

APPENDIX 4 – RESPONSE FROM THE LABOUR GROUP

Priority Area	Corporate Leadership Team Response
Housing	
<p>Increase the number of new social homes built for rent, whilst ensuring that growth in the Council's housing stock stays ahead of sales under the Right to Buy.</p>	<p>The business plan for the service area will include targets around new homes delivery (council and other providers). This is supporting the Council Delivery Plan (CDP) targets on tenant satisfaction.</p>
<p>Closely monitor routine housing repairs to ensure work is completed on time and to a proper standard.</p>	<p>The business plan for this area will include targets around repairs monitoring and supports the CDP target of satisfaction with repairs by tenants.</p>
<p>Through a carefully planned maintenance programme, ensure that all the Council's housing stock exceeds the minimum standards set by the Government.</p>	<p>This is a regulatory requirement, and similar targets are planned to be included in the business plans for the Directorate. This is supporting the CDP targets on tenants' satisfaction.</p>
<p>Introduce a Good Landlords' Charter. Whilst I note that this has been included in the draft Council Delivery Plan, it is important to see that the service provided is fit for purpose and adequately staffed.</p>	<p>As noted, this is included in the CDP. Cabinet has agreed to appoint additional staff resource in this area and funding for this is currently being explored.</p>
<p>All housing stock to achieve EPC C or above by 2028 and be on track to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030.</p>	<p>EPC by 2028 is a legislative/regulatory target and hence does not need to be included in the CDP. Council Housing Stock is a tier 3 emission and therefore is addressed in the Council's 2050 target. The approach to planning for this will be stock condition surveys, leading to an Asset Management Strategy which will explore the best way forward to address the balance regarding retro fit, new homes, and management overall of the existing stock. It is broadly accepted that a cost of c£15k per homes will be required to achieve zero carbon (this is benchmark data and not specific to NWL). This would equate to a cost of approximately £62m which is unfunded at the current time.</p>

	<p>This challenge will be considered during the preparation of the new Asset Management Plan and Business Plan for the HRA.</p> <p>This is a significant cost in the context of the Council's HRA, for example the current total five-year Capital Programme is around £60m. The inclusion of a zero-carbon target would double the size of the current five-year capital programme. This would likely breach the Council's current strategy to repay its HRA borrowing. The Council could not afford this level of additional investment without external support from Government.</p>
The local economy	
Promote the District as a place for manufacturing businesses to set up and grow and encourage all businesses to take on apprentices.	These are actions. On their own they are not measurable. They should sit below Inward Investment Promotion activity that forms part of the District Regeneration Framework.
Invest in low-cost managed workspaces for creative enterprises, with appropriate support structures.	The development of a business case for the expansion of the supply of small business workspace is expected to be a defined activity within the District Regeneration Framework. The funding implications would need to be carefully considered as part of the business case.
Adopt a Buy Local policy.	This would need for more definition to be workable. What does buy local mean? Local supplier, locally based parent company, locally produced goods, locally sourced materials? How would it be measured? The cost and procurement implications would need to be assessed.
Support the restoration of the Ivanhoe Line and the Ashby Canal.	Support is not a measurable indicator. The scope and tangible delivery of projects to support these initiatives are likely to feature within the District Regeneration Framework subject to resources being secured. The Framework itself would be subject to Scrutiny consideration and Cabinet sign off.
Town Centres	

Provide more start-up units for new small businesses and continue to support them through a reduced Business Rate for the first two years.	Expansion of the supply of small business workspace would be subject to the necessary business case being developed. This is expected to be a defined activity within the District Regeneration Framework. The Framework itself would be subject to Scrutiny consideration and Cabinet sign off.
Ensure continued investment in Ashby-de-la-Zouch as a centre for tourism, working closely with the Ashby Business Improvement District.	Subject to the necessary business case being agreed this would be a proposed regeneration activity for Ashby and be defined in the District Regeneration Framework. The Framework itself would be subject to Scrutiny consideration and Cabinet sign off.
Planning	
Reorientate the Local Plan towards the needs and demands of the community, centred on a target for social homes for rent.	The Council is required to meet the development needs of the area, including, but not restricted to, those in need of affordable housing. This will be addressed as part of the new Local Plan.
Ensure staffing numbers in planning enforcement are maintained at the level required for an effective service.	This is not a strategic indicator and part of the business-as-usual activity of the service. There is sufficient budget within the service to employ an appropriate number of enforcement officers. It will be monitored on an ongoing basis.
Ensure effective oversight of the Freeport and respond to the concerns of the residents affected.	This is not a measurable target. The Infrastructure Portfolio Holder is engaged in the work of the East Midlands Freeport Board. As proposals are developed the Freeport Board will undertake consultation with all stakeholders, including local communities. The Council will respond as a key stakeholder.
Environment and Waste	
Actively pursue measures to reduce the carbon footprint of the District, to become a net-zero Council by 2030 and a net-zero District by 2050.	These targets are already included in the CDP draft

Ensure that a comprehensive survey of local public opinion is built into any review of the Council's Waste and Recycling services.	The waste review is in progress and members, staff and resident consultation is included as part of this work.
Leisure	
Open up leisure and health promoting opportunities for all ages and abilities.	<p>The Sport and Physical Activity Commissioning Plan delivers physical activity-based interventions targeting the inactive, areas of deprivation, children and young people, the elderly, people with disabilities, and cohorts that require specific health interventions. Activities can be free or subsidised, are community and/or leisure centre based, and are a mixture of sporting and non-sporting activities.</p> <p>The Everyone Active Community Wellbeing Plan highlights the actions the Council's leisure partner will deliver or support delivery of both within the community and the leisure centres either independently or in partnership with the NWLDC Health and Wellbeing Team to help improve the health and wellbeing of leisure centre and non-leisure centre users.</p> <p>This is a business-as-usual activity.</p>
Celebrate community life by supporting public art and local festivals.	This is not a measurable target. This is a business-as-usual activity. The Economic Development and Events Teams already undertake this type of activity. as well as our events teams.
Plan for improvements to leisure provision in the Castle Donington and Kegworth areas.	The Council is in the process of commissioning an Open Spaces and Built facilities strategy which will assess the leisure and recreational needs of the district. It will be a key piece of evidence to support the preparation of the new Local Plan which is already a proposed CDP priority and will also inform the wider work of Community Services.
A caring Council	
Strive for the highest standards in customer service by	This is not a measurable indicator however the Council Delivery Plan already contains three high level themes, one of which focuses

investing in staff and technology.	on putting customers at the heart of what the Council does.
Develop a comprehensive policy to tackle social isolation and loneliness.	This is not a core function or responsibility of the Council, however, there are elements of this work reflected in the business-as-usual activities of some services. .
Carry forward the key initiatives proposed by the Council's Fuel Poverty Action Group.	These have already been incorporated in a number of CDP targets. The rest will be captured in business plans and service plans for the areas in line with Cabinet decisions.