

Communities Committee

Wednesday, 03 November 2021 at 10:30

County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP

AGENDA

- | | | |
|---|--|---------|
| 1 | Minutes of last meeting held on 15 September 2021 | 3 - 8 |
| 2 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 3 | Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below)
(a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
(b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary) | |
| 4 | Communities Performance Report for Quarter 1 2021-2022 Place Core Data Set | 9 - 18 |
| 5 | Approval of Applications to Covid Partnership Social Recovery Fund and Community Hub Food Plan Fund | 19 - 34 |
| 6 | Cultural Services Strategy Refresh | 35 - 56 |
| 7 | Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement | 57 - 66 |
| 8 | Update on Key Trading Standards and Communities Matters | 67 - 74 |
| 9 | Work Programme | 75 - 78 |

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 Noel McMenamin (Tel. 0115 993 2670) 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>

Meeting Communities Committee

Date 15 September 2021 (commencing at 10:30 am)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with an 'A'

COUNCILLORS

John Cottee (Chairman)
Tom Smith (Vice-Chairman)

Mike Adams	Sue Saddington
Pauline Allan	Jonathan Wheeler
Sinead Anderson A	Daniel Williamson
Stephen Garner A	Elizabeth Williamson
Glynn Gilfoyle	

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Chris Barnfather.

OTHER COUNTY COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE

Keith Girling.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mick Allen	-	Place Department
Rob Fisher	-	Place Department
Derek Higton	-	Place Department
John Hughes	-	Place Department
Fiona Needham	-	Place Department
Adrian Smith	-	Place Department
Mark Walker	-	Place Department
Noel McMenamin	-	Chief Executive's Department

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING HELD ON 19 JULY 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2021, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Sinead Anderson – Other.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Elizabeth Williamson declared an interest in Item 6 'Progress Developing a Covid Partnership Social Fund and Community Hub Food Plan Fund' as the organiser of Brinsley Food Bank, which did not preclude her from speaking or voting.

4 HOLME PIERREPONT COUNTRY PARK REVISED OPERATING MODEL

RESOLVED 2021/012

That the following be approved:

- (1) The voluntary ending of the Contract arrangement with Holme Pierrepont Leisure Trust (HPLT), and a direct arrangement being entered into between Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) and Serco Leisure Operating Limited (SLOL) for delivery of the services currently provided through the HPLT;
- (2) the Corporate Director, Place (or his nominee) be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Group Manager for Legal Services and the Section 151 Officer to agree and finalise the terms of the commercial legal arrangements required to put in place a direct arrangement with SLOL subject to the approval, in line with the Constitution, of any land and property agreements which are required between the parties;
- (3) Termination of the Direct Agreement subject to and upon the ending of the contract arrangement with HPLT, which is then not relevant given the direct relationship that is proposed between NCC and SLOL;
- (4) Further work being undertaken to identify the most cost effective way of delivering the service in the future and to identify any additional costs in 2022/23 and future years.

5. LOCAL COMMUNITIES FUND

During debate, an amendment was moved and seconded to add to the 3 published recommendations a Recommendation 4 to read as follows:

'That Committee:

- (4) approves that a feasibility study be instigated into establishing a Talented Artists Programme in 2022/2023, with a budget of £50,000, to encourage and provide support for and coming artists wish to pursue studies within music, fashion, performance and visual arts, in line with the proposed approach to supporting athletes through the Talented Athletes Programme.'

Following debate, the requisite number of Members requested a recorded vote and it was ascertained that the following 2 Members voted '**For**' the amendment:

Councillor Daniel Williamson
Councillor Elizabeth Williamson

The following 8 Members voted '**Against**' the amendment:

Councillor Mike Adams
Councillor Pauline Allan
Councillor Chris Barnfather
Councillor John Cottee
Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle
Councillor Tom Smith
Councillor Sue Saddington
Councillor Jonathan Wheeler

No Members **abstained** from the vote.

The published recommendations were then considered and it was:

RESOLVED 2021/013

That the following be approved:

- 1) the Local Communities Fund Scheme proposals, including the names, timescales and features as set out in the report;
- 2) the launch of the Local Communities Fund, including a Talented Athletes element for 2021-22, based on the timetable outlined in paragraph 20 to the report;
- 3) the increase of the allocation of funding for the Talented Athletes Programme to £50k for this financial year.

6. PROGRESS ON DEVELOPING COVID PARTNERSHIP RECOVERY FUND AND COMMUNITY HUB FOOD PLAN FUND

RESOLVED 2021/014

That the following be approved:

- 1) the key principles outlined in the report for the governance and distribution of both funds;
- 2) the allocation of £50k to a small projects element for both funds to distribute to pilot projects during the autumn of 2021, such small project grants to be awarded and distributed at the sole discretion of the Local Resilience Forum's Humanitarian Assistance Group.

7. SUPPORTING OUR ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY STRATEGY

RESOLVED 2021/015

That the following be approved:

- 1) the 'Supporting Our Armed Forces Strategy' as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report;
- 2) the establishment of a new 1.0 FTE Band B Programme Officer post in the Communities Team of the Trading Standards and Communities Services;
- 3) the establishment of a £20k Armed Forces Community Budget to support the delivery of the work programme and a request for an annual allocation of £20k be submitted to Finance Committee.

8. CATERING AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT – SPECIALIST EXTERNAL ADVISOR SUPPORT

RESOLVED 2021/016

That the engagement of CIPFA C.Co in undertaking an options analysis, and subsequently developing a full business case for the future operating model for catering and facilities management services be approved, for further consideration by the Committee in early 2022:

9. REGISTRATION SERVICE FEES FROM 2022-2023 TO 2025-2026

RESOLVED 2021/017

That the Schedule of Registration Services fees set out at Appendix A to the report be approved.

10. UPDATE ON KEY EMERGENCY PLANNING MATTERS

During debate, it was agreed that information would be provided to Committee members on the areas where Flood Signage Schemes were in place.

RESOLVED 2021/018

That:

- 1) subject to the above action, no further actions were required in relation to the issues contained in the report;
- 2) the Committee receive further updates periodically.

11. TOUR OF BRITAIN 2022

RESOLVED 2021/019

That:

- 1) the County Council hosting a Nottinghamshire stage of the 2022 Tour of Britain event be approved;
- 2) the delegation of authority to the Corporate Director, Place (or his nominee), in consultation with the Group Manager for Legal Services and the s151 Officer, to agree and finalise the terms the draft contractual agreement between the County Council and the Tour of Britain be approved;
- 3) Finance Committee be requested to approve allocations from contingency of £100,000 in 2021/22 and 2022/23.

12. WORK PROGRAMME

It was explained that the Work Programme was subject to additions, amendments and deletions in response to emerging and shifting priorities on an ongoing basis.

RESOLVED 2021/020

That, subject to considering an item on Funding the Arts Sector in Nottinghamshire at a future meeting, the Committee's work programme be agreed.

The meeting concluded at 11.35 am

Chairman

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FINANCE, INFRASTRUCTURE & IMPROVEMENT

COMMUNITIES PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR QUARTER 1 PLACE CORE DATA SET

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the Committee with an update of performance for Communities Committee for quarter 1 2021/22 (1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021).

Background

2. The Council's Planning and Performance Framework establishes the approach that the Council takes to planning and managing its performance to deliver effective and responsive services.
3. The Council has agreed that the key measures of its performance will be defined through a number of core data sets which are detailed in its Council Plan and each of its Departmental Strategies. Performance against these core data sets is reported to committee every three months (quarterly) to support the performance management of the delivery of services.
4. Key measures from the existing Council Plan (2017-2021) will continue to be reported until a new Council Plan can be established, and the subsequent core data set agreed upon.

Information and Advice








5. The full Core Data Set is included in Appendix A, and when considering the appendix it should be noted that:
 - The previous figures are for the preceding quarter or financial year (2020/21), although in some cases this is highlighted as not applicable where the data is unavailable for the previous quarter/annual.
 - The appendix also indicates whether the measure is
 - a cumulative measure (C) which shows performance from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022,
 - a measure which is reported annually (A),
 - or a measure which only includes the value for the individual quarter

6. The report highlights those core data set measures which have been identified as a risk in the appendix based on the latest performance figures.
7. The report also acknowledges Inspire, who commenced provision of a range of cultural and learning services from April 2016, including the Council's library services. Supported by the Council, Inspire has implemented a programme of investment to modernise public libraries and develop a range of cultural and learning services on behalf of the Council.

Core Data Set

Libraries

8. The previous performance indicator of number of library visits has been changed to library service engagement and visits as this better reflects the performance of the service and how users engage with it following the introduction of Covid19 restrictions and wider cultural shifts in user habits. The indicator still includes physical library visits, however, now also takes into account website visits, online library catalogue visits, attendance to virtual events, participants to outreach visits, contacts with ASK Inspire and home delivery.
9. For Q1 21/22, the total number of engagement and library visits was 553,002, against a quarterly target of 937,500 (annual target of 3,750,000). These targets have been agreed between Inspire and the Council and reflect a typical year, unaffected by Covid19 restrictions. A breakdown of engagement has been provided:

Engagement with service	Quarterly Target	
112,087 physical visits	575,000	
126,572 website visits	100,000	
286,952 online library catalogue visits	250,000	
13,455 attendance at virtual events	250	
1,009 participants to outreach visits	250	
12,541 contacts with ASK Inspire	11,750	
386 home delivery/home library service	250	

Registration Services

10. The General Register Office (GRO) sets a national target of 90% for deaths registered within five days. Internal authority target has not been set for this year due to the pandemic and severe issues we have been experiencing with the RON system (registration online) The GRO compliance officer will no doubt look at this again in the coming months.
11. The percentage of deaths registered within five days during the months of April, May and June were 65%, 72% and 52%, respectively, which resulted in quarter 1 outcome of 63%. The Covid Act is still in place, therefore all deaths are being register over the telephone, however, the service is hugely reliant on hospitals and GP surgeries to send the MCCD (medical certificate cause of death) in a timely manner. The service regularly writes to all

concerned and asks for their cooperation in this matter but, whilst the Covid act is in place, the service has no control over when MCCD's are received.

Trading Standards

12. During Q1, the service has continued to investigate illicit tobacco complaints and have conducted 19 inspections, in relation to illicit tobacco, which has resulted in 6 seizures to the value of £880.
13. The service has continued to protect vulnerable residents from scams and doorstep crime and have been speaking to residents over the telephone and have sent out advice by post. Officers have also installed some call blockers, to protect vulnerable residents from unwanted phone calls. Eight units have been installed and have prevented a total of 1,453 unwanted phone calls. Four of the residents have memory issues and are at increased risk of losing money to telephone fraud. The previous unwanted phone calls had resulted in some of the residents losing money.

Communities Service

14. A significant number of Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) revenue projects have been adversely impacted by the pandemic (i.e. many projects suspended, cancelled or adapted their activity in response to the COVID-19 restrictions). Consequently, it has been difficult for groups to provide monitoring information for Q1 due to other emergency response priorities & challenges. Therefore, this figure of 800,000 is an estimate based on the year 1 monitoring information and makes some assumptions taking into account the information provided by groups regarding suspension/cancellation of their LIS project activity.

Finance Performance

15. The 2021/22 revenue budget for the Communities Committee is £18.417 million. At the end of June 2021, the forecast outturn against this budget is £19.271 million resulting in a forecast overspend of £854,000. A summary of the Communities financial performance is included as Appendix B. The main reasons for forecast under and over-spending are set out below.
16. Culture and Enrichment is forecasting an overspend of £300,000 due to reduced income at Holme Pierrepont Water Sports Centre arising from cancelled/delayed events and reductions in people staying in accommodation, with consequent reduced income from food and beverage sales, resulting from COVID.
17. Registration services are forecasting an underspend of £128,000 due to ceremonies that had to be cancelled due to the pandemic being rescheduled for the current financial year.
18. Trading Standards are forecasting an overspend of £151,000 due to expected commercial income being lower than budgeted due to COVID.
19. The Communities team is forecasting an underspend of £576,000 due to reduced spending on the Local Improvement Scheme.

20. Catering services are forecasting an overspend of £1.078 million. The Schools Catering service is forecasting an overspend of £860,000 due to partial/full school closures in the period from April to June which has reduced the sales of meals. Sales after schools reopen in September are expected to improve due to the lifting of COVID related restrictions but are expected to be lower than in previous years. West Bridgford catering is forecasting a deficit of £210,000 due to the closure of offices due to COVID.

Other Options Considered

21. This report is provided as part of the Committee's constitutional requirement to consider performance of all areas within its terms of reference on a quarterly basis. The departmental strategy was agreed on 24 January 2018 and the format and frequency of performance reporting were agreed by Improvement and Change Sub Committee on 12 March 2018. Due to the nature of the report no other options were considered appropriate.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

22. This report is provided as part of the Committee's constitutional requirement to consider performance of areas within its terms of reference on a quarterly basis.

Statutory and Policy Implications

23. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION

24. That Committee considers whether there are any actions it requires in relation to the performance information on the Council's services for communities committee for the period 1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021.

Nigel Stevenson

Service Director for Finance, Infrastructure & Improvement

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Chris Williams

Business Intelligence Partner

T: 0115 8041841

E: chris.williams@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (AK 13/10/2021)

25. The Communities Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report. If Committee resolves that any actions are required, it must be satisfied that such actions are within the Committee's terms of reference.

Financial Comments (RWK 11/10/2021)

26. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from the report. The financial performance of the Communities Committee up to the end of Q1 is set out in paragraphs 15 to 20 of the report and in Appendix B.

Background Papers and Published Documents








The performance measures included within appendix A are measures which have previously been included within the performance section of committee reports. These committees are as follows; community safety committee, culture committee, environment and sustainability committee, personnel committee, planning and licensing committee, transport and highways committee, communities and place committee.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All



Key Performance Indicators	Nottinghamshire				
	Latest	Target	Previous	Period	Risk
Place Commissioning - Libraries					
Supports Commitment 5 - Nottinghamshire is a great place to live, work, visit and relax					
Number of visits to libraries (C)	553,002	3,750,000	384,703	Q1 21/22	A
Customer satisfaction levels at libraries (A)	Reaccredited for Customer Service Excellence 2021	96%	96%	2020/21	
Registration Services					
Supports Commitment 5 - Nottinghamshire is a great place to live, work, visit and relax					
% of deaths registered within five days (with Medical Certificate of Cause of Death present and no coronial involvement)	63%	84%	77%	Q1 21/22	A

Key Performance Indicators	Nottinghamshire				
	Latest	Target	Previous	Period	Risk
Trading Standards & Communities Service					
Supports Commitment 5 - Nottinghamshire is a great place to live, work, visit and relax					
Number of volunteer hours per year contributing to the delivery of those services or activities receiving Local Improvement Scheme support	800,000	800,000	808,401	Q1 21/22	
Supports Commitment 6 - People are healthier					
Retail value of illicit tobacco seized (C)	£880	£600,000	£43,490	Q1 21/22	
Number and value of unsafe items/products removed from or prevented from entering the supply chain. (C)	0	5,000	8,744 (£269,609)	Q1 21/22	
Supports Commitment 7 - People live in vibrant and supportive communities					
Growth of Friends Against Scams Schemes (C)	0	500	59	Q1 21/22	
Number of Vulnerable Individuals with Nominated Neighbours (C)	0	50	0	Q1 21/22	
% of victims of doorstep crime, scams or other frauds who feel safer in their own homes following tailored interventions.	86%	100%	100%	Q1 21/22	
Number of doorstep crime, scam, or fraud vulnerable victims assisted (C)	35	450	448	Q1 21/22	
Key: (C) = cumulative measure updated from 1 April to end of reporting quarter (A) = annual measure updated from previous financial year, or current financial year if quarter 4 and data is Risk Key: (R) = Red, (A) = Amber, (G) = Green					

Communities Committee - Period 3 2021/22

Previous Forecast Variance £000	Change in Variance £000	Service	Annual Budget £000	Actual Spend £000	Year-End Forecast £000	Latest Forecast Variance £000
0	0	Country Parks	452	119	485	33
0	0	Culture and Enrichment	432	16	732	300
0	0	Emergency Planning	306	(102)	315	9
0	0	Registration	54	(976)	(74)	(128)
0	0	Coroners	1,517	(410)	1,517	0
0	0	Body Storage Capacity	0	254	0	0
0	0	Libraries, Info and Learning	10,750	1,985	10,750	0
0	0	Trading Standards	968	181	1,119	151
0	0	Communities Team	2,175	(2,446)	1,599	(576)
0	0	Directorate	463	146	508	45
0	0	County Enterprise Foods	1,257	455	1,199	(58)
		Traders				
0	0	Catering	0	985	1,078	1,078
0	0	Cleaning and Landscapes	0	(542)	0	0
0	0	Contribution to Traders	90	0	90	0
0	0	Communities Total	18,464	(335)	19,318	854
		<u>Transfers To (From) Reserves</u>				
0	0	Trading Standards	(47)	0	(47)	0
0	0	Communities Total	(47)	0	(47)	0
0	0	COMMUNITIES	18,417	(335)	19,271	854

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE AND COMMUNITIES**APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS TO THE COVID PARTNERSHIP SOCIAL RECOVERY FUND AND THE COMMUNITY HUB FOOD PLAN FUND****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek Committee approval for applications for funding over £5k from the Covid-19 Partnership Social Recovery Fund or the Community Hub Food Plan Fund.
2. To update Committee for oversight purposes of applications for funding for £5k or less from the Covid-19 Partnership Social Recovery or the Community Hub Food Plan Fund.

Information**The Covid-19 Partnership Social Recovery and the Community Hub Food Funds**

3. The Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee approved £800k to support the development of the Community Hub Food Plan from the Contain Management Fund in January 2021. The £1m Covid-19 Partnership Social Recovery Fund was approved by Communities Committee in June 2021.
4. At the September 2021 Communities Committee, Members approved the governance and distribution principles for both funds, including a £50k small projects element to both.
5. A 2 or 3 stage approval process dependant on application value was approved. Firstly, all applications would be channelled through the appropriate Needs Assessment group or the Food Insecurity Network for consideration and endorsement by those with appropriate operational expertise.
6. Stage 2 agreed was that the LRF Humanitarian Assistance Group (HAG) (whilst in operation), would play a key role in giving either partnership endorsement or approval (depending on value) to ensure a whole systems approach to applying the funding that built on the partnership collaboration established during the pandemic.
7. For applications over £5k endorsed by the HAG, stage 3 agreed was that they would be brought to this Committee for formal approval. Those under £5k approved by the HAG could be immediately actioned, but with full details reported to Committee for appropriate Member oversight.

Applications Received

8. **Appendix 1** to this report contains the details of applications over £5k that have been given endorsement by the HAG for both the Covid-19 Partnership Social Recovery Fund £297,565 and the Community Hub Food Funds £136,190. This report seeks Committee approval of these applications.
9. **Appendix 2** to this report contains details of applications £5k or under that have been given endorsement by the HAG, for both the Covid-19 Partnership Social Recovery Fund £8,050 and the Community Hub Food Funds £28,086. This report invites the Committee to review these applications for oversight purposes.

Other Options Considered

10. None

Reasons for Recommendations

11. The applications recommended for approval have been reviewed and endorsed by the relevant Needs Assessment Group or the Food Insecurity Network as meeting pandemic related needs presenting in our Communities. They have been further reviewed and endorsed by the broader Community Support partnership through the HAG to ensure a joined-up system approach.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment 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

13. **Appendix 1** seeks the approval for £297,565 of applications from the £1m Covid-19 Partnership Social Recovery Fund and £136,190 of applications from £800k Community Hub Food Fund. **Appendix 2** details £36,136 of application approved by the HAG.
14. If all applications in **Appendix 1** are approved by Committee, the balance remaining would be £694,385 in the Covid-19 Partnership Social Recovery Fund and £635,724 in the Community Hub Food Fund.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee

- 1) Approves those applications for funding recommended in Appendix 1; and
- 2) Reviews those applications that have received partnership approval set out in Appendix 2.

Derek Higon

Service Director, Place and Communities

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Mark Walker, Group Manager, Trading Standards and Communities, Tel: 0115 977 2173

Constitutional Comments (LW 28/09/2021)

15. Communities Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

Financial Comments (RWK 21/10/2021)

16. The financial implications are set out in paragraphs 13 and 14 of the report. The applications for funding detailed in the report will be funded from existing budget allocations.

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.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All .

APPENDIX 1

Recommended projects – Social Recovery Fund (Over £5000)

Organisation	Project Summary	Amount Recommended	Location
Willow Community Group	A drop in 'outdoor café' based at the community gardens to introduce and connect vulnerable residents experiencing depression, loss of confidence. The funding requested is for structure and frame for outdoor shelter.	£5,270	Bassetlaw
Hope Nottingham CIO	'Linking Lives' is a befriending programme using Volunteers and a Volunteer Coordinator to visit and telephone people who are lonely and isolated. Weekly visits are arranged with the aim of supporting the individual to get involved in a range of community activities/volunteering or work where appropriate. The funding will pay for a Linking Lives Co-ordinator for 20 hours per week.	£9,000	Broxtowe; Gedling

Beeston Community Resource CIO	To provide funding to support the full re-opening of a Community Cafe in Beeston. The venue serves the wider local community but with a focus on people with mental health issues, the lonely and isolated and people living with dementia & their carers. The funding will cover staff and catering costs for 6 months.	£10,800	Broxtowe
Relate Nottinghamshire	During the pandemic, the charity received funding to provide this service for 12 months. A total of 6 sessions were offered to clients, with many needing just 4. Many calls stemming from complications of Covid-19 including job loss, relationship breakdown, and helping children cope. This funding would enable them to make 560 free calls supporting approximately 900 residents.	£11,550	Broxtowe
Mansfield CVS	One Step at a Time - is a walk and talk programme taking both self-referral and prescribed clients from GPs & Social Prescribers. Targeting those with mild depression and people who are isolated and lonely. The funding will pay for a co-ordinator and equipment.	£11,781	Mansfield

The Friary	The Friary Advice Centre opened during the pandemic. This request is for a contribution to the running costs of the Centre for the next 12 months. 73% of the funding needed has been raised through reserves, donations and other grants, this figure represents the remaining 27%.	£15,600	Rushcliffe
OASIS Community Church, Centre & Gardens	A well-established Trust offering several initiatives to support a wide range of vulnerable residents, including a drop-in café for men, a recovery café, and a memory café. Beneficiaries supported in all aspects of welfare & signposted where needed. Strong community partnerships including GP referrals. The funding will cover staffing, equipment, and refreshments.	£20,000	Bassetlaw
Nottinghamshire Together Partnership - Mansfield CVS (Current Chair)	To fund a comprehensive survey of the Nottinghamshire Community & Voluntary Sector to establish the health of the sector and to develop an action plan to build strength and resilience post pandemic.	£22,000	Countywide
Ashfield Citizens Advice Bureau (operating as Citizens Advice Ashfield)	To fully support the recruitment, training and salary of a full time Housing Support Officer for 12 months.	£29,544	Ashfield

Citizens Advice Broxtowe	To fully support the costs of employing a Debt Liaison Officer for 12 months.	£31,475	Broxtowe
Mansfield Citizens Advice Bureau	To fully support the recruitment of a full time Training and Recruitment Officer, to support the appointment and training of over 30 new volunteers to deal with 3900 new cases over a 12-month period.	£31,745	Mansfield
Citizens Advice (Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood, Nottingham - Rushcliffe and Gedling)	To fully support the recruitment and salary of 3 specialist financial support advisors to cover Newark & Sherwood, Bassetlaw, Rushcliffe & Gedling for 12 months. Supporting up to 1400 people with debt and welfare rights issues.	£98,800	Newark & Sherwood; Rushcliffe; Bassetlaw; Gedling

Recommended Projects – Community Food Fund (Over £5000)

Organisation	Project Summary	Amount Recommended	Location
Netherfield Forum	To support an established community group in Netherfield to make and deliver an estimated 60-80 free hot meals per day to individuals and families over a period of 4 months throughout the winter. The project is working closely with Jigsaw housing, Morrison's and Fareshare and will signpost to local support services.	£6,495	Gedling
Hucknall Cottage Gardener's Association - The Hucknall Relief in need charity	To fund a polytunnel, beds and ground preparation to establish a community garden called the Health and Wellbeing Sanctuary. This space will help provide fresh food and health and wellbeing benefits to all ages across Hucknall and will be open for public involvement.	£7,317	Ashfield
Family Action	The 'Take and Make' programme will be delivered in 5 of the existing Nottinghamshire Food Clubs facilitated by Family Action. The funding will buy food ingredients to supplement already subsidised provisions to create a healthy balanced family meal. Participants are encouraged to share experience at the food club and through social media. Funding will be used for a project worker and food costs to help 50 families.	£8,063	Ashfield; Mansfield; Bassetlaw; Newark & Sherwood

Bassetlaw Food Bank	To provide a fruit and vegetable box twice a month to 50 families in Bassetlaw in receipt of Universal Credit, Pension Credit or ESA. The boxes cost £15 each and recipients will contribute £6 per month towards the costs.	£10,000	Bassetlaw
Let's All Eat	A social eating project to enable vulnerable people to access affordable and healthy food in deprived areas of Sutton in Ashfield, through a series of social eating events. The project aims to increase community connections, increase volunteering opportunities and promote health and wellbeing. It will also improve awareness and skills to eat more healthily and economically and will provide sustainable awareness and education through collaboration with local supply chains. Funding will be used for venue hire, food, and volunteer training costs.	£11,110	Ashfield
Hope Nottingham CIO	A well-established network of food banks in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. Funding will enable two current posts to continue, a volunteer manager (for 6 months) and a referral database manager (for 9 months). The aim is to re-open all 14 foodbanks and offer holistic support including practical guidance to vulnerable people. Also, to build more understanding of food bank use and need enabling more prompt and efficient support. They anticipate supporting approximately 3,500 individuals with food provision in each of the Broxtowe and Gedling boroughs.	£12,500	Gedling; Broxtowe

The Social Action Hub	A well-established charity in Rainworth aims to develop a social eating arm to sit aside the range of activities to tackle food insecurity in the identified areas of need. Funding will support a year of weekly sessions where approx. 35 free communal meals are provided by eat in or takeaway and signposting to services and support. The project addresses multiple health environment and social benefits.	£15,205	Newark & Sherwood
Feeding Britain	Project is to deliver Children's Kitchen grow, cook and eat model to children and families in locations in Mansfield and Ashfield and aims to improve the accessibility and affordability of nutritious food, relieving food insecurity, increase levels of food knowledge and cookery skills, incorporating food growing areas, and offering social eating and cooking sessions for families with children.	£30,500	Ashfield; Mansfield
Ashfield District Council	Funding for a 12-month full-time post with Ashfield District Council to take forward work to address food insecurity in line with Ashfield Health & Wellbeing Strategy across the identified priority areas. The post will enable capacity to prioritise and develop this area of work for the District Council and partners.	£35,000	Ashfield

APPENDIX 2

Approved projects – Social Recovery Fund (£5000 and under)

Organisation	Project Summary	Amount Recommended	Location
Newark and Sherwood CVS	To recruit and train 20 new volunteer drivers to the Door to Door Community Transport scheme and to improve the coordination of the service by purchasing new software.	£5,000	Newark & Sherwood
The Peaceful Trust	To run a weekly drop-in session with support from a retired mental health nurse, providing low level mental health support. The funding will cover venue hire, refreshments, and equipment.	£3,050	Mansfield

Approved Projects – Community Food Fund (£5000 and under)

Organisation	Project Summary	Amount Recommended	Location
Bilthorpe Emergency Team	The Emergency Team provide emergency food parcels and hot meals in the Newark area. The funding is required to replenish food stocks.	£500	Newark & Sherwood

Rufford Avenue Allotment Group, Ordsall – (BCVS providing 3rd Party Banking Facility)	A community allotment project that is already established and taking referrals from Social Care Teams and Bassetlaw Social Prescribers (BCVS). The funding will support the construction of a polytunnel, food and refreshments. This addition will extend growing periods for the allotments and help provide all year-round support opportunities for vulnerable people.	£1,100	Bassetlaw
The Crossing	Providing a series of cookery lessons and social eating for 38 young homeless people in Bassetlaw who are currently in YMCA supported living accommodation. It is also planned to extend the service to young people living in supported housing by HOPE another local homelessness charity. Funding will provide cookery lessons; venue hire and food costs.	£2,000	Bassetlaw
Sycamore Dining CIC	Sycamore Dining is a well-established charity that works in partnership with Borough Council Activity Co-ordinators. They make and deliver meals for 6 lunch clubs for older adults in Beeston and Eastwood each month. The project will bring in residents from other schemes but largely residents are in situ. Funding will pay for staff and volunteer costs and Fareshare subs to start up new social eating club in Broxtowe.	£2,365	Broxtowe

Clipstone Food Club (Family Action)	Funding to pay for food and delivery for a new social eating project to deliver a meal each Monday of all school holidays for the next 12 months, supporting 20 families in each of the 14 weeks.	£2,500	Newark & Sherwood
The Secret Kitchen Cafe	A community development social eating project consisting of 10 social eating events planned across the county to help combat loneliness and isolation, increase community cohesion and provide an opportunity to re-connect, rebuilding confidence lost during lockdown. The events will help to gauge community need and act as a catalyst for further social eating opportunities. The funding will cover room hire, food costs and volunteer expenses.	£4,750	Rushcliffe; Broxtowe; Bassetlaw; Newark & Sherwood
Brinsley Food Bank & Food for Thought Community Cafe	The volunteer led Food Bank is developing a Community Café attached to it. Funding is needed for basic fixtures and fittings for the venue, provide training and food provision. The Cafe will combat social isolation and enable people to feel part of their community after the Pandemic.	£4,900	Broxtowe

Branch and Bloom Gardening	A community food growing project to provide a therapeutic, horticultural space for all in an identified deprived area of Keyworth, to encourage residents to re-connect and reduce isolation and loneliness after the pandemic. Workshops and education sessions are planned. Currently 50 potential beneficiaries are known so far with a much higher number expected. The gardens have been identified as a social prescribing pathway at local GP surgeries. Other key beneficiaries include young people. Funding will cover equipment including a shed, fencing and gates.	£4,971	Rushcliffe
Bassetlaw Foodbank	The project will offer a social eating lunch once a week for up to 30 people in central Worksop. The target group will be elderly and lonely people and referrals will come from a variety of sources including BCVS, CAB, local churches, and MIND. Funding will cover food, kitchen, and training costs.	£5,000	Bassetlaw

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE AND COMMUNITIES

CULTURAL SERVICES STRATEGY REFRESH

Purpose of the Report

1. To present for Member consideration and comment a draft version of Nottinghamshire County Council's (NCC) refreshed Cultural Services Strategy (2022-2032).

Background

2. At Communities Committee on the 19th of July 2021, Members approved a request to refresh the Council's current [Cultural Strategy \(2011-2021\)](#), due to expire at the end of this calendar year.
3. Attached as Appendix A, a draft Strategy, drawing upon sector research and initial partner discussions, sets out the proposed principles, themes, outcomes and actions that will drive the delivery of the Council's cultural priorities over the next 10 years.
4. The refreshed Strategy, once finalised, will provide a high-level framework for the delivery of more detailed service plans, containing the specific objectives for individual sites and services. With reference to the Strategy's overarching principles and commitments, each service plan will outline short and long-term investment priorities linked to the aims of the [Visitor Economy Strategy \(2019-2029\)](#) and the Council's Corporate Environment Strategy, which is in the process of being finalised. Both the Cultural Strategy and its associated plans will also align with the commitments of the [Council Plan](#), which is itself due to be updated following May's local elections.
5. Member input on the attached Strategy draft will be considered alongside feedback from our main cultural partners, whose views will, ultimately, be reflected in the final Strategy document, to be submitted to this Committee for formal approval in early 2022.

Information

6. The Strategy's draft strategic themes, outcomes and actions address the following areas:
 - Place and Identity
 - Health and Resilience
 - Access and Participation
 - Partnership and Collaboration
7. These themes encompass the main challenges and opportunities already identified in the Council's corporate plans, as well as by national funding bodies, including Arts Council

England, UK Heritage Lottery Fund and Sport England, and policy houses, like the Local Government Association (LGA) and Local Government Information Unit (LGIU). Each of the themes acknowledges the unique context in which this Strategy is being refreshed. The draft outcomes and actions reflect the lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic and consider ways to build upon the wider experience of the last 10 years.

8. We will consult closely on the draft Strategy with our main cultural partners, including those contracted to operate our country parks and libraries. We will also take into account the public views on cultural services and facilities expressed via the Big Notts Survey, conducted as part of the consultation process for the new Council Plan.
9. References to the Council Plan in section 6 of the draft Cultural Strategy are those taken from the emerging Outcomes presented to Policy Committee on [02 September 2021](#), and may be subject to change, following further Member input and public consultation. The other corporate documents referenced in Appendix A, the Visitor Economy Strategy and Environment Strategy, are themselves at different stages of draft and refresh. We will work closely with colleagues to ensure that the final Cultural Strategy aligns with the most up-to-date versions of these documents.

Other Options Considered

10. No other options have been considered, as Members have previously taken the decision that the Cultural Services Strategy needed to be refreshed.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

11. The Council's current Cultural Strategy is due to be refreshed in 2021.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment 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

13. The preparation of the strategy may require external support; however, any costs will be met from the existing Cultural Services Budgets.

Implications for Service Users

14. The purpose of the Strategy is to improve and sustain high quality cultural services and facilities in the County for the benefit of residents and visitors. Furthermore, the refreshed Strategy incorporates lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, which highlighted the importance of cultural services to the wellbeing of the county's residents. Demand for outdoor green spaces, in particular, rose in the absence of indoor hospitality, which, combined with the success of remote, mobile and virtual library services, has raised the profile of the Council's cultural offer— something which our new strategic documents seek to maximise.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

15. The new cultural service strategy will take account of the recent Climate Emergency declaration and the Council's ambitions to be Carbon neutral in all its activities by 2030. It will also look to identify how the services delivered can be adapted to ensure any changed or improved offers yield positive environmental outcomes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- 1) comments on the draft Cultural Services Strategy at Appendix A.
- 2) agrees to a further report on the final refreshed strategy, accounting for Member and partner input, being presented to Committee in early 2022.

Derek Higton
Service Director Place and Communities

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Mick Allen, Group Manager Place Commissioning, Tel: 0115 9774684

Constitutional Comments (AK 23/9/2021)

16. The proposals in this report are within the remit of the Communities Committee.

Financial Comments (SES 21/09/2021)

17. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.
18. The preparation of the strategy may require external support; however, any costs will be met from the existing Cultural Services Budgets.

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.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

Appendix A: Nottinghamshire County Council Cultural Services Strategy Refresh (2022-2032)

Contents

1. Foreword
 2. Purpose
 3. Vision
 4. Culture in the County
 5. Principles
 6. Themes, Outcomes and Actions
 - *Place and Identity*
 - *Health and Resilience*
 - *Access and Participation*
 - *Partnerships and Collaboration*
 7. Governance
-

1. Foreword

Culture creates a sense of place. It brings people closer to the shared heritage, customs and assets that make their communities unique. Whether through local literature, history, art, sport, environment or ecology, our engagement with culture affects how we see ourselves in relation to where we live. Fostering a common cultural identity, whilst also acknowledging the diverse interests and perspectives that lie beneath it, can help to shape a coherent local offer, recognisable and attractive both to residents and to outside visitors and investors.

The COVID-19 pandemic severely tested the resilience of our society. It prevented, for long periods of time, the normal pursuit of leisure, sport, social engagement and even schooling, all of which are essential to the public's physical and mental health. During this period, Nottinghamshire's country parks, green spaces and libraries assumed a critical role in mitigating some of the pandemic's worst effects. By adapting their offers in line with Government restrictions, our cultural services remained able to provide accessible outdoor spaces for exercise and social interaction, and, in the case of our library network, a wide range of resources to stimulate the mind. Now, as we move towards recovery, these services will again be crucial in supporting the long-term wellbeing of our residents and communities.

The health of local environments is also key to our cultural infrastructure. With a varied profile of ancient woodland, rare natural habitats and medieval monuments, it is vital that our cultural offer is run sustainably. This applies not only to the conservation and heritage activities necessary for the preservation of our most well-known and beloved parks and buildings, but also to the use of environmentally-friendly management techniques, the adoption of new technologies to reduce our carbon footprint, and the engagement of local communities to increase environmental awareness. These priorities reflect a national trend towards sustainability, as the Government and local authorities seek to couple their COVID recovery with long-term environmental aims, creating a greener economy and public estate in the process. As a Council, this is something that we support, and we have recently committed ourselves to achieving Carbon Neutrality in all of our activities by 2030—a promise that our cultural services model will help to fulfil.

In Nottinghamshire we are determined to make the most of our cultural assets by maximising their accessibility. Nationally, the pandemic has exacerbated existing problems relating to participation and engagement. Variations in cultural participation based on socio-economic background and demography mean that certain groups have felt under-represented in the sector. As a Council, we must plan with this context in mind, and grasp previously unforeseen opportunities arising from the pandemic. The wider use of country parks and green spaces in lieu of indoor hospitality, as well as ongoing demand for in-person and online library services, has raised the profile of our cultural offer, and represents a chance to increase inclusion and to reach new audiences.

Looking to the future, it is important that we recognise the realities of the current economic context. In the last decade, contending with the legacy of the 2007 global financial crash, the Council had limited capacity to maintain the levels of funding necessary to run its cultural services directly. This led to the adoption of an innovative commissioning model, which delivered services via third-party partnerships. These arrangements were commissioned to secure the long-term sustainability of the Council's cultural offer by reducing service delivery costs, securing investment, improving facilities, and widening the range of available activities through partnership-working. The pandemic tested the resilience of this model, and it took all the expertise and flexibility of our contracted partners to make the adaptations necessary to maintain service viability and operation. Building on this experience, and with an established network of cultural partners, we are well placed to collaborate on future projects for the culture-led regeneration of communities, the enhancement of existing services and the achievement of our overarching strategic aims.

To this end, I am very pleased to introduce Nottinghamshire County Council's new Cultural Services Strategy. And I am confident that we will be able to harness our tremendous local culture to improve the lives of residents and address the opportunities and challenges we will face as a county over the next 10 years.

Councillor John Cottee,
Chairman of the Communities Committee

2. Purpose

This Strategy establishes the principles, themes and intended outcomes for the delivery of Nottinghamshire's cultural services over the next 10 years. It represents the Council's commitment to prioritise culture as a driver of prosperity, economic regeneration, environmental sustainability, community health and wellbeing and, in view of the recent pandemic, the county's long-term recovery from COVID-19.

The Strategy will encourage a shared local engagement with Nottinghamshire's history, landscape and artistic heritage, increasing connections between sites and services across the county and expanding the reach of traditional cultural assets via new digital technologies. This approach will improve access to and participation in a coherent local cultural offer and will support the County Council's *Visitor Economy Strategy* in achieving its aim of promoting a unique Nottinghamshire identity.

The aims and outcomes of this strategy form a high-level framework for the delivery of more detailed service plans, which will contain specific development objectives for individual sites and services. Outlining the short-to-long-term ambitions, project ideas and required actions for country parks and libraries, these bespoke plans will contribute to the achievement of the Strategy's overarching aims. They will also align with the Council Plan and other key corporate documents.

Having a clear strategy and supporting service plans will ensure that the Council and its partners are well-placed to take advantage of funding and investment opportunities for the enhancement of the county's cultural provision in the next decade.

3. Vision

By 2032, Nottinghamshire will have a more integrated, flexible cultural services offer that appeals and is accessible to all of its residents and communities, and that contributes both to their overall wellbeing and to the prosperity and environmental health of the county as a whole.

4. Culture in the County

Adopting a third-party delivery model in the last ten years has meant that our cultural offer has become more customer-focussed. It draws more deeply upon sector-wide expertise provided by contracted partners, allowing for more varied, high-quality experiences that reflect customer needs and interests, whilst also maintaining financial viability.

Now that we have a set of mature commissioning relationships, the Council is looking to refine its cultural offer and expand the activities and experiences available to residents through closer partnership-working. This involves strengthening the links between major cultural attractions, deepening their association with core historical and environmental themes, such as Robin Hood and Sherwood Forest, and maximising the raised profile afforded to our cultural assets by the increase in local tourism during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nottinghamshire's cultural offer comprises country parks, historic buildings, libraries, archives and adult learning services, alongside world-class sporting facilities and events. It spans the whole of the county, encompassing areas of varying affluence, geography, population size and demographic composition. Our main attractions sit on major transport routes, as well as in proximity to the River Trent and large urban settlements, presenting exciting opportunities to improve connectivity between different sites.

Country Parks

Each of our country parks offers something different; and their individual histories and environmental contexts provide unique experiences for residents and visitors to the county.

Rufford Abbey

Set in 150 acres of woodland, meadow and gardens, Rufford Abbey Country Park is operated via a partnership with Parkwood Leisure, which was established in 2017. The site possesses both historical and ecological statutory designations. The 12th century Cistercian Abbey and its associated archaeology and topography have Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) status, as conferred by Historic England on behalf of the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS). This part of the park also falls under English Heritage Guardianship. Local Nature Reserve status and Registered Historic Park and Gardens designations apply to the remaining grounds, contributing to the national cultural significance of the site.

Together with our statutory partners, the Council and Parkwood Leisure will work over the coming years to enrich the overall offer on the site. This will be achieved through improvements to existing infrastructure, expansion of educational resources for visitor interpretation, implementation of a varied

events schedule and work to improve the wider local transport network, making the park more accessible to residents and visitors. All of this will be done with due regard for our heritage and conservation obligations, ensuring that we preserve Rufford for future generations.

Sherwood Forest

As the home of Robin Hood and the Major Oak, Sherwood Forest is at the heart of Nottinghamshire's history and culture. Set in 450 acres, the park comprises an ancient woodland habitat with Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and National Nature Reserve (NNR) ecological designations. In 2015, the Council established a partnership with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). The RSPB manage the Forest on the Council's behalf, undertaking conservation activities, including with local community groups and volunteers, and delivering large-scale annual events, with the Robin Hood Festival attracting around 40,000 visitors each summer.

Sherwood Forest has received significant capital investment in recent years. In 2018, a new £5m Visitor Centre was opened. This was funded by the Council and contributions from other local partners. Since opening, the new Centre has been successful in enhancing visitor experience through improved hospitality, historical interpretation and gift shop facilities. It has also allowed for the site of the old visitor centre to be 'reclaimed' by the woodland, an action key to the long-term health of the Forest.

We will continue to work with the RSPB to explore future funding opportunities, making the most of the Robin Hood story and expanding the site's appeal through new event ideas and digital initiatives.

Holme Pierrepont and the National Water Sports Centre

Holme Pierrepont is unique. Located in Rushcliffe Borough, in the south of the county, it comprises a 270-acre country park, which also hosts the National Water Sports Centre (NWSC), a renowned elite sport facility.

As a country park, Holme Pierrepont offers a range of hospitality and catering outlets, campsite accommodation, family activities, including archery and rock climbing, and, of course, open green spaces for walks beside the River Trent. The NWSC supplements this outdoor offer with a gym, indoor fitness suite and exercise classes. It also provides a venue for world-class athletes, including Team Great Britain, to train in white water rafting, canoeing, kayaking and regatta rowing.

Water sport activities are also open to the public, with the Council's partner, Serco Leisure, contracted in 2013 to operate the site, offering classes and activities overseen by specialist staff, and in partnership with national sporting bodies, including British Canoeing. Each year, the site hosts large-scale events, including the Outlaw Triathlon and British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) Regatta, which attract thousands of participants and visitors from across the country. The Council and Serco also work with local partners on community outreach, including with schools and universities to promote water sports, and Emergency Services to raise awareness around water safety.

We will work over the next decade to develop the site further as a critical cultural asset, working with partners to secure external investment and to deliver new, ambitious projects. In particular, we will seek to improve the site's accommodation offer and, where possible, link its activities to wider tourism initiatives across the county.

Bestwood

The Council formed a partnership with Gedling Borough Council (GBC) in 2017, who assumed

responsibility for operation of the 650-acre Bestwood Country Park site. The park comprises a varied landscape, used for walking, cycling, horse-riding, and local sporting events, such as Parkrun. It also has numerous habitats of different ecological sensitivity and significance, including extensive woodland and the Mill Lakes. In 2020, Bestwood was awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award, the internationally recognised standard for environmental management of green spaces and parks.

The area's industrial heritage is embodied by the Grade II listed Victorian Winding Engine House, located near to the park's main entrance. This former mining infrastructure dates to 1876 and provides a historic focal point for residents and visitors. As well as guided tours, visitors have access to a popular community café in the adjacent Dynamo House, run by the Friends of Bestwood volunteers, who work closely with Council officers on matters affecting the Engine House and the wider park.

Alongside opportunities to maximise engagement with local history and heritage, the park and neighbouring Council land also have significant environmental potential. Adding to the ecological and conservational work already undertaken by site staff, certain areas of former pit tip and mining land have been identified as suitable for large-scale environmental projects, including the Trees for Climate planting scheme. Such initiatives will help to expand publicly accessible woodland and contribute to the carbon offsetting objectives of the Council's *Corporate Environment Strategy* and 2030 carbon neutrality target.

The Council and GBC work closely with volunteers to ensure that the site is properly conserved. Community engagement activities are also supported by key local stakeholders, including the Friends of Bestwood group and the Local Parish Council, with whom we will continue to work in order to develop the site and meet the future needs of residents and visitors.

Library Services

Inspire

Nottinghamshire's library network consists of over 60 library buildings and three mobile library vehicles, which provide varied services within our local communities. In 2016, the Council established Inspire - Culture, Learning, Libraries, a Charitable Community Benefit Organisation, to deliver cultural and learning services across the county. Since its establishment, Inspire has successfully delivered various aspects of the county's cultural offer, including:

- Archives and Heritage
- Arts in the community
- Learning and Skills Service
- Education Library Service
- Instrumental Music Teaching in Schools
- Nottinghamshire Music Hub
- Public Libraries
- Records Management for the County Council
- Youth Arts

Working with Inspire, the Council has been able to improve its cultural services by expanding the range of activities available to residents and increasing the efficiency of management processes, including in specialist areas, such as Archives and Records Management. The Council and Inspire have also worked together to make physical improvements to the county's library network, with over 35 successful new-build and refurbishment projects having been delivered in recent years. In 2020, the Council's Finance and Major Contracts Committee approved a five year extension to the Inspire contract, recognising the success of the continuing relationship over the previous contract

period, and, indeed, its importance in maintaining community services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Inspire's swift adaptation of its offer in response to COVID-19 was acknowledged in the findings of the Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Review, which took place in February 2021. The Review Team comprised senior Councillors from other local authorities, professional leads, LGA associates and a senior manager from the Arts Council England (ACE). Over two days, they interviewed key stakeholders, including Inspire staff, and Council leadership and Members, and reviewed documents against a number of key lines of enquiry. Areas of interest included membership engagement and volunteering, impact and performance, customer journey and innovation. The Review Team also considered lessons learnt about the library service from the COVID-19 crisis, how these might affect future vision and strategy and how Inspire's role could evolve after the pandemic.

The Review found that Inspire had successfully expanded its virtual offer, re-engineered its website and provided 'valued support to customers seeking information and resources' at a time when face-to-face services were unavailable. It also commended the provision of home delivery, and click and collect and mobile services, which ensured that Inspire continued to offer 'the fullest possible' array of 'safe and legal' services during the pandemic. These actions were driven by Inspire's 'unwavering focus on customer and community' and showed that, whilst it had been fulfilling its aims and mission 'very effectively' since 2016, it also has the potential to assume an even more prominent strategic role in the county as 'the front door to Council services'.

We will use this Strategy to build on the Council's strong partnership with Inspire, and, in light of the findings of the Peer Review, develop the relationship's strategic role, helping to address both the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the long-term objectives of the Council Plan.

5. Principles

The themes, outcomes and actions of the new Cultural Services Strategy will follow five key principles. These principles will, in turn, form part of the investment criteria for individual site and service plans. Cultural Services over the next 10 years will:

1. Contribute to the achievement of the Council's short-to-long-term aims and commitments, as expressed in key corporate documents, including the *Council Plan*, *Visitor Economy Strategy* and *the Corporate Environment Strategy*.
2. Support the long-term sustainability and resilience of the Council's Cultural Offer, contributing to the county's recovery from COVID-19 and sustaining the financial viability of value-for-money cultural services.
3. Enhance customer experience and broaden the appeal of our key cultural assets.
4. Protect the longevity of historically and ecologically sensitive sites and assets, whilst also making them more accessible to the public.
5. Improve the mental and physical wellbeing of our residents and communities.

Adherence to these principles will ensure that we deliver cultural services that are focussed on the immediate and long-term needs of our residents, and that contribute to the County's overall prosperity in the coming years.

6. Themes, Outcomes and Actions

Our themes have been derived from sector-wide research and discussions with key local partners and stakeholders, and reflect the main priorities and issues related to cultural services in Nottinghamshire:

- *Place and Identity*
- *Health and Resilience*
- *Access and Participation*
- *Partnerships and Collaboration*

Each of these will generate a set of desired outcomes, supported by the delivery of a number of key actions.

The four themes, and their associated outcomes and actions, should not be viewed in isolation; rather, they have been developed with mutual delivery in mind: achievements in one thematic area will yield achievements in the others. They will also contribute to the delivery of wider corporate objectives, and will be underpinned by the specific, bespoke projects and investment ideas contained within individual site and service plans.

Theme 1: Place and Identity

Thematic Statement

To develop Nottinghamshire's distinctive cultural identity through the creation, maintenance and improvement of infrastructure, services and activities that increase the affinity of residents with their home county and enhance the appeal of our attractions to external visitors and investors.

Context

National funding bodies, such as Arts Council England (ACE) and the UK Heritage Lottery Fund, have prioritised the development of 'place identities' in their long-term strategies. This entails the consolidation of local cultural themes, assets and services into a shared brand. Affiliation with local culture, whether through physical assets, such as country parks, environments, and heritage, or through ideas, as communicated by the arts and other creative projects, can help to overcome issues of inclusion, encourage greater participation and promote community cohesion. It can also engage communities in conservational and environmental causes, cultivating a sense of shared ownership over, and guardianship of, ecologically and historically sensitive sites and habitats.

Developing a strong cultural identity also has commercial benefits. Coherent local offers, well connected both thematically and in terms of transport and infrastructure, are better placed to be marketed to residents and visitors, as well as to prospective investors and national funding bodies. In fact, the Council's *Visitor Economy Strategy* recognises that 'Nottinghamshire needs a much clearer identity and a higher profile in the marketplace', supported by 'more joined up experiences'. It identifies the county's 'great natural capital, inspiring stories' and 'appealing heritage' as opportunities for sustainable growth, which can be 'channelled' into a unique and recognisable brand.

'Place-making' does not entail the loss or disregard of local differences. Rather, the individual histories and contexts of our sites, environments, buildings and people will be recognised and celebrated as equal components of the county's cultural brand. In other words, it is the variety of Nottinghamshire's cultural offer that makes it a sustainable whole, a shared identity with which all residents can engage, whatever their circumstances or background.

Outcomes

This theme will develop and/or maintain:

- A more defined Nottinghamshire identity and sense of place.
- A better-connected cultural services network.
- An improved set of visitor experiences across the county.
- The longevity of Nottinghamshire's most significant physical assets.

Actions

These outcomes will be delivered by completing the following actions:

a) Capital and Revenue Investment

- Work with partners to secure external investment in projects that will improve connections between cultural services and assets in our communities, and increase the accommodation offer at key sites.
- Work with partners to secure investment to maximise the use of existing library and community buildings.

b) Infrastructure

- Improve connectivity between sites and services through the implementation of a targeted transport plan.
- Improve tourism signage to help connect local cultural attractions.

c) Events

- Work with cultural partners to deliver large-scale, nationally significant events, such as the Tour of Britain cycling race.
- Work with cultural partners to expand and refine existing local events, such as the Robin Hood Festival, to widen appeal and increase visitor numbers.

d) Marketing and Branding

- Co-ordinate partner campaigns to align cultural assets, including country parks, more closely with one another and to promote Nottinghamshire as a visitor destination via joint branding initiatives, such as 'Nottinghamshire Day'.
- Strengthen thematic links between local attractions, using shared historical, literary and environmental heritage.
- Use digital technology to expand the appeal of our main cultural attractions and to reach new target audiences.

e) Interpretation and Education

- Increase local understanding of our main cultural assets through improved interpretation and visitor engagement, including via innovative digital technologies.
- Increase awareness of the historical and ecological sensitivity of our sites, including Rufford Abbey Country Park and Sherwood Forest, and engage visitors in conservation through events and volunteering opportunities.

Our Council Plan

This theme supports the delivery of the draft *Council Plan's* commitment to ensure that Nottinghamshire:

- Attracts more investment in infrastructure, the economy and green growth.
- Is an attractive and vibrant county.
- Enjoys improved transport and connectivity.

Our Visitor Economy

This theme supports the delivery of the *Visitor Economy Strategy's* commitment to:

- Develop a social media profile for Nottinghamshire as a destination across key channels.
- Deliver best-in-class visitor experiences at County owned visitor assets.
- Stimulate investment in tourism facilities that help unlock tourism growth potential.
- Ensure visitor-focused transport and digital infrastructure that is part of the experience.

Our Environment

This theme supports the delivery of the Corporate Environment Strategy's and carbon neutrality target's commitment to:

- Increase the use of public transport and promote greener active modes of travel.
- Conserve and enhance Nottinghamshire's built and archaeological heritage.
- Improve the sustainability of Council owned land and property.

Theme 2: Health and Resilience

Thematic Statement

To use cultural services to develop healthier and more resilient communities.

Context

The Health and Resilience Theme applies to every aspect of our cultural services model. As well as the physical and mental wellbeing of Nottinghamshire residents, the outcomes and actions of this theme consider the environmental and financial sustainability of our main attractions and commissioning relationships.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented unique public health challenges, and compounded certain pre-existing national and local issues. The Council's own [COVID-19 Recovery Framework, 2021-2022](#) acknowledges that the virus and associated social restrictions 'led to an exacerbation of the social and lifestyle determinants of poor health' in Nottinghamshire, including 'unemployment, reduced educational achievement...poor diet and inactivity'. Our country parks and libraries were key to addressing these issues. Not only did venues such as Rufford Abbey, Sherwood Forest and Holme

Pierrepont provide much-needed spaces for exercise and social interaction, they also offered exposure to local history and heritage, increasing a sense of connection with the county and its local communities at a time of unprecedented loneliness and isolation. Our Libraries, too, by offering innovative digital resources and engaging alternatives to in person cultural services, were able to reach those residents unable to go to public places during the pandemic.

To capitalise on the good work undertaken during the pandemic and to strengthen the link between culture and wellbeing, we must continue to monitor and maintain the health and resilience of our cultural services. The longevity of our heritage and natural habitats and key buildings, especially those with national historical significance, is intrinsic to the success of this new Strategy. If we want to promote the health benefits of cultural engagement, we must, as a priority, ensure that our principal cultural attractions are themselves in excellent health. This will be achieved by continued development of our close partnerships, identified under theme 4, which help to care for and provide the various services in our country parks and libraries. The long-term financial sustainability of our commissioning relationships is also crucial. Using contractual governance arrangements to monitor and review partner performance, we will continue to ensure that resources are used wisely, that value-for-money services are delivered as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible, and that our cultural services remain financially viable.

Underpinning each of this theme's priorities is a commitment to environmental sustainability. The county's health, and indeed that of the planet, depends upon services such as ours leading by example and taking the necessary steps, large and small, to preserve our local environment and amend our more harmful behaviours. The fulfilment of local environmental obligations through a greener cultural offer will support the Council's wider effort to achieve Net Carbon Zero by 2030.

Outcomes

This theme will develop:

- Cultural services as health and wellbeing assets.
- Greener, more sustainable cultural services.
- Healthier environments and public spaces.
- Stronger commissioning relationships with key third-party partners.

Actions

These outcomes will be delivered by completing the following actions:

a) *Personal Health and Wellbeing*

- Better integrate the unique country park and sport and leisure offer at Holme Pierrepont Country Park and the National Water Sports Centre, and increase resident participation in activities that use both the open green space and world class sports facilities on site.
- Consolidate the reputation of country parks as places for outdoor exercise and fitness, both for individuals and community groups.

b) *Environmental Sustainability*

- Identify and deliver green-growth development opportunities across our main sites and services.

- Work with partners, volunteers and the local community to develop and support more sustainable site management practices, in terms of conservation, heritage and carbon reduction and offsetting activities.
- Work with partners and key local stakeholders, including volunteers, to develop and deliver up-to-date conservation and ecology plans, which include the environmental and heritage activities essential to the health and resilience of our sites.
- Undertake climate resilience planning, including flood prevention, to ensure that our main sites are adapted and resilient to changing environmental conditions.

c) *History and Heritage*

- Undertake and support activities that maintain and improve the condition of our heritage assets.
- Ensure that sites are operated responsibly and in full compliance with the requirements of heritage and conservation legislation.

d) *Financial Resilience and Sustainability*

- Work with partners to identify and deliver viable 'invest-to-save' initiatives, improving the income generating capacity of key sites and increasing financial sustainability of cultural services by reducing the Council's contractual subsidies.
- Use contractual governance arrangements to monitor and review partner performance, ensuring that value-for-money services are being delivered as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible.

e) *Communications*

- Promote sport and healthy lifestyle events and activities, working with partners at Holme Pierrepont and the National Water Sports Centre, as well as other country parks, green spaces and libraries.
- Work with Inspire as a strategic partner to promote Public Health messaging, including on fitness, health and wellbeing, via its library service and educational channels.
- Promote environmental messages and educational materials via Council and partner communication channels.

Our Council Plan

This theme supports the delivery of the draft Council Plan's commitment to ensuring that:

- Communities and families are resilient and well supported.
- People are healthier and live independent lives for longer.
- We protect our environment and reduce our carbon footprint.

Our Visitor Economy

This theme supports the delivery of the *Visitor Economy Strategy's* commitment to:

- Create an engaging and distinctive green and active countryside experience.

Our Environment

This theme supports the delivery of the Corporate Environment Strategy's and carbon neutrality target's commitment to:

- Limit the negative impacts of a changing climate on Nottinghamshire's environment
- Protect essential habitats and improve biodiversity on all sites
- Help towards achieving net gains in biodiversity, supporting the delivery of the Local Biodiversity action plan.

Theme 3: Access and Participation

Thematic Statement

To make Nottinghamshire's Cultural Offer more accessible and inclusive, encouraging wider community participation and engagement.

Context

Over the last 10 years, the Council and its partners have worked closely to make our cultural services more inclusive. Whether through improvement of physical assets, ensuring that sites and buildings are correctly configured for disabled access, or refinement of interpretation materials, events and activities to broaden the appeal of our offer, we have strived successfully to increase the opportunities for cultural engagement across the county. The COVID-19 pandemic has, however, reinforced how much more work can be done, nationally and locally, through education, technology and physical access, to broaden participation in the cultural sector. For the Council, this means that our country parks, sporting facilities and library services must be made appealing, accessible and affordable to the widest possible audience, meeting the needs of all of the county's residents, whatever their background.

Educational attainment is key to accessing culture. Basic skills, such as literacy and numeracy, are the foundation not only for academic achievement and employment, but also for confident engagement in the arts and culture. Our Library and Learning Services, operated by Inspire, have become critical educational and cultural assets for younger and older Nottinghamshire residents, delivering county-wide reading programmes, maths and English courses, creative writing and literature lessons, music tuition, and various training and apprenticeship schemes. Now, with a more developed online programme, refined and enhanced during the pandemic, Inspire are better placed than ever to extend the reach of local culture through education. This is especially important for those children and young people whose education was interrupted due to COVID-19. The programmes offered by Inspire will help to make up for lost education and mitigate against the potential loss of cultural engagement this could entail.

Technology can also help to improve cultural access. Offering a blend of digital and physical services gives access to culture to those who may not be able to travel to a physical site, such as a country park or library. During the pandemic, this became especially important in maintaining service access during periods of social restriction. In the future, we will continue to explore how digital technology can help our cultural offer to adapt to changing customer requirements and habits, ensuring that it remains attractive and available to as wide an audience as possible. This will involve technology like 5G connectivity. Since 2019, the Council has been leading on the 5G Connected Forest Project, which brings together local authorities, universities and technology providers to develop test-beds for new digital connectivity and augmented reality experiences. These explore how improved technological infrastructure can be used to enhance visitor experiences, encourage new target

audiences to visit and engage with the histories of country parks, such as Sherwood and Rufford, and even help with environmental activities through conservation management applications.

In recognising how digital technology can make culture more appealing and accessible to our communities, we must be mindful of a still persistent 'digital divide'. The pandemic accelerated the trend towards digital service provision; it also highlighted that some residents felt less able to engage with remote, online services. This applies especially to learning services; and we will work with partners, such as Inspire, to address these challenges, and ensure that no one is excluded due to a lack of digital equipment, proficiency or confidence.

The pandemic reiterated the importance of outdoor spaces to local people of all backgrounds. Whilst digital technology helped to overcome social isolation in lockdown, it was our country parks and green spaces to which residents turned in record numbers as restrictions eased. As explored in Theme 2, this trend was important to the maintenance of public health after a period of inactivity. Sport England's 10-year Strategy, '[Uniting the Movement](#)', aims to capitalise on increased outdoor activity during COVID and 'create and protect places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active'. It recognises that, 'for too long, people with the most to gain from being active have been the least able to take part', due to a number of societal inequalities. The Strategy views 'community spaces', such as parks, as having a wider reach than traditional sporting facilities; they 'may never be perfect competition or training spaces, but they attract people who might never go to a sports club, leisure centre or private gym'. In the case of Holme Pierrepont, which combines a country park with indoor and outdoor sporting facilities, we can offer access to green space and dedicated sport amenities on one site. Together with our other parks, Nottinghamshire is well placed to promote its varied portfolio as a network of 'active spaces', with the added attraction of heritage and ecology offers, in the case of Rufford, Sherwood and Bestwood, to encourage all residents, not just those with sporting interests, to get outdoors and be active.

Outcomes

This theme will support the development of:

- A more accessible and varied cultural offer with wider appeal.
- Recognition of our cultural offer among new audiences.
- More opportunities for community involvement and engagement.

Actions

a) Capital and Revenue Investment

- Work with partners to identify and apply for suitable funding opportunities designed to improve the inclusivity and accessibility of facilities at our sites for residents and visitors.

b) Communication

- Promote inclusive and accessible events and activities more widely via the Council's and partners' digital communication channels.
- Work with partners to support the aims of such initiatives as the British Sign Language Charter (2017).
- Ensure that cultural services communications are in standardised accessible formats.

c) Physical and Digital Access

- Ensure that sites are made as accessible as possible, both in terms of building access and local transport provision.
- Promote digital literacy and skills to reduce digital exclusion.
- Work with partners to adapt buildings, where required, for hybrid physical-digital use, to accommodate in-person and online activities.

d) Environment

- Involve more people, from different backgrounds, in conservation and ecological activities, increasing opportunities for residents to contribute to the long-term environmental sustainability and biodiversity of our sites.

e) History and Heritage

- Undertake and support activities that will lead to a wider range of people being involved in local heritage.
- Provide more learning opportunities, including through digital initiatives, to improve knowledge and understanding of local heritage among Nottinghamshire's communities.

f) Events

- Work with partners to provide more diverse events programmes, widening the appeal of our cultural offer to new audiences.

g) Sport

- Work with partners to create 'active environments' and promote wider involvement in sport at sites such as Holme Pierrepont.

h) Education

- Work with partners, such as Inspire, to use our cultural services network to support educational attainment and catch-up, following the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Use library-based initiatives to promote reading across the county.

Our Council Plan

This theme supports the delivery of the draft Council Plan's commitment to ensuring that:

- Communities and families are resilient and well supported.
- People have the education and skills they need to get good local jobs.

Our Visitor Economy

This theme supports the delivery of the *Visitor Economy Strategy*'s aim to:

- Create a more accessible and sustainable Visitor Economy. Improve the accessibility of Nottinghamshire's main visitor attractions.

Our Environment

This theme supports the delivery of the *Corporate Environment Strategy and the 2030 carbon neutrality target's* commitment to:

- Promote environmental volunteering opportunities with community partners and residents.

Theme 4: Partnerships and Collaboration

Thematic Statement

To develop and maintain mutually beneficial local and regional partnerships, and improve our cultural services offer through effective collaboration.

Context

Partnerships and collaboration already underpin Nottinghamshire's cultural offer. Due to the nature of our commissioning model, the Council has, over the last decade, established a wide range of positive working relationships with local and national organisations. From large private sector contractors to neighbouring local authorities and volunteer and community groups, we have worked with partners to deliver cultural services that draw on the widest possible range of expertise. Financially, these relationships have also secured the viability and resilience of our services, allowing continued operation within tighter budget constraints imposed since the 2008 recession. This theme seeks to reaffirm and refresh this collaborative approach in light of the Council's latest strategic documents, and, in turn, the main lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Balancing sector-specific knowledge and resources with commercial imperatives has been a key consideration in the award and management of contracts for our country parks and library services. Essential in striking this balance is the fulfilment of statutory obligations designed to preserve the safety, sustainability and longevity of our cultural attractions. To this end, due to the complexity of our offer, which straddles a number of specialisms, the relationships the Council and its contracted partners have with external agencies and statutory organisations are crucial. Managing sites with historic buildings and grounds, and offering sporting activities, such as white-water rafting, requires open communication with relevant national and local bodies, upon whose expertise and advice we and our contracted partners can draw. In this way, close collaboration with key agencies ensures that, for specialist areas of responsibility, such as heritage and conservation and water sports, the Council and its contracted commercial partners are able to follow best practice and remain legally compliant, both in day-to-day operations and in the planning and delivery of large-scale strategic projects.

Collaboration also has a number of wider community benefits, including for access and inclusion and place-making. Working with partner organisations and local volunteers can help to make our cultural services more efficient and appealing. On a small scale, this applies to the co-ordination of voluntary ecological and conservation activities by site rangers, as at Bestwood Country Park. Other sites, including Sherwood, also engage with local schools, involving class groups in conservation and heritage tasks. Local residents and volunteers have even in the past been involved in archaeological excavations at Rufford Abbey; and the operators of the National Water Sports Centre at Holme Pierrepont often engage with local schools and universities to widen access to water sport activities and raise water safety awareness. These examples show the role of country parks in fostering collaborative and voluntary activities and in strengthening local affiliation with, and understanding of, cultural attractions through opportunities for closer involvement with essential operational and conservation activities.

On a larger scale, programmes such as the Miner2Major initiative, a five-year Landscape Partnership Scheme (2019-2023), supported by the UK Heritage Lottery Fund, have sought to engage local communities through heritage and conservation projects. Involving numerous local partners, including the County Council, Inspire, the RSPB and local Friends Groups, M2M seeks to promote the Sherwood Forest area, which stretches from Bestwood to Ollerton, Mansfield to Rufford Abbey, 'as a distinctive, recognisable and appreciated landscape'. It also seeks to 'increase the commitment of local people to appreciate and safeguard the heritage' of the area 'through a programme of targeted activities'. Using its partnerships to reach the widest possible audience, M2M demonstrates how collaborative projects can provide opportunities for community engagement in specific conservation activities, with tangible benefits for the 'Health and Resilience' of our main ecological and historical assets, and, simultaneously, cultivate a sense of local ownership, or 'Place Identity', through wider 'Access and Participation'.

Inspire's Learning programme exemplifies successful multi-agency partnerships in the education sector. Strong relationships with Nottinghamshire's local schools, commercial learning providers, employers and district councils has helped to develop a curriculum, for children and adults, aimed at the specific needs of different parts of the county. Using intelligence provided by local partners, Inspire have been able to tailor their learning offer to address the particular educational gaps and skills shortages affecting different communities. They have also, by working closely with the Council's Integrated Children's Disability Service (ICDS), created courses aimed at children with Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs), and, in partnership with Further Education colleges, employers and the Council's supported internships Team, offered pathways into employment for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Our Library Services also have a successful record of developing partnerships. With a network of 60 libraries, spanning the entire county, Inspire are responsible for delivering services to communities of varying size, affluence and cultural engagement. This requires a flexible, collaborative approach to library services, in order to meet the specific needs of residents in different parts of Nottinghamshire. In smaller rural settlements, for example, where library hours are often fewer than in urban areas due to lower footfall, communities and local stakeholder groups have been consulted on ways in which libraries might be used more effectively. This has yielded a number of 'multi-use' and 'co-location' partnerships, in which Parish Councils and other local stakeholder groups use the local village library as a base for their staff and services, and, in doing so, create a community hub. These hubs have then been able to draw in school and volunteer groups and local clubs to broaden the offer available to residents. Building adaptations and refurbishments have also been used to make libraries more flexible, with moveable shelving and open plan layouts more suited to collaborative arrangements and community use. This approach can, in more urban settings, even stimulate economic regeneration. Multi-use hubs, which include libraries, health services, hospitality and retail are becoming increasingly common, nationally, as a means to revitalise ailing high-streets. These arrangements require close partnership working between local authorities, library services and partners, such as the NHS, and will be supported, where possible, by the Council and Inspire.

Outcomes

This theme will develop and/or maintain:

- Stronger, more resilient partnerships with contracted partners and public, voluntary and commercial operators across the sector.
- Stronger partnerships with key external agencies and statutory bodies, including Historic England and English Heritage.
- Close collaboration with local and regional partners and stakeholders to improve services and deliver large-scale projects.
- A more closely connected county-wide cultural offer.

Actions

These outcomes will be delivered by the completing the following actions:

a) Revenue and Capital Investment

- Broker and co-ordinate local and regional partnerships to attract investment and bid successfully to national funding programmes.

b) Service Delivery

- Share information and intelligence with local and regional partners to identify best practice models and improve service delivery.
- Work in partnership with other Council services to identify and deliver sustainable service improvements.

c) Governance

- Improve current partnership arrangements by applying lessons learnt from the last 10 years and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Explore the possibility of creating new partnerships, with a view to supporting the outcomes and actions of Theme 1.

d) History and Heritage

- Work with Heritage partners, including Historic England and English Heritage, to plan, co-ordinate and deliver projects that maintain and improve the condition of our key historic and heritage sites.

e) Environment

- Lead and contribute to local and regional partnerships to secure investment for green initiatives that will improve the sustainability of Nottinghamshire's cultural offer.
- Support local engagement with conservation and heritage activities through partnerships, such as the Miner2Major Scheme.

Our Council Plan

This theme supports the draft Council Plan's commitment to the delivery of:

- A culture that supports innovation, collaboration and partnership working.
- Smart resourcing and governance that ensures value for money and resilience.

Our Visitor Economy

This theme supports the delivery of the *Visitor Economy Strategy*'s commitment to:

Work collaboratively with local authorities, businesses and other partners on its Visitor Economy Strategy as it evolves.

Our Environment

This theme supports the delivery of the Corporate Environment Strategy's and the 2030 carbon neutrality target's commitment to:

- Encourage and support our partners and subsidiary companies on delivering their own environmental agendas.
 - Improve the sustainability of Council owned land and property.
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7. Governance

Progress towards the achievement of the aims of this Strategy will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis and reported to Council Members at relevant committees.

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE AND COMMUNITIES**MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING STATEMENT****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is for Members to consider and approve the content of the Council's Modern Slavery statement. The statement is an updated version of that considered and agreed by Members on 30 September 2020.

Information

2. At the Full Council meeting on 15th October 2020, a motion was passed that resolved:
3. This Council abhors modern slavery and human trafficking and has taken an active role in raising awareness of these crimes - which are often hiding in plain sight - with members, officers, and partners. This Council welcomes measures undertaken by our Trading Standards, Contracts Management and Procurement departments to prevent Modern Slavery, but acknowledges the importance of remaining vigilant against such appalling crimes.
4. The motion therefore instructed the Chief Executive to undertake work confirming that all the Council's service providers, partners, and suppliers comply with the Council's values. This report reflects one that the Chief Executive took to update members on this work to a meeting of the Policy Committee on 21 April 2021.
5. The UK Government's Modern Slavery Act (2015) is the first of its kind in Europe, and, also in the world, to specifically address modern slavery and human trafficking in the 21st century.
6. The legislation is intended to enhance support and protection for victims, to provide law enforcement tools to target slave drivers, to ensure perpetrators can be severely punished, and includes provision to encourage business to undertake action to ensure their end-to-end supply chains are slavery free. The Act also established the UK's first ever Independent Anti-slavery Commissioner to drive forward the law enforcement response.
7. Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 was brought into force on 29 October 2015 and requires employers to produce a Modern Slavery statement for financial years ending on or after 31 March 2016. Section 54 of the Act states that an employer's slavery and human trafficking statement should include the following information:
 - Details of the Council's structure, business, and supply chains
 - The policy in relation to slavery and human trafficking
 - Due diligence processes in relation to slavery and human trafficking in business and supply chains

- Identification of the level of risk of slavery and human trafficking and how the identified risk will be managed
 - How performance in ensuring that slavery and human trafficking are not taking place in our business or supply chains is measured
 - What training on slavery and human trafficking is available to employees.
8. The UK Government produces an Annual Report on Modern Slavery. The most recent version can be found here [2020 UK annual report on modern slavery \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/629222/2020-uk-annual-report-on-modern-slavery.pdf)

Our Approach

9. The Council publishes an annual Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement (Appendix A) as part of its commitment to being a good employer and as an exemplar to other employers. The statement can be found on the intranet and internet and sets out Nottinghamshire County Council's actions to understand all potential modern slavery risks related to our services and businesses and to put in place steps that are aimed at ensuring that there is no slavery or human trafficking in our own services and businesses and our supply chains.
10. In addition to the Council's own statement, it will need to retain copies of the statements of other suppliers who are required to publish their own statement i.e. commercial organisations with a total turnover of £36 million per annum. Tender documentation has been amended in order to ask potential suppliers particular questions in tender exercises to ensure that suppliers are meeting this duty before awarding contracts.
11. In order to further increase awareness of modern slavery and provide clarity for councils on their role in tackling it the Local Government Association, in December 2017, published - "Modern Slavery – A council guide". A copy of this document can be downloaded at https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/22.12_Modern_slavery_WEB%202.pdf
12. Nottinghamshire County Council is committed to understanding the risks presented by slavery. The Communities Team is coordinating the council's response to Modern Slavery which includes:
- Working with partners to establish referral pathways for victims
 - Contributing to a multi-agency strategy which incorporates early intervention and prevention support for victims of Modern Slavery, training, and awareness for practitioners and first line responders
 - Promoting Anti- Slavery Day, which is every year on October 18th, to raise awareness amongst colleagues, stakeholders, and partner organisations on the impact of Modern Slavery

Staff Training

13. The Council requires all staff working in supply chain management, Procurement and Human Resources professionals to have completed training on modern slavery awareness. The Modern-Day Slavery online training module is available to all staff within the authority through the 'My Learning, My Career' link.

14. The system for supply chain verification currently in place, where potential suppliers are evaluated before they enter the supply chain, has been reviewed, and our existing supply chains, whereby all existing suppliers are evaluated, have also been subject to review.
15. In the past year, Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking training was commissioned through the County Council with funding from the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner [OPCC] for both internal staff and external partners. This was delivered by the SnowDrop Project in Spring 2021 over nine virtual sessions.
16. Over 150 professionals including 60 NCC staff representing services including Trading Standards & the Communities, Adults, Children's & Young People Services, Safeguarding, Youth Justice, Family Service, Independent Chair Service, Public Health and Environmental Health. This training included the requirement and process of reporting under the National Referral Model (NRM).

Procurement

17. Nottinghamshire County Council undertakes due diligence when considering taking on new suppliers. As part of every procurement process our Standard Selection Questionnaire, Section 7 focusses on supplier compliance with the annual reporting requirement as set out in the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and requests evidence. A recent example of this is through the detailed and comprehensive response submitted by The Reed Group which was awarded the Temporary Agency Worker contract in September 2020.
18. In addition, the Council has been doing considerable work to develop a corporate approach to contract management. A Contract Management Toolkit was launched in October 2020 which offers guidance and tools to contract managers on each stage of a contract's lifecycle. Modern Slavery due diligence is clearly identified in the Pre-Procurement checklist. Furthermore, dedicated HR and Procurement support is available to contract managers in areas where a service is deemed to be at a higher risk of Modern Slavery or Human Trafficking.

Contract Management

19. Regular reviews of existing supply chains and annual due diligence is the responsibility of the individual Contract Manager. The Council undertook an exercise in 2021 to seek assurance on the level of due diligence undertaken across different areas. This review also included the Council's companies namely Via, Arc and Inspire.
20. Responses to the review were received from key service areas that are responsible for managing key contracts across the Council. This represents over 60% of our total annual contract value. The findings show many areas of good practice and awareness which include:
 - The Council's companies, partners and their supply chains provide the Council with an updated Modern Slavery annually at the request of the Contract Manager
 - Comprehensive documentation in place outlining the referral process if there is an identification or concern of Modern Slavery.
 - Assurance to show that regular quality assurance visits/ checks are completed through which Modern Slavery may be identified.
21. The Council's Contract Managers could not identify any known issues surrounding human trafficking or modern slavery with their suppliers, or the supply chain and many voiced

confidences in the Council's evaluation and selection process as a reliable underpinning to ensuring suppliers were compliant

22. The Contract Management Project Group Work has been newly established to lead the work on strengthening contract management within the Council and implementing the Contract Management Toolkit. The key aim will be to share best practice and embed a consistent approach to Modern Slavery.
23. As a result of work jointly undertaken with the University of Nottingham on a pilot study to evaluate any potential modern slavery risk in the use of Direct Payment (DP) Support Service Providers, guidance have now been included within the DP policy, staff guidance and e-learning module – 'Issues related to Modern Day Slavery to be aware of when employing Personal Assistants'.

County Case Examples

24. Examples from the past year of the impact of the work that is being undertaken on tackling Modern Slavery in Nottinghamshire include:
- An adult male was discussed at Gedling's Complex Case Panel [CCP] and concerns were raised about financial exploitation leaving him unable to pay rent and access food/necessities. Vulnerabilities included a suspected (but undiagnosed) mental health condition, substance abuse, unemployment, and social mobility vulnerabilities. Agencies involved in the case were: Gedling Local Mental Health Team, Nottinghamshire Police, and the Slavery Exploitation Team. The case was heard at the Serious Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference [SERAC] and outcomes included: the police Fraud Protect team visiting the male to offer supportive interventions including awareness raising; warnings and intelligence being placed on agency systems; the individual being moved to a safe accommodation elsewhere.
 - A referral was made to the Slavery Exploitation Team by Nottingham University Hospitals for a male whose property was being subjected to Cuckooing (local drug dealers had taken over in order to operate from his home). Vulnerabilities included alcohol dependence, unemployment and ongoing health issues. Agencies involved included: Nottinghamshire Police (NPT), Broxtowe Housing, Social Care, Slavery Exploitation Team. The case was due to be heard at SERAC, but a group agency discussion resulted in engagement with the male's family who were able to support him to move to a place of safety prior to the meeting. His property was also secured.

Other Options Considered

25. The Council is required to publish a Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement and would wish to do so as part of its commitment to being a good employer and as an exemplar to other employers (as noted: see Appendix A).

Reasons for Recommendations

26. It is a legal requirement for the Council to comply with section 54 of The Modern Slavery Act 2015, and the recommendations help the Council to discharge that duty.

Statutory and Policy Implications

27. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Crime and Disorder Implications

28. Modern Slavery is one of the priorities of the Safer Nottinghamshire Board (SNB). The county Modern Slavery Steering Group oversees this work, linked into that of the Serious Organised Crime (SOC) Board. With improved awareness and training across the partnership, we are likely to see an increase in offences and referrals.

Human Resources Implications

29. The last review of all the Council's employment policies and procedures included consideration to how we can further develop our prevention strategies to ensure modern slavery and human trafficking form no part of our workforce. This work is being mirrored by the Council's Procurement Team to apply the same standards to our supply chain and those who deliver services on the Council's behalf.

Human Rights Implications

30. These have been considered in developing the statement which is designed to protect individual and collective rights.

Public Sector Equality Duty implications

31. Equality implications have been considered during the development of the Council's Modern Slavery Statement.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

32. The implications for vulnerable adults and children have been considered in developing the statement which will add an additional layer of prevention for people for whom there may be a risk of modern slavery or human trafficking.

33. There is a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) available and is a framework for identifying victims of human trafficking and ensuring they receive appropriate care. A range of agencies may be involved in a trafficking case such as the Police, the UK Border Agency (UKBA), local authorities and non-government organisations such as charities.

34. The Office of the Nottinghamshire Police & Crime Commissioner has extended funding for a county caseworker until March 2022, taking referrals for South Nottinghamshire, Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe where there are concerns about adult exploitation, and work with partners to support victims and reduce harm. The Caseworker is hosted by the Slavery Exploitation Team (SET) based at Nottingham City Council.

Implications for Service Users

35. The statement will help to minimise the risk of modern slavery and human trafficking for service users and encourage early identification and action on potential issues.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1) Consider and agree the updated attached statement in **Appendix A** which demonstrates the Council's commitment to ensuring that there are no victims of slavery or human trafficking employed directly by the Council, in its commissioned services or supply chains.
- 2) Approve the publication of the updated statement on the public website.
- 3) Considers any additional information members would like to receive.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Place and Communities

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Cathy Harvey, Team Manager, Communities Team - cathy.harvey@nottsc.gov.uk or on Tel: 0115 9773415

Constitutional Comments (EP 22/10/21)

36. The Communities Committee is the appropriate body to consider and approve the contents of this report.

Financial Comments (SES 28/09/2021)

37. There are no specific 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.

- [Modern Slavery Act 2015](#)
- [Contract Management Toolkit](#)
- [The Reed Group- Anti Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2020](#)
- [2020 UK annual report on modern slavery \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement

Introduction

Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) is committed to preventing slavery and human trafficking in our corporate activities and to ensuring that our supply chains are free from slavery and human trafficking.

This statement sets out Nottinghamshire County Council's actions to understand all potential modern slavery risks related to our services and businesses, and to put in place steps that are aimed at ensuring that there is no slavery or human trafficking in our own services, businesses and our supply chains. This statement covers the activities of Nottinghamshire County Council, which includes direct employees of the Council, agency workers engaged through the Council's managed service and services delivered on behalf of the Council by third party organisations and in the council's supply chains.

Organisational structure and supply chains

Nottinghamshire County Council is part of a two-tier authority based in the East Midlands region of England in the UK, encompassing seven district and borough councils with 800,000+ citizens. The Council provides many local government services including public health, social services, schools, trading standards and licensing, highways, refuse etc. **Human resources, procurement and contract management** play a key role in our work to ensure our corporate activities and supply chains are free from modern slavery and human trafficking.

Human Resources

As part of Local Government, we pay our own employees the Living Wage Foundation living wage as part of our ongoing commitment to treating people fairly and to raise workers out of poverty. Whilst we do not require our suppliers to match this commitment, we do ask them to consider its adoption for their workforces.

NCC has also implemented a consistent and inclusive system for conducting the prescribed Right to Work document checks, in order to fulfil the legal requirement of all UK employers.

REED who provide us a recruitment support service have their own annual Modern Slavery Statement - [REED MSA Statement 2020v7.pdf](#)

Procurement & Contract Management

NCC would expect all suppliers of goods or services to have their own policy relating to working practices or modern slavery, or for evidence to be available to ensure their standards are in accordance with the Council's expectations. We would request that our suppliers ensure the same of their own supply chains.

NCC undertakes due diligence when considering taking on new suppliers. In addition, the Council has been doing considerable work to develop a corporate approach to contract management. A Contract Management Toolkit was launched in October 2020 which offers guidance and tools to contract managers on each stage of a contract's lifecycle. Modern Slavery due diligence is clearly identified in the Pre-Procurement checklist. Furthermore, dedicated HR and Procurement support is available to

contract managers in areas where a service is deemed to be at a higher risk of Modern Slavery or Human Trafficking.

Children & Young people

Young people at risk of modern slavery and trafficking are supported through the safeguarding children's partnership Criminal Exploitation pathway. For those at low risk there are methods to identify and intervene early to divert into positive activities and disrupt the exploitation. When young people have become entrenched in exploitation, they will be supported on child protection plans with multi-agency meetings held on a regular basis to focus on plans to support the child and disrupt the exploitation. Those at highest risk are discussed at a monthly senior management panel to ensure partnership risk management plans are robust.

Partnership

The Council is a partner at the Safer Nottinghamshire Board (SNB), Modern Slavery Steering Group and the Serious Organised Crime (SOC) Board. The Modern Slavery Steering Group sets the countywide action plan for this area of work, informed, and is led by the University of Nottingham who completed a problem profile in 2019.

Relevant Policies

Nottinghamshire County Council reviews its policies and procedures on an ongoing basis to ensure they remain compliant and fit for purpose. The following policies and procedures are considered to be key in meeting the requirements of the Modern Day Slavery Act.

- **Safeguarding policies** – adults, children and young people have policies in place to address their safety from many aspects. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) deals with cases of vulnerable adults that may need to be referred into the SERAC.
- **Whistleblowing policy** - The organisation encourages all its workers, customers and other business partners to report any concerns related to the direct activities, or the supply chains of, the organisation. This includes any circumstances that may give rise to an enhanced risk of slavery or human trafficking. The organisation's whistleblowing procedure is designed to make it easy for workers to make disclosures, without fear of retaliation.
- **Employee code of conduct** - Nottinghamshire County Council's code makes it clear to employees the actions and behaviour expected of them when representing the organisation. The organisation strives to maintain the highest standards of employee conduct and ethical behaviour in all its operations and when managing our supply chain.
- **Expectations of Suppliers** - Nottinghamshire County Council is committed to ensuring that its suppliers adhere to the highest standards of ethics. Suppliers are required to demonstrate that they provide safe working conditions where necessary, treat workers with dignity and respect, and act ethically and within the law in their use of labour. We work with suppliers to ensure that they meet the required standards. However, serious violations of the Council's supplier expectations will lead to the termination of the business relationship.
- **Agency workers managed service** - The Council uses only specified, reputable employment agencies to source labour and always through its managed service provider, verifies the practices of any new agency it is using before accepting workers from that agency. The contractual audit process with the managed service provider supplies the required evidence of panel supplier abilities to comply. There has been no requirement to take action as a result of the risk of slavery and human trafficking in the period covered by this statement.

Due diligence

Nottinghamshire County Council undertakes due diligence when considering taking on new suppliers and regularly reviews its existing suppliers.

Responsibility

Responsibility for the Council's anti-slavery initiatives is as follows:

- **Policies:** Service Director, Customers, Governance and Employees in the Chief Executives Department will be responsible for ensuring appropriate recruitment and employment policies are in place and reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they remain current and relevant.
- **Risk assessments:** To be undertaken by the relevant service area where there is deemed to be a risk of modern slavery or human trafficking, with the support of colleagues within HR and procurement. The risk assessment will be signed off by the appropriate service director and held centrally and demonstrate the corporate responsibility for human rights and modern slavery risk analysis.
- **Investigations / due diligence:** Any concerns regarding modern slavery or human trafficking should be raised with the Service Director, Customers, Governance and Employees in the first instance.

Performance indicators

Nottinghamshire County Council has reviewed its key performance indicators (KPIs) in light of the introduction of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. As a result, we have:

- ✓ required all new staff working in supply chain management, Procurement and HR professionals to have completed training on modern slavery as part of their induction;
- ✓ reviewed the system for supply chain verification currently in place, whereby we evaluate potential suppliers before they enter the supply chain; and
- ✓ continue to review our existing supply chains by contract managers, whereby we evaluate all existing suppliers.

Training

The organisation requires all staff responsible for supply chain managers, those working in HR or Procurement within the Council to complete training on modern slavery.

Declaration

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes Nottinghamshire County Council's modern slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 31 March 2022.

3 November 2021

Agenda Item: 8

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE AND COMMUNITIES

UPDATE ON KEY TRADING STANDARDS AND COMMUNITIES MATTERS

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Committee on key Trading Standards and Communities matters, including the role the Service continues to play in the County Council's response to the Covid-19 emergency.
2. To also address questions previously raised by Committee regarding doorstep crime and illegal tobacco.

Information

TRADING STANDARDS

3. **Coronavirus Response** - Many of the legislative controls have now been lifted that were in place to specifically manage the pandemic, with the emphasis now on encouraging covid safe behaviour.
4. The Local Authority still maintains the power to be able to issue a direction on a premises, event, or public space to respond to a serious and imminent threat to public health, but no directions have been issued recently. Trading Standards would be part of the enforcement approach should such a threat occur.
5. **Preventing Fraud Against The Vulnerable** - A question was raised at the July Committee in relation to the areas that had been leafleted to provide residents with information on the prevention of doorstep crime. 250 leaflets were delivered to residents in Barnaby Gate and Appleton gate in Newark with the assistance of the Police Beat Team.
6. This awareness work is continuing with hairdressers and barbers in Mansfield and Newark being approached to share prevention material with their clients.
7. The Service has continued to protect vulnerable residents from scams and doorstep crime and has been speaking to residents over the telephone/sending out advice in the post.
8. 10 new call blockers have been installed this year to block unwanted calls.
9. **Food Safety** - From 1st October 2021, there will be a major change in food occurring, at which time all foods which are packed at the same site as they are sold, including market stalls

and vehicles, and those which are in packaging before being ordered or selected by customers must contain a full ingredient list on their labelling, emphasising allergens.

10. A communications package is being delivered to support businesses with these changes, with emphasis on the availability of a 30-minute free legislation consultation.
11. Visits by specialist officers to premises are being planned later in October to see the effectiveness of the media campaign and to further aid the compliance process.
12. **Product Safety** - Ensuring that products available on the market in Nottinghamshire are safe for residents is a priority for Trading Standards. The Service achieves this, through advising and enabling businesses to comply with relevant product safety requirements and taking enforcement action where necessary.
13. **Product Safety – Counterfeit e-cigarettes/vapes** - A question was asked at the July committee about the supply of counterfeit e-cigarettes/vapes in terms of the national picture. At the time of writing this report this issue has not been raised as an area of concern within the County, region or nationally.
14. **Product Safety – Explosives/fireworks** - The Service is responsible for licensing and regulating the storage and supply of explosives, such as fireworks.
15. To ensure the safe storage and supply of fireworks in Nottinghamshire, each year Trading Standards conduct a programme of inspections in the lead up to bonfire night.
16. This year officers will undertake visits to both existing high risk premises and new licence holders.
17. Firework inspections focus on ensuring that suppliers have checks in place to prevent any sales to under 18s and that fireworks are stored safely within a secure location aware from combustible materials.
18. A communications package will be delivered regarding the safe use and storage of fireworks.
19. **Product Safety – Coronavirus test kits and private sector testing providers**
20. Public Health has commissioned Trading Standards to conduct two projects to check that test kits placed on the market for consumers to use and private sector testing provided by employers for their employees are both safe and legal.
21. To check that the test kits available on the market to consumers in Nottinghamshire are safe, 36 inspections have been carried out to businesses across the County so far, with more visits to follow.
22. Over 20 hours of online market surveillance has been conducted to check test kits available to Nottinghamshire consumers online are also safe.
23. So far, all the checks completed indicate that there are no issues within the marketplace.
24. Trading Standards has contacted over 800 employers in Nottinghamshire who had previously registered for free government lateral flow tests for their employees (this was available up until June 2021). The Service has been advising on how to find legitimate private sector testing providers, how to report any illegal providers and make enquiries as to whether they

themselves have employed the services of an alternative testing provider.

25. The Service is currently making the same enquiries as above with a further 740 employers in Nottinghamshire with over 50 employees and who have not previously had access for free government lateral flow tests, to ensure testing compliance.
26. **Illegal Tobacco Controls** - Since the last update report in July, until the compilation of this report in September, the Service has undertaken 10 further operations on commercial premises, which have resulted in £8.6k worth of illegal tobacco products being seized.
27. Some of these operations have been conducted jointly with the Police, Environmental Health Officers and Fire, which have uncovered other issues such as the safety of the structure of the premises being inspected.
28. There has been a reduction in the amount of product being seized over the year and this could be due to a number of factors such as work completed by HMRC higher up in the supply chain, hides becoming more sophisticated or undiscovered new distribution methods.
29. **Environmental Weight Restrictions (EWRs) on roads** - Further enforcement work has been conducted across the County where a weight restriction is in force on a particular road. This is on behalf of Highways colleagues, to prevent heavy goods vehicles using roads which are considered unsuitable and dangerous for them to use.
30. Since April 2021, 22 operations have taken place, with further activity planned throughout the rest of the financial year. We have also received 415 Lorry Watch reports into the Service.
31. **Petroleum Enforcement Authority** - Trading Standards are responsible for making sure that petrol sites do not cause a risk to the public or the environment.
32. The Service has carried out inspections of plans and onsite visits for new petrol stations and the modernisation of existing petrol stations.
33. The Service has also carried out 5 Environmental Search Requests this year for building developers to check if there has ever been petroleum or fuel stored on the site. This is important work to prevent harm to the public and the environment.
34. **Investigations & Legal Update** - On 24th May 2021, legal proceedings began in Nottingham Crown Court in relation to a criminal case being conducted by the Trading Standards Regional Investigation Team, which is hosted by Nottinghamshire County Council. This case is continuing through the court process.
35. A Crown Court trial was due to commence in 2021, involving a trader who made false representations to customers about building work he carried out on their properties, however the trial was removed from the listings due to the backlog of other cases following the recent pandemic. The defendant also failed to appear at the last court hearing and a warrant has been issued for his arrest.
36. A further case is listed for trial in the Nottingham Crown Court in March 2022, with four traders are being charged with fraudulent trading, including targeting vulnerable consumers, making false representations about building work and overcharging customers.
37. A Nottinghamshire builder has pleaded guilty to charges in relation to unsatisfactory building work he carried out on customers' properties. He was sentenced on the 4th August 2021. He

was sentenced to 26 weeks custody suspended for 18 months, with 200 hours unpaid work, 10 hours of rehabilitation activity and he was also ordered to pay nominal compensation to each victim.

38. A man has been charged with the illegal landing of a puppy. He was due to appear in the Magistrate's Court on the 18th January 2019, failed to attend, and an arrest warrant has been issued. This is still outstanding. He is charged with offences under the Rabies Act and fraud.
39. A Lincolnshire farmer has been charged with theft of sheep, animal by product breaches, and failure to maintain records of animal movements. He has pleaded not guilty to the offences. Further offences have also come to light. The 2 cases have been joined. Due to the court back log this trial have been moved to July 2022.
40. Two illegal tobacco cases that were listed for trial in June and August 2021 have been moved to 2022. One case involves the sale of cigarettes and hand rolling sold from retail premises and the second is in relation to a home seller. The products do not meet the packaging and safety requirement for cigarettes and hand rolling tobacco sold in the UK.
41. We have 2 car traders currently in the court system. We have a trial listed for November 2021, in the Nottingham Magistrates Court for a car dealer who has sold an unroadworthy car and has made false claims about another vehicle.
42. The second case is in relation to vehicles with altered mileages and the sale of unroadworthy vehicles. This is due for trial in February 2022.
43. **Post EU Exit Business Support** - In October 2021 the Service will commence a funded 18-month project to support local businesses to understand and comply with key Trading Standards legislative changes arising out of the EU Exit.
44. The implementation dates for the changing requirements under Trading Standards legislation vary, ranging from 1st January 2021 to 1st January 2023, as different requirements are phased in. Key legislative changes include:
45. "Importer" status: Across the wide range of Trading Standards legislation (product safety, food, feed, metrology) there is a very significant change of legal status for businesses bringing goods into Britain from Europe from "distributor" to "importer". Distributors who previously relied on an importer/manufacture in another EU country taking responsibility for all the necessary checks and documentation, are now the "importer" into the UK. They will need to take on significant new increased responsibilities for:
 - Correct conformity assessment procedures
 - Conformity assessment marking (UKCA-see below)
 - Technical documentation to demonstrate compliance with relevant legislative requirements
 - Affixing their name/address details to the product.
46. UKCA marking: The EU's "CE" marking regime is being replaced by the UK Conformity Assessment (UKCA) marking regime. In practical terms this will require these new "importers" to set up new UK focussed testing regimes for their products and affixing the mark to demonstrate compliance with UK legislation.
47. Country of origin changes: The UK now has "third country" status and so UK originating goods that could previously be described as being made in the EU now have a different status. This

changes Trading Standards requirements across a wide range of legislation aimed at protecting UK consumers and businesses from being misled about the origin of goods they are purchasing.

- 48. A communications package and market surveillance will help support those businesses affected.
- 49. The project aims to support Nottinghamshire businesses to thrive in the post EU Exit UK economy, supporting them to improve their compliance levels and brand reputation, resulting in a fairer and safer trading environment in Nottinghamshire and the UK.
- 50. The project is particularly aimed at small businesses to encourage them to come forward to gain advice and therefore become compliant within a competitive marketplace.
- 51. **Support to Primary Authority Businesses** - The Commercial Services team within the Service continue to provide support to Primary Authority businesses and are signing up a number of new Primary Authority businesses with a proactive drive and ambition to recruit further PA businesses in the coming months.
- 52. **Income Update** - Trading Standards has an income generation target of £729k for 2021/22. At the time of writing the current cumulative level of income is forecast to be £650k.
- 53. During the first six months of this financial year the Service's commercial services activities have been again heavily impacted by the impact of Covid-19 and lockdown on the UK business sector. The situation is predicted to be an improving picture and officers are exploring all opportunities to generate further income from supporting existing and new Primary Authority businesses through the challenging months ahead.
- 54. **Recruitment** - Trading Standards has recently secured the recruitment of another apprentice who will begin his Regulatory Compliance Officer training in October and with the success of this, will go onto study for his specific Trading Standards exams.
- 55. Another officer has also just started with the Service to begin her specific training into food, investigations and generic Trading Standards matters.
- 56. A level 4 officer will be starting his employment within the Commercial Team within November to specifically provide business advice to Primary Authority organisations.
- 57. A seconded Nottinghamshire Police Officer has begun to work within the Illegal Tobacco Team primarily, to help support investigating the supply of illegal products within the County. This post is funded by Public Health.
- 58. The Service has had a level 3 officer retire and a further level 4 officer has left the Service.

COMMUNITIES

- 59. **Local Improvement Scheme Capital Funding** - At its meeting on 5th November 2020, Place and Communities Committee approved capital funding for 70 projects across the County benefiting local residents and communities.
- 60. As a response to the impact of Covid-19, Committee agreed a completion date for all projects as 31st December 2021. Many of the funded projects have either completed or will complete

by this date, however a few projects are unable to complete by this date and it is recommended that the completion date is extended to 31st March 2022.

61. **Community Hub Volunteers** - The team have been supporting Hub volunteers to help our residents with dropping off and collecting library books. This service has been invaluable to our residents, many of whom are vulnerable or have been shielding.
62. By having continued regular access to books, it has helped them to stay connected through lockdowns and continue to enjoy one of the things they have loved doing most.
63. Work is continuing with community partners across the county who are leading on a project called 'One Step at a Time'. The project 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.
64. **Community Friendly** - The team, working with the Alzheimer's society is supporting Nottinghamshire in Denim for Dementia campaign which raises awareness and understanding of Dementia along with raising money to tackle Alzheimer's and for people living with dementia.
65. The campaign will be supported with a themed week in Nottinghamshire during Dementia Awareness Week, May 2022. It invites everybody to wear their finest denim for a day and donate on the Nottinghamshire Denim for Dementia 'Just Giving page' or bring in a small donation to their workplace, school, pub or playgroup. By encouraging all Nottinghamshire residents to take part, the campaign supports the County Council's Dementia Action Plan, helping build Dementia Friendly communities and hopes to raise a target of £10,000 for the Alzheimer's Society.
66. **Remembrance Day** - 2021 marks the centenary of Remembrance Day, the Poppy Appeal, and the Royal British Legion.
67. Services of Remembrance continue to resonate with the nation, allowing local communities up and down the country the chance to reflect on the service and sacrifice of the many men and women from their own villages, towns and cities who have served in HM Armed Forces, or who have supported or lost someone who has.
68. The County Council will be working with partners to support community events across the County.

Other options considered

69. None

Reason for Recommendations

70. To ensure appropriate political oversight of key Trading Standards and Communities matters.

Statutory and Policy Implications

71. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty,

safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment 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

72. None

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- 1) Considers the updates and highlights any actions required, specifically in respect of income generation.
- 2) Ratifies the post EU Exit Business Support work
- 3) Agrees that the completion date for capital funded LIS projects is extended to 31st March 2022.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Place and Communities

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Mark Walker, Group Manager for Trading Standards and Communities (0115 9772173) or Fiona Needham, Acting Head of Trading Standards (0115 9773046)

Constitutional Comments (EKH 01/10/2021)

73. The Communities Committee is the appropriate body to consider this report. If Committee resolves that any actions are required it should ensure that such actions are within its terms of reference.

Financial Comments [SES 28/09/2021]

74. There are no specific 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.

- None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All.

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYEES

WORK PROGRAMME

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the Committee's work programme for 2021-2022

Information

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.
4. As part of the transparency introduced by the new committee arrangements, each committee is expected to review day to day operational decisions made by officers using their delegated powers. The Committee may wish to commission periodic reports on such decisions where relevant.

Other Options Considered

5. None.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

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

Statutory and Policy Implications

7. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, public sector equality duty, 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 as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Committee's work programme be agreed, and consideration be given to any changes which the Committee wishes to make.

Marje Toward
Service Director, Governance and Employees

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Noel McMenamin, Democratic Services Officer on 0115 993 2670

Constitutional Comments (HD)

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

Financial Comments (KRP)

9. 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

Place Department Committee Forward Plan – Communities Committee (C)

Month	Committee	Report Title	Report Author
3 Nov			
Nov	C	Finance and performance report (Q1- delayed from July due to changes which need to be made on BMS)	Chris Williams/Stephanie Shardlow
Nov	C	Cultural Services Strategy Update & Onward Recommendations	Mick Allen/Aidan La Mola
Nov	C	Modern Slavery Impact Statement (deferred from Sept)	Cathy Harvey/Vicky Cropley
Nov	C	Update on Key Trading Standards and Communities Matters	Mark Walker/Fiona Needham
Nov	C	Approval of applications to the Covid-19 Partnership Social Recovery Fund and the Community Hub Food Plan Fund	Mark Walker
15 Dec			
Dec	C	Finance and Performance Report Q2	Chris Williams/Steph Shardlow
Dec	C	Overview Report Archive Service (with potential follow up visit) deferred from Nov	Peter Gaw
Dec	C	Hate Crime Policy	Cathy Harvey/Mark Walker
Dec	C	Business case to get authorisation to create and ASDM	John Hughes
26 Jan			
Jan	C	Update on Key Trading Standards and Communities Matters	Mark Walker/Fiona Needham
9 Mar			
Mar	C	Finance and performance report Q3	Chris Williams/Steph Shardlow
Mar	C	Update on Key Trading Standards and Communities Matters	Mark Walker/Fiona Needham
Mar	C	Cultural Services Strategy	Mick Allen/Aidan La Mola
20 Apr			
Apr	C		
Apr	C		
25 May			
May	C	Update on Key Trading Standards and Communities Matters	Mark Walker/Fiona Needham
May	C		
13 Jul			
Jul	C	Finance and performance report Q4	Chris Williams/Steph Shardlow

