

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution has written/emailed NSDC asking for comment on 'our' vision for the proposed reorganisation of local government. The same has also been sent to Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Broxtowe, Gedling, Mansfield, Rushcliffe as well as Nottingham City Council and Nottingham County Council.

While the expectation is for local authorities to work together and arrive at a consensus, individual Councils can submit their own proposal jointly with any of the Councils invited to respond.

All proposals that are submitted must have regard to the laid out criteria and the timeline for this process.

The criteria includes 'sensible' geographical and economic areas, they must be the right size in order to achieve; efficiencies (a minimum 5000,000 population); secure 'crucial' services such as social care, Children's services and homelessness; and demonstrate plans to make sure that communities are engaged.

Interim plans are to be submitted on or before 21st March 2025.

The full and final proposal is to be submitted on or before 28th November 2025.

Once a unitary proposal has been agreed, the Government will progress elections to new 'shadow' unitary councils as soon as possible.

NSDC councillors and Town clerks are due to attend a further briefing on Wednesday of this week.

POLICY & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

The PPI Committee is due to hear a review of the Bassetlaw and Newark Community Safety Partnership at its meeting this week.

The existence of a Community Safety Partnership is a statutory requirement, a number of authorities make up the partnership;

The District Council

The County Council

The Chief Officer of Police

The Fire and Rescue Authority

The Integrated Care Boards

The above authorities meet on a quarterly basis. Performance reports are produced each month on all crime and antisocial behaviour.

The performance for crime for 24/25 when compared to the previous year shows that Newark and Sherwood experienced a 1.6% increase in all crime compared to a 4.5% reduction in the

county. However, Newark and Sherwood experienced an 14.5% reduction in anti-social behaviour compared to an 8.3% reduction in the county.

The safety partnership are looking at five key themes for the coming year;

Serious violence, violence against women and girls, and domestic abuse

Anti-social Behaviour

Vulnerability and Contextual Safeguarding

Community Cohesion

Neighbourhood Crime

The CCTV control room currently based at Police headquarters in Sherwood is due to move to an NSDC location within the Beacon building on Beacon Hill, Newark.

This was a cabinet decision and a two year notice period was triggered last year.

A camera replacement programme has been agreed and to date 14 cameras have been installed, 13 cameras in Newark and 1 at Southwell Leisure Centre.

NEWARK CASTLE - GATEHOUSE PROJECT

In March 2017 NSDC was successfully awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund to carry out a feasibility study to enhance the Castle Gatehouse project. The Gatehouse is, in the opinion of Historic England, 'the most complete example of a Romanesque gatehouse in England'.

A master plan has now been developed;

Work is due to start late March early April for a 12 month project.

A roof will be put on the gatehouse.

The gardens will remain open, albeit limited, to the public during works.

A lift will be incorporated to the first floor for greater accessibility.

A welcome area and larger room will be available for functions.

An extensive education programme will be on offer for school groups.

16 trees have been felled, 2 were grade A.

Replanting scheme included in plans.

Entry price for NSDC residents will be at half the price that tourists will be expected to pay.

Cllr Penny Rainbow

District Councillor, Ward Member for Southwell