

**REPORT OF GROUP MANAGER PLANNING****GREENWOOD COMMUNITY FOREST****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide members with information on the work of the Greenwood Community Forest Partnership and how this supports NCC priorities.
2. To seek endorsement of proposals relating to future priorities for the Partnership.

**Information and Advice****Background**

3. 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.
4. 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). The Partnership is steered by a Board, which is currently chaired by Councillor John Cottey, representing Nottinghamshire County Council.
5. The Greenwood team comprises three officers who are employed by Nottinghamshire County Council on behalf of the partnership.

**Activities**

6. 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."
7. Greenwood's partners have planted over 1,300ha of new woodland, as well as improving management of woodland and other habitats and improving access to the countryside. Greenwood has helped to regenerate former coal pit and other "waste" sites into well-loved community woodlands and green spaces, a number of which are managed by Nottinghamshire County Council.
8. The Greenwood team has carried out significant activities to involve local communities, including:
  - 8.1. Encouraging local groups to plant trees in their own neighbourhood
  - 8.2. Organising events to make local people more aware of their local green spaces, its biodiversity and cultural heritage
  - 8.3. Helping local schools to use outdoor spaces for creative learning opportunities
  - 8.4. Finding innovative ways to promote active use of outdoor spaces to encourage good health

- 8.5. Improving access for all, to allow disabled people to enjoy the countryside
- 8.6. Supporting “Friends” groups to care for, improve and promote local parks and green spaces
- 8.7. Developing the Friends of Greenwood Community Forum to encourage individual groups to share experience and to support each other
- 8.8. Helping individuals and groups to develop skills and confidence in meeting their own aspirations for local green spaces

#### **Links to NCC priorities**

- 9. Greenwood’s activities support a number of priorities within Nottinghamshire County Council’s Strategic Plan:
  - 9.1. Tree planting and environmental improvements support the priority of promoting economic prosperity and safeguarding the environment. Improving the overall quality of local green spaces supports the associated aim of increasing public satisfaction with the area that they live in.
  - 9.2. Support of local Friends groups addresses the priority of fostering aspiration, independence and personal responsibility. Such groups provide a mechanism for local people to have a say and to make a difference in how their local green space is managed and used.
  - 9.3. Active local involvement also supports the priority of making Nottinghamshire a safer place to live. Friends groups act as the “eyes and ears” for green spaces, reporting on anti social behaviour, carrying out practical works like litter picking and encouraging all local residents to appreciate the value of parks on their doorstep.

#### **Looking forward**

- 10. The Greenwood team is currently discussing its upcoming work programme with partners. Outline proposals include:
  - 10.1. Continue to support Friends groups individually (according to need) and collectively (via organisation of annual Awards).
  - 10.2. Assist development of the Friends of Greenwood Community Forum to be more self-sustaining.
  - 10.3. Develop a “Trees for Shade” project to respond to the needs of climate change adaptation and protecting health.
  - 10.4. Support establishment of Sherwood Forest Regional Park by developing projects to take forward the concept of “green tourism”, drawing on and sustaining the local environment.
  - 10.5. Seek external funding to provide sustainability and to build on the partnership’s strengths.

#### **Other Options Considered**

- 11. Wider discussion and detail will be agreed by the Greenwood Partnership Board.

#### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

- 12. To note Greenwood’s support of various NCC objectives (see paragraph 9) and to support the County Council’s representative on the Greenwood Board in providing guidance on future priorities.

#### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service 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**

14. Nottinghamshire County Council's contribution of £77,700 to the Greenwood Partnership is contained within the Conservation team budget.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To endorse outline proposals (set out in paragraph 10) for Greenwood's upcoming programme and offer encouragement to the Greenwood Partnership in further developing these work areas.

**Sally Gill**  
**Group Manager Planning**

### **For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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### **Constitutional Comments (SHB 15.05.12)**

15. Committee has power to decide the Recommendation.

### **Financial Comments (DJK 15.05.12)**

16. The contents of this report are noted; especially the contribution to the Partnership by NCC as detailed in Point 14.

### **Background Papers**

General information on Greenwood Community Forest:

<http://www.greenwoodforest.org.uk>

"Greenwood Community Forest and Nottinghamshire: Annual Report 2010-11", available at:

[http://www.greenwoodforest.org.uk/read\\_all\\_about\\_it.php#publications](http://www.greenwoodforest.org.uk/read_all_about_it.php#publications)

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.

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

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

Arnold North	Clarke, Ged; Pepper, Carol
Arnold South	Kempster, Rod; Shepherd, Melvyn
Balderton	Walker, Keith
Beauvale	Taylor, David
Beeston North	Carr, Steve
Beeston South and Attenborough	Kerry, Eric
Blidworth	Merry, Geoff
Bramcote and Stapleford	Heptinstall, Stan; Wombwell, Brian
Calverton	Spencer, Mark
Carlton East	Clarke, Allen; Clarke, John
Carlton West	Creamer, Jim; Pulk, Darrell
Chilwell and Toton	Doddy, John; Jackson, Richard
Collingham	Dobson, Vincent
Eastwood	Longdon, Keith
Farndon and Muskham	Saddington, Sue
Farnsfield and Lowdham	Stewart, Andy
Hucknall	Irvine, Reverend Tom; Murphy, Mick;
Rostance, Kevin	
Kimberley and Trowell	Rigby, Ken
Kirkby in Ashfield North	Knight, John
Kirkby in Ashfield South	Madden, Rachel
Mansfield East	Cross, Bob; Wright, Martin
Mansfield North	Bosnjak, Joyce; Tsimbiridis, Parry
Mansfield South	Garner, Stephen; Winterton, Chris
Mansfield West	Bobo, Victor; Stendall, June
Newark East	Wallace, Stuart
Newark West	Girling, Keith
Newstead	Barnfather, Chris
Nuthall	Owen, Philip
Ollerton and Boughton	Smedley, Stella
Rufford	Ward, Les
Selston	Turner, Gail
Southwell and Caunton	Laughton, Bruce
Sutton in Ashfield Central	Gent, Michelle
Sutton in Ashfield East	Carroll, Steve
Sutton in Ashfield North	Zadrozny, Jason
Sutton in Ashfield West	Asbury, Fiona
Warsop	Allin, John

## **Appendix: Members of Greenwood Community Forest**

Greenwood Community Forest 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)**

- § The Forestry Commission
- § Natural England
- § Groundwork
- § National Farmers Union
- § Country Landowners and Business Association
- § The Friends of Greenwood Community Forum