

NOTICE OF MEETING

Meeting:	CABINET
Date and Time:	WEDNESDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 10.00 AM
Place:	COUNCIL CHAMBER - APPLETREE COURT, BEAULIEU ROAD, LYNDHURST, SO43 7PA
Enquiries to:	Email: democratic@nfdc.gov.uk Karen Wardle Tel: 023 8028 5071

PUBLIC INFORMATION:

This agenda can be viewed online (<https://democracy.newforest.gov.uk>). It can also be made available on audio tape, in Braille and large print.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting. The seating capacity of our Council Chamber public gallery is limited under fire regulations to 22.

Members of the public can watch this meeting live, or the subsequent recording, on the [Council's website](#). Live-streaming and recording of meetings is not a statutory requirement and whilst every endeavour will be made to broadcast our meetings, this cannot be guaranteed. Recordings remain available to view for a minimum of 12 months.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Members of the public may speak in accordance with the Council's [public participation scheme](#):

- (a) on items within the Cabinet's terms of reference which are not on the public agenda; and/or
- (b) on individual items on the public agenda, when the Chairman calls that item. Speeches may not exceed three minutes.

Anyone wishing to attend the meeting, or speak in accordance with the Council's public participation scheme, should contact the name and number shown above no later than 12.00 noon on Friday, 31 October 2025.

Kate Ryan
Chief Executive

Appletree Court, Lyndhurst, Hampshire. SO43 7PA
www.newforest.gov.uk

AGENDA

Apologies

1. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

2. MINUTES

To confirm the minutes of the Special meeting held on 26 September 2025 and the minutes of the meeting held on the 1 October 2025 as correct records.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To note any declarations of interest made by members in connection with an agenda item. The nature of the interest must also be specified.

Members are asked to discuss any possible interests with Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To receive any public participation in accordance with the Council's public participation scheme.

5. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT (BASED ON PERFORMANCE APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2025 INCLUSIVE) (Pages 3 - 20)

6. APPLETREE PROPERTY GROUP AGM 2025 (Pages 21 - 42)

7. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES (Pages 43 - 46)

To:

Councillors

Jill Cleary (Chairman)
Steve Davies (Vice-Chairman)
Geoffrey Blunden

Councillors

Jeremy Heron
Dan Poole
Derek Tipp

Cabinet – 5 November 2025

Financial Monitoring Report (based on performance April to September 2025 inclusive)

Purpose	For Decision
Classification	Public
Executive Summary	<p>This report provides the latest budget forecasts for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and capital programme for the 2025/26 financial year, based on the first half of year performance from April 2025 to September 2025 inclusive.</p> <p>It shows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. a balanced budget in the General Fund as additional interest earnings (£459,000) offset the additional budget requirements in this quarter (£201,000) and the previous quarter (£258,000); b. a balanced position across the HRA revenue and capital programme due to a reduction in the capital programme to offset the £148,000 additional budget requirement and; c. a net increase in the capital programme for 2025/26 of £154,000. d. a recommendation to increase the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) reserve by an additional £1.5 million, by way of a transfer from the Budget Equalisation reserve.
Recommendation(s)	<p>a) It is recommended that Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) note the latest budget forecasts of the General Fund, HRA, and Capital. 2) approve the list of roles as outlined in the report to support the commencement of phase 1 LGR activity. 3) approve the budget virements within the HRA to utilise a forecast underspend on Major repairs and external gutter/render cleaning to

	<p>increase spend on condition surveying and decarbonisation.</p> <p>4) approve net changes to the Capital Programme totalling £154,000.</p> <p>b) It is recommended that the Cabinet recommend to the Council:</p> <p>1) that £1.5 million is transferred from the Budget Equalisation Reserve to the Local Government Reorganisation Reserve, with the previously approved delegation extended to cover this increased balance.</p>
Reasons for recommendation(s)	<p>To comply with accounting codes of practice and best practice which requires councils to regularly monitor the annual budget position and take any action to support the sustainability of the council's financial position ensuring we are being financially responsible.</p> <p>To comply with the council's financial regulations regarding budget virements and supplementary budget requests.</p>
Ward(s)	All
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Jeremy Heron – Finance and Corporate
Strategic Director(s)	Alan Bethune – Strategic Director Corporate Resources and Transformation (Section 151 Officer)
Officer Contact	<p>Paul Whittles</p> <p>Assistant Director - Finance</p> <p>02380 285766</p> <p>paul.whittles@nfdc.gov.uk</p>

Introduction and background

1. Following the approval of the Original Budget for 2025/26 in February 2025, this report provides a further update on the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Capital budgets, adjusting for any budget changes now required and recommended.

2. Financial Monitoring is an important feature in the management of the council's finances as it gives an opportunity to reflect on variations as against the latest set budget and reflect on the impact that these variations may have over the period covered by the council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

General Fund revised projection

3. Appendix 1 sets out the General Fund budget of £25.509 million for 2025/26 as agreed by council in February 2025 (£28.719 million at Portfolio analysis level, with other budget elements reducing this to this lower General Fund budget figure).
4. The quarter one monitoring report to September Cabinet presented additional budget requirements of £258,000 and this report identifies a further £201,000 with the full £459,000 being offset by an improvement in interest earnings against budget.
5. The latest budget variations reported include net favourable expenditure variations of £55,000 and net favourable income variations of £203,000. In addition to internal virements between portfolios, major variations are detailed below (ordered in accordance with **Appendix 1**), with full variations listed in **Appendix 2**.

Environment and Sustainability (Place, Operations and Sustainability)

6. **Car Parking (£65,000)** – Initial analysis forecast a shortfall in car parking income of £94,000 versus the annual £5.238 million budget. Following the approval of the 2026 Fees and Charges at the October Cabinet meeting to be introduced in January 2026, this variance will reduce by £29,000.
7. **Keyhaven River (£29,000)** – Income for year was expected to be £32,000 less than the £252,000 annual budget. Following the approval of the 2026 Fees and Charges at the October Cabinet meeting to be introduced in January 2026, this variance will reduce by £3,000.

Finance and Corporate (Corporate Resources and Transformation)

8. **Commercial Property (£120,000)** – Platinum Jubilee Business Park now has an 88% occupancy rate. The 3 remaining vacant units will result in an income variation (£85,000) and a business rate liability (£35,000) in the current year. Active marketing is ongoing with the Council's agents to source tenants for the final few

remaining units. The Estates Manager is also considering other options to increase marketing and awareness of the available vacant units.

9. **Treasury Management (£459,000)** - It is anticipated that additional treasury investment returns will be received in 2025/26. The additional income being forecast will be sufficient to offset the current adverse General Fund budget shortfall as covered within this report, and within the previous report. Forecasting will be continually updated as the year progresses, with there being the potential for further improvement based on current balance forecasts and interest rate expectations. The forecast position will be regularly reported on through future financial monitoring reports.
10. The revised General Fund Budget for 2025/26 can be seen at Appendix 1, with further details on the variations being reported included within Appendix 2.

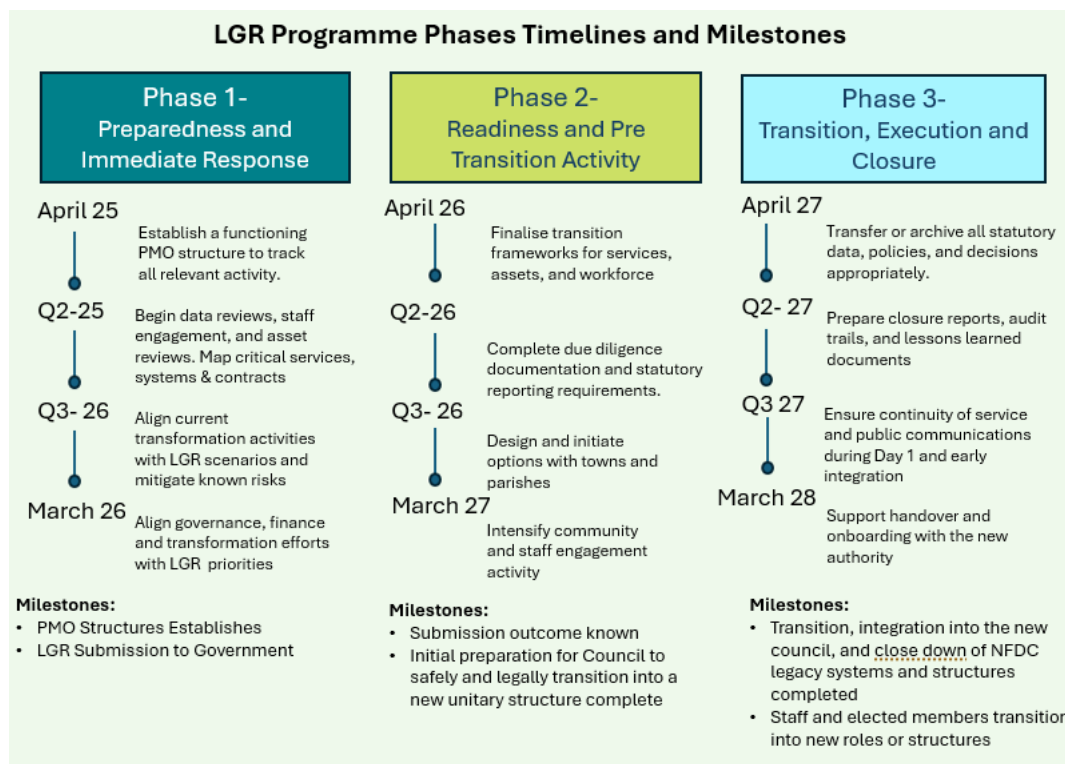
Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

11. LGR will increasingly present significant delivery and capacity challenges. The council has played an active role in shaping the regional response however, the differing views on which future unitary configuration the New Forest should be part of results in a number of possible scenarios. This means that the district needs to be represented across multiple geographies to help inform and shape options, above and beyond comparable authorities. This is exacerbated by the added complexity of a significant boundary change proposal which if successful will result in additional capacity requirements to support significant disaggregation of district services.
12. The Government has been clear that no additional funding beyond the initial £26,540 that has been received by the Council will be provided to support LGR. As has been the case in other reorganisations, required funding will need to be met from constituent councils. Consequently, NFDC initially established a £150,000 annual revenue budget, and this has been used to immediately fund essential roles to support the LGR process (Programme Manager 1FTE and GIS Officer 1FTE).
13. Additionally, the council created a £500,000 LGR reserve, with expenditure and commitments to date totalling £113,000.
14. An initial internal LGR programme plan has been developed to embed a structured, multi-phase programme that manages risk,

aligns with regional priorities, and supports a responsible transition to a future unitary authority. This will be further supported by the development of the Programme Management Office (PMO) that will bring increased structure and assurance to the development and delivery of priorities and management of resources.

15. The Programme plan recognises that the delivery of LGR will require significant resources and whilst NFDC is not responsible for designing the new unitary organisation it is accountable for managing its own transition with integrity, transparency and assurance.

Three phases have been identified for the NFDC programme:



16. The initial preparation phase includes activities, such as ensuring good knowledge of our baseline position from a digital, HR and wider data perspective. The sooner these activities commence the better position we will be in to align with the wider programme and for this council to help shape and contribute constructively to the reorganisation process.
17. The Appendix 5 provides a summary of some of the likely key activities for each phase, although it is not an exhaustive list and will be refined and further informed as clarity emerges.

18. Further clarity will emerge for phase 2 and 3 activities as a wider regional delivery programme is stood up and when the implementation team for the new unitary is established. At this point consideration will be needed regarding additional capacity for phases 2 and 3.
19. It has become increasingly clear that the current level of revenue and reserve funding will be inadequate to cover the likely further resources required through to vesting day identified in response to this early assessment of necessary activities and subsequent resources.
20. A number of additional resources have been identified to manage different aspects of the phase 1 programme as detailed in the following table. The on-going commitment of phase 1 resources plus the likely increased resource requirement phases 2 and 3 will add, requires additional funding to be made available. Member approval is sought to transfer £1.5 million from the Councils Budget Equalisation Reserve (currently £2.699 million) into the LGR reserve in order to cover these anticipated costs and leave headroom for inevitable additional costs not yet fully quantified, as the council works through phases 2 and 3.

LGR Phase 1 additional resources and funding

Service	Extra FTE	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
ICT	3.14	52,700	174,500	180,200
HR	1.00	21,400	66,100	68,300
Communications	1.00	21,700	67,200	69,400
Other	2.00	25,600	105,300	108,600
Total	7.14	121,400	413,100	426,500

21. Throughout this process we will seek to utilise the skills and experience we have within the organisation. As well as providing a development opportunity, internal resources better understand the context of the organisation and have existing relationships with stakeholders. Moreover, we will retain these skills in the new

organisation. Where these arrangements are agreed, backfill arrangements will be considered.

22. Work has commenced and will be ongoing to assess the Council's prioritisation of business as usual and project delivery activity in accordance with outcomes that best align to corporate priorities. Every effort will be made to utilise and free-up any potential resource capacity to reduce the overall additional cost of LGR to the New Forest tax payer. It is however inevitable that preparations for LGR will cost this Council a significant sum of money, hence the required approval for a top in the LGR reserve of the £1.5 million. The previously agreed delegation will still apply to this increased sum, with members receiving regular updates on the LGR programme through the Resources and Transformation Overview and Scrutiny Panel, and meetings of the Cabinet and Council.

Other Financial Matters of note

23. Given the scale of the investment supporting the roll out of the new waste collection service, all costs continue to be closely monitored. Lessons learned from phases one and two, plus the behind the gate trials, will continue to inform changes to the existing assumptions and highlight new budget requirements which shall need to be considered in line with financial regulations. A service update is expected in December and is anticipated to outline a requirement for significant additional capital and revenue resources.
24. The council has recently restructured its executive management team. The financial consequences of this, plus any backfill arrangements will be included in future financial monitoring report updates and addressed through the MTFP accordingly.
25. Bed and Breakfast spend to date is currently ahead of the profiled budget, whilst increases in expenditure shall be mitigated in part by an increase in benefit subsidy received, the council remains watchful of this evolving situation as it could lead to an in-year budget pressure.

Housing Revenue Account Revised Projection

26. A break-even HRA budget for 2025/26 was agreed in February 2025, with a Revenue Account contribution of £10.200 million supporting the financing of the £30.820 million HRA Capital Programme.
27. The quarter one monitoring report to September Cabinet identified additional budget requirements of £60,000.

28. This report identifies proposed net budget increases of £148,000 due to the employment of external stock condition surveyors (£240,000) to enhance delivery of the current programme requirement, offset by a reduction of £92,000 in gutter/render cleaning works, due to the need to retender contracts.
29. The updated HRA budget can be seen at Appendix 3.

Capital Expenditure (General Fund and Housing Revenue Account)

30. A Capital Programme budget of £50.231 million for 2025/26 was agreed by council in February 2025.
31. Principally due to rephasing from 2024/25, the budget was increased by £2.093 million to £52.324 million in the September Cabinet report.
32. The latest forecast confirms net programme changes totalling £154,000 which results in an updated 2025/26 Capital Programme Budget of £52.478 million (Appendix 4).
33. Details of the significant changes are provided below:
34. **Housing and Communities (-£500,000)** – A reduction in Disabled Facilities Grant cases coming through from Hampshire County Council (HCC) is resulting in the council forecasting less activity this year and consequently a reduction in the amount of grant able to be utilised.
35. **Environment and Sustainability (£749,000)** – An acceleration in vehicle acquisitions is forecast to catch up the prior year underspend as well as deliver the in-year plan. This effectively required the previously unspent budget from 2024/25 to be made available in the current financial year.
36. **Housing Revenue Account (-£148,000)** – A review of the Major Repairs programme has identified an anticipated, in year, underspend of £348,000, largely due to the need to review some contracts and some unforeseen structural issues. It is proposed that this underspend be used to offset the revenue cyclical maintenance increase of £148,000 and to enhance the Decarbonisation Works programme by £200,000.

Corporate plan priorities

37. Regular monitoring and reporting of our financial activity including adjusting budgets whilst maintaining a balanced medium term financial plan (MTFP), ensures we are being financially responsible and supports our Future New Forest transformation programme which underpins the delivery of all our priorities.

Options appraisal

38. The Cabinet could opt not to support the budget virement within the Housing Revenue Account, but this would simply defer required expenditure to another financial year, as opposed to fully utilising funding available in the current financial year.
39. The recommendation to increase the LGR reserve could be declined, however this would either place an unmanageable burden on existing staff resources or more likely lead to a reactive, unstructured and piecemeal approach to resourcing LGR demands as they arise, which would not be in the council's best interests.
40. The option to utilise the Budget Equalisation Reserve to provide the necessary additional funding to the LGR reserve is considered the best option, as opposed to creating a future revenue burden within the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

Consultation undertaken

41. Internal consultation between finance officers, service managers and budget holders has determined the forecast data presented in the report.

Financial and resource implications

42. This is a financial report with budget implications already detailed and considered in the main body of the report.

Legal implications

43. The Council will have a legal requirement to play a role in ensuring that the new Sovereign Authority created through a structural change order in due course, is 'Safe and Legal' on vesting day.

Risk assessment

44. The projected forecast is prepared based on estimates and assumptions in consultation with services. There are key risks in the projections across all service areas and both revenue and capital activity.

Environmental / Climate and nature implications

45. There are no environmental implications arising directly from this report.

Equalities implications

46. There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.

Crime and disorder implications

47. There are no crime and disorder implications arising directly from this report.

Data protection / Information governance / ICT implications

48. There are no data protection, information governance or ICT implications arising directly from this report.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Revised General Fund Budget 2025/26

Appendix 2 – Variation Analysis General Fund 2025/26

Appendix 3 – Revised Housing Revenue Account Budget 2025/26

Appendix 4 – Revised Capital Programme 2025/26

Appendix 5 – LGR – Summary of some of the likely key activities for each phase of LGR preparations

Background Papers:

[Cabinet 3 September 2025](#)

Financial Monitoring Report (based on performance April to June 2025 inclusive)

[Cabinet 19 February 2025 – Budget Reports 25/26](#)

Housing Revenue Account Budget and the Housing Public Sector Capital Expenditure Programme 2025/26

Medium Term Financial Plan and Annual Budget 2025/26

FINANCIAL MONITORING 2025/26						
REVISED GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2025/26	Feb-25	Sept-25	November-25			2025/26 £'000's Updated Budget
	2025/26 £'000's Original Budget	2025/26 £'000's Latest Budget	2025/26 £'000's New Variations Expend.	2025/26 £'000's New Variations Income	2025/26 £'000's New Variations Rephasings	
PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS						
Community, Safety and Wellbeing	3,389	3,530	0	0	0	3,530
Environment and Sustainability	11,747	12,274	24	94	0	12,392
Finance and Corporate	3,710	3,612	41	109	0	3,762
Housing and Homelessness	3,652	3,686	0	0	0	3,686
Leader	2,243	2,277	-53	53	0	2,277
Planning and Economy	3,978	4,494	0	0	0	4,494
Multi Portfolio adjustments - To be allocated	0	0	-43	0	0	-43
	28,719	29,873	-31	256	0	30,098
Reversal of Depreciation	-2,768	-2,768				-2,768
Contribution (from) / to Earmarked Revenue Reserves	-1,645	-2,541	-24	0	0	-2,565
NET PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS	24,306	24,564	-55	256	0	24,765
Minimum Revenue Provision	2,512	2,512				2,512
Contribution to Capital Programme Financing (RCCO)	1,100	1,100				1,100
Interest Costs	206	206				206
Interest Earnings	-1,432	-1,432		-459		-1,891
Waste Services Grant	-1,175	-1,175				-1,175
Other Grants	-8	-8				-8
GENERAL FUND NET BUDGET REQUIREMENTS	25,509	25,767	-55	-203	0	25,509
COUNCIL TAX CALCULATION						
Budget Requirement	25,509	25,767	-55	-203	0	25,509
Less: Settlement Funding Assessment						
Lower Tier Service Grant	0	0				0
Services Grant / Revenue Support Grant	-1	-1				-1
New Homes Bonus	-36	-36				-36
Employers National Insurance Grant	-155	-155				-155
Guarantee Grant (MHCLG)	-676	-676				-676
Business Rates Baseline	-4,378	-4,378				-4,378
	-5,246	-5,246	0	0	0	-5,246
Locally Retained Business Rates	-5,007	-5,007				-5,007
Estimated Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit Business Rates	-192	-192				-192
Estimated Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit Council Tax	-162	-162				-162
Contribution from Business Rates Equalisation Reserve	192	192				192
Contribution to/ from(-) Variation Reserves	0	-258	55	203	0	0
COUNCIL TAX	15,094	15,094	0	0	0	15,094
TAX BASE NUMBER OF PROPERTIES	73,355.00	73,355.00				73,355.00
COUNCIL TAX PER BAND D PROPERTY	205.77	205.77				205.77
GENERAL FUND BALANCE 31 MARCH	3,000	3,000				3,000

FINANCIAL MONITORING 2025/26		November-25			
VARIATION ANALYSIS GENERAL FUND 2025/26		2025/26	2025/26	2025/26	2025/26
		£'000's	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's
		Previous	New	New	Updated
		Variations	Variations	Variations	Budget
			Expend.	Income	Rephasings
PORTFOLIO ADJUSTMENTS					
Community, Safety and Wellbeing					
Previously Reported;					
Implications of the 25/26 pay award	27				
Grants - Rephasings	29				
CCTV Expansion - Rephasing - part £300k	51				
Community Safety - grant	34				
New Items;					
	141	0	0	0	0
Environment and Sustainability					
Previously Reported;					
Implications of the 25/26 pay award	126				
Cemeteries - Sway & New Milton AMR schemes into 25/26	47				
Foreshores - Coastal Water Safety AMR scheme into 25/26	21				
Open Spaces - Scheme virement to Contingency (Finance & Corporate)	-30				
Operational Restructure - budget movement to Finance & Corporate	-36				
Refuse & Recycling- additional Grant re New Service Roll Out	-151				
Operations Administration - service change workload and sickness temporary cover	25				
Refuse & Recycling - New Drivers to be appointed earlier than budgeted	67				
Refuse & Recycling - Narrow Access Round	59				
Waste Transition - Recruitment of additional waste advisers	46				
Waste Transition - Additional Customer Services	20				
Waste Transition - Additional Programme Support	22				
Public Conveniences - Cleaners pay adjustments/StreetScene income	26				
Refuse & Recycling/StreetScene - Drivers pay to reflect market supplement (Contingency)	116				
Refuse & Recycling - Behind Gates Collection trial	150				
Refuse & Recycling - New Waste Supervisor	19				
New Items;					
Car Parking - projected income shortfall, new F&C's 2026 (clocks/meter)			65		
Keyhaven River - projected income shortfall, new F&C's 2026 (mooring fees)			29		
Public Conveniences - survey costs		24			
	527	24	94	0	118
Finance and Corporate					
Previously Reported;					
Implications of the 25/26 pay award	65				
Pay award 25/26 implications funded by Contingency	-316				
Additional Pay award 25/26 implications funded by Contingency - Drivers	-116				
Contingency - Scheme virement from Open Spaces (Env. & Sustain.)	30				
Operational Restructure - budget movement from Env. & Sustain.	36				
People Strategy - budget movement to Transformation (Leader)	-50				
Lymington Town Hall Site - Residual HCC Grant into 25/26	16				
Commercial Inv. Property - Salisbury Road, Totton Scheme into 25/26	157				
Corporate Management - Fleet & Infrastructure Strategy into 25/26	80				
New Items;					
Revenues Service - Vacancy Salary Savings / reduced court cost income		-24	24		
Pension Increase Act - Added Years		30			
Commercial Inv. Property - Platinum Jubilee Business Park		35	85		
	-98	41	109	0	150
Housing and Homelessness					
Previously Reported;					
Implications of the 25/26 pay award	34				
New Items;					
	34	0	0	0	0

FINANCIAL MONITORING 2025/26					
VARIATION ANALYSIS GENERAL FUND 2025/26		Sept-25	November-25		
		2025/26	2025/26	2025/26	2025/26
		£'000's	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's
		Previous	New	New	Updated
		Variations	Variations	Variations	Budget
			Expend.	Income	Rephasings
PORTFOLIO ADJUSTMENTS					
Leader					
Previously Reported;					
Implications of the 25/26 pay award					
	9				
Resident Insight Survey - remove budget					
	-25				
People Strategy - budget movement from Corp. Management (Finance)					
	50				
New Items;					
UK Shared Prosperity Fund budget transfer from Revenue to Capital					
		-53	53		
	34	-53	53	0	0
Planning and Economy					
Previously Reported;					
Implications of the 25/26 pay award					
	55				
Local Plan - Local Plan Grant rephasing & Green Belt grant					
	298				
Policy - Improve Digital Planning Grant					
	63				
Economic Development - budget for Totton Masterplan					
	100				
New Items;					
NOTE ONLY - Planning DM - Income					
	516	0	0	0	0
Portfolio adjustments - Non Direct					
New Items;					
Corporate Administration - Vacancy Salary Savings					
		-43			
	0	-43	0	0	-43
TOTAL PORTFOLIO ADJUSTMENTS					
	1154	-31	256	0	225
NON-PORTFOLIO ADJUSTMENTS					
Contribution to/from(-) Earmarked Reserves					
		-24			
Interest earnings					
			-459		
TOTAL NON-PORTFOLIO ADJUSTMENTS					
	-896	-24	-459	0	-483
GRAND TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS (Credited to (-) / Debited from (+) Budget Reserves)					
	258	-55	-203	0	-258

FINANCIAL MONITORING 2025/26				
REVISED HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2025/26	Feb-25	Sept-25	November-25	
	2025/26	2025/26	2025/26	2025/26
	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's
	Original Budget	Latest Budget	New Variations	Latest Budget
INCOME				
Dwelling Rents	-34,230	-34,230		-34,230
Non Dwelling Rents	-735	-735		-735
Charges for Services & Facilities	-1,142	-1,142		-1,142
Contributions towards Expenditure	-277	-277		-277
Interest Receivable	-418	-418		-418
Sales Administration Recharge	-33	-33		-33
Shared Amenities Contribution	-361	-361		-361
TOTAL INCOME	-37,196	-37,196	0	-37,196
EXPENDITURE				
Repairs & Maintenance				
Cyclical Maintenance	2,234	2,242	148	2,390
Reactive Maintenance - General	3,520	3,546		3,546
Reactive Maintenance - Voids	1,886	1,896		1,896
Supervision & Management				
General Management	8,288	8,295		8,295
Grounds Maintenance and Trees	1,087	1,094		1,094
Older Person and Temporary Accommodation	1,199	1,201		1,201
Rents, Rates, Taxes and Other Charges		0		0
Provision for Bad Debt	150	150		150
Capital Financing Costs - Interest/Debt Management	5,608	5,608		5,608
Capital Financing Costs - Internal Borrowing		0		0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	23,972	24,032	148	24,180
HRA OPERATING SURPLUS(-)	-13,224	-13,164	148	-13,016
Contribution to Capital - supporting Housing Strategy	10,200	10,200		10,200
Capital Financing Costs - Principal	3,174	3,174		3,174
HRA Total Annual Surplus(-) / Deficit	150	210	148	358
Contribution to/from(-) Earmarked Reserves	-150	-210		-210
HRA TOTAL ANNUAL SURPLUS(-) / DEFICIT	0	0	148	148

FINANCIAL MONITORING 2025/26

REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26

	Portfolio	Feb-25	Sept-25	November-25		
		2025/26 £'000's Original Budget	2025/26 £'000's Latest Budget	2025/26 £'000's New Variations Expend.	2025/26 £'000's New Variations Rephasing	2025/26 £'000's Latest Budget
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	LEADER/ALL	60	60	53		113
Rural England Prosperity Fund	LEADER/ALL		162			162
Disabled Facilities Grants	HSG (GF)	1,500	1,500	-500		1,000
Sustainability Fund - Unallocated	ENV & SUSTAIN	100	100			100
Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring (22-27)	ENV & SUSTAIN	2,829	3,009			3,009
Barton Horizontal Directional Drilling Trials	ENV & SUSTAIN	135	238			238
Hurst Spit Beach Shingle Source Study	ENV & SUSTAIN	75	90			90
Milford Beach and Cliff Study	ENV & SUSTAIN	230	230			230
Waste Strategy Container Roll Out	ENV & SUSTAIN	4,550	4,593			4,593
Asset Modernisation Programme - Public Convenience	ENV & SUSTAIN		58			58
Eling Tide Mill Urgent Repair Works	FIN & CORP	200	200			200
Eling Toll Bridge and Quayside Repairs	FIN & CORP	60	100			100
New Depot Site: Hardley	FIN & CORP					
Commercial Property - Queensway - addit.works	FIN & CORP		323			323
ATC Accommodation Refurbishment	FIN & CORP	200	200			200
Ringwood Depot: Extension and Works	FIN & CORP		248			248
V&P; Replacement Programme	FIN & CORP	2,463	2,463	53		2,516
V&P; Replacement Programme - Waste Strategy Vehicles	FIN & CORP	3,709	3,709	696		4,405
Mitigation Schemes	PLAN & ECON	1,000	1,000			1,000
Infrastructure Projects	PLAN & ECON	1,000	1,000			1,000
Strategic Infrastructure Projects	PLAN & ECON	1,000	1,000			1,000
Arts & Culture Projects	PLAN & ECON	300	300			300
TOTAL GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME		19,411	20,583	302		20,885
Fire Risk Assessment Works	HRA	1,500	1,500			1,500
Major Structural Refurbishments	HRA		921			921
HRA - Major Repairs	HRA	11,100	11,100	-348		10,752
Decarbonisation	HRA	1,870	1,870	200		2,070
Estate Improvements	HRA	200	200			200
Council Dwellings - Strategy Delivery	HRA	15,200	15,200			15,200
Disabled Facilities Grants	HRA	950	950			950
TOTAL HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME		30,820	31,741	-148		31,593
GRAND TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME		50,231	52,324	154		52,478

Summary of some of the likely key activities for each phase of LGR preparations

Phase 1 – Preparedness and immediate response (Sept 2025 – March 2026)

This phase focuses on establishing and collating baseline organisational information and data in preparation for the government decision and in support of future phases.

Elections

- Prepare for Mayoral and County Council Elections

Technology

- Map technical architecture, infrastructure and licensing arrangements
- Identify, cleanse and manage data sets
- Map digital and cyber security arrangements and policies
- Identify core system contracts

Contracts and legal

- Commence mapping contracts

Communications and engagement

- Establish communications and stakeholder engagement plans
- Scenario plan and prepare response actions for decision

People

- Map job descriptions and employee policies
- Undertake skills and capabilities assessments
- Devise and implement employee engagement plan

Property and estates

- Map current assets and arrangements
- Deliver initial strategy actions

Finance

- Understand existing liabilities (identify pensions costs)
- Gather data on trading companies, assets, policies and treasury

Programme

- Establish Programme Management Office
- Establish single taxonomy for service, budget and HR data

Phase 2 – Readiness and pre transition activity (April 2026 – March 2027)

This phase continues organisational readiness activities and focuses on reducing risks, aligning internal transformation efforts and building resilience across services, systems and people.

Elections

- Deliver Mayoral and County Council Elections
- Prepare for Shadow Authority and Town and Parish Elections

Technology

- Cleanse and standardise data
- Identify treatment of systems and contracts
- Collaborate on infrastructure connectivity and security and contribute to the design of future arrangements

Contracts and legal

- Identify treatment of contracts
- Assess arrangements for records management, retention and destruction

Communications and engagement

- Continued engagement and preparatory activities

People

- Continued engagement with staff and employee side representatives
- Prepare staff for change, including career development, upskilling and wellbeing support
- Contribute to initial workforce modelling and people vision

Property and estates

- Continue delivery of strategy actions
- Contribute to the establishment of an integrated major projects pipeline

Finance

- Baseline MTFP, align savings and scenario planning
- Collaborate and contribute to building reporting, approach to pension scheme, council tax and business rates

Programme

- Prioritise and align outstanding transformation activities with LGR programme
- Develop contingency plans for critical services
- Finalise transition arrangements

Phase 3 – Transition, execution and closure (April 2027 – March 2028)

This phase focuses on the formal closure of NFDC and ensuring a smooth transition to the new authority.

Elections

- Deliver Shadow Authority and Town & Parish Elections

Technology

- Disaggregation/alignment and transfer of data and systems
- Provide support to Shadow Authority

Contracts and legal

- Transfer of contracts
- Transfer and archive of all statutory data, policies and decisions

Communications and engagement

- Public communications toolkit and day 1 messages for residents

People

- Tailored support to staff
- Staff transition packs
- TUPE arrangements

Property and estates

- Disaggregation/transfer and alignment of assets

Finance

- Conduct final audits and prepare closure

Programme

- Support handover and onboarding with new authority
- Mark end of the authority

Cabinet – 5 November 2025

Appletree Property Group AGM 2025

Purpose	For Decision
Classification	Public
Executive Summary	This report provides Members with the information taken to the Appletree Property Group AGM on 20 October 2025.
Recommendation(s)	<p>It is recommended that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the contents of the report and appendix summarising the position of Appletree Housing as at March 2025. 2. Endorse the Immediate to Medium Term Objectives.
Reasons for recommendation(s)	The Council's wholly owned companies are required to have an Annual General Meeting, this report seeks noting and endorsing of the AGM information, including forward looking objectives.
Ward(s)	All
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Jeremy Heron – Finance and Corporate
Strategic Director(s)	Alan Bethune – Strategic Director Corporate Resources and Transformation (Section 151 Officer)
Officer Contact	<p>Paul Whittles Assistant Director – Finance 02380 285766 paul.whittles@nfdc.gov.uk</p>

Introduction and background

1. The Council has 3 wholly owned companies which were incorporated in 2019. Appletree Property Holdings Limited and Appletree Property Lettings Limited are active, Appletree Residential Developments Limited has been dormant since inception.
2. Appletree Property Lettings Limited owns 16 domestic properties in the New Forest district area.
3. Current regulations require that the accounts are prepared, audited and then submitted to Companies House, along with Corporation Tax returns being submitted to HM Revenue & Customs. These have been prepared and signed and are to be submitted in line with legislative requirements.

Accounts Position 2024/25

4. Appendix 1 contains information presented to the Company's AGM on 20 October 2025 and summarises the financial performance for 2024/25.
5. Income to the Council from the companies for the year was £214,717.
6. The market value of the properties at 31 March 2025 was £470,000 more than the historic cost.
7. The companies' loss for the year was £28,706.

Properties Matters

8. There were no property acquisitions during 2024/25.

Other Key Matters

9. In producing the Council's accounts for 2024/25, the Council's wholly owned group of companies (Appletree Property Group) have been consolidated as 'Group Accounts'. This means that transactions that took place within the Company accounts are brought into NFDC accounts, with transactions that took place between NFDC and Appletree being largely cancelled out. Those consolidated accounting statements from part of the overall New Forest District Council annual financial report that is signed, audited and published.
10. The AGM sought agreement of the group of companies' set of objectives. These were supported by the Council representatives (being Cllr J Heron – Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate,

Kate Ryan – Chief Executive and Alan Bethune – Section 151 Officer) and are included within the AGM presentation at appendix 1. The report now seeks Cabinet endorsement of those objectives.

Corporate plan priorities

11. By providing and enhancing these houses the Council is principally supporting its corporate priorities with regard to Meeting Housing Needs.

Options

12. The production of the Group's Financial Statements is a statutory requirement and so there are no alternative options for consideration.

Consultation undertaken

13. Consultation between the council and the external accountants and auditors has been continuous throughout their preparation and audit of the financial statements.
14. The bi-annual tenant survey was undertaken in the spring this year. All the respondents were very satisfied with the maintenance service and the application and sign-up processes. One suggested the condition of the property be improved, whilst the others were very satisfied.

Financial and resource implications

15. The AGM report summarises the financial performance of the group of companies over the fiscal period to 31 March 2025.
16. There are no further financial or resource implications arising as a result of the recommendations in this report.

Legal implications

17. The companies are required to have accounts prepared and audited in line with legislation.
18. There are no direct legal implications directly arising as a result of the recommendations in this report.

Risk assessment

19. An evaluation of the risks indicates that the existing controls in place mean that no significant risks that been identified at this time.

Environmental / Climate and nature implications

20. There are no environmental or climate and nature implications directly arising as a result of this report.

Equalities implications

21. There are no equality matters directly arising as a result of this report.
22. Appletree Property Lettings Ltd is committed to providing good quality homes for households with a connection to the New Forest. All applicants, tenants and households are treated fairly and with respect irrespective of age, race, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender reassignment, religion, belief, maternity, pregnancy and marital status.
23. The UK Renters Rights Bill, which is currently in its final stages at Parliament and may become law by late 2025, is set to significantly enhance tenant equality by addressing long-standing issues in the private rental sector.

Crime and disorder implications

24. There are no crime and disorder matters directly arising as a result of this report.

Data protection / Information governance / ICT implications

25. There are no data protection, information governance or ICT implications directly arising as a result of this report.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Appletree Group of Companies AGM information

Background Papers:

None



APPLETREE PROPERTY HOLDINGS LTD

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
20 October 2025



APPLETREE PROPERTY
HOLDINGS LTD

Purpose and Objectives

To invest in residential property for rent to private market tenants within the District and to achieve a return to the Council in accordance with the Council's Residential Property Investment Strategy

- Appletree Property Lettings Ltd commenced trading 1 October 2019
- 26 ➤ An initial budget of £10m for investment
- Original aim was to acquire around 40 properties in the District for the portfolio, preference for easy to let 2 and 3 bedroom properties in good condition
- Preference to let properties to applicants with a local connection to the New Forest
- Strives to be the residential Landlord of choice in the New Forest

Please note – property addresses will be redacted in this published report, for the purposes of tenant confidentiality and Data Protection Regulations 2018.



APPLETREE PROPERTY
LETTINGS LTD

Immediate - Medium Term Objectives 2024/25

Objective	Status
Monitor interest rates and restart acquisition programme if target investment returns can be achieved	Ongoing
Consider residential development opportunities in discussion with the Housing Development team	Ongoing
Consider Private Sector Leasing (PSL) opportunities in discussion with the Private Sector Housing Team	Ongoing
Continue to provide a high standard of property management to retain occupiers	Ongoing
Review rents in 2025 to maximise rental income and keep in line with market rent levels	Complete



Immediate - Medium Term Objectives 2024/25

Objective	Status
Reduce void times for re-lets	Ongoing
Undertake tenant survey in spring / summer 2025	Complete
Review policies to respond to changes implemented in the Renters' Rights Bill	Ongoing
Review energy efficiency of portfolio and consider any improvement opportunities (Corporate Plan priority)	Complete

Annual Review 2024/25



APPLETREE PROPERTY
LETTINGS LTD

Acquisitions

- Acquisitions programme paused since June 2023 due to interest rate rises
- Total number in portfolio - 16 properties

Lettings

- 4 new lettings in 24/25, providing good quality homes for 10 people with local connection
- Void times for re-lets 35 days (previous year's average 57 days).

Finance

- Rental income increased by 3.76% (£9,456), from £251,628pa (as at 7/10/24) to £261,084pa (as at 1/10/25)
- Rental increases of 3.6% applied to 7 tenancies and 5% applied to 3 tenancies in 2025
- £5.1m total acquisition costs (£4.7m purchase, SDLT £184k, Legals / surveys £44k, Void costs £97k)
- £6m funding agreed by Property Investment Panel

Property Management

- Tenant survey undertaken
- EPC ratings of portfolio reviewed; 1 x D, 6 x C, 9 x B (est. £95,000 to retrofit 7 properties and increase to B rating)
- Considered Private Sector Leasing scheme acquisition opportunities

Property Portfolio



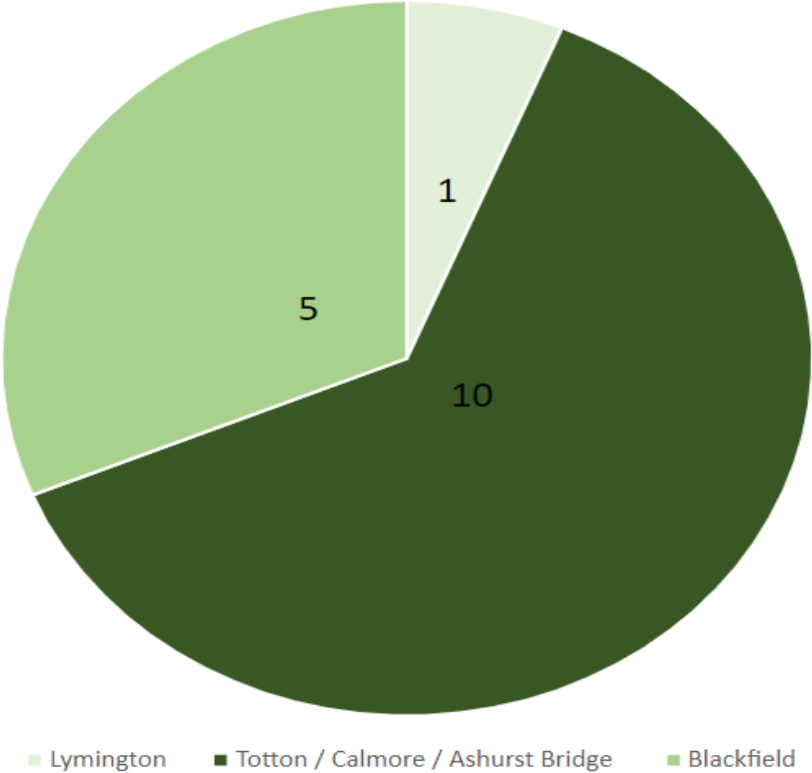
APPLETREE PROPERTY
LETTINGS LTD

Address Code	Beds	Purchase price	Total acquisition cost	Acquired	Rent pcm at 1/10/25	Rent pa at 1/10/25	Revenue return at 1/10/25	Debt / equity split
1	2	£245,000	£260,226	23/01/2020	£1,195	£14,340	5.51%	63/37
2	2	£233,000	£250,558	18/02/2020	£1,255	£15,060	6.01%	63/37
3	3	£270,000	£283,657	03/11/2020	£1,450	£17,400	6.13%	85/15
4	3	£309,796	£322,057	23/11/2020	£1,495	£17,940	5.57%	76/24
5	3	£300,408	£312,419	23/11/2020	£1,379	£16,548	5.30%	78/22
6	3	£320,000	£333,542	10/02/2021	£1,399	£16,788	5.03%	80/20
7	3	£295,000	£316,843	10/02/2021	£1,213	£14,556	4.59%	66/34
8	2	£270,000	£281,302	06/04/2021	£1,130	£13,560	4.82%	84/16
9	2	£250,000	£269,706	08/06/2021	£1,238	£14,856	5.51%	72/28
10	3	£318,000	£346,039	05/01/2022	£1,395	£16,740	4.84%	72/28
11	2	£257,500	£282,717	03/03/2022	£1,238	£14,856	5.25%	73/27
12	3	£330,000	£358,781	15/3/2022	£1,387	£16,644	4.64%	69/31
13	3	£326,000	£354,045	04/04/2022	£1,570	£18,840	5.32%	72/28
14	3	£340,000	£376,058	29/11/2022	£1,523	£18,276	4.86%	74/26
15	3	£355,000	£375,457	06/12/2022	£1,445	£17,340	4.62%	63/37
16	3	£355,000	£376,803	07/12/2022	£1,445	£17,340	4.60%	63/37
Totals		£4,774,704	£5,100,210		£21,757	£261,084	Average 5.12%	

Property Portfolio



APPLETREE PROPERTY
LETTINGS LTD

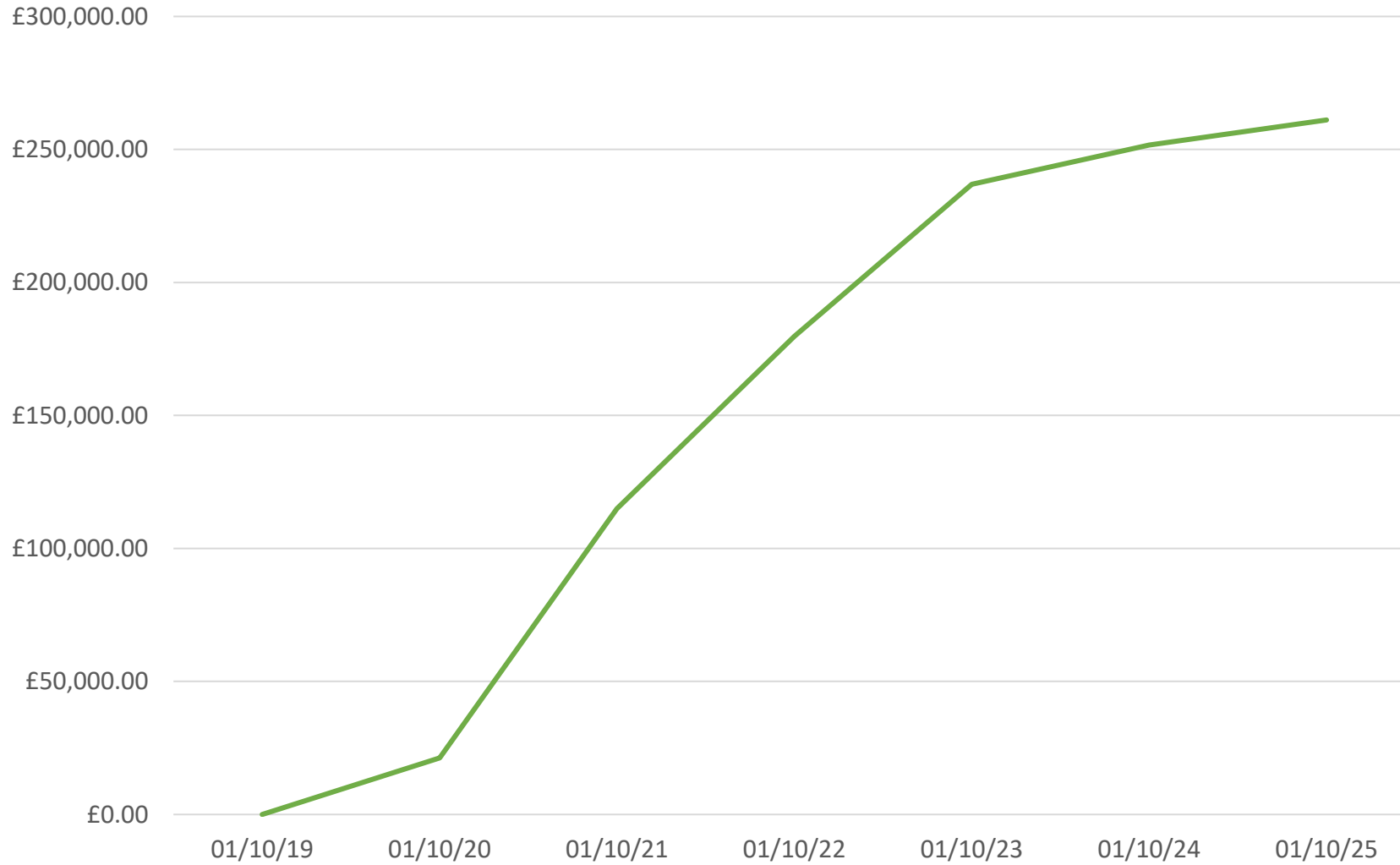




APPLETREE PROPERTY
LETTINGS LTD

Progress Review – Rental Income

Annual Rental Income

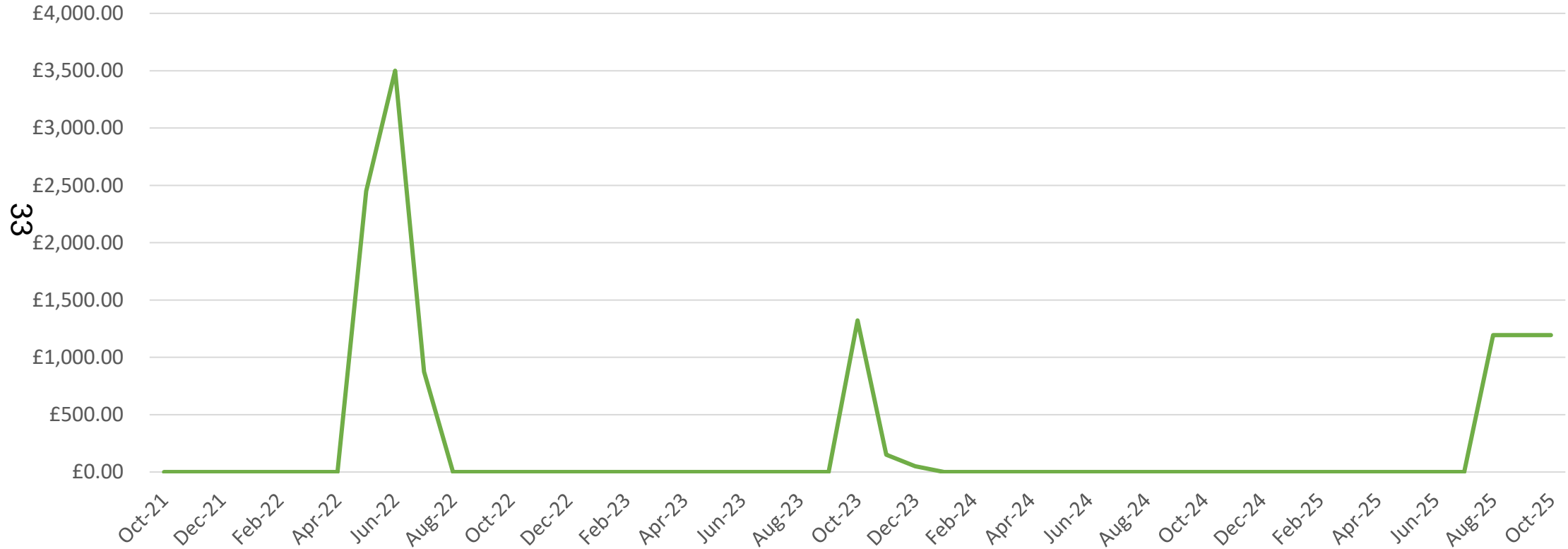




APPLETREE PROPERTY
LETTINGS LTD

Key Performance Indicators

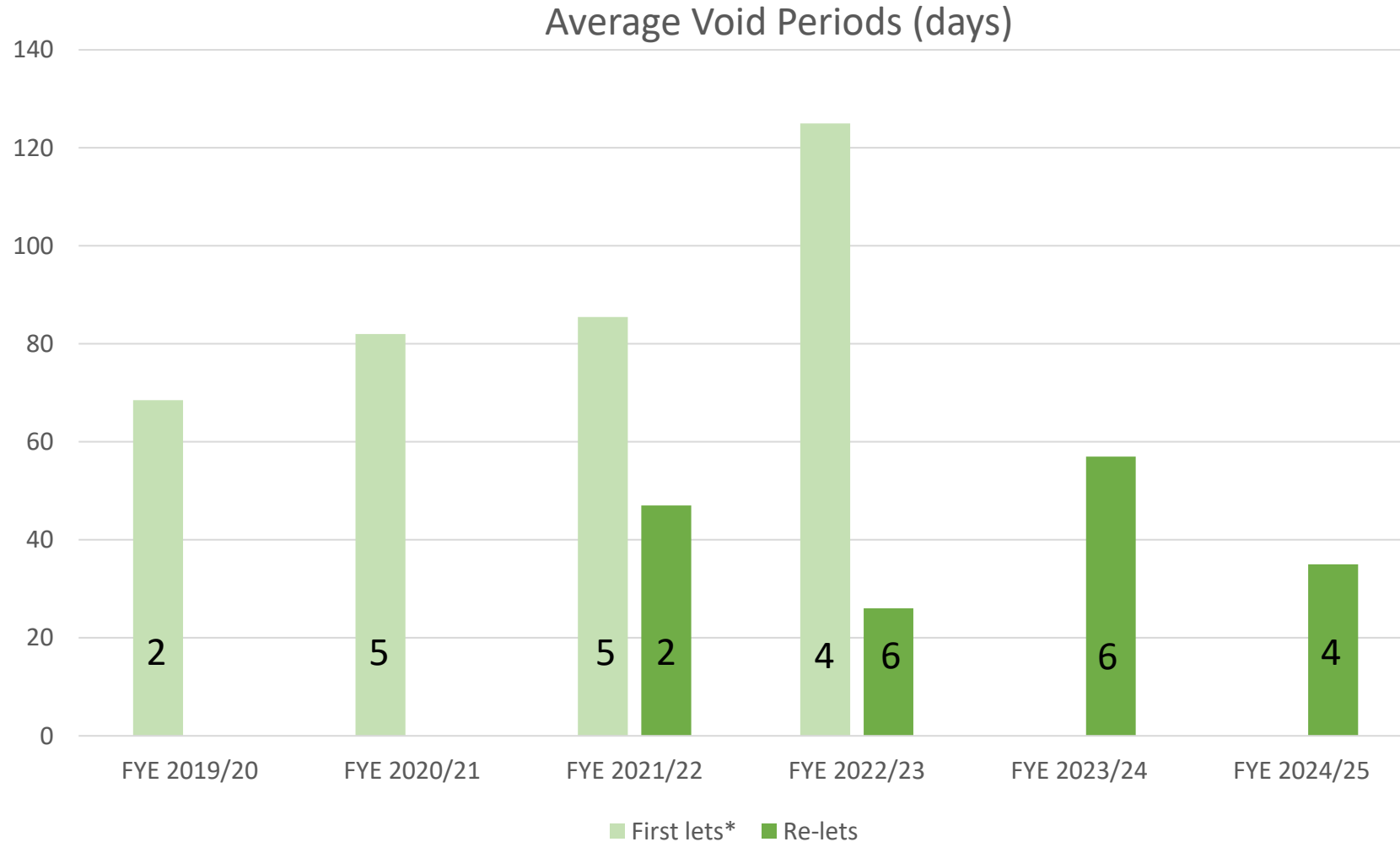
Rent Arrears



Key Performance Indicators



APPLETREE PROPERTY
LETTINGS LTD



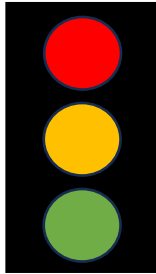
*First lets = first letting after acquisition, void period includes refurbishment works required.

Key Performance Indicators



APPLETREE PROPERTY
LETTINGS LTD

Compliance



Expired – risk of danger / harm. Not in compliance with legislation
Difficulty in arranging access. Risk of expiry
In date

Compliance check	RAG status	Notes
Asbestos survey		4 surveys due in October / November. Requests made for surveys to be booked
Gas Safety Certificate		3 checks due in October / November. Requests made for access to be booked
Electrical Installation Condition Report		All EICs up to date, no further checks due in 2025
Fire Safety Risk Assessment		All FRA and reviews up to date (undertaken at annual property inspections)
Legionella Risk Assessment		All risk assessment and reviews up to date (undertaken at annual property inspections)
Annual property inspection		All property inspections up to date
Energy Performance Certificate		All EPCs in date (B rating – 9 properties, C rating – 6 properties, D rating – 1 property)
Right to Rent		No current tenancies with further Right to Rent check requirements after tenancy commencement



APPLETREE PROPERTY
LETTINGS LTD

Key Performance Indicators

Maintenance Orders

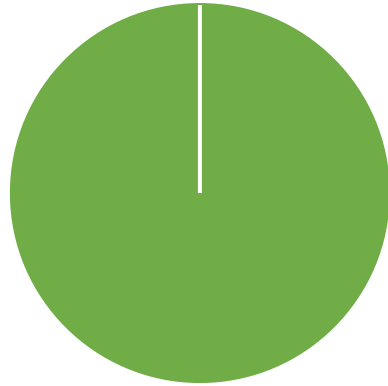


Tenant survey (4 responses)



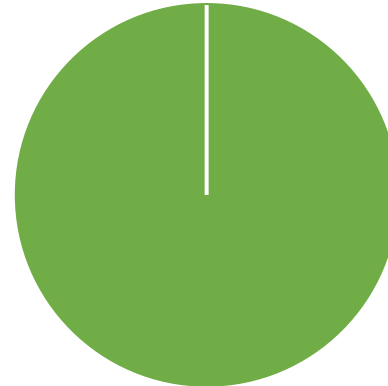
APPLETREE PROPERTY
LETTINGS LTD

Application process



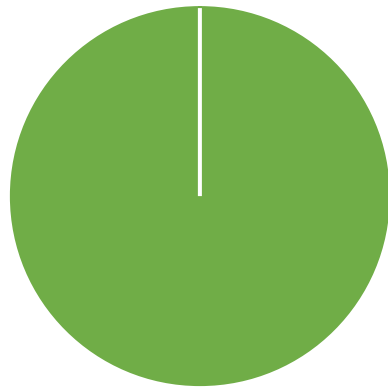
Very satisfied Could be improved

Sign up process



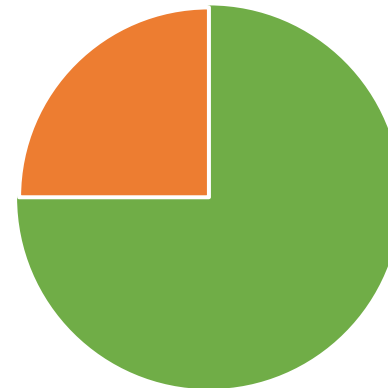
Very satisfied Could be improved

Maintenance service



Very satisfied Could be improved

Condition of property



Very satisfied Could be improved

Tenant survey



APPLETREE PROPERTY
LETTINGS LTD

Comments

Everything was well managed, communication was really quick and clear. The process was very clear from the start, all staff we encountered in person and via email were friendly and professional. A good experience overall.

All the information was user friendly. We also weren't overloaded with unnecessary information. The sign up meeting was really beneficial and allowed all our questions to be answered. We were provided with all the information we needed so felt confident on what to do once we moved in.

The two repairs we have reported have been dealt with really well. Our bathroom leak took a few times / visits to repair but each time our repair was dealt with quickly. The process of reporting a repair is also easy and communication is quick.

We are extremely happy with the service provided by Appletree Property Lettings Ltd. All the staff are friendly and approachable and we feel really comfortable in our home.

The entire house was spotless and freshly decorated all in white.

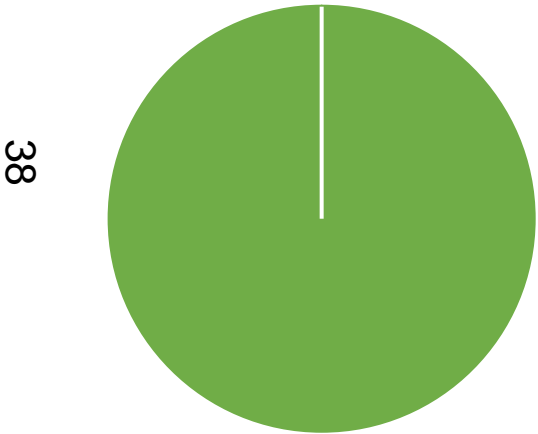
Service was amazing, saw the property on a Friday morning and not long after that we were offered the property.

Appletree Lettings has always been on the end of a call or email if we need to discuss anything.

There were a couple of areas we raised, and these were dealt with very quickly and efficiently

On every occasion we were contacted directly to arrange a time to suit and was always carried out promptly

Service provided by
Appletree Property Lettings
Ltd



Very satisfied Could be improved

Draft Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March



APPLETREE PROPERTY
HOLDINGS LTD

	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Investment Property		5,004,464		5,004,464
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	0		0	
Cash at bank	17,030		10,681	
	17,030		10,681	
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year	215,346		233,802	
NET CURRENT ASSETS		-198,316		-223,121
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		4,806,148		4,781,343
LONG TERM LIABILITIES				
Long term borrowing		3,713,212		3,713,212
NET ASSETS		1,092,936		1,068,131
CAPITAL AND RESERVES				
Called up share capital		1,373,657		1,373,657
Profit/(Loss) brought forward		-244,703		-276,820
Profit/(Loss) in year		-36,018		-28,706
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS		1,092,936		1,068,131

Note

Assets are held at historic cost, so do not include revaluations to market value, cumulatively to 31/3/2025 of £470,000.

Draft Profit and Loss Account for the year ending 31 March



APPLETREE PROPERTY
HOLDINGS LTD

	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25
	£	£	£	£
TURNOVER				
Rent received	-220,753		-242,918	
Other Income	-2,049	-220,802	-369	-243,287
COST OF SALES				
<u>Property Costs</u>				
Acquisition Costs	0		0	
Void Works and Costs	16,595		11,617	
Maintenance	16,149		18,815	
Other Property Costs	3,416	36,160	4,958	35,390
<u>Tenancy Costs</u>				
Credit checks	876		216	
Tenant finding	3,300	4,176	2,880	3,096
<u>Overheads</u>				
Accountancy	1,889		6,370	
Administrative Costs and Bank Charges	383		517	
Equipment	0		0	
Insurance (Property and Directors' Indemnity)	6,553		6,579	
ICT	180		803	
Loan Interest	194,920		194,951	
NFDC Management Fee	14,067		23,752	
Subscriptions	492	218,484	535	233,507
		36,018		28,706

Note

Following the Company's performance as seen in the profit and loss account there are no surplus funds available for distribution as a dividend.



APPLETREE PROPERTY
LETTINGS LTD

Financial summary

New Forest District Council impact for the years ending 31 March 2020 to 2025

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL							
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Funds Utilised	505,975	1,566,354	1,521,885	1,481,655	0	0	5,075,869
Balance Sheet							
Long Term Investment	201,700	342,600	376,600	441,800	0	0	1,362,700
Long Term Debtors	304,275	1,223,754	1,145,285	1,039,855	0	0	3,713,169
Income and Expenditure Statement							
Management Fee Received	1,274	2,412	7,033	11,583	14,198	14,966	36,500
Insurance Recharge Received	600	509	2,748	4,190	4,800	4,800	12,847
Loan Arrangement Fees Received	300	750	750	600	0	0	2,400
Loan Interest Received	2,828	34,339	100,236	163,786	194,920	194,951	496,109
Treasury Management Interest Foregone	<u>-646</u>	<u>-8,687</u>	<u>-20,140</u>	<u>-95,278</u>	<u>-242,428</u>	<u>-248,718</u>	<u>-367,179</u>
Net Income Received	4,356	29,323	90,627	84,881	-28,640	-34,001	146,676

Immediate - Medium Term Objectives 2025/26



APPLETREE PROPERTY
LETTINGS LTD

- Consider implications of Local Government Reorganisation
- Monitor interest rates and restart acquisition programme if target investment returns can be achieved
- Consider residential development opportunities in discussion with the Housing Development team
- Consider Private Sector Leasing (PSL) opportunities in discussion with the Private Sector Housing Team
- 42 ➤ Continue to provide a high standard of property management to retain occupiers
- Review rents in 2026 to maximise rental income and keep in line with market rent levels
- Continue to reduce void times for re-lets
- Review policies to respond to changes implemented in the Renters' Rights Bill

Cabinet – 5 November 2025

Appointments to Outside Bodies

Purpose	For Decision
Classification	Public
Executive Summary	<p>Whilst the Cabinet, in accordance with the Council’s Standing Orders, makes appointments to all Outside Bodies for the full term of office, the Environment Act 1995 makes specific provision for appointments to the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) to be terminated for the purposes of ensuring the political balance rules in Section 15 to 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 are met. Political balance rules do apply to the Council’s appointments to the NFNPA and there is a duty to take into account the political groups’ wishes when making appointments where political balance rules apply.</p> <p>Following the resignation of Cllr Barry Dunning from the Conservative Group, the Cabinet is asked to take into account the wishes of the Conservative Group with regard to their two seats on the NFNPA, for the purposes of maintaining political balance rules.</p>
Recommendation	<p>That the appointments to the New Forest National Park Authority, be agreed as follows for the remainder of the four year term ending in May 2027:</p> <p>Conservative (2): Barry Rickman and Derek Tipp</p> <p>Liberal Democrats (1): Caroline Rackham</p> <p>Independent (1): Joe Reilly</p>
Reasons for recommendation	To comply with the Environment Act 1995 and provisions of Section 15-17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, relating to the political balance rules.

Ward(s)	All wards within the New Forest National Park Authority boundary
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Jill Cleary, Leader
Strategic Director(s)	Kate Ryan, Chief Executive
Officer Contact	Karen Wardle Principal Democratic Services Officer 023 8028 5071 karen.wardle@nfdc.gov.uk

Introduction and background

1. The Cabinet is asked to make appointments to the New Forest National Park Authority for the remainder of the four year period ending May 2027.
2. Appointments to Outside Bodies were last made by the Cabinet on 7 August 2024.
3. This report deals solely with the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA), to which the Council appoints four Members. Whilst the Cabinet, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, makes appointments to all Outside Bodies for the full term of office, the Environment Act 1995 makes specific provision for appointments to the NFNPA to be terminated for the purposes of ensuring the political balance rules in Section 15 to 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 are met. Political balance rules do apply to the Council's appointments to the NFNPA and there is a duty to take into account the political groups' wishes when making appointments where political balance rules apply.
4. The Cabinet is asked to take into account the wishes of the Conservative Group with regard to their two seats on the NFNPA, for the purposes of maintaining political balance rules, giving effect to the Group's new nomination, Cllr Barry Rickman.
5. The Council's agreed criteria for representation on outside bodies, states that:-
 - (a) there will be a clear benefit to the Council and/or the inhabitants of the District through formal representation on that organisation; or
 - (b) the Council has made or is continuing to make a significant financial contribution towards the establishment or operating

costs of the organisation and that appointing a representative will help ensure good governance.

6. The criteria for making appointments also suggests that where feasible, appointments to Outside Bodies should be made by office rather than by name. In the case of the New Forest National Park Authority and where political balance rules apply, this is not strictly applicable.
7. In making appointments, the Cabinet should also give careful consideration to selecting the most appropriate representative, taking into account the nature of the appointment and other issues such as local representation and the relevant experience and expertise of the appointee.
8. The current Outside Body Appointments can be viewed in full on the Council's website at the following link:

[Outside bodies Council Services](#)

Reporting back by representatives

9. As part of the Council's monitoring of representation on outside bodies, all appointed representatives are requested to provide a brief written report as and when appropriate.

Corporate plan priorities

10. The appointed members, on the National Park Authority, will be able to influence the Place priority 1 - Shaping our place now and for future generations.

Options appraisal

11. The recommendation within this report, fulfils the Conservative groups wishes and the political balance rules. No other option is proposed.

Consultation undertaken

12. The report is prompted by the need to have regard to the wishes of the Conservative group, in connection with the resignation of Cllr Barry Dunning from the group, who is a current Conservative group nominee to the NFNPA.

Financial and resource implications

13. There are none arising directly from this report.

Legal implications

14. The recommendation within this report, is in line in the Council's Standing Orders, the Environment Act 1995 and the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. There are no other legal implications.

Risk assessment

15. A formal risk assessment has not been undertaken for this procedural report

Environmental / Climate and nature implications

16. There are none arising directly from this report.

Equalities implications

17. The Cabinet, as with all Outside Body appointments, is requested to have regard to appropriate and inclusive representation in making these appointments.

Crime and disorder implications

18. There are none arising directly from this report.

Data protection / Information governance / ICT implications

19. There are none arising directly from this report.

New Forest National Park implications

20. New Forest District Council representation on the NFNPA, ensures that the district council can play a formal role in furthering the purpose of the National Park.

Appendices:

None

Background Papers:

Environment Act 1995
Local Government and Housing Act 1989