycling containers to an agreed location on the residents property. An equalities impact assessment has been completed for each of the following documents: the Draft Waste and Recycling Collections Policy, Bin lid Colours Proposal and the Rationale for Phase 1. The Council will continue to monitor impacts during implementation and will make reasonable adjustments where required in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.
Customer Impact:	An easier, more convenient, and practicable way for residents to recycle at the kerbside.
Economic and Social Impact:	Not applicable.
Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon:	An easier, more convenient, and practicable way for residents to recycle at the kerbside which could increase the volume of materials recycled.

Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	A communications strategy has been developed and initiated to support the roll out of the new recycling containers project. The new container scheme has been subject to extensive consultation, and the twin bin scheme is in line with public demand. The operating guidelines set out in the Service Statement are not subject to public consultation as most of what the Council carries out is directed nationally.
Risks:	A full project risk register is in place. Key risks include: Operational risks associated with phased rollout; Resident non-compliance or misunderstanding of the new system; Storage and presentation constraints at certain property types; Reputational risks if communications are not effective; Risk of challenge if the policy is applied inflexibly. Mitigation measures include phased implementation, targeted communications, and the application of reasonable discretion in individual cases.
Officer Contact	Paul Sanders Head of Community Services paul.sanders@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

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Appendix A - Bin colour selection to support recognition and compliance

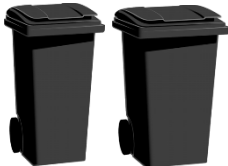
Background and overview

The Council currently operates a source-segregated kerbside recycling collection service, providing households with red recycling boxes and reusable blue and yellow bags. However, as part of a review of the service which commenced in spring 2023, and Central Government's 'Simpler Recycling' policy requirements, in November 2026 the Council will begin transitioning from the current source-segregated recycling system to a twin bin recycling system.

This is the biggest change to the service since household recycling collections were introduced in 2002. Therefore, selecting the right lid colours for the new twin recycling bins is fundamental, ensuring a smooth transition. It will help to sustain recycling performance, and it should promote higher participation and compliance by residents.

Current containers and bins used by Waste Services

Container type, colour, and size	Materials accepted
 55 litre red box	• Plastic pots, tubs, and trays • Aluminium cans • Steel tins • Clean foil • Empty aerosol canisters
 55 litre red box	• Glass bottles and jars
 73 litre reusable yellow bag	• Cardboard and brown paper
 31 litre reusable blue bag	• Paper • Newspapers • Magazines • Envelopes • Catalogues
 240 litre brown-lidded bin with black body or 240 litre brown-lidded bin with green body	• Compostable garden waste ○ Shrub prunings ○ Garden plants, dead flowers, and weeds ○ Hedge trimmings and grass cuttings ○ Leaves ○ Small tree branches (under 6" thick)

 180 litre and 240 litre black-lidded bins	General waste
 240 litre, 360 litre and 1100 litre green bins	Trade waste and recycling bins provided to businesses and organisations across the district
 240 litre yellow bins	Recycling bins provided for events across the district

Recycling bins used by the other Leicestershire councils

As illustrated in the table below, there is no universal colour used for the co-mingled/mixed recycling bins provided by the other six councils in Leicestershire.

Council	Body colour	Lid colour	Size (litres)
Blaby District Council	Green	Green	240l, can opt for a 140l
Charnwood Borough Council	Green	Green	240l
Harborough District Council	Black	Blue	240l
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	Black	Blue	240l
Melton Borough Council	Brown	Brown	240l
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council	Green	Brown	240l, can opt for a 140l

Criteria determining the colour for the new recycling bins

1. Use of the new recycling bins by residents

Familiarity and positive behaviour

Adopting lid colours that broadly align with the existing household recycling collection service encourages successful recycling due to the following reasons:

- Easier transition from the existing and bags and boxes to wheeled bins. Residents are not required to learn new colours for different recycling materials, reducing the risk of residents placing the wrong material in the wrong bin.

- Using a black bin body with a strong contrasting lid colour means it will indicate the bin is used for recycling.
- Grayscale colours, such as black or grey can indicate that a bin is used for general waste. The current bin used for general waste has a black body and lid. Over time, the lid can become bleached by sunlight, causing it to fade to grey, as seen in the accompanying image.



Research shows recycling performance improves when lid colours are consistent, bold, and recognisable, reducing decision-making effort by residents. The Waste Resource Action Programme (WRAP) is a non-governmental organisation that supports local authorities to implement and maintain waste and recycling collections, which are derived from central government legislation and policy requirements, such as 'Simpler Recycling'. WRAP emphasises clear, contrasting and bold colours to improve recycling performance and help reduce contamination.

Visual impairment and colour vision deficiency

Research from the Colour Blind Awareness organisation has found approximately 1 in 12 men and 1 in 200 women in the UK are affected by colour vision deficiency, also known as colour blindness.

Advice and guidance for people with visual impairments from Colour Blind Awareness and the Royal National Institute of Blind People highlights:

- Contrast is more important than colour alone
- Bright, saturated colours on dark backgrounds are most visibly reliable
- Orange, blue and yellow provide stronger differentiation than red and green combinations, which are problematic for many colour blind users.

Therefore, a black bin body with an orange, red, or blue lid provides high contrast, aiding identification by residents who have:

- Partial sight loss
- Age-related sight loss
- Colour vision deficiency (colour blindness).

Use of bins in low light conditions

Bold and high contrast bin lid colours play an important role in supporting effective recycling, particularly in poor lighting conditions. Highly visible colours (for example, blue, green, orange or red) provide strong visual contrast against low light backgrounds, enabling residents to help easily identify what material goes into each bin. This is important as residents can use recycling bins during:

- Early mornings
- Evenings
- In poorly lit bin stores or alleyways
- In poorer lighting conditions during winter months.

2. Use of the new recycling bins by waste operatives

Operational visibility

Waste collection operatives regularly operate:

- Before dawn
- During winter months
- In poor weather conditions
- In poorly lit bin stores or alleyways.

Bold and high contrast bin lid colours assist operatives when working at pace or in adverse conditions, allowing them to quickly identify bins, and the contents contained within them. This ensures the bins are loaded into the correct compartment on the recycling collection vehicle, reducing the risk of accidental contamination.

Familiarity and anticipation of contents inside recycling bins

Adopting lid colours that broadly align with the existing household recycling collection service, supports successful collections due to the following reasons:

- Operatives build quick visual recognition of the bins
- The contents of a bin are anticipated before loading onto the vehicle, reducing the risk of contamination and vehicle loads being rejected and sent to incineration.
- Missed collections are reduced, as operatives are less likely to fail to empty a bin when its intended use is clearly understood.

3. Best practice

WRAP advice

The Waste Resource Action Programme (WRAP) is a non-governmental organisation that supports local authorities to implement and maintain waste and recycling collections, which are derived from central government legislation and policy requirements, such as 'Simpler Recycling'. WRAP does not mandate a single national colour scheme for recycling bins, but consistently advocates:

- Clear visual consistency
- Distinct colours between material streams
- Use of colour in combination with labels or printed icons on bins.

WRAP's material stream iconography is designed to work alongside coloured containers, particularly where black or grey bin bodies are used.

Overall, WRAP and industry guidance promotes bold and high contrast bin lid colours to differentiate between waste streams, minimising operational challenges when operatives are emptying bins.

Best practice amongst other councils

A number of councils operating a twin bin recycling system use:

- Orange or red-lidded bins for plastics, cans, tins and glass
- Blue-lidded bins for paper and cardboard.

Councils which use these colours include Aberdeenshire Council and Milton Keynes City Council.

4. The matrix below confirms blue, orange, and red would be the most suitable colours to use for the lids on recycling bins.

Criteria & suitability	Blue	Orange	Red	Green	Yellow	Brown	Purple	Grey	Black
Resident use	Yes, a blue-lidded bin with a black body is currently used for communal households	Yes	Yes	No (used for trade waste bins)	No, used for event bins and clinical waste containers	No, used for garden waste bins	No, not a bold or contrasting colour	No, not a bold or contrasting colour	No, used for general waste bins
Waste operative use	Yes	Yes	Yes	No, used for trade waste bins	No, used for event bins and clinical waste containers	No, used for garden waste bins	No, not a bold or contrasting colour	No, could be confused with general waste	No, not a bold or contrasting colour
Best practice (WRAP and other councils)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No, normally indicates clinical waste	No, not a bold or contrasting colour	No, not a bold or contrasting colour	No, not a bold or contrasting colour	No, not a bold or contrasting colour
Overall rating and suitability	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No

5. Conclusion and recommendation

Based on the information set out in this report, it is recommended a blue-lidded bin is adopted for cardboard and paper, reflecting established resident familiarity when using blue bags in households for recycling paper (excluding communal properties). Also, a blue-lidded bin with a black body is currently used by communal properties for paper. Visually, a blue lid provides a clear, high contrast colour when used with a black bin body.

It is recommended an orange-lidded bin with a black body is adopted for cans, tins, plastics and glass. Orange provides strong visibility and contrast, performing well for residents and operatives, especially in low light conditions.

Although, residents associate red with the Council's existing recycling boxes for cans, tins, plastics and glass, an orange lid is recommended in preference to a red-lidded wheeled bin. During the transition period, both the red boxes and the new twin wheeled bins will operate in parallel across the district. The introduction of a red-lidded bin during the roll out could create confusion amongst residents, as essentially two red plastic containers would be in operation and used at the same time.

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Appendix B Phase one rationale - detailed analysis and approach

Background

The district has approximately 50,000 households and is split into four collection zones - North, East, South and West. The zoning provides a clear and efficient framework for operating waste and recycling collections. Within each zone, Waste Services operates a fortnightly collection schedule for residual waste, garden waste and recycling.

Rationale

It is proposed to introduce phase one of the new recycling container system to 12,829 households within the Wednesday collection zone, its geographical area is illustrated by the map below. The area is split into two collection weeks; week one and week two - each can be seen on pages two and three. The whole area encompasses Coalville, Whitwick, New Swannington, and a small proportion of Hugglescote and Thringstone. The accompanying [database](#) provides a list of all households in the collection zone.

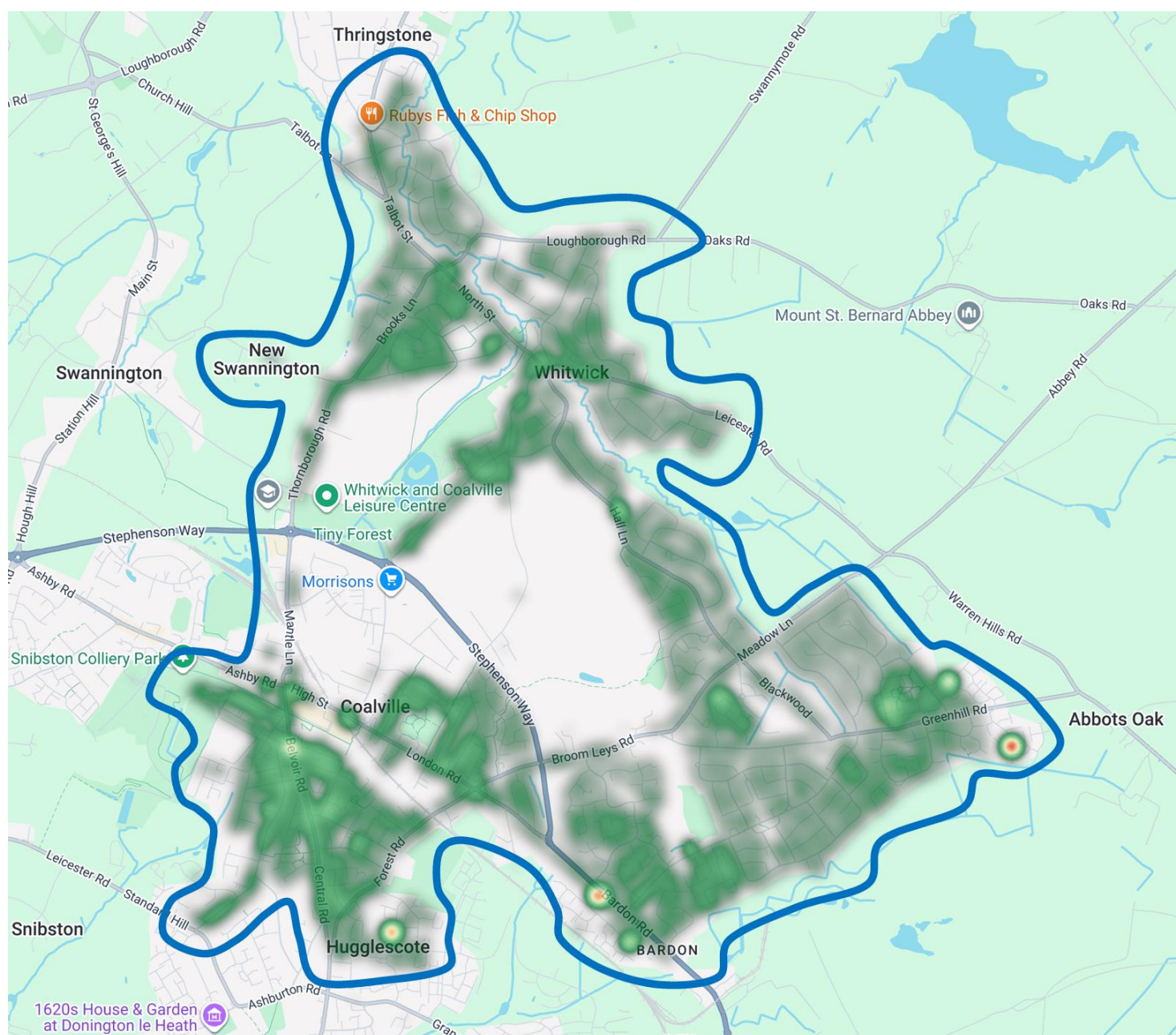


Image 1: Wednesday collection zone geographical area.

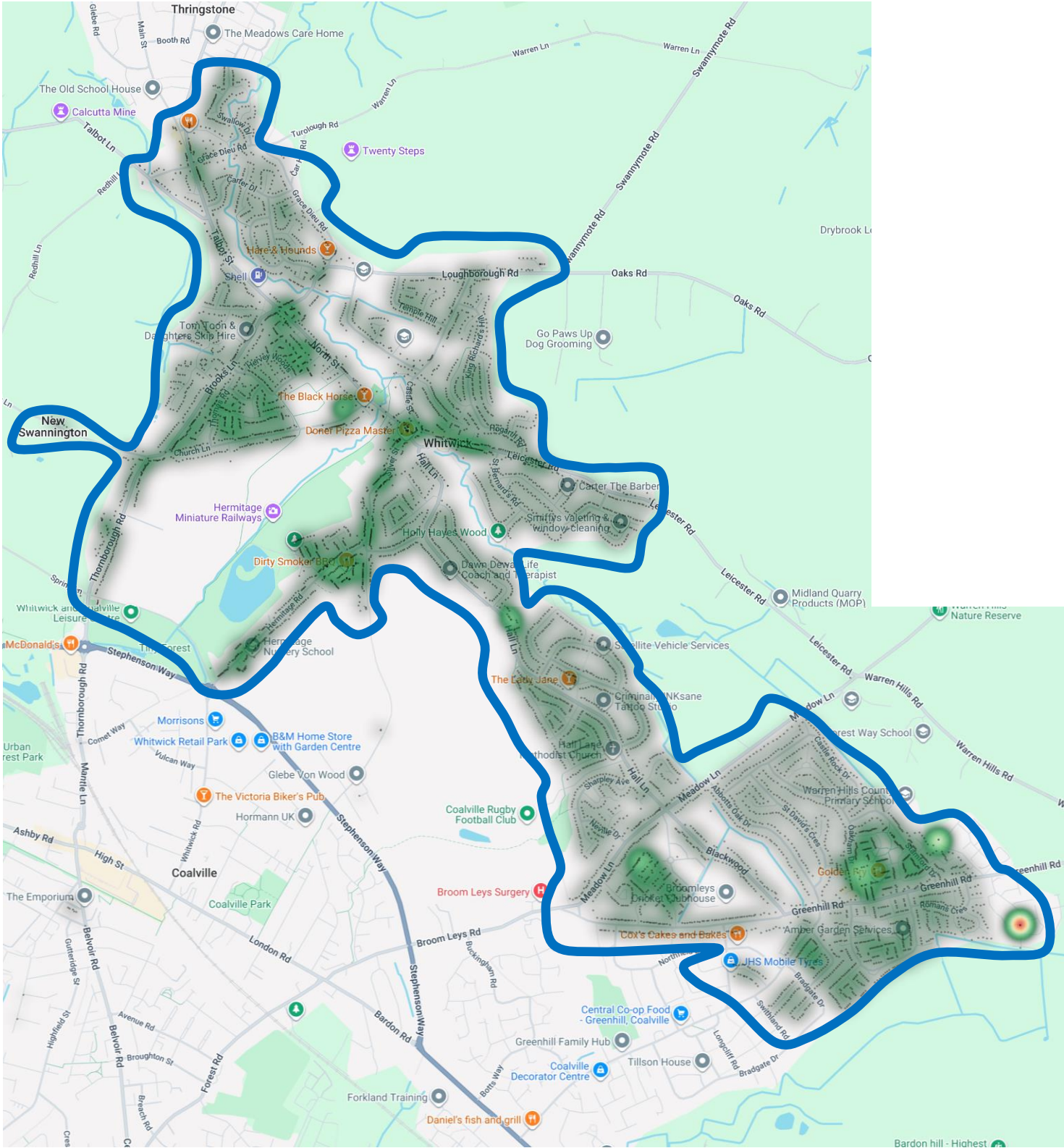


Image 2: Wednesday week one collection zone geographical area.

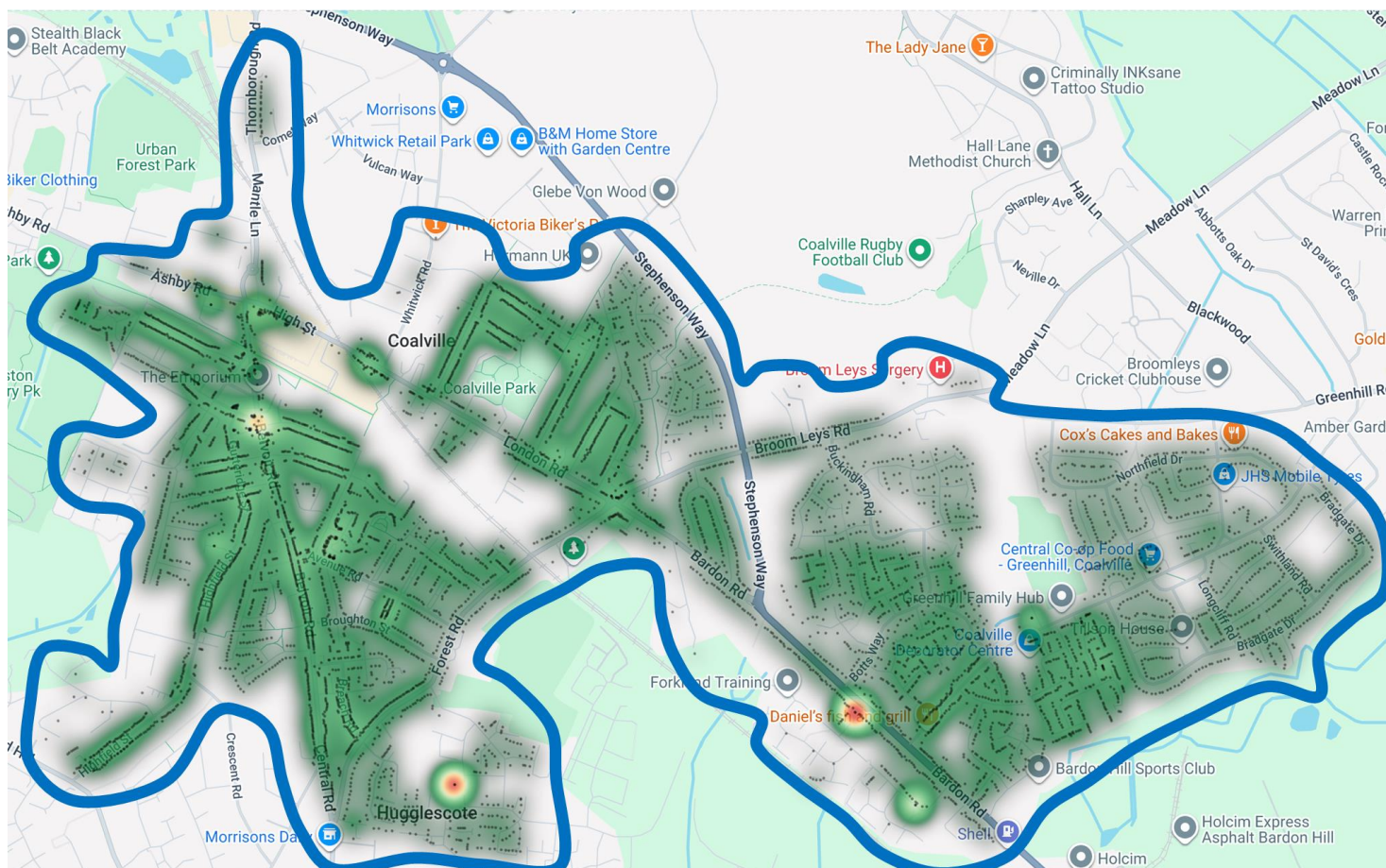


Image 3: Wednesday week two collection zone geographical area.

The rationale follows a comprehensive assessment of operational, logistical, and service-delivery considerations, these considerations are outlined in further detail:

1. Proximity to the waste and recycling depot

The Wednesday collection zone is geographically close to the waste and recycling depot, situated on Linden Way in Coalville. This will ensure faster deployment and quicker response times to operational issues, which is critical during the initial rollout when adjustments are likely.

This positioning of the depot to the Wednesday collection zone is also advantageous for monitoring travel times, route efficiency, and the impact of new tipping arrangements and locations. This will enable operational staff and officers to refine the logistics of operating the new system, ensuring efficiency, before further rollout across the district.

2. Diverse housing and demographics

The Wednesday collection zone offers a broad spectrum of property types, including terraced streets, both new and established housing estates, areas of deprivation, affluent neighbourhoods, and some rural properties. It also includes housing in town centre locations and densely populated areas.

The diversity of this collection zone allows officers to identify potential pinch points, developing solutions that will work district wide. Some of this work has been undertaken in the phase one area, which is detailed later in this document.

3. Existing food waste collection and FlexCollect trials

Within the Wednesday collection zone, 2,773 households receive a weekly collection of food waste as part of the Council's weekly food waste collection trial. Also, as part of the FlexCollect trial all 6,330 households in the Wednesday week two collection zone receive a fortnightly collection of plastics bags and wrapping alongside the existing recycling service. Therefore, the Wednesday collection zone is ideal for rolling out and integrating the new recycling bins alongside these trial collections.

4. Resident communications

There will be minimal disruption by keeping the zone and collection day the same. The current zoning structure will make the new recycling collections easier to manage, minimising confusion for residents as there will be no changes to the collection day for recycling.

5. Waste operations and communications

Rolling out phase one to a single collection day area ensures the waste operatives find it much easier to know when and where they are collecting from. It also makes it quicker for them and operational colleagues to identify and report issues during implementation. This will assist when rolling the system out across the rest of the district.

Housing types and street assessments – accommodating the new recycling bins

The introduction of new recycling bins and food waste containers, alongside the existing wheeled bins for general waste and garden waste, represents a significant change to the waste and recycling service for all residents.



- 1 1 x 240* litre or 1 x 180 litre** black lidded black wheeled bin for general waste
- 2 1 x 240 litre brown lidded black wheeled bin for garden waste
- 3 1 x 180 litre orange lidded black wheeled bin for cans, glass, plastics, flexible plastics, tetra paks & S
- 4 1 x 180 litre blue lidded black wheeled bin for cardboard and paper
- 5 1 x 23 litre silver outdoor food waste caddy
- 6 1 x 7 litre silver indoor food waste caddy

*For households between 4-5 occupiers

**For households between 1-3 occupiers

***On a case-by-case basis, and if criteria is met, households may request a smaller 140 litre bin

Image 4: Waste and recycling wheeled bins and food waste containers for standard households.

The 12,829 dwellings in the Wednesday collection zone represents diverse housing types, as detailed in the tables below.

Challenges regarding the storage and presentation of the new bins could impact residents who live in certain house types, particularly terraced dwellings.

House type	Number of dwellings	House type by percentage
Detached (inc. bungalow)	2,379	37%
Semi-detached (inc. bungalow)	2,467	38%
Flat/communal	332	5%
Terraced	1,324	20%
Total	6,502	100%

Table 1: House type and number of dwellings in the Wednesday week one collection zone, which encompasses the whole of Whitwick and New Swannington, a significant proportion of Coalville and some areas of Thringstone.

House type	Number of dwellings	House type by percentage
Detached (inc. bungalow)	1,445	23%

Semi-detached (inc. bungalow)	2,219	35%
Flat/communal	404	6%
Terraced	2,259	36%
Total	6,327	100%

Table 2: House type and number of dwellings in the Wednesday week two collection zone, which encompasses a significant proportion of Coalville, and a limited number of households in Swannington and Thringstone.

Detached and semi-detached households

Across the Wednesday collection zone, the 3,824 detached households (representing 30% of house type) and the 4,686 semi-detached households (representing 36.5% of house type) will be provided with the new recycling bins and food waste containers, alongside the existing wheeled bins for general waste and garden waste, as illustrated in image four.

These house types tend to have the following, making them suitable for the storage and emptying of the bins:

- A driveway, which can include a garage
- Sufficient space at either the front or rear of the dwelling
- Pavements are generally wide enough to accommodate bins on collection day for emptying.



Image 5: Detached dwelling on Sandringham Road, Coalville



Image 6: Semi-detached dwellings on Hall Lane, Whitwick

Flats and communal households

Across the Wednesday collection zone, there are 736 flats and communal households (representing 5.5% of house type). 275 of these flats and communal households are located across 21 sites using shared general waste and recycling bins provided in dedicated bin stores. Arrangements for the delivery of the shared recycling bins to these 21 sites will take place in collaboration with the housing provider for each site.

For the 275 flats and communal households detailed above, residents are not required to present the shared waste and recycling bins, as the waste operatives directly service bin stores.

The remaining 461 flats and communal households are provided with their own individual waste and recycling bins, some of which present the bins on the street, and others are collected from a shared bin store by the waste operatives. Arrangements for the delivery of the shared recycling bins will take place in collaboration with the housing provider for each site. Where residents are required to present bins, a site visit will be undertaken by officers from the council's waste services team in collaboration with the housing provider for each site to ensure this is appropriate.



Image 7: Example of a dedicated bin store at a flat / communal household site

Terraced households

Across the Wednesday collection zone, the 3,583 terraced households (representing 28% of house type) will be provided with the new recycling bins and food waste containers, alongside the existing wheeled bins for general waste and garden waste, as illustrated in image three.

32 of the terraced households, listed below in table three, have been identified to have insufficient pavement space for the presentation of the standard 180 litre recycling bins on collection day.

House number	Street	Area	Postcode	Collection zone
13	Brooks Lane	Whitwick	LE67 5DG	Wednesday week one
15	Brooks Lane	Whitwick	LE67 5DG	Wednesday week one
17	Brooks Lane	Whitwick	LE67 5DG	Wednesday week one
19	Brooks Lane	Whitwick	LE67 5DG	Wednesday week one
21	Church Lane	Whitwick	LE67 5DN	Wednesday week one
23	Church Lane	Whitwick	LE67 5DN	Wednesday week one
25	Church Lane	Whitwick	LE67 5DN	Wednesday week one
27	Church Lane	Whitwick	LE67 5DN	Wednesday week one
29	Church Lane	Whitwick	LE67 5DN	Wednesday week one
31	Church Lane	Whitwick	LE67 5DN	Wednesday week one
33	Church Lane	Whitwick	LE67 5DN	Wednesday week one
35	Church Lane	Whitwick	LE67 5DN	Wednesday week one
37	Church Lane	Whitwick	LE67 5DN	Wednesday week one
39	Church Lane	Whitwick	LE67 5DN	Wednesday week one
41	Church Lane	Whitwick	LE67 5DN	Wednesday week one
43	Church Lane	Whitwick	LE67 5DN	Wednesday week one
45	Church Lane	Whitwick	LE67 5DN	Wednesday week one
47	Church Lane	Whitwick	LE67 5DN	Wednesday week one
49	Church Lane	Whitwick	LE67 5DN	Wednesday week one
45	Church Lane	Whitwick	LE67 5DN	Wednesday week one
218	Hermitage Road	Whitwick	LE67 5EH	Wednesday week one
220	Hermitage Road	Whitwick	LE67 5EH	Wednesday week one
56	Hermitage Road	Whitwick	LE67 5EG	Wednesday week one
58	Hermitage Road	Whitwick	LE67 5EG	Wednesday week one
60	Hermitage Road	Whitwick	LE67 5EG	Wednesday week one
7	Silver Street	Whitwick	LE67 5EW	Wednesday week one
9	Silver Street	Whitwick	LE67 5EW	Wednesday week one
14	Breach Road	Coalville	LE67 3SA	Wednesday week two
16	Breach Road	Coalville	LE67 3SA	Wednesday week two
18	Breach Road	Coalville	LE67 3SA	Wednesday week two
20	Breach Road	Coalville	LE67 3SA	Wednesday week two
22	Breach Road	Coalville	LE67 3SA	Wednesday week two

Table 3: Addresses of the 32 terraced households unable to accommodate two 180 litre recycling wheeled bins due to insufficient pavement space.

The 32 terraced households with restricted pavement space were identified by Waste Services Officers following an assessment of 50 Wednesday collection zone streets where terraced housing is located. The street assessments focussed on the following:

- **Pavement space** – terraced dwellings are directly adjacent to pavements, with some having no frontage.



Image 8: Terraced dwellings with no frontage. Castle Street, Whitwick.



Image 9: Terraced dwellings with frontage. Park Road, Coalville.

- **Shared access** – most terraced dwellings share access with one or more of its neighbours. This configuration is usually served via an enclosed alleyway providing access between the front and rear of the dwellings. The principal dwellings either side and adjacent to alleyway allow right of way to the alleyway, by permitting access across its rear garden for the other neighbouring dwellings. This arrangement can provide access for between six and eight dwellings. In some areas, the end terraced dwelling provides access to the rear of neighbouring dwellings.



Image 10: Shared alleyway for between two and eight dwellings. Belvoir Road, Coalville.

- **Bin collection points** – it was anticipated some residents would group recycling containers and bins together at the end of terraced dwellings. However, this was not observed as residents bring containers and bins from the rear of dwellings, leaving them at front of each individual dwelling.



Image 11: Recycling containers and bins left at the front of dwellings, despite access provided by the end terraced dwellings. Hermitage Road, Whitwick.

- **Space to accommodate bins** – some terraced dwellings have frontages where residents can choose to store bins, whilst other dwellings have no frontage, so bins are stored at the rear in a garden or courtyard area. It is anticipated most terraced dwellings will have sufficient storage for the bins as seen in the photographs below.

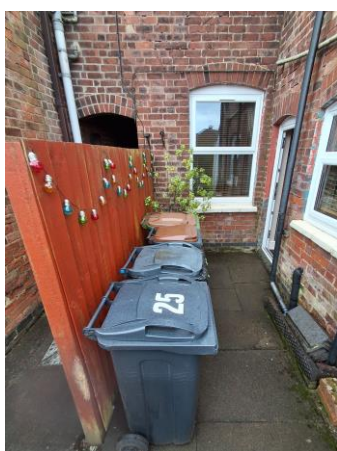


Image 12: example of storage at the rear of a terraced dwelling



Image 13: example of storage at the rear of a terraced dwelling



Image 14: example of storage at the front of a terraced dwelling

Findings from the street assessments

From the street assessments, it found the 32 terraced dwellings previously detailed would not have sufficient pavement space when residents put out the standard 180 litre recycling bins on collection day. Some of these narrow pavements can be seen in the images on the next page.



Image 15: Narrow pavement between 56 and 60 Hermitage Road, Whitwick



Image 16: Narrow pavement between 14 and 22 Breach Road, Coalville

In this circumstance, residents will be issued with two 140 litre wheeled bins. The footprint of each bin equates to two-thirds the size of a red box currently used by these households, as seen in image 17 below. This criteria will inform the new waste and recycling policy, ensuring a consistent approach and that smaller 140 litre bins will only be provided in this circumstance.



Image 17: A 140 litre wheeled bin footprint equates to two-thirds the size of a red box and its footprint.



Image 18: A 180 litre wheeled bin displayed next to three red boxes with total a capacity of 165 litres. An overall capacity increase of 15 litres.

In addition to pavement space, the street assessments recorded the following in relation to residents putting out the bin for collections:

- Uneven surface or steps
- Shared access
- Bin collection point
- Incline or decline
- Parked vehicles

It found residents already adapt to the above when putting the existing garden waste bin and residual waste bin out for collection, therefore the new recycling bins should not pose an issue. Residents who receive an assisted collection will continue to do so when the new recycling bins are introduced.

Communications to residents in the Wednesday collection zone

Residents in the Wednesday collection zone will receive communications through a variety of channels to ensure they are engaged and informed about the recycling collection service change, empowering them to feel confident on how to use the new recycling bins.

The communications form part of the project's wider communications strategy, which includes:

- Four printed communications in September, October, November and early 2027 delivered directly to households. Further information on these is detailed below:
- A press release prior to launch
- Instructional videos for use on the website, social media and emails
- Three emails to residents in September, October and November
- Social media posts from September through to December
- Face to face promotion at events in the Wednesday collection zone

1

Introduction letter (September) – every household in the Wednesday collection zone will receive a letter **eight weeks** before the new recycling bins and food waste containers are introduced, explaining why a new recycling container service is being introduced.

A different version of the letter will be received by flats and communal households to reflect how the collections will work for these households.

A specific version of the letter will be sent to the 32 terraced households, where it was identified pavement space will be unable to accommodate the two 180 litre recycling bins on collection day. It will confirm direct face-to-face engagement will take place with these residents to identify and discuss an appropriate solution for the households.

2

Head's up leaflet (October) – every household in the Wednesday collection zone will receive a head's up leaflet **four weeks before** the roll out of the new recycling bins and food waste containers.

This leaflet will remind residents why the new recycling bins and food waste containers are being introduced. It will also confirm when the new recycling bins and food waste containers will be delivered, and old red boxes collected, two weeks from the date of receiving this leaflet.

A different version of the leaflet will be received by flats and communal households to reflect the type of recycling bins and food waste containers that will be provided.

Another version of the letter will be received by the 32 terraced households, where it was identified pavement space will be unable to accommodate the two 180 litre recycling bins.

3

Instruction leaflet (November) – every household in the Wednesday collection zone will receive an instruction leaflet **when the new recycling bins and food waste containers are delivered**. It will confirm what can and cannot be placed in each of the recycling bins and food waste containers, when they will be emptied, and a list of frequently asked questions.

The leaflet will be adapted to meet the requirements for flats and communal households, and the 32 terraced households where it was identified pavement space will be unable to accommodate the presentation of two 180 litre recycling bins on collection day.

4

Follow up leaflet (Early 2027) – a number of weeks after rollout, we'll contact residents to see what's working for them and what can be improved for phase two. This contact may be accompanied by a reminder of what can and cannot be placed in each of the recycling bins and food waste containers, and a list of frequently asked questions. Communications will be adapted for flats and communal households, and the 32 terraced households where it was identified pavement space will be unable to accommodate two 180 litre recycling bins.

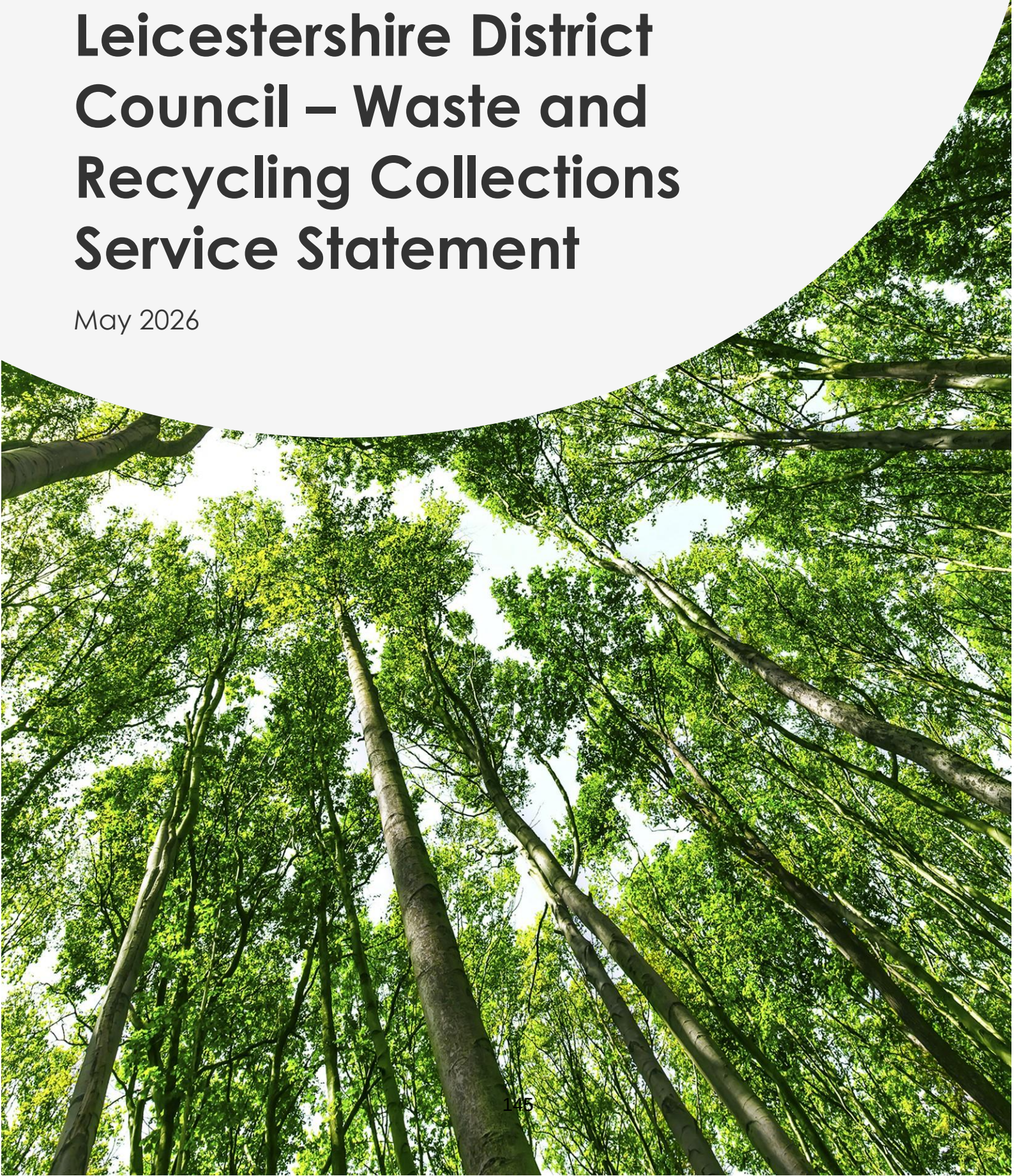
Communication programme

Communication	Method	Who	When
Introduction to the new service	Letter	12,829 – phase 1 Three versions required for standard households, flats/communal properties and 32 terraced households with limited space.	September
New recycling service coming soon	Press release	Local press	October
New recycling service coming soon / how to use your new bins	Social media	This Is NWLeics Facebook followers	October
Heads up	Leaflet	12,829 – phase 1 Three versions required for standard households, flats/communal properties and 32 terraced households with limited space.	October
Heads up	Telephone & face to face engagement	32 terraced households with limited space.	October
Heads up	Email	NWLDC GovDelivery subscribers within the Wednesday collection zone.	October
Your new recycling bins are here	Instruction leaflet	12,829 – phase 1 Three versions required for standard households, flats/communal properties and 32 terraced households with limited space.	November – alongside delivery of new bins
Your new recycling bins are here	Email	NWLDC GovDelivery subscribers within the Wednesday collection zone.	November
Your new recycling bins are here / how to use your new bins	Social media	This Is NWLeics Facebook followers.	November
Heads up / Your new recycling bins are here	Events - face to face	Wednesday collection zone residents.	November
Reminder	Follow up leaflet	12,829 – phase 1 Three versions required for standard households, flats/communal properties and 32 terraced households with limited space.	Early 2027
Reminder	Email	NWLDC GovDelivery subscribers within the Wednesday collection zone.	Early 2027
Reminder	Social media	This Is NWLeics Facebook followers.	Early 2027

APPENDIX C

North West Leicestershire District Council – Waste and Recycling Collections Service Statement

May 2026



Version control table

Version	Date	Author	Description
V1.0	23/04/2026	Camilla Durrant, James McMahon	First draft (sent to client) Amends back and forth between NWLDC and Eunomia 23/04 – 18/05
V2.0	18/05/2026	Camilla Durrant, James McMahon with input from NWLDC	Final version

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1.0 Waste and Recycling Collections Service Statement Overview & Charter

North West Leicestershire District Council ('NWLDC' or 'the Council') is responsible for the collection of household refuse and recycling within the district. The purpose of this service statement document is to provide a consistent approach to our refuse and recycling collections, informing residents how it operates and what to expect.

NWLDC is a member of the Leicestershire Waste Partnership and is signed up to the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy 2022 - 2050¹. The ambition of the partnership is to recycle 65% of Leicestershire's waste by 2035. The strategy can be found [here](#).

The current operational policies within this document were updated in 2026 during the roll out of the current service to comply with Simpler Recycling. The standard waste and recycling service offered to residents with a kerbside collection from 2026/27 includes:

- Weekly collection of food waste in a food waste caddy;
- Fortnightly collection of garden waste in wheeled bins, with a first bin emptied free of charge and subsequent bin at a charge;
- Fortnightly collection of non-recyclable waste in wheeled bins;
- Fortnightly collection of recyclable waste from two 180L wheeled bins, one for paper and cardboard, one for glass, cans, tins, cartons, plastic pots, tubs and trays and flexible plastics; and
- Collection of batteries and mobile phones left in a recyclable lidded container alongside the food waste caddy, collected weekly. Note that we no longer offer a kerbside textile collection service and these should be taken to a textile collection point. Textiles are collected at Recycling and Household Waste Sites (RHWS), details are available at: http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/recycling_sites.

In order to deliver an effective service, the following policies are in place, as detailed in this document:

- Waste and Recycling Containers (section 2.0).
- Communal Properties (section 3.0).
- Collection Points (section 4.0).
- Missed Collections (section 5.0).
- Adverse Weather (section 6.0).
- Excess Waste (section 7.0).
- Replacement Containers (section 8.0).
- Assisted Collections (section 9.0).

¹ [Enc. 1 for Resources and Waste Strategy for Leicestershire 2022 - 2050.pdf](#)

- Bulky Items and Clinical Waste (section 10.0).
- Contamination (section 11.0).

1.1 Charter

To have successful waste and recycling collections, residents and the Council need to work together. Here we outline what residents can expect from the Council and what we as a Council expect of residents.

Residents can expect the Council to:

- Collect your recycling and waste containers on the scheduled day; and if we cannot collect, we will leave an advice card to let you know why.
- return your containers to where they were collected from.
- pick up any spillages we cause.
- collect your waste and recycling containers from the edge of your property next to the public highway or otherwise agreed by the Council. Where we have not collected your waste and recycling container(s) which was presented correctly and on time we will return to empty it in line with our missed collections service statement (see section 5.0).

The Council expects residents to:

- present your waste and recycling containers correctly on the edge of the property next to the public highway so they are highly visible and accessible on the correct collection day by 6am.
- present your waste and recycling containers on the correct collection week and day. Residents can find out their collection day and download a waste collection calendar by visiting my.nwleics.gov.uk.
- put the right material in the right container for safety and operational reasons to ensure your waste and recycling materials are collected.
- take your waste and recycling wheeled bins and food waste caddy, back in as soon as possible after collection has been made on the same collection day.
- use the containers appropriately. For example, ensuring the lid is closed on the wheeled bins to prevent waste escaping and to keep the neighbourhood tidy.
- make your own arrangements to dispose of your waste if you did not present your waste on time to avoid adding unnecessary cost to the service.
- Park considerately on collection days to ensure vehicle access for collections.

2.0 Waste and Recycling Containers

2.1 Standard Containers

Where a property is suitable for wheeled bins, the following standard containers and collection frequencies are used:

- A 180 or 240L black wheeled bin for non-recyclable waste collected fortnightly (see section 2.3 for detail on bin size by household size).
- A 180L wheeled bin for paper/card collected fortnightly (alternate week to non-recyclable waste).
- A 180L wheeled bin for glass, cans, tins, cartons, plastic pots, tubs and trays and flexible plastics collected fortnightly (alternate week to non-recyclable waste).
- A 240L green wheeled bin with brown lid for garden waste. Householders can pay for an additional 240L black wheeled bin with a brown lid. Garden waste is collected fortnightly on the same week as black bins.
- A 23L silver outdoor kerbside caddy for food waste collected weekly and 7L indoor kitchen food waste caddy.

A full list of materials accepted in each container is provided in A.1.0.

NWLDC decided to move from recycling boxes and bags to wheeled bins in 2025. The change was based upon:

- Complying with Simpler Recycling by keeping paper/cardboard separate to other dry recyclable materials.
- A survey undertaken in 2024 where two-thirds of respondents preferred a wheeled bin system.
- Reducing manual handling for operational staff and the associated health benefits this brings.
- Providing a flexible service to accommodate future changes.

At the same time, a separate food waste system was also introduced, to comply with Simpler Recycling in England, and to also increase recycling rates.

2.2 Exemptions

For a small number of properties alternative containment will be provided, the exemptions include:

- No rear, side, or front access area.
- No point of collection.
- Wheeled bins cannot be presented, for example because they would need to be moved through a narrow gate, down multiple steps, across very rough ground, or through the dwelling. Blocking access to a car or to a parking space on a personal driveway does **not** in itself prevent wheeled bins from being recommended.
- It would be dangerous to move wheeled bins from the storage location to the presentation point.
- Wheeled bins would need to be taken down steps or a steep incline.
- No suitable presentation point at the property boundary.
- No access to the property boundary for the collection vehicle.
- Communal properties with inadequate space for the required number of bins.

Properties requiring alternative arrangements will be determined by the Council via assessments. Photos of where alternative arrangements are required are provided in A.2.0. For these properties, an alternative collection system using sacks for collection will be used.

Where a property has been deemed suitable for either a full or partial wheeled bin service residents will not be able to opt out and use a sack service, given the benefits of containerisation and a consistent service.

2.3 Provision of Wheeled Bins and Food Waste Caddies

The Council's service statement on supply of wheeled bins and food waste caddies is shown in the table below.

No. of permanent occupiers in household	Non-recyclable (black bins) bins	Recycling bins	Food waste caddies	Garden waste bins
1-3	180L bin	2 x 180L bins	Same for all properties 1 x 23L caddy (external) 1 x 7L caddy (internal) Additional caddies available on request	Same for all properties 1 x 240 litre garden waste bin, emptied free of charge ² Additional 240L garden waste bins at an annual charge. Additional garden waste bins must display a valid subscription sticker. Full terms and conditions for this service can be viewed by visiting: nwleics.gov.uk/paygardenwaste
4-5	240L bin	2 x 240L bins		
6-7	240L bin + additional 140L bin	2 x 240L bins + additional 140L bin		
8	240L bin + additional 240L bin	2 x 240L bins + additional 240L bin		
1 or more occupiers with a medical condition or uses incontinence pads	At our discretion	As above		

All applications for additional or larger refuse or recycling bins will be considered on an individual case-by-case discretionary basis. For example, if one or more of the residents have a medical condition

² Some households are provided with two 140 litre garden waste bins at no charge, however, they are only available in exceptional circumstances, such as restricted property access or for customers with mobility issues.

producing extra waste, they can contact the Council by using the contact details provided in section 12.0. The request will be assessed by a waste services officer with appropriate checks. Any information provided will be treated in accordance with The Data Protection Act 2018 and the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025. Additional bins or extra capacity for the disposal of nappies are not available.

Any additional or larger bins issued will be reviewed every three years to check the household is still eligible in line with the table above.

Households will be provided with an initial roll of 52 caddy liners when the food waste service launches. After this, residents will need to provide their own caddy liners if they choose to use one. Compostable liners, non-black plastic bags, kitchen roll, paper or newspaper can be used to line the caddy.

The use of a liner is recommended, however outdoor caddies presented without a liner will still be emptied.

3.0 Communal Properties

Where properties are unsuitable for individual bins (e.g. flats) the council will provide an appropriate size and number of wheeled bins and food waste caddies to the number and size of households using the bins. For larger blocks of flats this includes the use of larger (1100L) communal bins rather than individual bins. An example image of a communal bin store is provided in A.2.0.

4.0 Collection Points

Wheeled bins and food waste caddies must be correctly presented on the edge of the property next to the public highway on the day of collection by 6am.

Properties on the assisted service will be collected from a collection point other than on the edge of the property next to the public highway by prior arrangement with the Council. For further information, please see section 9.0 regarding the assisted collections service statement.

For unadopted or private roads the Council will collect and return containers to where the private road meets the highway and where it is safe to do so. Properties which are serviced by unadopted or private roads and have shared access will present their wheeled bins and food waste caddies at a dedicated collection point. The rationale is to provide clarity to properties where shared access causes confusion and where it results in waste collection vehicles traversing private roads the consequences of which are difficulties in manoeuvring which increases the risk of incidents and accidents; creates liability issues if damage is sustained to private drives; and to provide clarity when new developments are designed.

The householder will be responsible for ensuring wheeled bins and food waste caddies are safe to move and handle when presenting them for collection. Wheeled bins must not be over loaded or too heavy to move safely. The lids on wheeled bins must be fully closed for safety reasons. Wheeled bins which are too heavy or with raised lids will not be collected until they have been made safe. Advice cards/stickers will be left to advise residents why these have not been collected and that these bins will need to be presented on the next scheduled collection.

No waste, including recycling, left next to the wheeled bins or food waste caddies will be collected and will need to be disposed of appropriately by the householder (further details are provided in section 7.0).

Recycling wheeled bins should contain recyclable waste in a safe manner for the collection crews. That is:

- Householders are responsible for keeping their waste and recycling wheeled bins in a clean and hygienic condition.

- Lids should be fully closed to avoid waste escaping.

Recycling bins, garden waste bins and food waste caddies contaminated with non-target materials (as detailed in A.1.0) will not be collected. These items will need to be removed and the bin or caddy put out on the next scheduled collection. Only food waste presented in this caddy with lid fully closed will be collected. We cannot accept food waste in any other type of container. The crew will leave advice cards/stickers to advise residents on why their bin or caddy has not been collected. Further details on our contamination service statement are provided in 11.0.

The provision of waste and recycling wheeled bins and food waste caddies are intended for domestic waste only, not business waste. If a business operates from a domestic property, the waste generated by the business will not be collected. The Council operates a waste and recycling collection service for businesses. For further information please visit: nwleics.gov.uk/trade_waste_and_recycling.

5.0 Non-Collection and Missed Collections

There are four main reasons for bins and/or caddies not being collected:

1. Bins / caddies were not presented
2. Bins / caddies were presented incorrectly (e.g. wrong day or contaminated)
3. Collections did not take place, this could be due to adverse weather or roadworks ('non-collection')
4. Collections took place but an individual household or road was missed ('missed collection').

In situation 1 and 2 where the Council was not at fault the householder will have the following options:

- Correctly present wheeled bins and food waste caddies on the next scheduled collection.
- Dispose of the waste at a Recycling and Household Waste Sites (RHWS). Locations of the Ashby, Coalville, and Shepshed RHWS's can be found at: http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/recycling_sites.
- In exceptional circumstances the Council may return, these will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Where wheeled bins and caddies are contaminated as described in 4.0 advice cards/stickers will be left to advise residents on why they have not been collected and action to take before presenting at the next scheduled collection.

In situation 3 and 4 the deadline for reporting these and target timeline for reattempting collections is shown below.

Situation	Deadline for reporting (via Council website)	Collection Aim
Non-Collection		

Situation	Deadline for reporting (via Council website)	Collection Aim
Food waste caddies and black bins	Within two working days*	By the end of the next working day
Garden waste and recycling bins	Within two working days*	Within 2 working days of when the report is received
Missed Collection		
Food waste caddies and black bins	By the end of the next working day	Within 2 working days of when the report is received
Garden waste and recycling bins	By the end of the next working day	Within 5 working days of when the report is received

**where non-collection circumstances (e.g. adverse weather) have already been communicated with residents there is no need for individual households to contact the Council.*

Note that these timelines are aims only and cannot account for circumstances outside of the Council's control, such as adverse weather (further detailed in 6.0), closed roads, inconsiderate parking, highway works and property accesses. Whilst we work closely with other providers to ensure, where possible, we can pre-empt circumstances and still provide collections, sometimes these can be unavoidable e.g. emergency closures.

For any reports of non-collection or missed collection all technology available to the Council such as 360° cameras fitted to the vehicles and in-cab technology will be used to establish what circumstances resulted in the non-collection of the wheeled bin and/or food waste caddy, so appropriate action can be taken. The rationale behind this service statement is to reduce the time and significant cost of fuel and staff associated with returning to properties who do not present their wheeled bins and food waste caddies on time or on the correct collection day.

Where whole streets go uncollected and are deemed to be a missed collection, these shall be collected as a priority as soon as practicable.

In certain circumstances where returning to collect is operationally difficult, the Council may arrange with the resident to collect additional materials on the next scheduled collection day (note that this must be pre-arranged as 'excess waste' is not normally accepted, see 7.0).

6.0 Adverse Weather

In the event of adverse weather, including snow, ice, floods, high winds, heatwaves and other conditions that disrupt waste and recycling collection services, the Council will apply to following principles:

- If services can continue to be performed safely the Council will maintain services.

- If services cannot be performed safely the Council's authorised officer will decide by 9am as to whether normal collections will be attempted, or if a reduced collection schedule or no collections will instead take place. In the case of a reduced collection schedule, the services will be prioritised as follows:
 - Food waste collections.
 - Non-recyclable waste collections.
 - Garden waste collections.
 - Recycling collections.

If it is likely that conditions of 28deg C will persist for a period of at least three consecutive days, collections may commence earlier (6am) to allow crews to operate for a shorter time in hot conditions

As with the Missed Collection service statement (section 5.0), where whole streets go uncollected, these shall be collected as a priority as soon as the service is operational again.

Any information about services affected will be published on the council website and social media to communicate with residents.

7.0 Excess Waste

Any waste or recycling left beside any wheeled bin or food waste caddy ('excess waste') will not be collected, and bins and caddies should only be collected with the lid fully closed. Any excess waste left next to containers may be treated as fly tipping. This service statement applies to all waste and recycling containers (non-recyclables, recyclables, garden waste and food waste).

In exceptional circumstances excess waste collections may be agreed in advance with the council, on a case-by-case basis, for example a new resident to the district or following a missed collection which has not been rectified.

If residents cannot contain all their household waste and recycling within the containers provided, they may take it to one of the two Recycling and Household Waste Sites (RHWS) in North West Leicestershire, details are provided here: https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/recycling_centres_and_sites.

Households consistently with excess waste should refer to the policies around additional containment (2.3).

8.0 Replacement Containers

To help prevent wheeled bins and caddies being lost or stolen we encourage residents to identify them by clearly marking them with their house number. Residents can present wheeled bins and caddies for collection the night before or by 6am on the collection day and return their wheeled bins and caddies from the kerbside as soon as possible following collection, and within 24 hours.

It is the responsibility of householder to look after their wheeled bins and caddies, so they are not damaged; for example, not disposing of heavy items such as bricks or rubble in the wheeled bin.

Replacement wheeled bins and caddies which have been lost, stolen or damaged are currently provided free of charge. However, if residents either misuse or damage their wheeled bins and caddies, there will be a charge to replace it. The internal 7 litre food waste caddy will not be replaced by the Council, and will be the responsibility of the resident.

9.0 Assisted Collections

An assisted collection is a service the Council offers to households where all occupiers of the property cannot present their waste and recycling wheeled bins and caddies at the edge of their property, or at the kerbside for collection due to disability or ill health.

An assisted collection means eligible residents will have their waste and recycling containers collected and returned from an agreed place on their property, and this is only available if there is no one else in the household able to do this.

To arrange an assisted collection, residents must contact the Council using the contact details provided in section 12.0. To support a request for the service a waste services officer may ask to see evidence and make enquiries of the applicant to ensure eligibility. This may include a visit or phone call to discuss, any information provided will be treated in accordance with The Data Protection Act 2018 and the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025.

Once assisted collections are in place the Council will review circumstances every three years to ensure the property remains eligible for assisted collections.

10.0 Bulky Items and Clinical Waste

10.1 Bulky Items

Bulky items such as furniture or large appliances can be collected by prior arrangement with the Council. Items must be left outside at the front of the property in an accessible manner for collection. Concessions are offered to those residents in receipt of:

- Council Tax Benefit.
- Housing Benefit.
- Income Support.
- Carer's Allowance.
- Employment Support Allowance – Income based (ESA – Income based).
- Universal Credit.
- Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit (standard allowance).

To arrange a bulky waste collection, including confirming what we can be collected and to check the charge and concessionary rates, please visit nwleics.gov.uk/bulky_waste or contact the Council using the contact details in section 12.0.

10.2 Clinical Waste

Those residents who have a medical condition which produces clinical waste can arrange for this to be collected by the Council. We can collect yellow bags for waste contaminated with blood or other bodily fluids or dedicated yellow sharps containers for medical syringes. A full list of accepted materials is provided in A.1.0.

Your hospital or healthcare provider will contact the Council to arrange collection of the yellow bags.

For dedicated yellow sharps containers, which are provided by a GP or pharmacist, residents need to contact the Council (using contact details in 12.0) once they have six or more full yellow sharps containers.

Residents can arrange clinical waste collections by contacting the Council. The yellow bags are supplied by the NHS and not the Council.

The collection day for clinical waste is on a Tuesday, and all requests need to be made by 3pm on the Monday before. We ask residents not to present clinical waste on the kerbside due to the nature of the material, instead leave it in a place as arranged with the Council. Clinical waste needs to be left out for collection by 6am on the collection day.

11.0 Contamination

Incorrect items in recycling can cost the Council money which could be better spent providing services to residents. Significant quantities of recycling contamination can result in whole loads of recycling being rejected and disposed of rather than recycled. NWLDC provides two recycling bins and separates paper/cardboard to maximise income and quality of this material.

Collection crews will undertake visual checks for contamination during recycling collections. The process following any incidences of contamination is as follows:

1. On the first incident of excessive contamination from a household being identified, a service notice (e.g. sticker or leaflet) will be issued to the resident explaining why the container has not been collected. This notice will be clear on what is needed from the resident to comply with the requirements to recycle, and that once addressed bins or caddies can be presented on the next scheduled collection day.
2. On a second reoccurrence of excessive contamination from a household, a letter will also be sent explaining the non-compliance and how to rectify it. This letter will clearly provide the reasons for non-compliance and provide educational information regarding the collection service and how to comply with it.
3. On a third reoccurrence of excessive contamination from a household, a letter will be sent to explain the non-compliance. This letter will be more directional and note that a further occurrence may result in direct contact via a visit from an office from the Council, with a view to discussing the contamination issues.
4. On future recurrences of excessive contamination from a household, a Council Officer will visit the household to discuss the contamination issue and how waste and recycling should be presented for collection.

For each stage set out above, where a recycling container cannot be collected because of contamination, the resident will be required to remove the contamination before the next collection. The Council will not return to collect a contaminated container and the resident will be required to manage their waste appropriately until their next scheduled collection.

The focus of our contamination service statement is to educate residents on how to use the service.

12.0 Contact Details

Email: customer.services@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

Website: www.nwleics.gov.uk

Address:

North West Leicestershire District Council

PO Box 11051

Coalville

LE67 0FW

Appendix

A.1.0 Annex 1: Accepted Materials

Container Type	Accepted Waste Type
Black wheeled bin	✓ Non-recyclable refuse waste ✗ No DIY waste such as bricks and plaster ✗ No compostable garden waste, food waste, or recyclables
Brown lidded wheeled bin	✓ Compostable garden waste – Shrub prunings, garden weeds, plants, leaves, hedge trimmings, dead flowers, cut grass and small tree branches (under 6" thick) ✗ No food waste, bricks & rubble, ash, sods of turf, soil (as excess soil will make the bin too heavy), large tree branches (over 6" thick) & trunks, plastic bags, pet waste and faeces; and no black bin waste.
Orange lidded wheeled bin	✓ Plastic bottles and lids (milk, fizzy pop, shampoo, toothpaste tubes, detergent bottles etc.). ✓ Plastic bags and wrapping such a plastic bags, bread bags and film. ✓ Food and drinks cartons. ✓ Rigid household plastic packaging (clean yoghurt pots, clean plastic tubs and clean trays). ✓ Metal food and drinks cans, empty aerosol canisters and clean foil. ✓ Glass bottles and jars ✗ No bulky plastic containers ✗ No food remains in packaging

Container Type	Accepted Waste Type
	✗ No window/flat glass, drinking glasses, Pyrex glass, or lightbulbs
Blue lidded wheeled bin	✓ Newspaper and magazines, junk mail, directories (catalogues, phone books, etc), birthday/Christmas cards, envelopes, gift wrapping paper, and shredded paper. ✓ All types of household cardboard, cereal boxes, frozen food boxes and corrugated cardboard boxes. Please ensure any large cardboard to be folded to fit inside the wheeled bin with the lid closed. ✗ No polystyrene and plastic packaging, this must be removed ✗ No food remains in packaging
A plastic tub with a lid (presented next to the grey lidded/ blue lidded wheeled bin)	✓ <i>Used batteries, placed inside a recyclable plastic tub (e.g. ice cream or butter tub) with the lid closed.</i> ✓ <i>Mobile phones, placed inside a recyclable plastic tub (e.g. ice cream or butter tub) with the lid closed.</i> ✗ No vapes please, take vaping units (disposable and chargeable) to a Recycling and Household Waste Site. Please do not place them in your black bin as they are a fire risk. Many vapes shops also offer recycling bins for your used disposable vapes.
Grey food waste caddy	✓ Any uneaten food or plate scrapings, mouldy and out of date food (removed from packaging), raw and cooked meat and fish including bones, tea bags (including paper tags), coffee grounds, dairy products such as cheese, egg, egg shells, yoghurt, rice, pasta and beans, bread, cakes and pastries, raw and cooked fruit and vegetables – whole and peelings.

Container Type	Accepted Waste Type
	✓ To line the bin and contain the food, use compostable liners, paper, kitchen roll, newspaper or plastic liners; including the use of clear or coloured plastic bags from bread and other groceries (but no black bags) ✗ Liquids, such as milk, oils and fats ✗ Food waste packaging, including compostable packaging ✗ Garden waste, soil, dead animals ✗ Non-recyclable household waste, including nappies or sanitary waste ✗ Recyclable waste – plastic, cans, glass, paper and cardboard ✗ black bags as liners
Clinical waste (yellow sacks)	✓ Infectious dressings ✓ Infectious swabs ✓ Infectious human tissue ✓ Any waste containing blood residue that has been classed as infectious ✗ Nappies and sanitary products including incontinence pads (non-recyclable bin) ✗ Pet waste ✗ Plasters and dressings ✗ Waste from healthcare worker visits treatment (to be removed by healthcare worker)

Container Type	Accepted Waste Type
	✗ Unwanted/out of date medicine (to be returned to pharmacy)
Clinical waste (sharps box)	✓ All needles ✓ Disposable instrument blades ✗ Any other clinical waste

A.2.0 Annex 2: Examples of Properties Requiring Alternative Arrangements

Figure 1: Example of narrow terraced street



Figure 2: Example of Communal bin store



APPENDIX D

Comments on the New Recycling Containers Update made by Community Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 25 June 2026

Date considered by Cabinet: 28 July 2026

	Comments/recommendations from scrutiny	Advice provided by officers at the Scrutiny meeting	Cabinet response
C1	Project process: Members welcomed the progress made to date on the project particularly: - the significant amount of work undertaken to reach the implementation stage, - the decision to avoid branding on containers in light of local government reorganisation, and - substantial public response supporting the twin-bin option.	-	
C2	Container Proposals: Members supported the proposed recycling system and bin lid colours.	-	
C3	Food waste containers: During discussion, members felt that wording relating to food waste liners was confusing as it could be interpreted that residents were required to use plastic or compostable liners. Members suggested that this wording be clarified in the service statement to make clear that liners are optional rather than mandatory.	Officers confirmed that residents would not be required to use any type of liner and that food waste could be placed directly into the container, wrapped in newspaper, placed in ordinary plastic bags or compostable bags. Officers accepted the suggestion to clarify the wording in the policy and communications materials.	

	Comments/recommendations from scrutiny	Advice provided by officers at the Scrutiny meeting	Cabinet response
C4	Impact on street litter: Members recognised the potential for the scheme to reduce litter associated with the existing recycling bags and boxes.	Officers explained that experiences from other councils that had implemented the twin-bin system showed a significant reduction in street litter. Officers expected the project to deliver similar benefits within North West Leicestershire.	

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