

Nottinghamshire County Council Annual Report 2021 to 2022



Healthy

Prosperous

Green



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

Welcome to our Annual Report 2021-22

Last November we launched our new Nottinghamshire Plan 2021-2031, setting out the County Council's vision for a healthy, prosperous and greener future for everyone. I'm delighted that the plan directly addresses the feedback of over 12,000 residents who responded to our Big Notts Survey, when you told us what was most important to you as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. We want to do everything we can to support our communities and, with our partners, we're working hard to breathe life into the economy and support healthier and greener lifestyles.

We're committed to improving the quality of life in Nottinghamshire and levelling up chances across the County. We've made a great start by launching a major overhaul to the way we fix and maintain our highways, working with partners to draw down more investment and powers from the Government for Nottinghamshire, and continuing to work hard to strengthen our social care services for adults and children. You can read about these and many other stories over the following pages. This is a great opportunity to celebrate what's gone well in the first year, but we're continually looking to the future and finding ways we can deliver the best for Nottinghamshire's communities, whilst ensuring value for money.

My commitment to residents is that I will continue to champion Nottinghamshire and to listen to and work with our residents and partners, to ensure our County is the best it can be for all of us.



Cllr Ben Bradley MP



Measuring our progress

The Nottinghamshire Plan 2021-31 sets out our 10-year vision for a healthy, prosperous and greener future for everyone. We've split our vision into ten ambitions which provide a framework for all Council activity:

- Helping our people live healthier, more independent lives
- Supporting communities and families
- Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe
- Building skills that help people to get good local jobs
- Strengthening businesses and creating more good-quality jobs
- Making Nottinghamshire somewhere people love to live, work and visit
- Attracting investment in infrastructure, the economy, and green growth
- Improving transport and digital connections
- Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint
- A forward looking and resilient Council.

Each year we will produce an annual delivery plan that sets out what we will do that year to work towards these ambitions and, at the end of each year, an annual report which assesses our progress. This is the first annual report to describe our successes and achievements under these ambitions.

We will also use data evidence to monitor how quickly we are moving towards achieving our ambitions. We have selected some key indicators which will help us understand our progress. These are set out in our Annual Delivery Plan 2022/23 and a full progress update will be provided in our next annual report.



Ambition 1

Helping our people live healthier, more independent lives

We know health and wellbeing is essential for everyone and helps our County to grow and flourish. But people's health and wellbeing varies across Nottinghamshire. Our ambition is that people in every community enjoy healthier, happier lives and remain independent for longer. Our progress this year includes:



Supporting our communities through the pandemic

- Since the outbreak of COVID-19, local government have been at the forefront of the response to the pandemic. This has included supporting the vaccination programme and a number of other measures to help our communities live safely with the virus, including the establishment of the Nottinghamshire [Community Support Hub](#), which brings together many local volunteer groups to co-ordinate and offer help to those who are impacted by the pandemic. The Council's Customer Service Centre has also been offering vaccine support for the NHS, by contacting the extremely vulnerable to offer help and guidance, as well as supporting Test and Trace by contacting over 70,000 cases to contribute to the reduction in the spread on COVID-19.





The Childhood Obesity Trailblazer Programme

- Nottinghamshire County Council is one of five local authorities selected to take part in the Childhood Obesity Trailblazer Programme during 2019 to 2022. The programme tests new ways to address the causes of childhood obesity. The Nottinghamshire project focusses on areas with higher rates of childhood obesity and on families with children under the age of 5. It trials new ways to make affordable food accessible, improve the quality of food in early years settings, enable parents to develop good eating habits, and promote consistent messages on healthy food.
- The project worked with the charity Family Action to test the [Food On Our Doorstep](#) (FOOD Club) concept, distributing low-cost quality food boxes from surplus Fareshare food. Boxes including fresh fruit, vegetables, meat and dried and tinned foods each week worth approximately £15, are available for just £3.50. This saves at least £300 per family over six months and also reduces waste in the food industry. Currently there are 21 FOOD clubs set up and hosted by the Children Centres Service, community organisations and faith groups. Since November 2020, when the first FOOD club in Nottinghamshire opened, 19,947 bags of food have been sold. This amounts to approximately £229,390 saved for local families, with over 183 tonnes of food having been saved from landfill. Over 1,700 member families are benefitting as a result.





Increased funding for substance misuse treatment

- In response to more people seeking support for substance misuse since the start of the pandemic, the Council has secured additional funding from the Government for both inpatient detox (£192,000) to provide additional bed places, and universal substance misuse treatment (£549,000) to increase the number of places for those residents within the criminal justice setting.



Increased support for those experiencing domestic abuse

- Through using its budget flexibly and by working with partners to secure additional funding from government agencies, the Council has increased the availability of safe accommodation through the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) duties, tackled the growing waiting lists, and improved support to domestic abuse survivors in line with a new [Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021/24](#).



Promoting independence for those experiencing sight loss

- Nottinghamshire Adult Deaf and Visual Impairment Team (ADVIS) Rehabilitation Workers have been providing an invaluable service for people living with hearing and sight loss. The ADVIS Team successfully works with people to promote their independence and confidence, enabling them to live a fuller and more inclusive life. One resident is quoted as saying:



"They have helped me so much with my mobility, I just dread to think what I would be like without what they've taught me. They've helped to regain my confidence in many ways."

Thanks to improved digital options, two thirds of Blue Badge applications are now processed online. This is up from 25% of new applications being completed online a couple of years ago.



Supporting National Meals on Wheels Week

- Day Service teams continued to offer a range of activities throughout the pandemic, supporting people to live as independently as possible and be part of their local community. Ashfield Day Service, in partnership with County Enterprise Foods, embraced National Meals on Wheels Week and the 'Around the World in Five Days' theme, to provide recreational, educational, and therapeutic experiences. There are currently 134 people being supported by Ashfield Day Service and residents were able to discover more about different countries and cultures, through language, music, food tasting and preparation, and cookery skills, which built on strengths and promoted social interaction.



An award-winning year for our Oral Health Promotion Service

- The Oral Health Promotion Service had an award-winning year in 2021, taking the top spot in the Dental Awards 2021 'National Smile Month Category', as well as being finalists in the 2022 Oral Health Awards. The all-age service provides training for a variety of staff in education, health and social care, a supervised toothbrushing programme in targeted schools, and resources for parents of young children, as well as running campaigns throughout the year to increase knowledge of good oral hygiene amongst children and adults. In 2021/22, 620 frontline staff received oral health training, 574 children from 20 targeted schools were part of the supervised toothbrushing programme, and 11,920 toothbrushing packs were given out by health visitors, along with brief advice on oral health.





Better conversations about adult social care support

- Adult Social Care and the Customer Service Centre (CSC) have been working to adopt a 'three conversations' approach for those accessing adult social care services. This is a relationship-based approach to working with people, seeking to make the most of the strengths and resources available to them in their family, social network and local community. The different conversations reflect the different circumstances people may be in, with each conversation concentrating on what is important to the person and/or their carer(s). The result is people receiving the right support at the right time, whilst still promoting their independence. The CSC aims to connect people to the right person/team at the right time, to have a conversation and avoid repeating their story more than once. As such, this new approach is now enabling the CSC to resolve around 80% of all enquiries relevant to Adult Social Care, at the first point of contact. Residents have reacted very positively with feedback including 'I really enjoyed the more personalised approach' and 'A massive bonus, I didn't expect half of what I was offered'.



Launch of the NottAlone website

- NottAlone.org.uk is a website with local mental health advice and help for young people in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, all in one place. If you are aged under 25, are a parent or carer, or a professional that supports young people, you can find information, advice and where to go to get help locally. NottAlone was designed by professionals, parents/carers and young people, to meet the needs of local people in Nottingham City and the County. The site launched in September 2021 and has had 15,374 users as of May 2022, whilst it has also been shortlisted for a national [Local Government Chronicle Award](#) in the category of Technology.





NottAlone training to support Senior Mental Health Leads

- NottAlone is a Department for Education approved trainer for the national Senior Mental Health Lead Training. This training is designed to support Senior Mental Health Leads who already have a good knowledge of youth mental health needs, in leading whole school/college change in this area. Our first cohort of 106 Senior Mental Health Leads from primary, secondary and special schools, alternative provisions and colleges across Nottingham City and the County will complete their year-long training curriculum this July, with a second cohort due to start imminently. Throughout the course, staff have reported that their schools and settings are progressing towards becoming Mentally Healthy Schools/Settings and that their confidence is increasing in leading this whole school development.



Public Rights of Way Health Walks Project

- The Countryside Access Team has been publicising and promoting the health and wellbeing benefits of gentle exercise, using the county's public rights of way network. Working with local health partners and the Ramblers Association, the team created four self-guided walk leaflets starting from two Health Centres in West Bridgford. These have been distributed to surgeries and other local outlets, to encourage and also refer patients to take a gentle and relaxing walk from their local surgery, helping their physical, mental and social well-being. Phase two will extend the project to other parts of the County.



Ambition 2

Supporting communities and families

Nottinghamshire has a diverse range of communities in our market towns, rural villages and urban centres. Supportive, vibrant communities can boost health and wellbeing, give people a sense of belonging, and create enjoyable, welcoming places to live. Our ambition is to strengthen communities through supporting the voluntary and community sector and making the most of community-based services so that residents can find the support they need in their local area. Our progress this year includes:



Developing the Community Support Hub

- Our Trading Standards and Communities Teams have continued to drive the development of the [Community Support Hub](#). This is a virtual network of partners working to deliver co-ordinated support to those who need it. Areas of focus have included loneliness, domestic abuse and homelessness. In response to increased levels of isolation among residents, Trading Standards and Communities Teams also funded the One Step at a Time (OSAAT) project, which aims to connect and support members of our communities who are feeling isolated and lonely, by helping them to become more physically and socially active. The project works by local volunteers supporting elderly residents to improve their mobility, by walking short distances with them in their local area and improving their confidence through conversation. Five OSAAT pilots are taking place in the County, whilst the Communities Team has also been supporting County Council volunteers, who have undertaken tasks such as dropping off and collecting library books, which helps provide interaction to people who feel isolated.





Diversifying our support offer at Helmsley Road

- Nottinghamshire County Council's short breaks service supports adults with a learning disability to have a change from their daily routine and gives parents and carers a break from their caring role. During the pandemic, it became clear there was a need for medium length stays as well as short breaks to support people who were experiencing crisis and loss. Helmsley Road, in Mansfield, was able to diversify its offer to include medium stays for people who had experienced bereavement, illness and life-altering changes in their circumstances. This gave people time to make decisions about their future at a time that was right for them and following the pandemic, the medium stay beds are to stay at Helmsley Road, with a total of 23 people having benefitted to date.



Compact between Voluntary Groups and Public Bodies

- Our Trading Standards and Communities teams have developed the [Nottinghamshire Compact](#), an agreement between public sector organisations and the voluntary and community sector, encouraging partnership working and the joint working principles of trust, respect and collaboration. There are currently 15 organisations signed up to the Compact, with the aim that it will serve as the foundation for the way local relationships are developed, to help further strong, positive impacts on communities.



Supporting our Armed Forces Family

- In July 2021, the County Council was awarded the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award in appreciation of its commitment towards defence needs whilst supporting the Armed Forces Community. The main principle is an employer's understanding and commitment towards Reservists, Cadet Force Adult Volunteers and Veterans. To maintain the award, which is assessed every five years, the County Council has demonstrated it has 'forces friendly' policies in recruitment and selection, forces training and deployment. In addition, the County Council has established an on-line forum and an Armed Forces Community Breakfast Club and provides the secretariat to a county-wide Civil and Military Partnership Board. The board includes partners such as Age UK, the Royal British Legion, Nottingham Forest Forces Trust and Newark and Sherwood District Council. Several initiatives have been delivered to reconnect veterans and reduce loneliness within the community.





Homelessness support

- Public Health and Adult Social Care worked closely with partners to provide rapid accommodation and secure support for rough sleepers and people who were vulnerably housed during the pandemic. At the beginning of the pandemic, as part of the Government's 'Everyone In' initiative, 91 homeless individuals across the county were supported into accommodation, of which 73 were able to go on to longer term accommodation. In addition, over the course of the pandemic over 70 rough sleepers have been enabled into self-isolation accommodation and provided with bespoke support to meet their needs. A further 100 individuals have been given advice and support to self-isolate within their existing temporary accommodation. Long term pathways of support for homeless people in Nottinghamshire continue to be built and strengthened as a result of this partnership work. Partners included District and Borough Council housing teams, housing associations, the street outreach team in Framework, the assertive outreach team in Change, Grow, Live (our substance misuse treatment service), and teams from the NHS.



Funding award for six new Village Hub Libraries

- The Council, in partnership with Inspire, has been awarded a grant of £170,000 by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sports, delivered by Arts Council England (ACE).
- The project aims to create community hubs with vibrant libraries at their centre in six Nottinghamshire villages. Bircotes, Bilsthorpe, Blidworth, Burton Joyce, Langold and Woodthorpe library spaces will be reimaged and reconfigured to create more flexible library and community spaces. This investment will enable an improved range and quality of library service offer and create centres that can be used by local communities for an improved range of services and activities.



Cultural Education Partnership (CEP) Funding Award

- The Council, in partnership with Inspire, has been awarded a grant of £90,000 by the Arts Council England (ACE) to engage children and young people in the local area with heritage, the arts and culture. The funding will support two more years of Cultural Education Partnership (Captivate) work in Mansfield and Ashfield, which brings together local partners, including district and borough councils and education professionals.





Registering Births, Deaths and Marriages

- Our registration teams continued to provide public services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. This included the continuance of many face-to-face registrations (with COVID-safe measures) and innovative options such as a 'drive-thru' birth registrations. Staff supported bereaved families through death registrations under heart-rending circumstances, as COVID-19 meant that some families were unable to be with their loved ones at their end of life. During 2021/22, more than 3,600 civil marriage and partnership ceremonies were completed in Nottinghamshire, as couples were able to tie the knot after COVID-19 restrictions had prevented them from doing so in the previous year.



Supporting Families Programme

- In 2021/22 Nottinghamshire submitted evidence of over 1,000 families who had made significant and sustained progress or were supported to find continuous employment under the Supporting Families Programme, which exceeded national targets for the County. Each of these claims represents a family who have engaged with support from Early Help or Social Care services, and who have made significant and sustained progress in all areas of difficulty being faced by the household.



Award-winning Independent Travel Training Scheme

- The Council's Independent Travel Training (ITT) Scheme was awarded the ADEPT Shaping places for People award, winning over nine other shortlisted local authorities. The scheme, which has been developed since 2011, helps to improve the life skills of many young people in Nottinghamshire with learning difficulties, by providing the skills and confidence to use public transport to access education, training and employment opportunities. In recent years, the Council's ITT colleagues have also hosted regional and national seminars to improve awareness of ITT. The award was presented at Full Council in March 2021.



The Household Support Fund

- The Household Support Fund offers help to Nottinghamshire residents facing financial hardship. As of 31 March 2022, £5.6 million has been provided to residents in immediate need across Nottinghamshire. £2.3 million has supported the provision of food vouchers to children entitled to free school meals with £3.3 million supporting the provision of food, energy vouchers and essential domestic appliances to households both with children and without children. An extension to the fund, announced in the Chancellor's Spring Statement, will continue to offer help to residents in immediate need including those of pensionable age.

Ambition 3

Keeping children, vulnerable adults and communities safe

We play an essential role in keeping all residents - especially children and vulnerable adults - safe and supported in our communities.

Our progress this year includes:



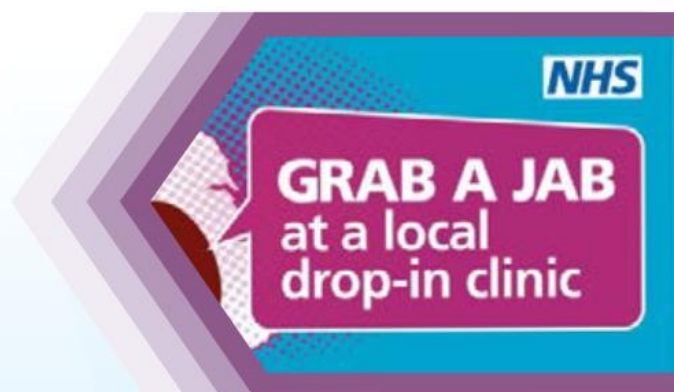
Doorstep crime awareness visits

- Trading Standards Officers have been raising awareness about doorstep crime. A total of 68 awareness visits took place at local businesses in Mansfield, Eastwood and Newark, as these areas have been identified as receiving a higher level of complaints about doorstep crime. A number of these visits were conducted in partnership with the Police.



COVID-19 bulletin

- The COVID-19 email bulletin has kept local residents informed about the latest developments and guidance throughout the pandemic, to help them stay safe and minimise the risk of exposure to the virus. The frequency of the bulletin was adapted from twice weekly during the initial lockdown to once a week, with subscribers doubling to over 50,000.





Prosecution of unlawful traders and removal of unsafe products from the supply chain

- Trading Standards have successfully prosecuted traders involved in the supply of unsafe products to the general public, including £54,800 worth of illegal tobacco products, whilst 74,000 consumer products were removed from the supply chain due to safety issues. The products include fairy lights that could have caused house fires, toys that had access to button cell batteries and sports water bottles containing excess levels of organic matter, that could have been harmful if ingested. Over 2,000 unsafe face masks and 350 unsafe hand sanitisers were also removed from sale to protect the general public.



Keeping people safe and independent during the pandemic

- We have continued to support people who need us throughout the pandemic, by lending them digital devices to stay connected and access help. 8,000 carers have been supported with advice, information and guidance via our Carers' Hub while, working with partners, we have supported care providers to access personal protective equipment, implement the vaccination programme and manage government guidance. In addition, to address the shortage of care staff, we've supported our care providers with an extensive recruitment campaign.





Food Allergen labelling requirements

- Trading Standards have been carrying out visits to local businesses to support them in adopting the new allergen labelling requirements, to protect consumers from eating products that contain ingredients that could cause them an allergic reaction. They have also been responding to complaints to ensure that businesses manage food allergens well and information given to consumers is accurate.



Catering services and County Enterprise Foods

- Colleagues in Schools Catering, Facilities Management and County Enterprise Foods (CEF) worked together throughout a very challenging two years in order to keep children nutritionally well fed, and schools and other buildings clean, comfortable and open. CEF maintained the hot meal service to 800 vulnerable clients per day throughout the pandemic and in doing so were able to check on their wellbeing and safety. The business was also able to maintain supplies to commercial customers, while supporting the Nottinghamshire pandemic response.





Ensuring safety at sports grounds

- The Emergency Planning Team continued to oversee safety at major sporting venues across the County throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, including leading multi-agency Safety Advisory Groups and revising the General Safety Certificates for sports grounds. This work supported the continuance of fixtures when they were possible at Trent Bridge Cricket Ground, Nottingham Forest Football Club, Mansfield Town Football Club and Southwell Racecourse.



Support for Ukrainian refugees – Homes for Ukraine Scheme

- The County Council is leading a partnership of organisations to support people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine, by safely resettling them into Nottinghamshire homes. The scheme was launched on 14 March 2022 by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. As part of the scheme, Government has asked councils and other agencies to take on tasks such as carrying out safeguarding checks to make sure that refugees are settled in safe and supportive homes, administering emergency payments to refugees and a monthly 'thank you' payment to host families also known as sponsors. Other tasks include helping to secure school places for arriving children and young people, advising on how to access other services like healthcare and welfare benefits. A welcome pack has been produced to help refugees and sponsors, including information about things like finance and benefits, health services, education, emergency services and connecting with the local community.



Using drone technology

- As part of our approach to embracing technology and improving efficiencies, our Flood Risk Management Team have established a fully operational team of drone pilots within the authority. A drone can carry out surveys of large areas very quickly and also access dangerous and remote sites such as flooded areas, rooftops and isolated structures providing significant time and financial savings. Our team is developing a business plan that commercialises our operation with a view to becoming cost neutral within the first year of operation and providing further income for the authority in future years.



Ambition 4

Building skills that help people get good jobs

Nottinghamshire needs a skilled workforce that can compete on a local and global stage, and we want our residents to have access to good quality, rewarding, local jobs. Our ambition is to do what we can to make sure everyone has the ability to reach their potential whatever their age, ability or background. Our progress this year includes:



Brooke Farm employment and skills training - Supporting people with disabilities

- Located in Linby, central Nottinghamshire, Brooke Farm is a rural retail environment where we support adults with disabilities to gain experience and develop skills in preparation for working independently. Improvements to the Brooke Farm offer is enabling over 50 people to explore and advance their employment goals through person-centred training plans, building on interests and what they aspire to do after training.





Nottinghamshire County Council's Apprenticeship Levy

- The Council has promoted to local businesses, the opportunity to access Nottinghamshire County Council's Apprenticeship levy. These levy transfers are giving employers the opportunity to invest in high quality training, helping to get the skilled workforce needed to thrive, succeed and grow Nottinghamshire's organisations and businesses. A total of £639,500 has been committed to fund over 80 apprenticeships in Nottinghamshire companies or for Nottinghamshire residents. The Council itself currently has 243 employees following an apprenticeship journey, of which 69 are employed in Council Maintained Schools.



European Social Fund (ESF) Projects supporting employment in Nottinghamshire

We have supported, promoted and influenced three ESF projects in Nottinghamshire aimed at supporting people into training and work:

- Unlocking Potential focusses on broadening the horizons of young people struggling with exclusion and social mobility. It is designed to engage with those who are at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) whilst they are still in education. It reduces the risk of them becoming NEET, through developing career management skills, employability skills and providing careers advice.
- Well for Work supports individuals to address and overcome health and wellbeing issues to allow them to move into sustained employment. This includes targeted support for people with multiple, complex or deep barriers to employment. The programme prioritises people with moderate to severe mental health issues, learning difficulties, autism, dyslexia, substance misuse, muscular skeletal problems and long-term health conditions.
- Way2Work engages individuals that are further away from the labour market, working with employers to provide long-term in-work support and mentoring to support sustained employment.



School Admissions for 2022/2023

- For the primary to secondary transfer for a school place in September 2022, 89% of parents and carers were allocated their first preference; 96.7% were allocated one of their preferences. For applications for first admissions into Reception for September 2022, 96.5% were allocated their first preference; 99.6% were allocated one of their preferences. For children transferring from Infant to junior schools for September 2022, 98.4% were allocated their first preference; 99.5% were allocated one of their preferences



New school places

- In the last year, the County Council has added places at Carlton Academy (300 places), Brookside Primary (15 places), as well as Christ Church Primary (125 places). The Council is working with the Redhill Trust at South Notts Academy to add 150 secondary places to the Rushcliffe area.



Building new schools

- The Council continues to invest in new schools, with the Rosecliffe Spencer Academy in Edwalton officially opened. The Council will open three new free schools in September 2022. This will see 630 primary school places added in Rushcliffe and Gedling.





Building improvements at Nottinghamshire primary and nursery schools

- Improvements have been made to East Markham Primary School, Albany Infants and Nursery School and Dean Hole Primary School, including new school halls, new catering facilities, a redesigned heating system to improve effectiveness and efficiency, as well as external works to playgrounds, including drainage and security fencing.



Care2work programme

- In partnership with Broxtowe Youth Homelessness and our Achievement Team, we have developed and funded the Care2work programme. The project is aimed at 16–17-year-olds before they leave care and consists of a two-day work readiness programme, followed by a meaningful work placement in a field of their choice. So far, 14 young people have completed the full programme, with excellent outcomes for those involved such as securing a job, continued training or volunteer work.



Successful pathways into further education and training for our children in care and those leaving care

- Of our children in care and those leaving care, 17 young people have secured places or have applied to start university degree courses in September 2022. These young people will be joining an increasing number of care leavers who are attending university. 10 care leavers will graduate in 2022 while in total, 36 care leavers have been in higher education during the 2021/22 academic year, which includes two young people undertaking post graduate studies.

Ambition 5

Strengthening businesses and creating more good-quality jobs

We have bold plans for the Nottinghamshire economy. Not only are we helping businesses grow and be more profitable, but we're shaping them to be more sustainable, too. These actions will benefit everyone, but we want to particularly support those communities that would benefit most from better job opportunities. Our progress this year includes:



One to one advice via the D2N2 (Local Enterprise Partnership) Growth Hub

- Our Business Advisers have provided one to one advice, including support to receive grant funding, to over 250 small and medium-sized enterprises in Nottinghamshire, over the last year. Businesses have been providing glowing feedback and the [D2N2 Growth Hub](#) programme has also recently received an extension, which allows for a continuation of the valuable support to our businesses for a further year.



Trading Standards have joined up with the East Midlands Chamber and other partner organisations to provide funded business support to help Nottinghamshire small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups achieve compliance, prosper and grow in the post-COVID, post-EU Exit economy.



Nottinghamshire Opportunities Website

- A virtual [one-stop-shop](#) has been launched to support residents to find work opportunities and help employers develop their talent pool. Funded by Nottinghamshire County Council, in partnership with careers guidance service Futures, the online portal will improve access to training and employment, matching an individual's skills and training with job opportunities.
- We have supported the roll out of Careers Hubs into Nottinghamshire, linking together educational establishments and businesses across the region, to inspire young people about their future career options and personal potential.



Community Renewal Fund

- As a Lead Authority, Nottinghamshire County Council has secured approval for four projects totalling nearly £4 million in Government funding under the UK Community Renewal Fund. Three district areas - Bassetlaw, Mansfield, and Newark and Sherwood - have been identified as priority areas for support. Led by local organisations, these projects will include boosting digital skills, helping young people learn new trades and helping businesses meet low carbon targets.



Ambition 6

Making Nottinghamshire somewhere people love to live, work and visit

Nottinghamshire is known for its rich history and heritage. It's the land of Robin Hood, Sherwood Forest and the origin of the Mayflower Pilgrims, and today is a destination for world-class sport, culture and leisure. We're working with our partners to create a more vibrant, attractive Nottinghamshire and we want to share our urban and rural environments with more people than ever before. Our progress this year includes:



The 400th anniversary of the Mayflower Pilgrims in Nottinghamshire

- Nottinghamshire County Council has successfully completed the remaining activities to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower sailing, including the planting of the Pilgrim 400 Apple Tree in the grounds outside County Hall, and Pilgrim Challenge assemblies for Nottinghamshire schools. We have supported Bassetlaw District Council's Wampanoag Perspective cultural exchange which saw representatives of the Wampanoag nation visiting Retford, and successfully involved over 600 children attending educational sessions, and over 400 people attending cultural showcases of Wampanoag traditions including music, dancing and construction of traditional Wetu dwelling.





Improving the MyNotts app

- We have continued to develop and improve the MyNotts app and the user experience. Amongst other things, residents can report problems on the roads via the app and can now get updates on the progress of the repair. The app has also provided a link to the latest COVID updates and alerts, keeping users informed of changes to restrictions. The number of people using the app is increasing and in January 2022 alone, 250,000+ tiles were viewed, with there being a total of almost 17,000 downloads of the app by residents.



The Festival of Science and Curiosity

- The Festival of Science and Curiosity is an annual festival which takes Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths out of the lab and into our everyday lives. We have supported the festival to expand in Nottinghamshire and inspire residents to learn, explore their local area and become the scientists of the future. The 2022 Festival took place between 7 – 16 February and involved a series of in-person events at Nottinghamshire's libraires and museums. 5,483 people participated, including 1,381 through schools' projects and 4,102 through public activities. The festival's online elements included a digital version of the festival magazine, a series of online Q&A sessions for secondary school pupils, and The Curiosity Show, a series of five, hour-long children's science programmes, broadcast live on Notts TV.



Abbey Tales - A new indoor historical attraction

- Rufford Abbey Country Park has opened a new indoor historical attraction, Abbey Tales, which allows visitors to explore a thousand years of history through interactive displays. Abbey Tales marks the first project from the Nottinghamshire County Council-led 5G Connected Forest research project to be commercialised. In collaboration with the site's commissioned site operators, Parkwood Leisure Ltd, the attraction has been developed to engage residents and visitors with Rufford's history, moving through differently themed rooms, each designed to reflect the period it represents, from the medieval origins of the site, through its wartime experiences and right up to the present-day use as a country park.



Ambition 7

Attracting investment in infrastructure, the economy and green growth

We want to raise the national and international profile of Nottinghamshire and create the right conditions for investment and economic growth, to support opportunities for residents and a bright and prosperous future for Nottinghamshire. Our progress this year includes:



East Midlands Development Corporation Ltd established

- Government has endorsed the East Midlands (EM) Development Corporation as a pioneering approach to accelerating development and achieving locally led high quality growth. The five local authorities supporting the initiative set up EM Dev Co Ltd in May 2021, to progress plans to help generate 84,000 new jobs, 10,000 new homes and add billions in value to the East Midlands economy in years to come. EM Dev Co Ltd is laying the foundations for the establishment of a statutory Development Corporation and has received funding from Government to accelerate the planning and development of three major sites centred on the East Midlands Airport area, Toton and Chetwynd and Ratcliffe-on-Soar Power Station.



A County Plan for Infrastructure

- During 2021/22 the Planning and Growth Infrastructure and Development Groups put together a new Strategic Infrastructure Plan, to bring together all major infrastructure projects being developed by the County Council. This spans Transport, Education, Flood Management, Greenspace and Waste Management, along with Broadband and Skills, allowing a clear overview of all the work across Nottinghamshire. This work is designed to co-ordinate with work in districts to support plans for housing and business development and will be updated yearly.





Ensuring Developers pay their fair share towards Council services and local infrastructure

- The Planning Policy Team developed a new Developer [Contributions Strategy](#) explaining how we will seek contributions from developers towards our education, transport, waste management and other services, as well as it helping us seek additional contributions towards special education needs and strategic transport improvements.



COP26 Regional Roadshow East Midlands: Climate, Innovation and Investment

- The Growth Infrastructure and Development Team secured funding from the Midlands Energy Hub and The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, to design and host the COP26 Regional Roadshow in late 2021. This event helped showcase the work of East Midlands organisations to drive forward UK net zero and climate ambitions. Strong debates were held on the barriers and opportunities to future action, over 40 case studies from across the region were promoted and new initiatives launched, including the [Midlands Engine Natural Capital Monitor](#) and [D2N2 Funding Tracker](#). Hosting the day on a virtual platform meant over 170 online attendees could access the event with no need to travel. It is estimated that over 16,500 car miles were saved by this, equivalent to 65.3 tonnes of CO2. Interest in the event quickly generated over 400 new connections, enhancing our collaboration network future for the future. The day also funded the planting of over 200 trees and is working with the Environment Agency to establish a regional tree planting fund and a Regional Action Plan. You can now visit the [Online Exhibition](#) to view the event content and keep up to date through the [COP26 Regional Newsletter](#).



Top Wighay infrastructure and development

- The Council's ambitious, carbon-reducing investment plans for Top Wighay Farm, Linby, has seen the construction of two access routes off the A611/Annesley Road. The new Council offices to be located at the new, sustainable village are set to move to the planning stages in May 2022, whilst the new village will bring more than 800 new homes and a new primary school. It is estimated this will create more than 1,000 new full-time jobs and boost the local economy by more than £873 million over a decade.



Ambition 8

Improving transport and digital connections

Roads, transport and broadband infrastructure are essential for everyone. They bring friends and family together; grow businesses, markets and employment opportunities; open up training and leisure; and keep Nottinghamshire well connected. This means we're prioritising improving the condition of our roads and also our walking, cycling and public transport network so that people can be more active and choose sustainable transport where they can. Our progress this year includes:



Additional investment for Nottinghamshire's roads

- Building on the [Highways Review](#) we undertook in autumn 2021, we're working on maintaining and improving Nottinghamshire's roads and footpaths, while also improving our walking and cycling network, so people can be more active in the way they travel. We've reiterated our commitment to the key objectives of the ongoing cross-party highways review, aiming to deliver improvements across Nottinghamshire's 2,750 miles of roads. This involves actioning the recommendations as part of our Highways Improvement Plan, which includes amongst other things, developing a new Highways Strategy, as well as developing and delivering a refreshed communication and engagement plan.



- We are also undertaking a three-year programme of footway and carriageway maintenance schemes focussing on the unclassified network and footways. In addition, £12m will be invested in structural patching over 4 years. We're using a right repair, right first time approach that delivers permanent repairs whenever possible, and are increasing the number of structural patching teams that operate on Nottinghamshire's highways network.



Improved digital connectivity

- The Council continues to strive for improved online connectivity across Nottinghamshire, with the Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire programme connecting an additional 1,493 premises to gigabit-capable broadband services in the past 12 months. In addition, 3,000 Nottinghamshire premises are in scope for network upgrades thanks to the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme supported by the Nottinghamshire top-up, while the world's first 5G network in a forest setting is now live at Sherwood Forest, as part of 5G Connected Forest. The Council has also launched the UK's first environmental management robotic dog, designed to monitor and assess the health and condition of the forest environment!





Providing cleaner, greener travel

- We are committed to improving air quality, addressing climate change, and exploring sustainable transport opportunities – which is why we have introduced four electric buses in Mansfield and Rushcliffe. The EConnect vehicles, which travel on the Berry Hill Flyer route (240) in the town and the service 33 in Rushcliffe, are small steps towards our commitment to climate change alongside providing cleaner, greener travel for Nottinghamshire's residents. They join our existing electric buses that operate between Beeston, Toton and Stapleford.



Gedling Access Road (GAR) supporting our local ecology

- The new Gedling Access Road officially opened to traffic on 22 March 2022. The new 3.8km route will bring about journey time savings and other safety and efficiency benefits worth at least £73 million. The scheme will also provide access to new affordable homes to help people get on the property ladder and is a key part of our commitment to the environment – which will see 430 new native trees planted to increase woodland by 40 percent, thereby improving habitats for wildlife! There will also be a substantial programme of ecology measures and habitat enhancement as part of the major infrastructure project.



Parking permits for health and social care staff on duty

- Free parking permits for NHS and care staff visiting people in the community have continued in Nottinghamshire, as the County Council has continued to extend its virtual parking permit scheme. The permits, which were introduced during the first national lockdown, give approved healthcare workers access to free parking while on duty, helping them to provide essential services to communities across the county. There are currently 638 active permits being used throughout Nottinghamshire, giving key workers permission to park in residents permit areas and on single yellow lines while carrying out home visits, without the fear of parking fines and a need to display a paper pass in their vehicle.





Successfully submitting ambitious Bus Service Improvement Plans to Department for Transport

- Following the public consultation exercise Nottinghamshire County Council carried out last summer, the Government announced in April this year that Nottinghamshire, including Greater Nottingham, has been allocated approximately £30 million in indicative funding to [improve local bus travel](#).
- There are two plans for Nottinghamshire which include Greater Nottingham working in partnership with Nottingham City Council and one for the rest of Nottinghamshire.
- Officers are working with bus operators to develop the proposals and look at the best way to address issues that came through strongly during the consultation, which include travel times and integrated ticketing.



Proposals for a new Demand Responsive Transport service

- The County Council has unveiled proposals for a [new Demand Responsive Transport service](#).
- Following its successful bid for £1.5 million from the Government's National Bus Strategy Rural Mobility Fund in 2020/2021, the new Demand Responsive Transport services will not follow a fixed bus route or timetable, instead they will operate on a fully flexible, on demand basis, allowing residents to travel to any destination within the operating area. If required, the service will also take passengers to destinations outside the operating area to enable them to connect with traditional, fixed route bus services. Journeys will be bookable in advance by phone or via an app.
- Initially piloting in and around Ollerton and Mansfield this summer, plans have also been submitted to launch the service in Rushcliffe this autumn.

Ambition 9

Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint

We're committed to protecting and enhancing Nottinghamshire's environment over the next four years and, by 2030, it's one of our top priorities to make all Council activities net carbon neutral. Our progress this year includes:



Planning sufficient facilities for resource and waste processing

- In 2021/22, the Planning Policy Team joined forces with colleagues at Nottingham City Council to write a new joint [Waste Local Plan](#), to ensure we have sufficient facilities to manage recycling and waste in the future and to address the demands of climate change. The [Nottinghamshire Waste Needs Assessment](#) supplements this new Plan and highlights that approximately 590,000 tonnes of local authority collected waste, and 990,000 tonnes of commercial & industrial waste, are predicted to be generated by the end of 2038. The new Joint Waste Local Plan will allow us to work with our City colleagues to help ensure sufficient facilities for recycling and processing of this resource. It will also allow us to work towards targets such as 65% of municipal solid waste being recycled by 2035, whilst simultaneously providing the planning policy framework against which all proposals for new waste development will be assessed.





Declaring a Climate Emergency

- The Council formally declared a Climate Emergency in May 2021, alongside a commitment to achieve carbon neutrality in all its activities by 2030. Work is underway to help achieve this goal, including the development of a Carbon Reduction Plan, continuation of the Travel Choice programme, designed to promote more sustainable ways of travelling to reduce single occupancy car use, as well as Trees for Climate, a five year, Defra funded programme, aiming to create over 6,000 hectares of new woodland across England's 11 Community Forests. Over 616,000 trees have been planted under Trees for Climate programme in 2020/21, with Nottinghamshire County Council and Greenwood Community Forest planning to plant around 250,000 extra trees across the county in the next five years as part of the programme, covering 250 hectares of land. The Council has also approved its Corporate Environment Strategy, which is accompanied by an action plan setting out activities to protect and enhance the environment.
- Further details on what else we're doing to meet our ambitious environmental targets can be found on the Council's website - [What We're Doing To Tackle Climate Change | Nottinghamshire County Council](#).

The Council has moved its electricity tariff to a zero-emissions clean energy source to help tackle climate change and meet its zero carbon 2030 commitment.





Green Investment Fund

Through the Green Investment Fund, the council has supported six internal projects, investing over £500,000 to help improve Nottinghamshire's environment and reduce our carbon emissions. The projects have included:

- Carrying out habitat improvements to Council managed Local Nature Reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The improvements increase the biodiversity and protect the local native wildlife.
- Reducing Mansfield Bus stations energy use by changing lighting to LEDs and installing photovoltaic (PV) solar panels on the roof to generate renewable energy.
- Carry out further building efficiency improvements to our Notts Outdoor site, The Mill Adventure Base, including installing batteries to capture excess energy generated from the PV solar panels and EV charging points.
- Replacing a school parking enforcement vehicle that was due to be upgraded with a 100% electric vehicle.
- Supported the creation of a new native broadleaved woodland with over 75,000 trees to be planted on County Council land that will be accessible to the public.
- Powering bus stations digital equipment with PV solar glass panels.



Notts Green Rewards App

- [The Notts Green Rewards](#) app and web platform was launched in October 2021. The platform includes simple carbon-reduction activities, helping to change household behaviours and reduce individuals carbon footprints. The platform is the first collaborative sustainability engagement programme of its kind in the UK and is a partnership between all nine local authorities in Nottinghamshire. Since the launch, over 3,000 households have signed up to be a member, with members benefiting from winning rewards and discounted activities.



LED Street Lighting Programme

- We are committed to converting all street lighting to LED lanterns, improving energy efficiency, and reducing our carbon output. The programme has already installed approximately 83,000 LEDs in Nottinghamshire, saving 70,000 tonnes of carbon so far and will continue until the whole of Nottinghamshire is completed, saving a further 800 tonnes of CO2.



Expanding the range of materials which can be recycled at the kerbside

- Plastic bottle tops no longer need to be removed before plastic bottles are placed in the recycling bin, making the process simpler for everyone. This comes ahead of the addition of a wider range of materials which will be included into the kerbside recycling mix in response to the Environment Act.



Flooding Education Programme in Schools

- Our Flood Risk Management Team are rolling out a programme of interactive sessions with primary schools across the County, to give children the chance to consider the causes and impacts of flooding as well as ways to reduce the impacts of flooding in the future. These sessions complement school curriculums and include three dimensional models and an augmented reality sandbox, to allow the children to create real time experiments. Children learn about climate change and flood resilience measures and are tasked with finding a way to stop their teachers' feet getting wet when their playground gets flooded!



Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

- Following a widespread consultation exercise, the Council published a refreshed [Local Flood Risk Management Strategy](#) and Action Plan, which sets out our approach to managing surface water flood risk across the County. The document, which is refreshed every six years, is user friendly and accessible to all.



Flood Warden Training

- Responding quickly and effectively to flooding events when they happen is critical to managing and reducing the devastating effects they can have on our vulnerable communities. Across Nottinghamshire there are some 85,000 properties at risk of flooding, and we work very closely with volunteer community flood groups to deliver as effective a response as possible. We provide bespoke training and emergency road closure arrangements with community groups to empower them to take emergency action during a flood. To date we have 13 trained community flood action groups across the County. If you would like us to discuss training for your community please email flood.team@nottsc.gov.uk using Flood Warden Training as the title and one of the team will be in touch.



Ambition 10

A forward-looking and resilient Council

We're always looking to make services more efficient and sustainable and better meet people's needs, and will carry on looking at ways to develop our services and change the way we work in the future. Our progress this year includes:



Devolution: working together to get a better deal for our area

- The County Council has been working with other councils in the East Midlands in a bid to get more funding and new local powers from the Government to improve services in our area. It's all about working together to give our region a bigger voice, bring in more money, and it will mean more major decisions are made locally, near the people they affect, rather than in London.
- Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire are home to 2.2 million residents, which would make a future East Midlands Mayoral Combined Authority one of the biggest combined authorities in the country. The plans involve all nine councils in Nottinghamshire, and all ten councils in Derbyshire. Devolution would not mean scrapping or merging councils. If the deal is successful, all local councils in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire will continue to exist, as they do now, with the same powers. New resources and decision-making powers would move from London to the East Midlands.



- While details of the deal still need to be agreed with central government, the financial benefits could be considerable. As well as extra funding, there are significant economic benefits in working together, and economies of scale. Combined authorities which already exist have been given significant financial allocations from the government.
- It's all about getting a better deal for our area, so we can improve the communities we live and work in, to create more and better jobs, skills and training, improve transport, bring in more investment, support education, regenerate our environment, and more.



Winning the 'COVID-19 Outstanding Response' award in collaboration with partners

- Our Procurement Team, alongside colleagues from the Local Resilience Forum and other teams across the Council, were honoured to win the 'COVID-19 Outstanding Response' category at the 2020/21 Government Opportunities Excellence in Public Procurement Awards. The award recognised how our procurement operations during the pandemic resulted in millions of personal protective equipment (PPE) being distributed to services in need such as care homes, day services and those receiving care at home. More specifically, since the start of the pandemic, the Local Resilience Forum in Nottinghamshire have collectively distributed over 15 million PPE items.





Achievement of Disability Confident Leader Accreditation

- The Council was accredited as a Disability Confident Leader in September 2021, following detailed validation of our submission to the Department for Work and Pensions by the Business Disability Forum. Evidence of good practice was drawn from across the Council as part of our submission, including examples of our fully inclusive and accessible recruitment process, alongside our means of encouraging our suppliers and partner firms to be Disability Confident. The scheme is a national accreditation for employers and of the three levels of accreditation available, Leader is the highest. Achieving this accreditation represents our commitment to all our employees across the organisation, with work continuing to ensure the Council delivers against all the core actions as a Disability Confident Leader.



Making services easier to access online

- Work has been completed on improving our '[contact us](#)' page. The new Contact Us Hub has links which make accessing services much easier and quicker, including Highways fault reporting, School Admissions, Registration Services, Concessionary Travel, Blue Badge, Waste and Recycling and Parking.



Launch of the Council's Transformation Programmes

In 2021/22, the Council agreed four ambitious programmes to transform how the Council delivers on the commitments outlined in the Nottinghamshire Plan, to support the financial resilience and stability of the Council and to enable the County's residents to get the right help at the right time.

- Our **Early Help and Preventative Interventions programme** is designed to develop the early help and support that County residents can access, working with partners and our communities, to build resilience and maximise independence for families, older people and to support our communities to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. This will include delivery of the council's first new Family Hub in Nottinghamshire, as Retford Children's Centre will be transformed to provide more services for families in the area. The Family Hub will be there to support local families with children aged 0-19 and young people up to the age of 25 if they have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- Our **Improving Residents Access programme** will improve how people can access information, advice and guidance. This work will make sure that the Council's systems, processes and ways of working support an efficient and effective response, so that residents' needs are met at the earliest opportunity.

- Our **Whole Family Safeguarding programme** will ensure that children in need of help and protection and their families, or those children who are in our care, benefit from high quality care and support. This programme will deliver better outcomes for young people, helping them to live safely at home and in their communities. Our plan aims to reduce the number of young people needing foster care or residential care, which will also reduce the cost of these services to taxpayers in the long term. New multi-agency approaches to providing help and support will see different specialists working together to help parents and children, improving support for vulnerable families so that they can bounce back from difficulties faster. We are committed to better supporting all those who care for a child, both friends and family carers and foster families, so that there are more happy and stable homes for young people.
- Our **All-Age Approaches to Disability programme** will help to improve and develop how we support young people with disabilities to prepare for adulthood, ensuring that the care and support they receive as a young adult is tailored to meet their individual needs and is designed to help them to realise their ambitions in life. We will continue to improve how we work in partnership with schools, and other organisations, to ensure that children and young people can access local, inclusive and high-quality education provision.





Launch of The Nottinghamshire Way and Leadership Development Programmes

The Nottinghamshire Way programme is all about acknowledging the critical role the County's workforce plays in delivering the strategic ambitions in the Nottinghamshire Plan and creating a positive and inclusive culture for all our employees. The programme will help equip our leaders and teams with the key skills they need to sustain this culture in their day-to-day work. The programme was launched in February 2022 through a series of interactive, online roadshows available to all employees. So far, over 300 employees have attended these roadshows to consider how we can work better together to reach our goals.

Following the successful launch of The Nottinghamshire Way, we launched the Council's new Leadership Development Programme. This programme has been designed to enable the Council to continue to develop its leaders and managers, equipping them with the necessary skills and attributes required to deliver the ambitions set out in The Nottinghamshire Plan and in shaping our approach to promoting aspirational values and behaviours in our services and personal practices.



Changing the Council's Governance Arrangements

- The Council has changed the way decisions are made and policies are introduced. The Council has been operating a committee-led decision-making system since 2012. A decision was made in principle in September 2021 to move to a cabinet-style model – a move which received cross-party support at a meeting of Full Council on 31 March 2022. The Cabinet style model is the preferred model the government has set for councils who are seeking more powers and funds from central government and moves the Council in line with the vast majority councils of in England. Cabinet meetings will be broadcast live so the public can see democracy in action. Teams have been working hard to put arrangements in place to implement the changes and deliver training for Members and employees on the new system.



County Council Elections

- May 2021 saw the Council's elections. The elections were held in line with the COVID-19 guidance at the time, meaning the preparations involved significantly more planning and checking activities than for a 'normal' election. The wider project team involved officers from all seven District and Borough Councils as well as the City Council. Work included risk assessing election and counting venues, managing health and safety equipment and safe systems of working. The elections were held successfully and a results service was held virtually to announce the outcomes as results became known. A full induction and training programme for elected Members was also devised and delivered to support all members but particularly those who were completely new to the Council.



Office hybrid working transformation

- Like many office based organisations, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the County Council to transition to a working from home setup for all office based staff, almost overnight. We have used this as an opportunity to rethink how our staff will work and communicate into the future.
- The benefits seen have been clear - during the pandemic our staff travelled approximately 3.5 million fewer miles due to more staff working from home, reducing travel costs, and cutting carbon emissions. Through our new hybrid working strategy and the utilisation of technology to allow virtual meetings, we aim to carry these benefits into the future. We reduced carbon emissions by an estimated 885 tonnes due to reduced business travel in 2020/21, and have reduced the number of offices we occupy/work in. For those larger offices we have maintained, such as County Hall, work has taken place to upgrade these premises with the latest hybrid working equipment, such as video conferencing technology, to ensure staff can work together, regardless of their work location.





To find out what we've got planned for 2022/23
plan.nottinghamshire.gov.uk