

# Newark and Sherwood District Council Community Plan 2020-2023

*Serving People, Improving Lives*



(Updated in September 2020)



**NEWARK &  
SHERWOOD**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## Introduction

Our community plan (2020 - 2023) has been re-examined to take into account the changing landscape of our district post covid-19. We have seen how our sense of togetherness and community spirit has defined the district and we want to continue to support this. We have also recognised the economic impacts that have resulted from the global pandemic. We have committed to an ambitious programme of activity to engage in recovery which will strengthen our district.

Our plan sets out the Council's objectives over the next three years, building on previous published plans for the same time period. Our plan ensures the district continues to be a place where people choose to live, work, invest and spend their recreational time. The plan seeks to maintain many of the Council's objectives that you told us were important in previous resident consultation exercises, such as continuing with the high standard of cleanliness and appearance of the local environment. Enhancing and protecting our natural environment also features in our plan acknowledging the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency in July 2019.

We acknowledge that we cannot deliver all of the elements of the community plan alone. We will continue to play a key role in strengthening our partnerships with residents, businesses, agencies and other organisations in the public sector to ensure that we fulfil our objectives within our community plan.

We are also being faced with challenges such as the EU exit, the long-term effects of a global pandemic and restraint on public expenditure which will continue to underwrite the landscape within which we are delivering our community plan. We have responded positively to these challenges so far with improving service delivery, seeking new commercial activity and innovation in generating efficiencies.

Our Community Plan is a confident statement of our purpose, vision, values and objectives as we enter a new landscape post covid-19. We are committed to ensuring we are continually serving people, improving lives.



John Robinson  
Chief Executive



David Lloyd  
Leader

## Our people and our place



55,232 homes in Newark and Sherwood



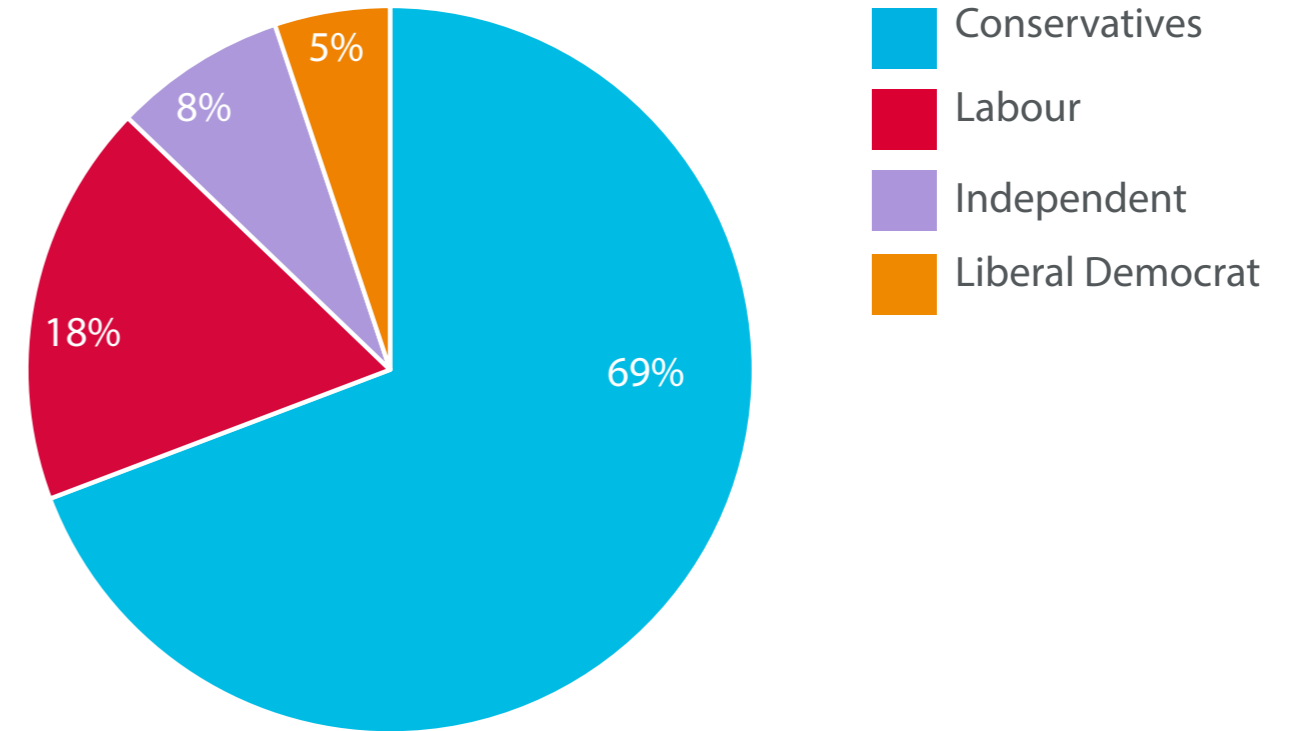
121,566 population of Newark and Sherwood



5,526 Council houses owned by Newark and Sherwood District Council

## How the Council works

Residents of Newark and Sherwood are represented by 39 elected members. The political make-up of the Council from May 2019 is shown below.



Councillors are elected by the community to decide how the Council should carry out its various activities. They represent public interest as well as individuals living within the ward in which he or she has been elected to serve a term of office. They have regular contact with the general public through Council meetings, telephone calls or surgeries. Surgeries provide an opportunity for any ward resident to go and talk to their councillor face to face and these take place on a regular basis.

Councillors appoint a Leader and Deputy Leader to provide political leadership and direction for the Council as a whole.

Each year, Councillors also appoint a Chairman to undertake civic responsibilities on behalf of the whole Council.

Find out more about our Councillors here: <https://bit.ly/2ZJqZ9L>

Find the Member representative for each ward here: <https://bit.ly/2XzSUpe>

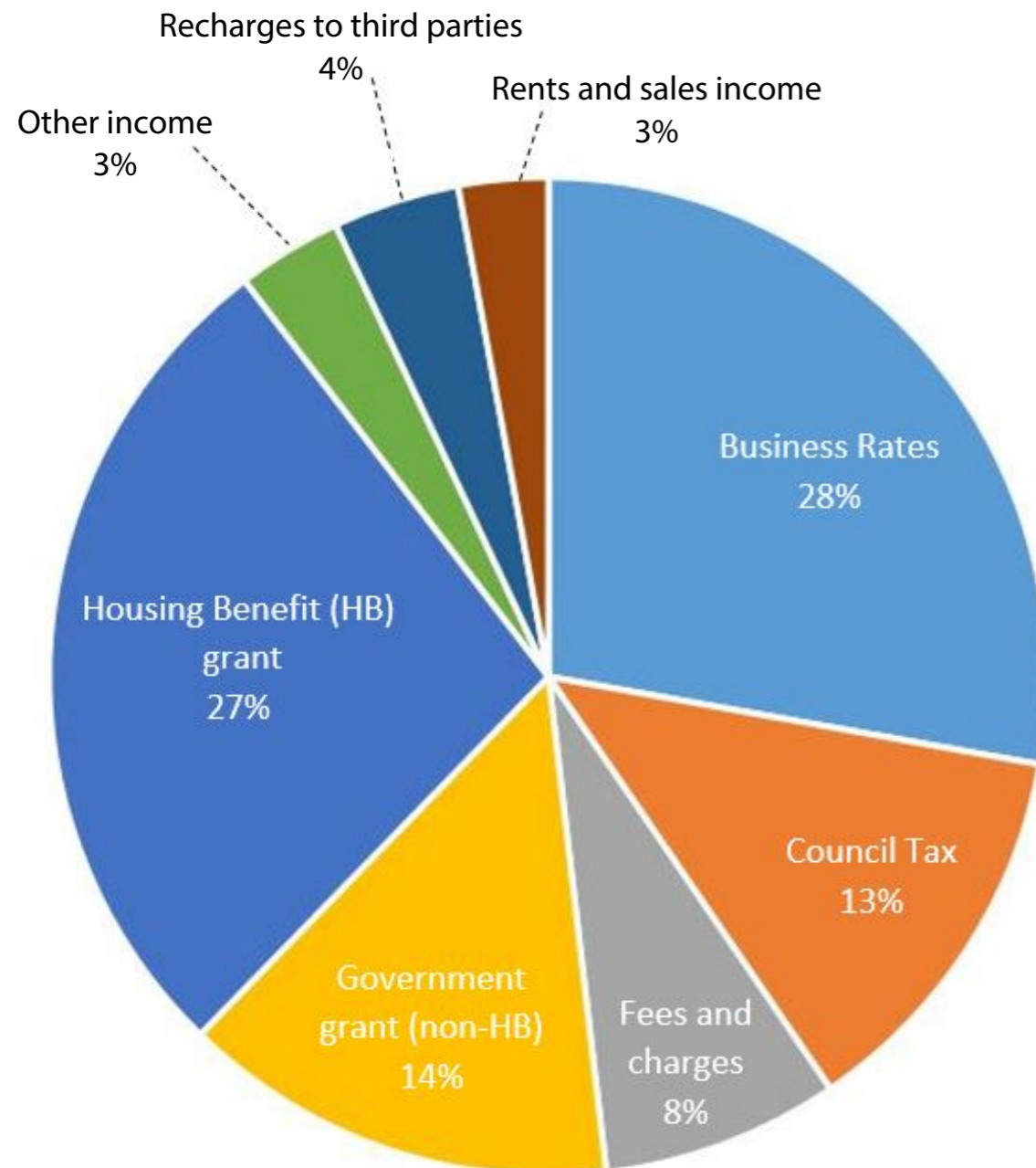
All Councillors meet together as the Full Council and these meetings are open to the public.

## Our funding

Over the past decade, the amount of funding available to Newark and Sherwood District Council has reduced significantly. Central Government funding for Newark and Sherwood District Council has reduced from £7.5 million in 2014/15 to £4.1 million in 2019/2020 representing a 45% reduction in core funding.

Therefore, in order to continue to deliver high-quality services, the Council has re-organised its operations in order to reduce expenditure and increase its income. Further details of our plans to generate additional income can be found in the Commercial Strategy and Investment Plan. Further information on service expenditure can be found in [Newark and Sherwood District Council's annual Statement of Accounts](#).

The diagram below provides a breakdown of how Newark and Sherwood District Council activities were funded for 2019/2020.



## Our vision

Newark and Sherwood already has much to be proud of. With its captivating history, beautiful countryside, characterful market towns, world renowned businesses and an enviable location at the crossroads of the country's transport network. We want to do all we can to enable local residents and businesses to flourish and fulfil their potential as well as encouraging more visitors to enjoy all that Newark and Sherwood has to offer. In order to achieve these, we will be locally focused and nationally connected - driven by what matters most to the people we serve and with a perspective and relationships stretching well beyond our boundaries.

## Our purpose and our values

We want to serve our local community the best way we possibly can. As public servants we place a great emphasis on adopting a public sector ethos and seek to embody this in the way that we interact with you and with each other. The Council's purpose and values make it clear what we are here to do and how we will go about it.

'Serving people, Improving lives'

### Ambitious and forward thinking

Focused on achieving the very best and always looking to improve and innovate.

### Caring and compassionate

Sensitive to the different needs and circumstances of others; seeks to empower people to fulfil their potential.

### Commercial and business-like

Careful and creative with resources; securing value for money.

### Professional and trustworthy

Consistently delivering on promises; providing good quality and demonstrating integrity.

### Welcoming and responsive

Approachable, open to feedback and challenge and swift to act.

## Our objectives



Create vibrant and self-sufficient local communities where residents look out for each other and actively contribute to their local area



Deliver inclusive and sustainable economic growth



Create more and better quality homes through our roles as landlord, developer and planning authority



Continue to maintain the high standard of cleanliness and appearance of the local environment



Enhance and protect the district's natural environment



Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and increase feelings of safety in our communities



Improve the health and wellbeing of local residents

## Create vibrant and self-sufficient local communities where residents look out for each other and actively contribute to the local area

### How will we achieve this?

- Support households in need by continuing with the Humanitarian Assistance Response Team's (HART) flexible approach (established during Covid-19) and by encouraging the establishment of local community support groups.
- Increase the resilience of local communities to floods by providing refresher training to all local flood wardens and undertake a review of all community flood resilience stores.
- Encourage residents to actively contribute to resolving issues relating to speeding by developing the community speedwatch scheme in areas where speeding is raised as a public concern.
- Encourage the use of our digital services by piloting a range of appropriate courses led by local residents.
- Create income for local causes by establishing a Community Lottery Fund.
- Ensure our communities are self sufficient by reviewing the effectiveness and impact of the Parish and Town Council Initiative Fund.
- Improve opportunities for tenant involvement by completing a review and implement the agreed actions of tenant participation and engagement.



### How will we measure our success?

% of residents who felt they belong to their immediate neighbourhood.

% of funding allocated to local causes.

% of residents attending a digital skills course who now feel more confident in using our services online.

### Examples of Achievements

Assisted with over 750 requests including delivery of food parcels and collections of medical prescriptions for the vulnerable during the Covid -19 outbreak.

Established the Housing Advisory Group.

Supported the 2019 Parish Conference

Live Streaming of Council Committees on the internet for residents to view meetings online

# Deliver inclusive and sustainable economic growth

## How will we achieve this?

- Adopt and implement a revised Economic Growth and Visitor Economy Strategy
- Maximise grant opportunities by growing and developing relationships with potential funding partners, including all levels of government, and maintaining a pipeline of development projects.
- Create a better skilled, higher wage, and diverse economy that provides opportunities for residents and businesses to maximise their potential and creates a destination of choice to live, work, visit, and play by seeking to secure up to £25m for the Newark Town Investment Plan with central Government.
- Support students and those seeking employment or redeployment by growing and maintaining relationships with educators, trainers, employment agencies, and businesses to service ongoing employability advice and highlighting of career aspirations.
- Pro-actively support identified priorities through a combination of developer delivery (junction improvements), direct delivery (A1 overbridge), developer funding (Section 106 Agreements/Community Infrastructure Levy), grant funding (Southern Link Road, Ollerton Roundabout), and lobbying (A46 Newark Northern Bypass) by developing and adopting an Infrastructure Funding Statement.
- Enable sustainable economic growth by supporting 50 businesses per annum with advice, mentoring, skills and financial help.



# Create more and better quality homes through our roles as landlord, developer and planning authority

## How will we achieve this?

- Meet the identified housing needs of the District by continuing to provide a positive, proactive, and timely planning service which identifies land for development and secures good quality homes.
- Meet the housing needs of our district by providing 500 homes directly through the Council's development company, Arkwood Developments.
- Provide suitable and cost effective accommodation that meets our statutory duties by undertaking a comprehensive review of temporary accommodation in the district.
- Meet the existing and future needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community by evidencing and identifying current and future provision.
- Prevent rough sleepers returning to the streets and support a pathway into sustainable housing by delivering a new winter night shelter provision which meets Public Health guidelines relating to covid-19.
- Encourage tenancy success in a home by developing and delivering the first phase of the 'Healthy Start' project.
- Create improvements in responsiveness and tenant satisfaction relating to housing repairs by reviewing the housing repairs service and implementing the necessary actions.
- Offer support, learning and guidance on maintaining a healthy home by delivering a handy person service.
- Meet the demand for housing through the delivery of 335 homes from our own Housing Revenue Account in addition to 200 homes in Ollerton and Boughton from developers.
- Enhance the quality of our homes based on current and future tenants priorities by reviewing and implementing a new Empty Homes Standard.



### How will we measure our success?

Number of council owned commercial units currently let

Number of businesses supported through advice, mentoring or financial help

Monitoring of unemployment rates and number of supported persons finding employment

Monitoring annual value of the district's visitor economy through independent national data.

### Examples of Achievements

Submitted transformative plans for Newark as part of the Newark Town Investment Plan. The Plan includes a bid for up to £25 million of funding from Government as part of its Towns Fund initiative.

Named in the top 10% for paying out over £26 million business support grants to over 2,000 businesses affected by Covid-19 in nationwide league table of local authorities.

Supported schools to host their own career and job skill events with local businesses

### How will we measure our success?

Number of homes delivered by the Council's development Company.

Number of dwellings completed through our role as a landlord, developer and planning authority.

### Examples of Achievements

Exceeded targets for market and affordable house building.

Allowed a start on-site on the second and third Strategic Urban Extension Sites at Greater Fernwood (Fernwood North) and the former Thoresby Colliery (Thoresby Vale).

100% of emergency repairs on Council properties attended to with 24 Hours.

## Continue to maintain the high standard of cleanliness and appearance of the local environment

### How will we achieve this?

- Reduce the environmental impact and the cost of clean up of a fly tip by delivering the 'Not in Newark and Sherwood' anti-fly tipping campaign.
- Facilitate and support cleaner and greener activities by developing a cohort of Green Champions.
- Increase levels of resident satisfaction with their local area and street scene by proactively deploying the new Action Day Team to targeted communities who currently have the lowest levels of satisfaction with their local area and street scene.
- Address repeated environmental neglect such as untidy gardens, broken fencing, abandoned vehicles by carrying out proactive enforcement action and deliver a thank you note to those residents who make a positive impact.
- Improve the appearance of the environment and recycling rates in targeted communities by delivering at least 3 school or community projects per annum aligned with the future Days of Action programme.
- Integrate the management of green spaces within the public realm by identifying and implementing opportunities for example exploring grounds maintenance provision on housing revenue account and public land.



## Enhance and protect the district's natural environment

### How will we achieve this?

- Contribute to the Emergency Tree Plan for the UK by identifying sites and plant at least 10,000 trees.
- Reduce the Council's carbon emissions by implementing an environmental strategy and carbon reduction action plan to achieve carbon neutrality.
- Build on the behaviour changes that have been made through greater home working and the use of technology through supporting the County Council in the implementation of the local transport plan and associated projects, focusing on reducing car usage and getting more people cycling and walking.
- Improve recycling levels by promoting positive behavioural changes.
- Provide accessible means of valuing our natural environment by developing a riverside nature walk to the west of Newark Town Lock.
- Develop and deliver education programmes to Schools by utilising our landscape on the River Trent, Newark Castle and our built environment.
- Connect residents and visitors with the nature, landscape and wildlife of Sherwood Forest by developing a master plan for Forest Corner.



**Greening**  
NEWARK & SHERWOOD

### How will we measure our success?

- % of fly tipping incidents removed within 24 hours of reporting.
- % of graffiti reports removed within 24 hours.
- % of residents satisfied with the cleanliness of their local area

### Examples of Achievements

- Removed 1,438 fly-tips with a combined weight of 361.89 tonnes in 2018-19.
- 56 community litter picks carried out in 2019/2020.
- Established an Action Team who undertake cleansing duties, such as litter picking alongside grounds maintenance work such as grass cutting and hedge trimming.
- Carried out 5 Cleaner, Safer, Greener Days of Action.
- 2 successful fly-tip prosecutions with fines totalling £3,645.

### How will we measure our success?

- % of our parks maintaining green flag status
- % of residents satisfied with green spaces in the district

### Examples of Achievements

- Maintained 7 green flag green heritage and green pennant awards for our parks and open spaces.
- Working with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England to identify wildlife sites which are not under positive management.
- Launched the Greening Newark and Sherwood campaign
- 13,970 households have signed up to the garden waste scheme since its full rollout across the district.

# Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, and increase feelings of safety in our communities

## How will we achieve this?

- Ensure alignment and investment in new technology to improve imaging and support enforcement actions by the Council and partners by assessing crime locations against CCTV sites.
- Improve the feelings of safety by training and developing our front-line staff to act as 'eyes and ears' in support of Public Protection colleagues and adopt a 'don't walk by' approach to issues that affect communities.
- Improve the safety of the district's town centres by undertaking at least two Nights of Action per annum with partners targeting the night time economy.
- Reduce the number of environmental crimes committed by increasing visibility and enforcement activity in targeted areas.
- Identify and implement opportunities for service development arising from co-location with Nottinghamshire Police at Castle House.
- Ensure key locations are safer through 'target hardening' and other interventions by leading a partnership bid with the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner, Nottinghamshire Police and Nottinghamshire County Council to the Home Offices' Safer Streets Fund.
- Educate young people engaged or at risk of engaging in anti social behaviour by delivering at least 2 diversionary activities per annum in key locations and if necessary, use enforcement activity to guide their future behaviour through Criminal Behaviour Orders or similar.



# Improve the health and wellbeing of local residents

## How will we achieve this?

- Improve the health and wellbeing of local residents by working collaboratively with partners to develop and integrate housing, health and social care linking to wider County strategies.
- Improve opportunities for health and wellbeing by providing a new swimming pool at the Dukeries Leisure Centre.
- Improve the facilities on offer by working with Southwell Leisure Centre Trust in the co-development of a business case for a new fitness suite extension and an alternative management arrangement.
- Improve the facilities on offer by supporting the YMCA to deliver their flagship project, the Community and Activity Village in Newark and its ambitious outcomes.
- Prevent homelessness through the development of a Targeted Arrears Support project to support residents at risk of financial crisis, with particular focus on those financially affected by Covid-19.
- Support the regeneration of a new sports pavilion with an enhanced quality of pitch provision and variety of tenure opportunities through the delivery of phase 1 of the Yorke Drive Regeneration Project.
- Help reduce fuel poverty in the district by creating and delivering a portfolio of innovative fuel poverty alleviation/affordable warmth initiatives targeted at private sector residents.



### How will we measure our success?

- Number of enforcement actions undertaken.
- % reduction in level of all crime.
- % of residents satisfied with their local area as a place to live.
- % residents with improved feelings of safety
- % reduction in number of ASB incidents

### Examples of Achievements

- 100% of all council run pay and display and pay on foot car parks have achieved safer parking Park Mark status.
- 192 proactive joint Police activities were carried out in 19/20.
- Increased the number of enforcement actions publicised on our media platforms.

### How will we measure our success?

- Develop and provide opportunities for inactive people' to increase levels of physical activity and sport
- Number of residents provided and supported with general energy advice
- Number of private sector residents participating in the Council's fuel poverty alleviation schemes in the district.

### Examples of Achievements

- Active4Today launched the first junior parkrun in Ollerton.
- Led the co-ordination of the Rainworth project which provided full first time gas central heating to 98 properties which previously had electric storage heaters.
- Provided energy advice to 369 requests from residents.



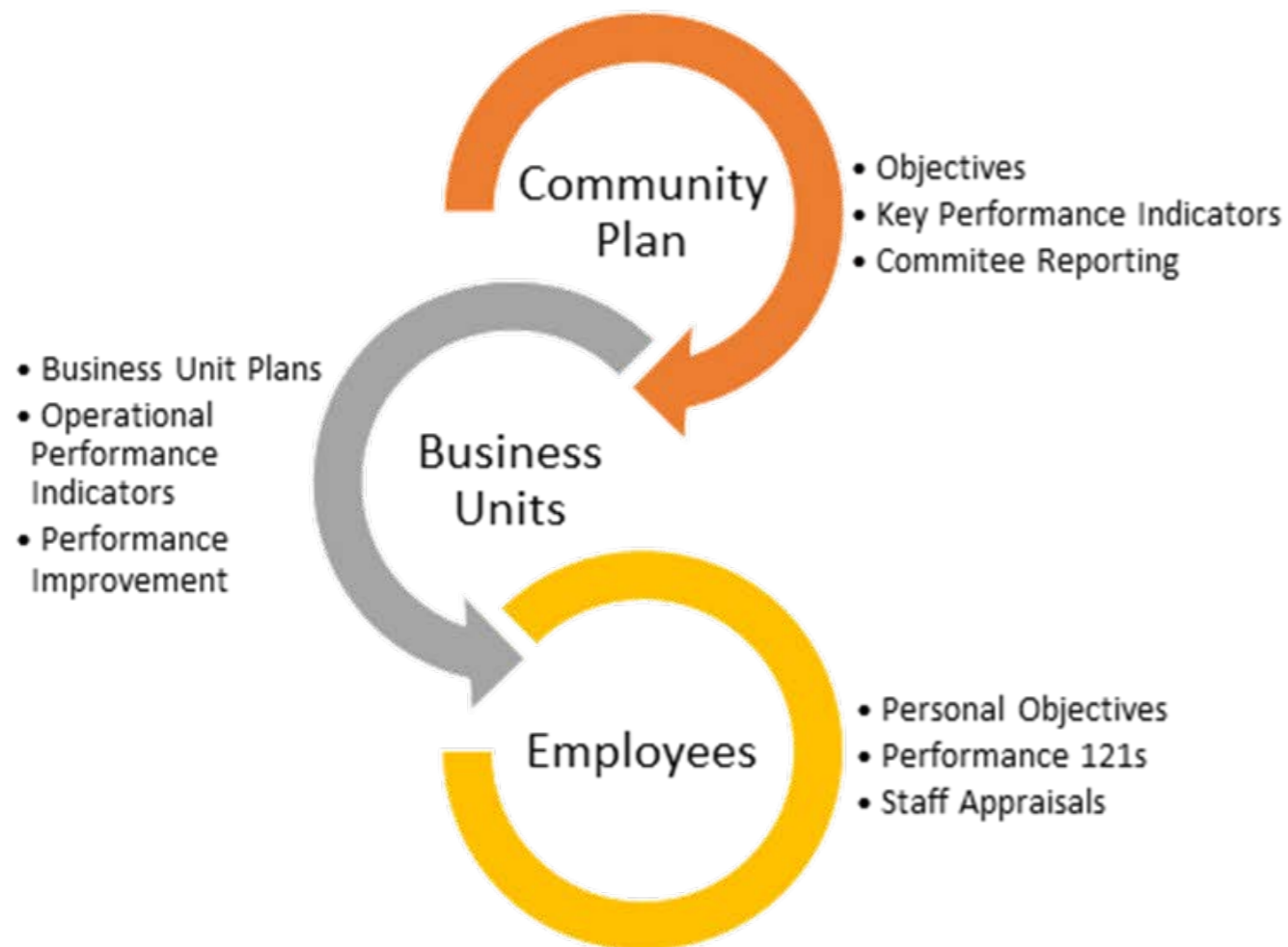
## Our performance

Performance Management is a set of processes that measures, analyses and aims to improve performance to enable us to deliver our objectives and meet the needs of our customers and our district.

We measure performance at a variety of levels including corporate (whole council), service (specific business units) and individual (employee). Targets are agreed for each level and are incorporated into our performance management system.

Regular reports demonstrating how we are performing against our Community Plan are presented at Committee and published on our website.

The following diagram represents how the three levels of performance management interlink.



## Have your say

### Resident Panel

The Resident Panel is a group of people from across the district who would like to share their views on the area they live in and help shape the future of Newark and Sherwood. The panel has been created because we wish to understand the views and experiences of residents of the district and use this understanding to ensure that council services are the best they can be.

Any resident of the district over the age of 18 can join the panel to have their say on the Council's services, plans, proposals and development of their local area.

If you are interested in being part of the panel please contact [customerservices@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk)

### Tenant Scrutiny Panel

The Tenant Scrutiny Panel are a group of Council tenants who review and scrutinise the Council's delivery and performance in relation to housing. The Panel are also involved in the Council's appeals process relating to housing complaints. We will work with you so you can improve your knowledge, learn new skills and meet new people.

If you are interested in being part of the Tenant Scrutiny Panel please contact [customerservices@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk)

### Consultations

We also regularly consult on council services, plans and decisions. Visit our consultations page to have your say [www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/consultation)



## Contact us

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[customerservices@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk)

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Most of our services are available online:  
[www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk](http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk)



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