



Gedling Plan Annual Report

2025-2026

Serving people Improving Lives



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Introduction

I am proud to present Gedling Borough Council's Annual Report for 2025–2026.

This past year has been one of both transformation and continued delivery, where we have remained focused on providing the high-quality services that matter most to our residents, while modernising how we work to meet increasing demand and changing expectations.

Across the organisation, we have continued to deliver our priorities through a programme-based approach, ensuring that everything we do is aligned to the Gedling Legacy Plan and our Annual Delivery Plan. This has enabled us to remain agile, respond at pace, and continue to provide value for money in what remains a challenging financial environment.

Throughout the year, we have made significant progress in improving how our services operate. This has included the introduction of a new Customer Relationship Management system, the implementation of a modernised waste management system, the migration of systems to the more modern, secure platforms, and the launch of our new council website. These improvements are already making a difference - enhancing how residents interact with us and enabling our teams to work more efficiently behind the scenes.

Alongside these developments, we have continued to invest in our places, our services and our communities. We have supported economic growth, progressed our ambitions for leisure transformation, and embedded new ways of working that will ensure the Council is well positioned for the future.

We have also remained committed to supporting those most in need. I am particularly pleased that the Council has agreed to introduce new financial support for households living with a terminally ill family member, through a new discretionary council tax reduction scheme. This reflects our ongoing focus on fairness and compassion, responding to national concerns about poverty at the end of life, highlighted by organisations such as Marie Curie. This is on top of our existing council tax arrangements to support care leavers and low-earning families.

Our investment in health, wellbeing and community facilities continues to be a priority. Plans for Carlton Active are progressing well, creating a modern, energy-efficient leisure facility designed to serve our communities for decades to come. At the same time, following consultation with residents, we have confirmed that both Calverton and Redhill Leisure Centres will continue to be operated by the Council, ensuring continued access to valued local facilities.

This year has also provided an opportunity to celebrate the places that make our borough special. I was particularly proud to mark the 10th anniversary of Gedling Country Park, recognising its transformation into one of Nottinghamshire's most valued green spaces, now enjoyed by millions of visitors. Since opening its gates in 2015, Gedling Country Park has welcomed over two million visitors to its 580 acres of open space, wildlife habitats, accessible walking trails and panoramic views.

In addition, we have strengthened our approach to protecting our environment and communities through our new environmental enforcement partnership with Waste Investigations Support and Enforcement (WISE). This partnership allows us to tackle environmental issues at no cost to the Council or local taxpayers, demonstrating our commitment to delivering efficient and effective services.

As we look ahead, we recognise that there are both opportunities and challenges on the horizon. Local Government Reorganisation will bring significant change across our area, alongside continued financial pressures facing the sector. Despite this, we remain ambitious and forward-looking. Our new Gedling Legacy Plan and Annual Delivery Plan will help to ensure that we continue to focus on what matters most - serving people and improving lives.

Just as importantly, we will continue to listen carefully to our communities, working together with partners to shape services and places that meet local needs, now and in the future - continuing the collaborative approach that underpins everything we do.

Finally, I would like to thank our employees, fellow councillors, partners and our communities for their continued commitment and support. Their contribution is vital to everything we achieve. Together, we will continue to serve people, improve lives, and make a positive difference to the borough we are proud to call home.

Councillor John Clarke MBE
Leader of the Council

Key achievements: Economy

To encourage and support healthy businesses in our local centres, improving skills and employment opportunities and promoting an economy that attracts visitors throughout the day and supports leisure activity.

- Cabinet has approved Ambition Arnold's RIBA stage 2 plans for a new leisure centre, arts centre (including theatre and cinema) and library, and outline business case in readiness for future funding bid submissions or opportunities. Ambition Arnold sets a future vision to revitalise Arnold town centre and addresses its long-term sustainability.
- We have completed 20 projects funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) with significant support to residents across the borough in the areas of employment, skills, and business development, including:

Employment and skills:

- More than 200 Gedling residents took part in the Inspire Learning programme, with over 140 completing digital skills training, and over 30 completing English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses to improve their 'Everyday English' skills.
- Over 100 socially excluded residents have taken part in the 'Transform Your Future' Programme with 102 people benefiting from tailored employability support to help them overcome barriers and access basic skills training.



Business support also remains strong including:

- Five Business Support Network events were delivered across the year proving an opportunity for local businesses to share best practice and hear from key industry speakers.
- B-Global and Notts County Council have hosted small business advice surgeries, twice a month with an average 6 businesses receiving support each session.
- The Business Grant programme delivered by Nottinghamshire County Council has been highly successful, with the full £100,000 funding allocation being awarded to support 49 local businesses.
- A nine-month Market Management project, which has led to increased market visibility, stronger community engagement, and greater product diversification. Footfall in Arnold Town Centre continues to be higher on market days compared to non-market days, underlining the market's ongoing role as a key driver of town centre activity.
- The council has also supported the introduction of monthly markets in Ravenshead shopping precinct.
- Finally, Car Park Resurfacing in Colwick, Defibrillator installation across the borough and the Gedling fountain restoration works have also been delivered.



Key achievements: Community

To enable a resilient, empowered, connected, inclusive and healthy community.

- We have moved the Carlton Active development into a more detailed design stage, setting out plans to create a modern, sustainable leisure centre at the Richard Herrod site that brings together health, wellbeing, and community services under one roof. The project will improve access to sport and physical activity across Gedling.
- A multitude of events were once again held across the borough including:
 - **The Arnold xmas light switch on attracting more than 2500 people.**
 - **The 10th Pride of Gedling awards with 321 nominations received.**
 - **Arnold Summer Fair.**
 - **Arnold remembrance event.**
 - **Multiple Civic events.**
- Gedling Borough Council proudly commemorated the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day with a poignant ceremony at Arnot Hill Park on Wednesday 8 May. The event, held outside the Civic Centre, brought together councillors, service personnel and community representatives to reflect on this historic milestone.



- International Women's Day – The theme in 2025 was 'Give to Gain' and we highlighted women in our communities making a difference including the Arnold Food Bank, Calverton Core and St George's Centre.
- The Council has worked closely with Waste Investigations Support and Enforcement (WISE) to agree clear operating standards and practices to increase enforcement activity offences such as littering, dog fouling and fly-tipping. The partnership is designed to support cleaner neighbourhoods, protect the local environment and improve the quality of public spaces for residents.
- Mental health partnership project led to new investment in youth-focused activities in Gedling thanks to funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) Situational Crime Prevention Fund, working alongside Gedling Borough Council.
- Digital Inclusion Grant Fund (UKSPF) launched in November to help residents access technology and offer practical support to improve their skills and confidence and to promote safety online.

Key achievements: Place

To promote and drive sustainable growth across the borough to meet current and future needs.

- The Government confirmed their approval to the Greater Carlton Neighbourhood Board's 10-year Regeneration Plan and 4-year Investment Plan as part of the Pride in Place programme. Delivery will be overseen by the independent Greater Carlton Neighbourhood Board, with Gedling Borough Council acting as the accountable body and a wide range of partners supporting long-term change.
- The council continues to review and improve the standard of temporary accommodation available to those at risk of homelessness. Over the past 12 months we have successfully purchased additional units within the borough to reduce our reliance on expensive and unsuitable accommodation while providing better local options for residents in need.
- Following council intervention we have succeeded in remediating 182 rented households with health and safety hazards that fall below the minimum legal standard.

Working with partners to secure funding to improve play parks in the area including:

- £100,000 FCC Communities Foundation funding announced for Church Lane play area in Arnold.
- £100,000 FCC Communities Foundation funding announced for Onchan Park in Carlton.
- £98,000 FCC Communities Foundation funding announced for Jackie Bell's Field play area in Netherfield.
- Conway Park tennis courts reopen in Carlton after a £113,000 refurbishment.



- Four Gedling borough parks achieve Green Flag status again: Arnot Hill Park retains the award for the 19th consecutive year, Gedling Country Park for the 10th year in a row, and Burton Road Jubilee Park for the 10th time. Breck Hill Park also received the award for the 4th year in a row.
- Gedling Country park celebrated its 10th anniversary. A free event took place in September 2025 with environmentally themed activities, interactive music workshops, community stalls and opportunities to learn more about the park's history and future.



- Following public consultation, the Council has designated a new conservation area for Gedling Village. Conservation areas help protect the special character of places with historical or architectural importance. Gedling Village, which is mentioned in the Domesday Book, now joins other areas like Lambley and Papplewick with this protected status.

Key achievements: The Council

To ensure the council is a healthy place to work, it engages with its customers, has a focus on improvement, is financially sound, and ensures compliance with all relevant legislation.

- We improved our telephony system to help residents reach the right service more quickly and easily, supporting a better customer experience and more efficient call handling.
- We launched a new, more accessible council website to help residents find information more easily and complete tasks online. Since its launch, the site has received more than half a million unique visitors.



- A new waste management system is now live, supported by in-cab technology. This is enabling better use of data to identify performance trends, improve route planning and support more efficient waste collection services for the residents of Gedling Borough.
- We also began preparing for the introduction of the forthcoming government changes around waste, including the new 'Simpler Recycling' requirements, ensuring the Council is well placed to respond to forthcoming changes and support implementation.
- A new customer relationship management (CRM) technology has been implemented to improve how we manage resident contact and respond to service requests. In 2026/27, this will support the introduction of citizen account functionality, making it easier for residents to access services online.

- Other council websites such as Pride of Gedling, Heritage and Pet Crematorium have also adopted the new corporate infrastructure, design and branding, creating a more consistent and user-friendly digital experience.
- As part of the Council's efficiency programme, we continued to encourage residents to make greater use of online services where appropriate. Following the launch of the new online garden waste subscription process, more than 18,000 residents have signed up so far, with over 76% completed online. A new bin Calendars and reminder service has also been implemented with 18,500+ subscribers to date benefiting.
- A new Social Value Policy was agreed to ensure the Council maximises the wider benefits delivered through its spending and procurement activity, not just the core service outcomes. The policy supports delivery of the Council's priorities and to secure additional community benefits and better overall value for money for residents.
- We introduced new governance arrangements to strengthen oversight, accountability and performance monitoring across the Council's programmes and projects.
- We updated our asset plans following a strategic review of the Council's estate, helping to ensure that limited public funding is targeted effectively and supports long-term value for money.

Thank you...

As we conclude this report and note the incredible amount we've achieved alongside the 'day job' of running core services, it is important to note that none of our achievements are possible without the support of our employees, communities and partners