Nottinghamshire County Council

Culture Committee

Tuesday, 09 June 2015 at 10:30

County Hall, **County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP**

AGENDA

1	To note the appointment by the County Council on 14 May 2015 of Councillor John Knight as Chair of the Committee and Councillor Pauline Allan as Vice Chair of the Committee.	
2	To note the membership of the Committee.	
3	Minutes of the last meeting on 28th April 2015	5 - 8
4	Apologies for Absence	
5	Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below) (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary)	
6	Greenwood Community Forest	9 - 28
7	Service Update for the Period 6 April to 17 May 2015	29 - 32
8	Performance Reporting (1 April 2014 - 31 March 2015)	33 - 36
9	Culture, Learning & Libraries Services - Entering into Legal Agreements	37 - 44
10	Arts Services - Ceramics Partnership Development	45 - 48
11	National Watersports Centre Progress Report - Second Year Contract Review	49 - 52

12 Work Programme 53 - 56

13 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

The Committee will be invited to resolve:-
"That the public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the discussions are likely to involve disclosure of exempt information described in paragraph 3 of the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information."
Note
If this is agreed, the public will have to leave the meeting during consideration of the following items.

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

15 Culture, Learning & Libraries Services - Entering into Legal Agreements EXEMPT Appx

- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information);

Notes

(1) Councillors are advised to contact their Research Officer for details of any Group Meetings which are planned for this meeting.

(2) Members of the public wishing to inspect "Background Papers" referred to in the reports on the agenda or Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act should contact:-

Customer Services Centre 0300 500 80 80

(3) Persons making a declaration of interest should have regard to the Code of Conduct and the Council's Procedure Rules. Those declaring must indicate the nature of their interest and the reasons for the declaration.

Councillors or Officers requiring clarification on whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact Martin Gately (Tel. 0115 977 2826) or a colleague in Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

(4) Councillors are reminded that Committee and Sub-Committee papers, with the exception of those which contain Exempt or Confidential Information, may be recycled.

(5) This agenda and its associated reports are available to view online via an online calendar - http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx

Nottinghamshire County Council

minutes

Meeting	Culture Committee
Date	28th April 2015 (commencing at 2pm)

Membership
Persons absent are marked with an 'A'

COUNCILLORS

John Knight (Chairman)
Alan Bell (Vice-Chairman)

Pauline Allan
Chris Barnfather
John Clarke
John Cottee
Maureen Dobson
Glynn Gilfoyle
A Tom Hollis
Philip Owen
Mike Pringle

Ex-officio (non-voting)
A Alan Rhodes

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Pete Barker - Democratic Services
Peter Gaw - Group Manager, Libraries, Archives & Information
Sally Gill - Group Manager, Planning
Derek Higton - Deputy Director Youth, Families and Cultural Services
Philippa Milbourne - Childrens, Families and Cultural Services

MEMBERSHIP

The clerk to the Committee reported orally that Councillor Gilfoyle had been appointed to the Committee in place of Councillor Fielding and Councillor Owen had been appointed to the Committee in place of Councillor Jackson, both for this meeting only.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

That the minutes of the last meeting held on 9th March 2015 were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

SERVICE UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY TO APRIL 2015

RESOLVED 2015/017

That the update on a range of initiatives being undertaken to improve and enhance the quality of life for Nottinghamshire people be noted.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL CULTURAL STRATEGY 2014

RESOLVED 2015/018

That the annual review for 2014 of the Cultural Strategy for Nottinghamshire County Council be noted**.**

RESTRUCTURE OF THE LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES, ARTS AND LEARNING SERVICES

Councillors Barnfather, Cottee and Owen requested that their abstention from the above vote be recorded.

RESOLVED 2015/019

That the new staffing structure of the Libraries, Archives, Arts and Learning services be approved as set out in the report.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE RURAL TOURING

RESOLVED 2015/020

That the proposed new management arrangements for the Arts Council funded Rural Touring Scheme be approved.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ARCHIVES OPENING HOURS

RESOLVED 2015/021

That the new opening hours for Nottinghamshire Archives, as proposed in Option B, be implemented with effect from 28 April 2015.

WORK PROGRAMME

It is intended to bring the following reports to future Committee meetings:

- A report to the June meeting of the Committee on the legacy work on ceramics
- A report to the July meeting of the Committee seeking approval to award the contract for the Sherwood Visitor Centre

RESOLVED 2015/022

That the committee's work programme be noted.

The meeting closed at 2.50pm.

Chairman

Nottinghamshire County Council

Report to Culture Committee

9 June 2015

Agenda Item: 6

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR POLICY, PLANNING AND CORPORATE SERVICES

GREENWOOD COMMUNITY FOREST

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide members with an update on the work of the Greenwood Community Forest Partnership and how this supports NCC priorities.

Information and Advice

Background

2. Greenwood Community Forest was established in 1992, as one of 12 Community Forests created to improve the environment of urban fringe areas around England's major conurbations. Greenwood is managed by a partnership, which brings together Nottinghamshire County Council alongside five district and borough councils, plus a number of other organisations (see Appendix 1). The Partnership is steered by a Board, which is currently chaired by Councillor John Knight, representing Nottinghamshire County Council. The Greenwood team comprises three officers who are employed by Nottinghamshire County Council on behalf of the partnership.

Activities

3. The agreed "mission" for Greenwood is "to work in partnership to enable Nottinghamshire's communities to create, care for and to use woodlands and other high quality accessible green spaces in a sustainable way that benefits the environment, landscape and the local economy."

4. Greenwood's Annual Report for 2013/14 (attached) provides information about achievements over the past year, which include:

   4.1. Delivery of a community tree planting scheme that enabled 40 community groups to involve over 1,300 people in planting 2,684 trees.

   4.2. Support and implementation of 18 of the County Council's Local Improvement Scheme projects to benefit biodiversity, amenity and local community aspirations.

   4.3. Practical support and encouragement for over 50 "Friends" groups that help to improve, care for and promote use of local green spaces.

4.4. Promoting volunteer effort by organising the "Greenwood Awards" evening, when 12 Awards were made to recognise outstanding effort by volunteers of all ages.

4.5. Organising a range of events to provide educational and other benefits.

5. The Greenwood team has also played a key role in supporting NCC's development of the "miner to Major" Sherwood Landscape Partnership Scheme. The stage one bid for this project, and an offer of £119,000 funding, was approved by the Heritage Lottery Fund last year.

Links to NCC priorities

6. Greenwood's activities support a number of the priorities set out within the County Council's Strategic Plan:

7. The network of "Friends" groups contributes towards the "Supporting Safe and Thriving Communities" priority, by encouraging partnership working and helping people to feel safer within their local parks.

8. Greenwood also supports "Protecting the Environment", by encouraging more people from local communities to improve their neighbourhoods and by improving the quality of country parks and open spaces and so increasing public satisfaction.

9. A more attractive environment represents good quality "green infrastructure" that makes Nottinghamshire more attractive for investment and so indirectly helps to "Support Economic Growth". Greenwood's organisation of public events can also provide new attractions for the visitor economy.

10. Good quality green spaces also help in "Promoting Health". Many studies have now confirmed their value in encouraging recreational activity that benefits mental well-being as well as better physical health. Greenwood has promoted walking for health and carried out audits to ensure sites are accessible to everyone.

Looking forward

11. The team will work with Greenwood's partners to confirm details of work for the year ahead; priorities will include further support to Friends groups and targeted local events.

12. The team will continue to develop external funding opportunities. Current work includes a grant bid for the Friends of Greenwood and consideration of potential health projects. Greenwood will also continue to support the miner to Major partnership as it develops its second-stage bid for a further £2.45million.

Other Options Considered

13. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

14. To note Greenwood Community Forest's successes and its support of various NCC objectives (see paragraphs 6-10); to support the County Council's representative on the Greenwood Board in providing guidance on future priorities.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

16. Nottinghamshire County Council's contribution of £76,376 to the Greenwood Partnership is contained within the budget of the Conservation team.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

17. Greenwood Community Forest helps to create a better environment and by involving local communities and volunteers, to do so in a sustainable way.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Committee note the contents of the report and the Annual Report.

Jayne Francis-Ward
Corporate Director Policy, Planning & Corporate Services

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
Malcolm Hackett
Senior Practitioner Greenwood
0115 969 6530

Constitutional Comments

As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (SES 06/05/15)

The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

General information on Greenwood Community Forest is available at:
http://www.greenwoodforest.org.uk

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All divisions within the districts of Ashfield, Broxtowe, Gedling, Mansfield and Newark & Sherwood:

Arnold North	Pauline Allan/Michael Payne
Arnold South	Roy Allan/Muriel Weisz
Balderton	Keith Walker
Beauvale	John Handley
Beeston North	Steve Carr
Beeston South and Attenborough	Kate Foale
Blidworth	Yvonne Woodhead
Bramcote and Stapleford	Stan Heptinstall/Jacky Williams
Calverton	Boyd Elliott
Carlton East	Nikki Brooks/John Clarke
Carlton West	Jim Creamer/Darrel Pulk
Chilwell and Toton	Richard Jackson/John Doddy
Collingham	Maureen Dobson
Eastwood	Keith Longdon
Farndon and Muskham	Sue Saddington
Farnsfield and Lowdham	Roger Jackson
Hucknall	Alice Grice/John Wilkinson/John Wilmott
Kimberley and Trowell	Ken Rigby
Kirkby in Ashfield North	John Knight
Kirkby in Ashfield South	Rachel Madden
Mansfield East	Alan Bell/Colleen Harwood
Mansfield North	Joyce Bosnjak/Parry Tsimbiridis
Mansfield South	Stephen Garner/Andy Sissons
Mansfield West	Diana Meale/Darren Langton
Newark East	Stuart Wallace
Newark West	Tony Roberts
Newstead	Chris Barnfather
Nuthall	Philip Owen
Ollerton	Mike Pringle
Rufford	John Peck
Selston	Gail Turner
Southwell and Caunton	Bruce Laughton
Sutton in Ashfield Central	David Kirkham
Sutton in Ashfield East	Steve Carroll
Sutton in Ashfield North	Jason Zadrozny
Sutton in Ashfield West	Tom Hollis
Warsop	John Allin

Appendix 1: Members of Greenwood Community Forest Partnership

The partnership is made up of:

Local authorities (voting members)

- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Ashfield District
- Broxtowe Borough
- Gedling Borough
- Mansfield District
- Newark & Sherwood

Others (advisory, non-voting)

- Friends of Greenwood Community Forum
- Groundwork
- The Forestry Commission
- Natural England

Greenwood

Nottinghamshire's Community Forest bringing Sherwood Forest to your doorstep

GREENWOOD COMMUNITY FOREST IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

ANNUAL REPORT 2013 - 14

1) Greenwood Community Forest

Since 1991, Greenwood Community Forest has played a major role in revitalizing Nottinghamshire's landscape and communities, as expressed by its shared mission:

"To work in partnership to enable Nottinghamshire's communities to create, care for and to use woodlands and other high quality accessible green spaces in a sustainable way that benefits the environment, landscape and the local economy."

A small team is employed by Nottinghamshire County Council to work on behalf of the partnership. The team works closely with partner organisations to deliver benefits in areas including health, education and community cohesion as well as biodiversity.

This report has been produced for Nottinghamshire County Council to outline achievements of the Greenwood Partnership over the past year. The report focuses on activities in the 2013/14 financial year but also makes reference to more recent events where this helps to provide a current position.

2) Meeting strategic needs and community opportunities

Greenwood's activities support a number of the priorities set out within Nottinghamshire County Council's Strategic Plan:

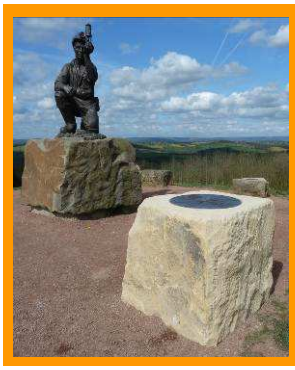
Our active network of "Friends" groups contributes towards *Supporting Safe and Thriving Communities* by encouraging partnership working and helping people to feel safer within their local parks. Our tree planting and other activities support *Protecting the Environment*, by encouraging communities to become involved in improving their local area, improving the quality of country parks and open spaces and so increasing public satisfaction.

A more attractive environment represents good quality "green infrastructure" that makes Nottinghamshire more attractive for investment and so indirectly helps to *Support Economic Growth.* Greenwood's organisation of public events can also provide new attractions for the visitor economy.

Good quality green spaces also help in *Promoting Health*. Many studies have now confirmed their value in encouraging recreational activity that benefits mental well-being as well as better physical health. Greenwood has also promoted walking for health and carried out audits to ensure sites are accessible to everyone.

3) Improving green spaces

The Local Improvement Scheme (LIS), funded by Notts County Council, helped community groups to carry out a wide range of local conservation, heritage and amenity projects. Over 2013/14, the Greenwood team supported 18 LIS projects within the Community Forest area, thanks to a total grant value of £172,000:



Silverhill Pit Wood – access and interpretation project, £17,000.

We supported the Silverhill Wood Active Network (SWAN) community group to carry out access improvements and to create on-site interpretation. Working with Nottinghamshire County Council's Green Estates Team and the Forestry Commission.

Brierley Forest Pond Angling Club – fishing equipment and storage facility, £5,000.
We organised a site survey and planning permission to enable a new storage container to be installed next to the lake. This provides an activity base, allowing the club to develop its work promoting responsible angling and working with excluded pupils from local schools. Working with Ashfield District Council and Brierley Forest Park Trust.

Kimberley - £2,500. A specialist contractor was engaged to improve neglected grassland to create a species-rich wildflower meadow, contributing to Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) targets and providing a patchwork of attractive wildlife habitats. Public access was also improved. Partners: Kimberley Town Council and NCC Green Estate team.

Brinsley Headstocks – £7,700. Timber preservation works were organised to conserve the last remaining timber tandem headstocks in the country; also hedge-laying along the main access route to this Local Nature Reserve. Partners: the Friends of Brinsley Headstocks and Broxtowe Borough Council.

Trough Road Spinney, Watnall – £9,300. Two ponds were restored by trimming overhanging trees to increase light, removing rubbish and silt and repairing the clay lining. Local schools helped by planting pond plants and woodland bulbs. Working with Broxtowe Borough Council.

Local projects - local spaces

Bramcote Hills Park – £33,000. Our earlier Access Audit led to this work to improve access for all. The surface of a key route was widened and improved, and seating and fencing installed. Large trees were planted to further enhance the parkland setting and local schools were involved. Partners: Groundwork Greater Nottingham and Broxtowe Borough Council.

Rock Houses, Mansfield – structural survey and archaeological work. £5,000.

Little is known about the history of these former cave dwellings, but the Friends of Fisher Lane Park aspire to re-open the site for education and interpretation. Following advice from NCC's Archaeology Team, LIS supported an inspection to assess the structural condition of the caves.

Quarry Lane Viaduct – restoration works. £15,000

Vegetation growing out of the stonework and mortar joints was damaging the structure of this Grade II listed building. Tree and Conservation officers from the County Council and Mansfield District Council advised the Friends of Quarry Lane about a programme of works. Local residents were consulted, a bat survey undertaken and specialist contractors employed to undertake major tree works and aerial vegetation removal.

Bramcote Ridge – £2,500. The Friends of Bramcote Ridge received funds to undertake habitat restoration and management works on this important acid grassland site. New areas of grassland and heathland were created and a section of hedge was layed. We ensured that the group received good ecological advice; Broxtowe Borough Council organised the works and provided additional funding.

Mansfield Woodhouse Millennium Green – access and biodiversity improvements. £18,000

LIS supported the site's trustees in carrying out an ecological survey of the site and to go on to develop a management plan. This has led to path improvements, refurbished seating and habitat management.

Rainworth Bypass – £5,000.

These roadside verges were originally seeded to create a heathland, supporting the UK's Biodiversity Action Plan targets. When invasive pine saplings started to shade out the heather, LIS funded pine clearance and heather cutting to diversify the height and age structure. The heather trimmings were used for further heathland recreation on nearby Ransom Heath.

Local projects - local spaces

Balderton Lake, Newark – access improvements, £10,000.

Popularity has led to erosion of the site's main pathways. We helped the parish council to draw up specifications and plans, which enabled works to refurbish some of the main pathways whilst also creating new access links and steps.

Warsop Vale – grassland restoration. £3,000.

The Warsop Vale disused railway is now a multi-user route running through species-rich calcareous grassland. LIS funded scrub removal and vegetation management to improve conditions for grassland plants and invertebrates.

Bilsthorpe PC – memorial clock, £3,500.

In 1953, Bilsthorpe Parish commissioned the installation of a clock to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Unfortunately, this clock was lost after it was later removed for repair. In 2013, LIS funded a new clock, commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the coronation, providing Bilsthorpe with a new timepiece and retaining a historical link with the original clock.

St Mary's Church, Newark – restoration of weathervane, £16,000.

With the third-highest spire in England, St Mary's is visible for miles around. Unfortunately, its weather vane was removed after storm damage and repair costs came to £100k. After years of fund raising, local volunteers secured £16k from LIS to enable the project to go ahead. The Newark skyline now once again features the iconic gilded cockerel weather vane.

Caythorpe Village – tree planting, £3,000.

Many of Caythorpe's roadside areas were lacking hedgerow trees or had only an ageing tree stock. We worked with the parish council to organise utility checks, liaise with landowners and the county's forestry team to identify areas suitable for planting. Appropriate tree species were selected and contractors engaged to undertake the work. Twelve new trees are now enhancing the village entrance.

Flemming Drive Allotments, Newark – security fencing, £8,000.

This allotment site has previously suffered from vandalism, arson and theft, so LIS funded new fencing and a vehicular entrance gate.

Farnsfield – local history interpretation. £3,000

Farnsfield Local History Society produced a new panel celebrating local heritage. We worked with an artist to produce illustrations, helped to edit text, liaised with the designers and arranged for manufacture and installation. The work has been so well received that the group is now seeking funding for an additional panel to be located elsewhere in the village.

4) Extra trees for many benefits

Brookhill Leys Primary get to plant their trees

Since 2000, Greenwood's Community Tree Planting Grants have encouraged schools and community groups to play their part in creating the Community Forest. We provide a simple application process to receive funding and back it up with advice and guidance to make it easy for groups to get involved. Since its establishment, the scheme has provided grants totalling over £64,000 to support over 205 projects across the Greenwood area. Over 17,400 trees have been planted, involving around 7,400 participants.

For the 2013/14 season, Greenwood was able to extend its programme thanks to our successful application to NCC's Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) for additional funding. This provided a further £10k of grant and enabled us to offer the scheme on a countywide basis for the first time.

The scheme was promoted to all local authority partners and parish councils and schools. We supported tree planting that delivered a range of community benefits:

- **Trees for Shade** - carefully placed trees to counteract the warming effects of climate change
- **Memorial** – commemoration of former colleagues and friends
- **Landscape** – providing screening and attractive feature
- **Education** – cover and interest for outdoor classrooms
- **Healthy living** – fruit trees to encourage a better diet
- **Biodiversity** – enhancing local wildlife

Over the last year, we helped 40 of Nottinghamshire's community groups to plant 2,684 trees, with over 1,300 people joining in!

The tables overleaf give a summary of all schemes.

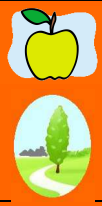
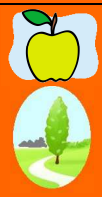
Community tree planting schemes 2013/14

District	Location	Trees	Participants	Aims	Summary
Ashfield	Quarrydale Academy	16	10		Creating outdoor classroom in school grounds and supporting vocational training programme for pupils.
	Brierley Forest Country Park	4	30		Celebrating the contribution made by four former members of the Friends of Greenwood Community Forum.
	Mapplewells Primary School	14	67		Creating wooded area for Forest School activities.
	Hillocks Primary School	34	27		Creating outdoor area suitable for Forest School activities.
Bassetlaw	Clarborough Primary School	14	3		School shade planting
	Elkesley Parish Council	3	8		Shade planting
	Holy Farmer RC Primary	7	11		Fruit trees for shade and study
	N Leverton w Habblesthorpe Parish Council	14	30		Shade planting
	Ranskill Parish Council	5	15		Replacing dead trees to benefit landscape and shade
	Old Willow Works	755	61		Landscaping of community building
Broxtowe	Brookhill Leys Primary and Nursery School	4	110		Planting fruit trees to support healthy living initiative.
	Alderman White School	9	8		Memorial garden for former member of staff.
	Kimberley Town Council	8	50		Providing shade in town council green space and new play area.

Community tree planting schemes 2013/14

District	Location	Trees	Participants	Aims	Summary
Gedling	Calverton Parish Council	500	60		New boundary hedge to improve site security and create a windbreak on sports playing field.
	Hucknall Academy	8	14		Creating an orchard and contributing to vocational training programme for pupils.
	Burton Joyce Parish Council	20	3		Planting to enhance parish playing field and provide windbreak.
	Friends of Burton Road (Jubilee Park)	3	30		Shade planting on public green space.
	Newstead Allotment Association	8	6		Orchard planting on community allotment site.
	Linby Parish Council	16	5		Planting to screen new storage container.
Mansfield	Forest Town Community Council	4	4		Shade planting on public green space.
	King Edward Primary School	8	29		Maun Conservation Group planting fruit trees on school grounds.
	Friends of Fisher Lane Park	4	12		Shade planting on public green space.
	Friends of Yeoman Hill Park	2	4		Shade planting on public green space.
	Oak Tree Primary School	12	38		Fruit tree planting on school grounds.
	Friends of Quarry Lane	3	11		Memorial planting and Trees for Shade – planting on public green space.
	Friends of King George V Park	17	120		Shade planting on public green space, also involving pupils from Bury Hill Primary and St. Peter's Primary schools

Community tree planting schemes 2013/14

District	Location	Trees	Participants	Aims	Summary
Newark & Sherwood	Friends of Barnby Road Community Park	17	20		Community orchard planting on public green space.
	Feel Good Foods project (ODEF)	40	53		Fruit tree planting as part of a community food-growing project.
	Friends of Sconce and Devon Park	23	22		Planting fruit trees as part of ongoing food-awareness project.
	Harby Playing Field	15	77		Shade planting on public greenspace.
	Girton and Meering Parish Council	15	20		Planting on public green space to benefit biodiversity and improve landscape.
	John Blow Primary School	15	24		Shade planting on school grounds.
	Thurgarton Parish Council	6	20		Planting on public greenspace to provide shade and improve landscape.
	Norwell Sports Association	1000	26		Planting a new boundary hedge to improve site security and create a wind break.
Rushcliffe	E Bridgford Parish Council	2	28		Shade planting
	Granby cum Sutton Parish Council	12	10		Landscape improvements
	Langar cum Barnstone Parish Council	12	30		
	Normanton on Soar PC	10	3		
	Radcliffe on Trent Parish Council	8	2		Replacing dead trees to improve landscape
	Sustainable Sutton Bonington	10	22		

5) The Friends of Greenwood Community Forum

"Friends" groups help to improve, care for and promote the use of green spaces, carrying out works on site and acting as a link to the general public. In 2000, we established the Friends of Greenwood Community Forum, which continues to provide a valuable platform for discussion, supporting and encouraging local groups. Newly formed groups have gained confidence from hearing about the experience of others whilst even longer-standing groups welcome new ideas.

Greenwood supports the Forum, by "sign posting" sources of advice, giving information and solving problems, also by providing some funding to cover the cost of meetings and administration. We also produce a Directory of groups for volunteer bureaux and for potential volunteers.

Forum *members get to grips with identification software*

The Chair of the *Forum* sits on Greenwood's Partnership Board, ensuring a strong link between Greenwood's governance and its community support. In return, Friends groups have supported Greenwood partners, helping several sites to gain Green Flag status by virtue of demonstrable links to the local community.

Since 2010, the Greenwood team has helped *Forum* members to move towards a greater level of independence. The *Forum* now has its own committee, constitution and bank account; in 2013 it engaged a part time secretary to carry out essential administration.

Over the last year, we helped the Forum to continue this process, by working with the committee to develop project proposals to help member groups with training and joint promotion. Unfortunately, the associated funding bid proved unsuccessful, but the process still helped the *Forum* to clarify its aspirations and to draft policies regarding equality and child protection. We expect to refine and resubmit the bid in 2015.

Last year, the *Forum* met four times at different venues, allowing members to see sites at different stages of development and managed for varying purposes. Topics for discussion included:

- Surveying tree health
- Biodiversity and invasive species
- iSpot - identification website and smart phone application.
- Involvement in Sherwood Forest Local Partnership Scheme
- Updates on Sherwood Forest Regional Park

6) Greenwood Community Awards

Volunteers' efforts should not be taken for granted. Since 2001, Greenwood has highlighted the contribution of individual volunteers and local groups through an annual celebration with the provision of awards for outstanding effort. Nominations are drawn from partner organizations and from fellow volunteers and the ceremony is always a highlight of the Greenwood year. We aim to provide an uplifting evening for the audience and some recognition and further motivation for all nominees.

Linda Bontoft receives her Award from Cllr John Knight, chair of the Greenwood Partnership, and Leanne Wombwell of Rufford Country Park

116 people attended our 2013 Awards ceremony in Papplewick. 24 different community groups were represented, spanning "Friends" and conservation groups, Walking for Health, school and youth groups.

Nominations came from all parts of the Community Forest and resulted in 12 awards being presented. Amongst those recognised were Linda Bontoft of the Friends of Rufford Country Park (Long Standing Volunteer), NCC's Adventure Service (Young Team), Eastlands Junior School and Samworth Academy (School Involvement awards)

"The presentation of photographs and speech about Sharon was excellent. Thank you to the Greenwood Community Forest. The award meant a great deal to her and to the Friends of Fisher Lane Park." - Jill Duckmanton, Friends of Fisher Lane

"We had a lovely night at the awards and were honoured to win, the children were thrilled when I took the award into school for them" - Ann Alcock, teacher, Eastlands Junior School

Friends and other community groups

7) Supporting local groups

The Greenwood team helps to set up new groups where partners or the local communities have identified opportunities. We continue to support established groups by offering guidance and support on a range of matters. This can range from common concerns like recruitment and fund-raising, to new opportunities, like the use of social media. We often supplement professional advice with “signposting” to other groups that have already dealt with similar concerns.

Last year, we supported over 50 such groups, encompassing “Friends”, walking and health groups:

Ashfield	Brierley Forest Park Trust	Hucknall Taking Steps
	Friends of Kings Mill Reservoir	Kirkby & District Conservation Society
	Friends of Kingsway Park	The Ranges
	Friends of Portland Park	SWAN
	Friends of Rookery Park	Walk On
Broxtowe	Best Foot Forward	The Friends of Colliers Wood
	The Friends of Bramcote Ridge	Toton Fields
	The Friends of Brinsley Headstocks	Walk & Talk
	Brinsley Parish Council	
Gedling	Friends of Bestwood Country Park	Friends of the Hobbucks
	Gedling Conservation Trust	Burton Road Jubilee Park
	Friends of Gedling House Woods	Friends of Moor Pond Wood
	Get Going Gedling	Bestwood Conservation Volunteers
Mansfield	RSPB Mansfield	Oak Tree SAFE
	Friends of the Carrs	Old Mansfield Woodhouse Society
	Friends of Fisher Lane	Peafield Community Association
	King George V Park	Friends of Quarry Lane
	Mansfield In Step	Warsop Footpaths & Countryside Group
	Mansfield Woodhouse Millennium Green Trust	Friends of Yeoman Hill Park
	Maun Conservation Group	Forest Town Nature Group
Newark & Sherwood	Blidworth Walking Group	Rufford Country Park Health Walks
	Barnaby Road Community Park	Friends of Southwell Trail
	Sconce & Devon Park	Support Sherwood
	Kings Clipstone	Friends of Tippings Wood
	Sherwood Foragers	Friends of Thynghowe
	Rufford Conservation Volunteers	The Wharf

Our support included extra help to groups associated with NCC's Green Estates:

- **Friends of The Ranges** – a site meeting, which led to practical task days and the Friends agreeing to report back to NCC on a regular basis.
- The **Friends of Tippings Wood** – helped to adjust to the retirement of key members, with remaining members encouraged to become more active.
- The **Friends of Rookery Park -** a site visit and follow-up meeting to develop a better working relationship between the Friends and NCC green estate staff. Also establishment of an events programme.
- User groups on the **Southwell Trail -** improving promotion and strengthening relationships, including training on social media leading to the establishment of a new Facebook page.
- The **Friends of Quarry Lane** were encouraged to attend the Friends of Greenwood Community Forum.

8) Events and activities

Greenwood's events deliver activities that are carefully designed with partners to add value to their ongoing projects. We help to develop community involvement on sites, often building relationships with harder-to-reach groups that have not previously been involved. Whilst each event varies, all involve our working closely with people to embed a strong environmental message.

In 2011, Greenwood supported the Friends of Thynghowe to submit a successful application for £50,000 funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The group's project, **Thynghowe and the Forgotten Heritage of Sherwood,** went on to investigate the heritage of Birklands Forest from March 2012 to May 2013.

The Greenwood team played a key role in supporting the Friends to deliver their project. We helped to administer workshops and events, organised activities with four local schools and chaired a closing workshop for participants and stakeholders.

Church Warsop's Church Vale Primary School enjoyed their wildlife workshop so much that they requested an extra visit for another class. We organised a further visit for Year 5 children, which linked into their study of the Second World War.

We also supported the Friends of Thynghowe in organising their final celebration, a "Spring Thing" to re-enact a Viking encampment, at Sherwood Pines over one weekend in May. The team attended and were based in the classroom to welcome many of the pupils and teachers who had taken part in the school workshops and their families.

Thynghowe and the Forgotten Heritage of Sherwood *enabled four schools to look at the Forest in new ways*

9) Working in partnership

Greenwood is one of **England's Community Forests** and so shares experience with other initiatives set up to enhance urban fringe landscapes. We use teleconferences and an annual forum to discuss common areas of interest, which have ranged from launch of the Planning and Forestry Network to responding to calls for a "wood culture".

One particular issue that is likely to affect a number of the Community Forests is the proposed creation of the HS2 second phase railway line, so the Forests have aimed to provide a shared response about common issues. The Forests are neutral about the creation of the line, but are keen to support tree planting and other mitigation should the scheme go ahead. We met jointly with HS2 to promote this standpoint, and Greenwood also provided a presentation to the Department for Transport's Environment Round Table in January 2014.

Greenwood has supported the concept of a **Regional Park** for Sherwood Forest, to co-ordinate conservation efforts whilst seeking added benefits to the local economy and communities. To help in taking forward implementation, we have been an active member of the Regional Park Board and chaired the Funding Working Group until July 2013, paving the way for the Sherwood LPS bid. We have also produced a Position Statement, to outline the positive roles that Greenwood could play to support the Regional Park with regard to strategic tree planting, community engagement and support of local groups.

The Greenwood team also supports a number of other partnership initiatives and fora, including etc.

- Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group
- Sherwood Habitats Strategy Group and Sherwood Habitats Forum
- RSPB "Futurescapes"

10) Sustaining the partnership

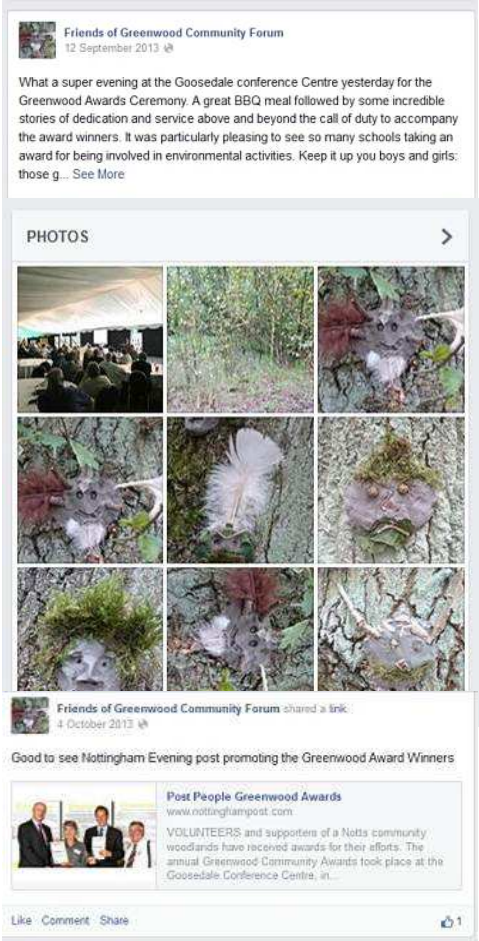
Greenwood's core funding levers in additional funding to cover further project costs:

LIS projects facilitated by Greenwood represented over £172,000 of additional funding to local communities. The team was also successful with its own LIS application to widen Greenwood's "Trees for Shade" project: this provided an extra £10,000, to support further tree planting throughout the county. By working in partnership with Sherwood Forest Trust, we were able to extend community tree planting further thanks to £1,600 from Defra's Big Tree Plant.

Completion of the project *Thynghowe and the Forgotten Heritage of Sherwood* had been made possible by our earlier support to the Friends of Thynghowe in 2011, which brought in £50k for their community heritage project.

A major initiative was to support a £3.7m bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Landscape Partnership Scheme in Sherwood. Greenwood has co-ordinated the effort of a number of organisations that came together under the banner of the Sherwood Forest Regional Park. Our 2013 bid was unsuccessful but partners agreed to refine proposals for resubmission in 2014. This second bid has been successful, which will release £150k of funding to enable further development work to start in 2015.

11)Promoting the partnership



The Greenwood team issued media releases to advertise and promote our initiatives, including:

- Community tree planting – advance promotion of the grant scheme and coverage of its individual projects.
- Greenwood Community Awards - coverage in the Chad, Nottingham Evening Post and Hucknall Dispatch, amongst others.
- Volunteering "case studies" - to showcase volunteering on parks and open spaces, focusing on some of the year's Award winners.
- School visits to Birklands Forest.

The Friends of Thynghowe's *Spring Thing* was also successful in attracting a good deal of media attention, including on the BBC website.

We also promoted Greenwood's activities using a variety of other media:

- Greenwood Community Forest website was updated.
- The *Forum* Facebook page was used to promote events organised by Greenwood and local groups.
- The directory of Friends of Greenwood was updated. This promotes the *Forum* as well as individual Friends groups, volunteer organisations and Walking Groups. The directory is distributed widely, including to local voluntary bureaux.

- Three roller banners were produced to promote Greenwood's mission and achievements and its support of community tree planting, events and education.
- We displayed information at a volunteer event for unemployed people aged 18-21 years at Bassetlaw CVS. This gave an opportunity to promote volunteering in Bassetlaw as well as highlighting opportunities within the Greenwood area.

Greenwood Community Forest Partnership

c/o Nottinghamshire County Council, Conservation Team
County Hall, Loughborough Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP

0115 99 32598

www.greenwoodforest.org.uk

Nottinghamshire County Council

Report to Culture Committee

9 June 2015

Agenda Item: 7

REPORT OF THE ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND CULTURAL SERVICES AND THE GROUP MANAGER, PLANNING

SERVICE UPDATE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 6 APRIL TO 17 MAY 2015

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Committee on a range of initiatives being undertaken to improve and enhance the quality of life for Nottinghamshire people.

Information and Advice

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES, ARTS, INFORMATION AND COMMUNITY LEARNING

World Book Night

2. World Book Night is an annual celebration of reading and books that takes place on 23rd April every year. It sees passionate volunteers give out hundreds of thousands of free books in their communities to share their love of reading with people who don't read regularly or own books. Nottinghamshire Libraries took part in two ways in this event. Firstly, libraries were used as pick up points for the public to collect books to distribute amongst their communities. Nottinghamshire Libraries also held a number of activities around the County to celebrate World Book Night. These events included a murder mystery play, an evening with Anne Zouroudi, a talk on Far from the Madding Crowd, quiz nights and the distribution of World Book Night Books in locations as diverse as dentists, takeaways, on trains and a variety of other community locations.

3. As always World Book Night proved to be a useful way to not only highlight the enjoyment that reading can bring to non-readers but also allowed Nottinghamshire Libraries to promote the variety of events and services that are offered.

COUNTRY PARKS AND GREEN ESTATES

4. The annual "Grand Historical Bazaar" took place on 25th & 26th April 2015 at Rufford Abbey Country Park. The event is free to enter but a £5 special event parking charge applies, which recoups the costs of staging the event. Just under 5,000 visitors attended the weekend event, in which historical re-enactors from various periods of British history staged displays and demonstrations, with trading stalls in the summer marquee. The event was managed for the Park by a specialist historical events company and the costs of this specialist management were offset by offering 'pitches' for small traders. Excellent weather on the Sunday added to a successful and popular family event.

5. Meanwhile, Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre kicked off the main visitor season with a variety of family activities ranging from an Easter Trail and children's den building events to Morris dancing, willow weaving and a May "Dawn Chorus" walk into the forest, commencing at 4am – certainly one for the "Early birds!"

6. Catering and retail recorded a very busy trading period in the Easter half term holiday, benefiting from fine and sunny weather. Trading in the week commencing Easter Monday was some of the best on record excluding the annual Robin Hood Festival week. A Groupon catering promotion in the Savile Restaurant Carvery attracted 2,800 customers, including many customers new to Rufford Abbey.

7. Rufford and Sherwood continue to attract very good feedback from customers. The popular consumer website for tourist attractions, TripAdvisor, currently ranks Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre as 4 out of 5 stars based on 75 recent customer reviews, and Rufford Abbey Country Park ranks as 4.5 out of 5 stars based on 223 recent reviews.

8. At Bestwood Country Park Monday and Thursday volunteer groups continue to do valuable work, led by parks' Community Officer, Sue McDonald. The Monday group has been keeping Bestwood's miles of path clear of fast growing vegetation. Half a dozen of the "Thursday Vols" sanded down and repainted the large entrance door to Bestwood's Dynamo House, and carried out a complete spring clean of this well-used community building.

CONSERVATION

County Show and Nottinghamshire Local History Fair

9. On Sunday 10th May, members of the Conservation Team represented the County Council at two major events in the County. The County Council stand at the Nottinghamshire County Show had displays and photographs about the wide range of biodiversity that is supported by the Country Parks and Green Estate sites, including some species, such as the Welsh Clearwing Moth, that are found nowhere else in the County. A "mini museum" gave visitors the opportunity to handle real archaeological finds from the County and replicas of objects from the Paleolithic period onwards. A range of activities for children was also provided, including wildlife word searches, animal masks and Viking puppets, and these proved to be extremely popular with children and parents alike.

10. The Great Nottinghamshire Local History Fair, held at Mansfield Library, had displays and demonstrations by local history groups, heritage organisations and attractions from across the County. The County Council stand had displays about heritage tourism and volunteering opportunities, including community archaeology and building conservation. There was also an opportunity for visitors to try their hand at the traditional building skill of lime mortaring and to test their knowledge of local dialect words.

Mansfield Quakers Project

11. The 25th April saw the launch of a heritage trail and unveiling of a plaque commemorating Mansfield Quakers. The town has strong associations with the beginning of the Quaker movement. Its founder, George Fox, lived in Mansfield and his first converts were local

people. The plaque which has been unveiled in the Bus Station commemorates the Quakers who were once buried on the site, before their remains were transferred to the cemetery. The County Council's Heritage Tourism Officer also worked with theology students from Nottingham University to research and produce an audio trail of the town's Quaker heritage. This is part of a wider project looking at the tourism potential of Nottinghamshire's religious heritage and also a developing programme to provide practical opportunities for the development of skills and experience in the heritage and tourism sector.

Thoroton Mud Wall

12. In 2014 the County Council's building conservation officers noted a rare example of 'monolithic earth' wall in the village of Thoroton. Although earth, or mud, buildings are known to have been a familiar type of vernacular building in the Vale of Belvoir area a hundred years ago, there are now only a handful of examples left in Nottinghamshire. The wall was in a poor state of repair, covered by ivy that threatened its stability and, since the splitting up and conversion of the old Church Site Farm, is in no-one's ownership. Barbara Glossop of the local parish meeting and Council conservation officers have been working with Anthony Goode, a mud conservation specialist, and volunteers from the village to repair the wall, mixing mud and straw by foot and applying it by hand, a truly ancient craft. Materials have been kindly provided by a local farmer and Anthony Goode, who has been giving his time to the project for free. Anthony also brought along Alex Gibbons, the education officer of Earth Buildings UK, to assist and advise and the restoration work is progressing well, with over half the length of the wall now repaired. The volunteers hope to finish the project this summer.

RECOMMENDATION

1) That the update on a range of initiatives being undertaken to improve and enhance the quality of life for Nottinghamshire people be noted.

Derek Higton
Acting Corporate Director
Children, Families & Cultural Services

Sally Gill
Group Manager, Planning

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C0632

Nottinghamshire County Council

Report to Culture Committee

9 June 2015

Agenda Item:

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, POLICY, PLANNING AND CORPORATE SERVICES

PERFORMANCE REPORTING (1 APRIL 2014 – 31 MARCH 2015)

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an overview of performance during the 2014/15 financial year, covering activities from 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015.

Information and Advice

2. At the meeting on 5 November 2012, the Committee agreed to receive a quarterly report, which reviews performance across the full range of cultural services provided for children, young people and families that fall within its remit. These reports will be in addition to other reports that may be presented to the Committee from time to time providing detailed performance-related information about specific cultural services initiatives or projects.

3. This report provides the year-end performance data covering the period 1st April to 31st March 2015.

Performance Reporting for 2014/15

4. As agreed at the meeting on 5 November 2012, quantitative performance reporting to the Committee will be measured via a combination of:

   - outcome based key performance indicators (KPIs)
   - key service indicators that will be measured against objectives within each of the cultural services business plans
   - a summary of key achievements across the relevant service areas.

5. The list includes a number of KPIs that reflect priorities within the Council's Strategic Plan, and which will also therefore be reported to the Policy Committee.

6. The performance data for the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015, as described above, is set out in the table at **Appendix A.** This provides a summary across all service areas for the first four quarters of the financial year.

7. The activities, key performance indicators and service level indicators which are reported here have been selected by cultural services managers to provide information on the key development activities planned for 2014/15, plus a summary of performance achieved across the key service areas.

Other Options Considered

8. The process for presenting performance information set out in this report is in line with corporate guidance, which has itself been established following an appropriate analysis of alternative options.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

9. The recommendation for quarterly reporting to Committee, and the KPIs that will form the basis of the report, is in line with the established processes of reporting and publishing performance information across all of the services within the Children, Families and Cultural Services Department.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1) That the Committee notes the performance of the Council's cultural services during the financial year 2014/15.

Jayne Francis-Ward
Corporate Director, Policy, Planning & Corporate Services

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments

11. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (SS 08/05/15)

12. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.
C0638

Nottinghamshire County Council

Appendix A

Youth, Families and Cultural Services

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

Our Performance from April 2014 to March 2015

What have we achieved?

Country Parks & Green Estates	Implement the Green Estate Strategy (agreed by Culture Committee in December 2013)	⦿
	Develop new operating options appraisals for Sherwood County Park, Rufford Country Park and Bestwood Country Park	⦿
Cultural & Enrichment	Finalise new operating / management arrangements for community sports and arts teams	⦿
Libraries, Archives, Information & Learning	Develop and deliver sustainable Community Partnership Libraries (CPLS)	O
	Implement a new arm's length operating model for LAI&L services by April 2016	⦿
	Modernise public libraries	⦿
	Extend and modernise Nottinghamshire Archives	⦿
	Integrate and merge Adult Community Learning (ACLS) and Skills for Employment (SFE) services with a single development plan inline for OfSTED and new arm's operating model	⦿
	Raise profile of adult learning across Nottinghamshire County Council and key stakeholders	⦿

Our achievement is rated by: [✓achieved ⦿ on schedule O progress being made, but behind schedule × not started or will not complete]

Country Parks & Green Estates Service	Yr Target	Apr 14 - March 15	On Target?
Number of visitors to our Country Parks and Green Estate sites	820,000	**835,000**	✓
Increase Country Parks commercial income	£2,500,000	**£3,047,000**	✓
Number of volunteers worked with	700	**685**	O
Number of volunteer hours supported	5400	**5465**	✓
Number of public events organised, across Country Parks and Green Estate sites	1500	**1515**	✓
Service user and customer satisfaction levels achieved across the service area	>90%	**99%** (Rufford Country Park)	✓
Cultural and Enrichment Service	**Yr Target**	**Apr 14 – March 15**	**On Target?**
The number of active volunteers engaged in delivering sports and arts activities	1450	**2,355**	✓
Service user and customer satisfaction levels achieved across the service area	>90%	**99%**	✓
Libraries Archives Information and Learning Service	**Yr Target**	**Apr 14 - March 15**	**On Target?**
The number of visits to Libraries	(3,000,000)	**2,944,523**	O
The number of virtual visits to Libraries	(1,000,000)	**1,383,882**	✓
The number of Library events and activities	(7,000)	**8,574**	✓
The number of Library loans	(3,500,000)	**3,263,045**	O
The number of active Library users	(145,000)	**145,000**	✓
The number of new Library members	(28,000)	**32,754**	✓
The number of adult learners (target for ACLS is set for academic year Sept to August each year)	(7,500)	**6,100**	✓
Percentage of adult learners who started the course that met their expectations	(93%)	**93%**	✓
The number of Newlinc sessions (public computer access sessions)	(250,000)	**322,931**	✓
The number of visits to Archives	(3,500)	**3,343**	O
The number of virtual visits to Archives	(400,000)	**417,807**	✓
The number of Archives learning activities/events and number of attendances	(50 / 1,000)	**27 / 631**	×
The number of file requests for the Records Management Service	(6,000)	**9,888**	✓
The number of boxes successfully received for the Records Management Service	(3,000)	**3,252**	✓
Achieve Education Library Service schools buyback rates	(72%)	**73%**	✓
Service user and customer satisfaction levels achieved across the service area	(90%)	**94%**	✓

Our achievement is rated by: [✓on or above target / Ooff target (by less than 10%) / ×off target (by more than10%)]

Version 0.4 (14.04.15)

Nottinghamshire County Council

Report to Culture Committee

9 June 2015

Agenda Item: 9

REPORT OF THE ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND CULTURAL SERVICES

CULTURE, LEARNING AND LIBRARIES SERVICES – ENTERING INTO LEGAL AGREEMENTS

Purpose of the Report

1. This report seeks approval for the intended award of a contract to a charitable community benefit society ("the Society") established to operate a range of cultural services on behalf of the County Council.

Background

2. Revenue budgets for the County Council's cultural services portfolio have reduced significantly in recent years as a direct result of public sector funding pressures. For example, the base revenue budget of the Libraries, Archives and Information Service has reduced by 40% in the period since 2009.

3. With budget pressures set to remain a major factor for public sector services for the foreseeable future, the ability of the Council to continue to secure the long term future of its discretionary but important cultural services is questionable, unless innovative new ways of working can be identified and delivered.

4. With this in mind, Full Council, at its meeting on 27 February 2014, approved a business case to develop an arm's length organisation to generate revenue budget savings of £375,000 per annum from a reduction in National Non-Domestic Rates (also known as business rates) arising from the operation of the County Council's network of 60 library premises. These savings were increased to £475,000 per annum by Full Council at its meeting on 26 February 2015.

5. A report outlining the full business case for the development of an arm's length operating model to manage libraries, archives, records managements, adult and community learning and arts, was presented to Culture Committee at its meeting on 3 June 2014 and a further update on progress was presented to Culture Committee on 21 October 2014.

6. The business case aims to deliver the Council's vision for these services, which is that:

   "To be at the heart of Nottinghamshire communities and community life by:

   - Inspiring the enjoyment of books and reading

- Creating knowledge and skills through access to learning, information and heritage
- Stimulating and encouraging arts and cultural activities"

7. An award of support from the Cabinet Office's Mutualisation Support Programme was subsequently provided. This has helped provide legal, HR, governance, financial and other set-up support in creation of the arm's length organisation.

8. A workshop for all Members was undertaken following the meeting of Culture Committee on 2 December 2014 to establish the most appropriate legal and governance model for the new organisation.

9. Members subsequently agreed at the meeting of Culture Committee on 13 January 2015 that:

   - a Community Benefit Society be agreed as the legal form for the new arm's length operating organisation for Culture, Learning and Libraries Services.
   - the outline membership and principles for the new organisation's board, as outlined in the report, be agreed as the basis of registration with the Charity Commission and the relevant financial bodies.

10. A further workshop was held with Members on 9 February 2015 to develop the key principles behind the contractual arrangement that would need to be established between the Council and the Society in order to govern the relationship between the two organisations. The main points of the proposed contracting model are described below.

Information

11. Some information relating to this report is not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

12. Having regard to all the circumstances, on balance the public interest in disclosing the information does not outweigh the reason for exemption because the information would add a limited amount to public understanding of the issues but would significantly damage the Council's commercial position.

13. The exempt information is set out in the Exempt Appendix.

Business Case

14. A review of the business case has shown that the £475,000 proposed revenue budget savings will be achieved.

Legal Implications

15. Legal advice is set out in the exempt report.

Summary of Contract

16. The Council has reached a position through negotiation with the Society whereby the material commercial principles and associated drafting has been agreed but further clarification is required in relation to three areas (see exempt appendix). Matters of detail and fine tuning of the documents remains to be completed.

17. Careful considerations around the relationship of the Society with the Council, commissioning and performance management, retention of commissioning capacity, reputation and external perception have influenced decisions around the final proposed scope of the contract. The principle of the arrangement is that the Council lays out what it wants the Society to provide and the budget allocation. As now, annually the Council will determine the budget to be allocated. If the Council wishes to change the service budget or priorities it can do so and the Society will advise on the implications and the best approach to deliver the revised service and any costs associated with this.

18. **Contract duration:** Service delivery will commence from 1 April 2016. It is proposed the contract duration is for an initial 5 years with a potential extension of up to 5 years. There is a mutual right to terminate the contract (without fault) upon 12 months' notice in whole or in part. Where a party exercises this right it is responsible for the other party's costs and losses arising from such termination. In the event of major performance failure by the Society, the contract can be terminated at any time. The contract contains detailed definitions as to what constitutes a major performance failure. After 5 or 10 years the Council can choose to bring the services back in-house or seek to market test the arrangements.

19. **Scope:** The scope of the contract includes all Libraries, Archives, Adult and Community Learning Services and Arts Development. In addition, the Children and Young People's Committee agreed on 18 May 2015 for the inclusion of Arts and Music Services for young people within the proposed scope of services for the contract.

20. **Statutory duties:** The Council will retain its current statutory duties in respect of the services to be delivered via the new organisation. The contractual arrangement will require the Society to carry out prescribed activities on the Council's behalf through the contract.

21. **Performance measures:** Detailed performance indicators will be included within the contract, as part of a comprehensive performance management and contract monitoring regime that will set and monitor attainment against key performance targets. Performance reports will be brought to Committee on a quarterly basis, as at present.

22. **Buildings:** Where the Council owns the buildings to be used under the contract it will give a lease to the Society. Where the Council currently has a lease on the building to be used under the contract then the Council will look to give a sub-lease or licence to the new organisation. The length of the leases, sub-leases or licences will be for the same period as the contract.

23. **Assets:** The Society will be required to have an asset lock whereby any assets that are sold by it will need to be used to help develop culture and learning in Nottinghamshire. Details of the assets and ownership during the contract are detailed below:

- Books and furniture will transfer to the Society at the start of the contract for a nominal sum. The Society will refresh the bookstock and furniture during the contract, as appropriate, and return these to the Council for the same nominal sum at the end of the contract;
- Archive and records deposits will remain in Council ownership – as direct owner or custodian for the depositor;
- IT equipment will remain in Council ownership and be part of the Council's wider refresh programme. Appropriate licence arrangements will be obtained;
- Vehicles will remain in Council ownership and be part of the Council's capital replacement programme.

24. **Libraries/archives fees and charges:** As at present, any changes to fees and charges for Libraries and Archives will need to be agreed by the Council on an annual basis. Fees and charges for other services will be at the discretion of the Society unless the levels are stipulated by grant funding bodies.

25. **Grant funding:** Current contracts for Adult and Community Learning Services with the Skills Funding agency and Education Funding Agency will continue to be held by the Council but delivered through the Society. The Council will therefore retain its current responsibilities for adult and community learning under Ofsted's single education inspection framework. The Council will seek to novate (transfer) other grant funding contracts to the Society.

26. **Central Support Services:** Service level agreements are being developed to describe how the Society will receive support services from the Council (such as ICT, HR etc) in the future. These will be finalised at least three months before the contract starts. The support services provided will be reviewed which may result in the Society testing the market for the services it requires.

Other Options Considered

27. Retaining the services in-house was considered. However, this would not deliver the business case without significant reductions in some services within the scope of the contract. Further detail is contained in the Exempt report.

Reasons for Recommendations

28. It is anticipated that the proposed contractual arrangement will:-

- Deliver the business cases approved by Full Council on 27 February 2014 and on 26 February 2015 and continue to protect the front-line services within the scope of the contract;
- Provide the Council with control against a detailed service specification;
- Ensure that the Council continues to retain control of its spend on the services;

- Maximise opportunities for innovation and efficiencies by engaging staff and service users in the future direction and delivery of the services;
- Enable the service to maximise opportunities to access other sources of funding through its charitable status;
- Enable the Council to ensure there is an appropriate asset lock or retention of key assets.

Statutory and Policy Implications

29. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

30. The Council is a local authority with responsibility for providing a comprehensive and efficient library service within its area for its residents or those who work within the library area of the Council pursuant to section 7 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964. In addition, pursuant to the Local Government (Records) Act 1962, the Local Government Act 1972 and the Nottinghamshire (City of Nottingham) Structural Change Order 1996 the Council is an archive authority with relevant duties to provide archives and the Council is a local authority with responsibility for providing a suitable repository of local public records pursuant to section 4(1) of the Public Records Act 1958.

31. The Council will retain its statutory duties under the contract and require for these to be discharged through the Society.

Implications for Service Users

32. The Council's continuing commitment to the retention of a comprehensive libraries network coupled with the commissioning of service delivery as set out in this report, means that the services for Nottinghamshire residents will be offered reasonable protection and provided with long term sustainability within a context of long term reductions in public sector funding.

Financial Implications

33. The contract sum will be for approximately £10 million per year. In addition there will be contract/grant funding from the Skills Funding Agency, Education Funding Agency and Arts Council England. This funding will vary on an annual basis and therefore the contract will have flexibility for the Council to agree with the Society the funding that will be available to it for the delivery of services linked to the funding.

34. The Council would be expected to ensure the conditions of grant funding continue to be met and provide financial guarantees to the Skills Funding Agency, Education Funding Agency and Arts Council as part of these conditions.

35. It is expected that the Society will seek admitted body status so that existing staff can continue to be part of the Local Government Pension Scheme. New staff will join a pension scheme to be set-up by the Society.

36. The S151 Officer has agreed that a Pension Bond normally associated with the risk of increased pension costs is not required. The S151 Officer has agreed this as the Council is capping the discretionary benefits of the Society to the level of the Council. If a Pension Bond was required, this would be reflected in an increased contract fee.

37. Transition costs are currently being established and confirmed, and will cover items such as:

- Pensions costs (these will initially be higher but will reduce with turnover of staff)
- IT systems transitions
- HR/payroll transitions

These costs are expected to be in the region of £300k. Where possible, these costs will be met from in year savings/ reserves generated or held across the cultural services group in 2015/16. Where this is not possible, additional costs of up to £150k will be met from within the overall CFCS budget.

Public Sector Equality Duty Implications

38. The operating contract requires the successful bidder to comply with all current equal opportunities related statute and implement effective equality and diversity policies that meet Council requirements.

39. As part of the process of making decisions and changing policy, public authorities are required by law to think about the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics (as defined by equalities legislation) and those who don't.
- Foster good relations between people who share protected characteristics and those who don't.

40. Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) are a means by which a public authority can assess the potential impact that proposed decisions/ changes to policy could have on the community and those with protected characteristics. They may also identify potential ways to reduce any impact that a decision / policy change could have. If it is not possible to reduce the impact, the EIA can explain why. Decision makers must understand the potential implications of their decisions on people with protected characteristics.

41. An EIA has been undertaken and is available as a background paper. Decision makers must give due regard to the implications for protected groups when considering this report.

Human Resources Implications

42. The Society will accept the transfer of existing employees with protection under the Transfer of Undertakings (TUPE) regulations. The number of staff transferring is approximately 520, but as a number of these posts are part-time the full time equivalent number of posts is approximately 320. Final details of the staff transferring will be agreed prior to the start date of the new contract.

43. TUPE regulations will be complied with and current terms and conditions of employment will be protected in accordance with the TUPE Regulations 2006 (and amendments).

44. The Living Wage: The Council adopted the Living Wage for direct employees from April 2014. The Living Wage will continue to be protected under TUPE for transferring staff.

45. A number of briefing sessions have taken place with the Service staff and a set of frequently asked questions made available to respond to staff enquiries. Full communications and consultation will continue to take place with those employees affected and with the relevant trade unions, in respect of the planning and implementation of the transfer of employment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) That Culture Committee approves the intended award of the contract to the Society with delegation of authority to the Acting Corporate Director, Children's, Families and Cultural Services, in consultation with the Group Manager for Legal Services and Section 151 Officer, to enter into the services contract and all other documentation required to give effect to this decision or to protect the Council's position provided no material facts changes, the financial envelope and key commercial parameters remain the same .

Derek Higton
Acting Corporate Director, Children, Families & Cultural Services

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Constitutional Comments (AK 28/05/15)

46. The Culture Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report.

Financial Comments (SS 28/05/15)

47. The financial implications of this report are contained within paragraphs 33 to 37 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Annual budget 2014/15 – report to Full Council on 27 February 2014

Libraries, Archives, Information and Community Learning Services – future operating model – report to Culture Committee on 3 June 2014

Libraries, Arts, Archives, Information and Community Learning Services – new operating model – progress report – report to Culture Committee on 21 October 2014

Libraries, Arts, Archives, Information and Community Learning Services – new operating model – governance – report to Culture Committee on 13 January 2015

Arts and Music Services for Young People: new operating model – governance – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 18 May 2015

Equality Impact Assessment

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0646

Nottinghamshire County Council

Report to Culture Committee

9 June 2015

Agenda Item: 10

REPORT OF THE ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND CULTURAL SERVICES

ARTS SERVICE – CERAMICS PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Purpose of the Report

1. This report follows the options for change approved by Full Council in February 2015 and Committee is asked to give approval for a formal partnership agreement to be developed and agreed with the Harley Foundation Charitable Trust to be custodians of the ceramics collection on behalf of the County Council and to receive surplus ceramics studio equipment to continue the provision of ceramic workshops available to the public.

Information and advice

2. The options for change outlined changes to the Arts service to meet the financial reductions required by the Council.

3. The residual arts function with a staff of 2.5 fte will be imbedded within the Libraries and Archives service and will be included within the Council contracting arrangements with the new arm's length operating model for Libraries, Archives and Learning, due to go live in April 2016.

4. The current arts provision and programming at Rufford Craft Centre will cease in July 2015. Alternative ceramics provision as outlined in this report will be supplemented by a range of Arts programming across Libraries (including the Big Draw), the continuation of the annual Earth and Fire Ceramics Fair at Rufford Country Park and the continuation of the rural touring programme 'Village Ventures'. Surplus spaces will be considered within the future development plan for Rufford Country Park which will be the subject of a report to Culture Committee in July.

5. The future service will focus on providing:

   - an advisory and grant seeking function for the arts
   - commissioning the rural touring programme
   - engaging young people and those with lower levels of participation to take full advantage of arts and cultural opportunities
   - supporting external programmes and fund raising
   - supporting the integrated cultural and learning programme within the new arm's length body for libraries.

6. There are also a number of key actions required to ensure that in addition to the ongoing work directly provided a legacy is established for other current arts activity.

7. The County Council is the custodian of an extensive collection of studio pottery which has been donated, and in some cases bequeathed, to the County Council over the past 15 years. To ensure the collection is curated properly and made accessible for artists and the public to view, it is proposed that:

   - an online catalogue with appropriate details be created and made public
   - an appropriate partnership be established with the Harley Foundation Charitable Trust to be custodians of the collection and facilitate public viewing.

8. This approach maintains the integrity of the collection, reduces risk to the loss of access to the collection and places it within a professional arts environment. It also enables the County Council to maintain its ownership of the collection.

9. Ceramic provision is becoming rarer across the country. As an art form ceramics is resource heavy, requiring specialist equipment, storage, cleaning, and ventilation and is subject to numerous Health & Safety regulations. It also involves an extended making process which includes making, drying, firing, glazing and re-firing over several days.

10. Ceramics is also a dirty activity; once a room is used for clay it limits other use as it never becomes completely dust free. In financially difficult times these requirements have resulted in the number of public facilities reducing across the country and access to ceramics shrinking significantly. .

11. In order not to lose this specialist provision in Nottinghamshire, an option is to move ceramics learning programme activity and surplus equipment by developing a partnership with the Harley Gallery, which is part of the Harley Foundation Charitable Trust, based at the Welbeck Estate near Worksop.

12. The Harley Foundation has an existing community and schools outreach programme which specialises in visual arts and crafts but this programme does not offer ceramics due to a lack of accessible specialised workshop space. Working with the County Council would enable the foundation to expand their programme and provide Nottinghamshire people with ongoing access to ceramic courses and equipment.

13. The Foundation has identified a large studio space within their artist workshop complex which they would make available to develop an open access ceramic studio and further develop the work previously undertaken at Rufford Craft Centre.

Other Options Considered

14. A cessation of activity and investigation of other potential partners have both been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

15. The recommendations enable the Council to maintain and support ongoing arts related activity whilst making required budget savings.

16. The potential partner is uniquely placed geographically and with the ceramics arts sector to enable sustainable legacy arrangements to be established within the required time frame.

Statutory and Policy Implications

17. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

18. The costs associated with the curation and transfer of the ceramics collection and related workshop equipment has been budgeted for within the 2015/2016 Arts service revenue budget.

Public Sector Equality Duty Implications

19. An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken for the options for change Arts service and is available as a background paper.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1) That Committee approval is given for a formal partnership agreement to be developed and agreed with the Harley Foundation Charitable Trust to be custodians of the ceramics collection on behalf of the County Council and to receive surplus ceramics equipment to extend the provision of ceramic workshops available to the public.

Derek Higton
Acting Corporate Director, Children, Families and Cultural Services

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 11/05/15)

20. Culture Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (CDS 18/05/15)

21. The financial implications of the report are set out in paragraph 18 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Annual budget report 2015/16 - options for change – report to Full Council on 26 February 2015

Equality Impact Assessment

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0617

Nottinghamshire County Council

Report to Culture Committee

9 June 2015

Agenda Item: 11

REPORT OF THE ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND CULTURAL SERVICES

NATIONAL WATER SPORTS CENTRE PROGRESS REPORT – SECOND YEAR CONTRACT REVIEW

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the Committee with an annual review update on the National Water Sports Centre management and development contract.

Information and Advice

Background

2. In September 2011 the County Council agreed for the management and operation of the National Water Sports Centre (NWSC) to be outsourced to a third party provider. Following a detailed procurement process a preferred operator was selected to operate the Centre for 21 years. This was reported to and agreed by Policy Committee on 16 January 2013.

3. The successful bidder, Serco Leisure, acting as the managing agent for a newly formed leisure trust, Holme Pierrepont Leisure Trust (HPLT), started onsite on 1 April 2013. The site has been operating under the new arrangements for just over two years.

4. The vision for the NWSC going forward and what the bidders were asked to support the Council in achieving was ***'To be an accessible, high quality family activity and sporting centre with an adventurous flavour set in stunning green space'.*** Bidders were also tasked with supporting the Council's ambition to reduce annual operating costs and to partner the Council in funding much needed capital investments on site.

5. Monthly contract meetings are held to ensure compliance with the contract and its performance specifications; a separate works procurement agreement is in place to monitor progress on a schedule of agreed capital works at the Centre. This report and accompanying presentation will inform the Committee of progress.

Capital Investments

6. The successful bid included a £6.7m capital investment programme (over the life of the contract) which included within it a request for a £1.6million contribution from the County Council. The contribution funding was agreed and is accounted for in the Council's capital programme. The balance of £5.1 million (£2.85 million in year 1) is

being provided by Serco Leisure (directly) and Sport England through a grant award of £886,000.

7. The funding has been used to deliver the following improvements and new developments:

- refurbishment of all on site residential accommodation
- refurbishment of main building public areas including reception, café, bar, public toilets, and conference rooms
- community and performance gyms and changing rooms
- office accommodation for the British Canoe Union (BCU)
- camping pods and log cabins
- site signage renewal programme
- creation of a new 'Sky Trail' family adventure course, and an adjacent 'Family Zone'
- new changing facilities at the Slalom Course
- new activities on site.

8. The Committee will receive a short presentation on the impact made following the capital development phase and programming highlights for 2014 at the meeting.

Contract Management

9. The contract is managed and reviewed on a monthly schedule where progress is monitored against the original specification. Emphasis is placed on compliance measures and service outputs alongside a target of an increase of participation of 10% year on year.

Revenue Support

10. In addition to the £1.6m capital contribution the Council is committed to an annual revenue contribution that averages out at £201,000 per year over the life of the contract. This payment will continue until the end of the contract in 2034, and is subject to indexation. The Council has also negotiated a surplus profit share position which results in a three way split of profits should the NWSC's financial performance significantly exceed the business plan forecasts assumed by Serco as part of its bid. This will be shared between the Trust, Serco Leisure and the County Council.

11. As part of the contract the Council has retained ongoing responsibility for the funding of some aspects of the Centre's structural maintenance, on the basis that this represents better value for money for the Council than incorporating all maintenance costs within the contract sum (this would result in the contractor pricing for works that may not be required). To be prudent the Council has set up an

annual budget of £150,000 that will be placed into a “sinking fund” each year to deal with any issues as and when they arise.

12. Over the life of the contract, it is anticipated that revenue savings of approximately £14million will accrue to the Council, when the annual contract costs are compared with the costs that would have been faced by the Council had it continued to operate the Centre on its previous basis. The anticipated savings identified will be used to help alleviate the budgetary pressures facing the Council over the medium term.

Other Options Considered

13. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

14. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1) That the second year update on the National Water Sports Centre management and development contract be noted.

Derek Higton
Acting Corporate Director, Children, Families and Cultural Services

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Constitutional Comments

16. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (SS 20/05/15)

17. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Future management arrangements for the National Water Sports Centre – report to Cabinet on 14 September 2011
National Water Sports Centre future management arrangements – report to Policy Committee on 16 January 2013
National Water Sports Centre progress report – one year on contract review – report to Culture Committee on 3 June 2014

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0643

Nottinghamshire County Council

Report to Culture Committee

9 June 2015

Agenda Item: 12

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR, POLICY, PLANNING AND CORPORATE SERVICES

WORK PROGRAMME

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the Committee's work programme for 2015.

Information and Advice

2. The County Council requires each committee to maintain a work programme. The work programme will assist the management of the committee's agenda, the scheduling of the committee's business and forward planning. The work programme will be updated and reviewed at each pre-agenda meeting and committee meeting. Any member of the committee is able to suggest items for possible inclusion.

3. The **attached** work programme has been drafted in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and includes items which can be anticipated at the present time. Other items will be added to the programme as they are identified.

Other Options Considered

4. None.

Reason for Recommendations

5. To assist the committee in preparing its work programme.

Statutory and Policy Implications

6. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Committee's work programme be noted, and consideration be given to any changes which the Committee wishes to make.

Jayne Francis-Ward
Corporate Director, Policy, Planning and Corporate Services

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Constitutional Comments (HD)

7. The Committee has authority to consider the matters set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (NS)

8. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

CULTURE COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME 2014-15

Report Title	Brief summary of agenda item	Lead Officer	Report Author
21 July 2015			
Service update	For noting	Derek Higton/Sally Gill	Various
Ofsted inspection of Community Learning and Skills Service – outcome		Derek Higton	Ian Bond
Future management arrangements for Rufford Country Park		Derek Higton	Steve Bradley
Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre – preferred bidder		Derek Higton	Steve Bradley
Work programme			
To be placed			
Heritage Tourism – Year 1 update		Sally Gill	Heather Stokes
Biodiversity Offsetting – final report		Sally Gill	Heather Stokes
Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre – progress reports			
Idle Valley Management Board	Report from officer group	Sally Gill	Heather Stokes
Heritage Plan		Sally Gill	Sally Gill
Green Estate Strategy – progress reports on delivery		Derek Higton	Steve Bradley
Conservation Management Plan for Rufford Park		Derek Higton	Steve Bradley