

# **Overview Committee**

# Thursday, 23 March 2023 at 10:30

County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP

# **AGENDA**

1	Minutes of last meeting held on 24 January 2023	3 - 10
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	The Nottinghamshire Plan - Annual Delivery Plan 2023-24	11 - 14
5	Response to the Recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of Council Office Buildings	15 - 24
6	Overview Committee Reviews - Proposed Scopes	25 - 34
7	Work Programme	35 - 50

#### **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 Sara Allmond (Tel. 0115 977 3794) 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 <a href="http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx">http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx</a>



# OVERVIEW COMMITTEE Tuesday 24 January 2023 at 10.30am

#### COUNCILLORS

Boyd Elliott (Chairman) Glynn Gilfoyle (Vice-Chairman)

Steve Carr

Jim Creamer

Kate Foale

Eric Kerry

Philip Owen – **Apologies**Francis Purdue-Horan

Mike Quigley MBE

Dave Shaw

Nigel Moxon Sam Smith

John Ogle - Apologies

#### OTHER COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Andre Camilleri Councillor Keith Girling Councillor Richard Jackson Councillor Mike Pringle

#### **OFFICERS**

Sara Allmond Advanced Democratic Services Officer

Glen Bicknell Senior Accountant
Martin Elliott Senior Scrutiny Officer

Isobel Fleming Service Director Transformation and Change

Keith Ford Team Manager, Democratic Services
Derek Higton Interim Corporate Director - Place

Matt Neal Service Director, Investment and Growth Colin Pettigrew Corporate Director, Children and Families

Nigel Stevenson Service Director, Finance, Infrastructure & Improvement Service Director, Customers, Governance and Employees

Melanie Williams Corporate Director, Adult Social Care & Health

#### 1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 1 DECEMBER 2022

The minutes of the last meeting held on 1 December 2022, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

#### 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor John Ogle – Other Reasons – Councillor Roger Jackson substituted Councillor Philip Owen – Other Reasons – Councillor Richard Butler substituted

#### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

#### 4. BUDGET REPORT 2023-4

Councillor Richard Jackson (Cabinet Member for Finance), and Nigel Stevenson, (Service Director Finance, Infrastructure & Improvement and Section 151 Officer) attended the meeting to provide an update presentation on the background to the draft Budget proposals. The presentation included:

- international, national and local events during 2022 which had impacted upon the budget;
- the favourable Provisional Local Government Settlement for the Council which was £11.8m more than anticipated and the increased limits for Council Tax and Adult Social Care precepts;
- the key messages highlighted through the budget consultation process, with the headline outcome that most respondents were willing to pay more Council tax in order to protect service delivery;
- changes to pressures and inflation since February 2022 and the positive and negative impacts arising;
- proposed efficiency and costs savings, and the need for further consultation on some of the specific proposals once approved;
- the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), including the ongoing £31.7m shortfall over the period of the Strategy;
- risks and mitigations, including the General Fund balance of £35m,
- major Capital Programme successes.

The Cabinet Member – Finance and the Section 151 Officer responded to issues raised by Members as follows:

• Members queried the impact of the ongoing international and national issues, inflationary pressures and volatility of the markets and the reliability and robustness of the assumptions made in light of that landscape. It was clarified that the ongoing unusual economic situation had added £45m of additional cost pressures in the current year and £114m across the period of the MTFS. Plans had therefore been developed to address issues known about but still not entirely clear at this point, including pay inflation and the Government's National Living Wage Policy, with an appropriate element of contingency required to mitigate any new and evolving risks (there was £5m contingency set aside in the Revenue budget). Specific risks were covered in detail in the Robustness of Budget Estimates and the Adequacy of the County Council's Reserves (Appendix C to the report). The ongoing monthly review of

Page 4 of 50

assumptions in the current financial year had enabled the budget to remain balanced despite the exceptional economic climate, and this was in contrast to some other Councils that were reporting large overspends. This monthly review process would continue in the next financial year, as would the approach of sharing the latest information with the Members of all political groups. The ability to identify increased pressures and demands may have also impacted positively upon the provisional Settlement.

- Members highlighted that if the maximum limit for each precept had been pursued this would have cost Band D Council Tax Payers 4p more than the increases being proposed. Whilst recognising this, the starting principle for the Cabinet Member-Finance was always to propose a balanced budget, with the precepts set at the lowest possible level needed to achieve that aim.
- With regard to the capital programme and the potential to increase forecast capital receipts through the sale of Council land, Members queried whether market feasibility studies had been undertaken as yet and, if so, whether those could be shared with the Committee. In response it was confirmed that the Capital Programme was realistic, in the Section 151 Officer's professional opinion. The Budget proposals did not factor in any potential receipts arising from the recent Scrutiny Review of Council Office Buildings as, at this stage, the Review's recommendations had not been fully considered and would require appropriate approvals.
- In light of Members' concerns about the level of consultation responses, it was
  clarified that Overview Committee was due to consider the Council's
  Consultation Processes at the 18 May 2023 meeting. The Cabinet Member
  underlined that the resources and strategic objectives were aligned with the
  consultation undertaken with a significant majority of respondents saying that
  they would rather see Council Tax increases than services being reduced.
- In response to Members' queries about ongoing transformational activity, it was clarified that the total cost of the Strategic Development Fund within the MTFS was £17m. The Budget includes savings of £3 million per annum from the transformation programme in Children and Families. The progress of the delivery of the savings was monitored on an ongoing basis, in light of lessons learnt from such programmes at councils which had experienced financial difficulties. Similarly, the risk of the wider savings and efficiencies (referenced in paragraph 52 of the draft cover report to Cabinet) not being achieved would be addressed by ongoing monitoring and review. It was clarified that the oversight and responsibility for the various strands of the Transformation Programme would fall within the remit of a range of decision makers (Corporate Directors, Cabinet Members and Cabinet itself) whilst informal working groups were also overseeing the work on a departmental basis, with involvement from the Cabinet Member Finance, Deputy Cabinet Member Finance, the relevant Cabinet Member/s and appropriate senior officers.
- In relation to whether the Council's borrowing repayments had needed to be restructured as a result of the current economic situation, it was underlined that the aspiration to reduce the Council's amount as a percentage of the revenue budget had proven successful, falling to the current level of

approximately 10% (compared to 30% at some councils) with no new borrowing planned.

- Frustration at the delay in the Fair Funding Review was shared by many Members. The Leader, the former and the current Chief Executive, the Section 151 Officer and the Cabinet Member Finance had continued to lobby Government about this, which may have positively impacted on the favourable Provisional Local Government Settlement outcome. The post COVID landscape and Cost of Living issues could mean that now is not the most opportune time to undertake such a review.
- Members queried why the Council's communications referenced Band A in press releases whereas Band D was the band intended to be used when notifying Council Tax levels. It was clarified that this was because the majority of the County's residents were in Band A/B properties.
- Members' concerns about the appropriateness of the Social Care Precept as a means of funding Adult Social Care and frustrations at the delay in the Social Care Review were shared by the Cabinet Member – Finance, whilst he underlined that this was the existing mechanism available.
- Members expressed concerns about the proposal to reduce the Councillors Divisional Fund from £5,000 to £3,000 per Councillor per year at a point when voluntary and community groups were already being impacted by the current economic situation. In response, the Cabinet Member underlined the option for Opposition Groups to put in an alternative budget, to show how savings elsewhere could enable the retention of the current level of allocations through the Fund. Members requested that this proposal be raised as a specific issue for further consideration by Cabinet.
- Members sought clarity about the level of Reserves being held, with a figure of over £300m quoted in recent media coverage. It was clarified that the total figure includes monies that have conditions on their use, that is, Government grants, NHS money, Section 256 money, School balances and PFI Reserves, Insurance reserves relating to historical child abuse claims and other claims and £17m set aside for Transformation Costs. Discounting those monies leaves approximately £35m on the General Fund balance (which equates to 11 days spend by the Council and was deemed to be appropriate and sufficient in the current volatile economic climate);
- In relation to the impact of the £11.8m additional Settlement on the Budget proposals, it was highlighted that this had given the opportunity to review the savings options, balanced against the expenditure required to achieve the key objectives within the Council Plan. The Cabinet Member- Finance agreed that a three year settlement could give councils greater assurance and ability to plan and develop services and underlined that this was another area in which the Council had continued to lobby Government about. He also stated that, from his experience, the final settlement received often differed from the provisional settlement by £millions either way.
- The Council had made provision in the Budget for the services to the Council provided by its external companies. It was underlined that the Council's

management companies such as Inspire, Via and Arc, were all expected to make and consume efficiency savings on an ongoing basis, whilst it was recognised that services were being maintained despite inflationary increases which was a credit to them and the Council's collaborative approach. Members suggested Board Members of companies such as Inspire would welcome a discussion about the budget to better understand the political aspects of its development.

 Members queried whether the existing approach of bidding for Government grants throughout the year was the most sustainable means of funding Local Government in the long term. In response the Cabinet Member-Finance underlined the need for very strong business cases and stringent criteria when distributing significant amounts of public money.

The Chairman thanked The Cabinet Member-Finance and the Section 151 Officer for their attendance and presentation and Members for their contributions to the debate.

#### **RESOLVED 2023/001**

That the comments and queries raised by the Committee about the 2023-4 Draft Budget and the 2026-7 Medium Term Financial Strategy be shared with the Cabinet ahead of its meeting of 26 January 2023, with further consideration requested about the specific issue of the proposed reduction in Councillors Divisional Fund allocations.

#### 5. OUTCOMES OF THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF COUNCIL OFFICE BUILDINGS

Martin Elliott, Senior Scrutiny Officer, introduced the report which shared the findings of this task and finish review, and outlined the process for the review's findings to be considered by the Cabinet Member – Economic Development and Asset Management. Members involved in the review and related visits commended the process and the input of local officers at the various site visits.

In response to issues raised by Members during the debate, the following points were clarified:

- The planned Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) on the Hybrid Working Strategy would be replaced with an EqIA for the revised Investing in Nottinghamshire Programme. Such assessments would be undertaken and published for any key actions arising from this review, following the Cabinet Member's consideration and any consequent decisions. Members offered to share findings from research into impacts on staff of remote working which had been undertaken by East Midlands Councils.
- In response to a view expressed by Members that County Hall appeared relatively more efficient than Trent Bridge House and a request to share the condition survey of County Hall referenced, it was underlined that, should the Cabinet Member- Economic Development and Asset Management progress the recommendations regarding individual aspects of the office estate, then that would be reported back to Overview Committee with further opportunity for Members to explore the individual business cases (including energy

efficiency ratings and aspects of any condition surveys that were not commercially sensitive) as they developed. The typical staff to desk occupancy levels included within the review's findings would be less relevant in that respect than any proposed ratios included within those business cases.

- In response to Members' concerns about any potential negative impact on service delivery, it was underlined that both service delivery and staff welfare would be at the forefront of the Cabinet Member's consideration of the review findings and any subsequent next steps.
- In response to concerns raised by Members that the agreed scrutiny
  processes for the review had been undermined somewhat by the Leader and
  the Cabinet Member Economic Development and Asset Management
  having already commented in the media on the findings and potential next
  steps, ahead of the review findings being formally agreed and referred by
  Overview Committee, it was underlined that at this stage no decisions had
  been made and the next step would be for the Cabinet Member to consider
  and formally respond.
- Members welcomed the fact that County Hall's history, heritage and iconic status was recognised and would be considered as part of any review of its future. Members also reinforced the need for appropriate consultation with staff as part of any subsequent building reviews.
- In relation to the potential savings to be achieved by more remote working, it
  was clarified that the review group had explored the broader approach to
  hybrid working and the general direction of travel in terms of a reduction in
  Council buildings.

The Chairman welcomed the broad nature of the findings and expressed disappointment that only the Conservative and Labour Groups had taken up their allocated places on the review group.

The Cabinet Member – Economic Development and Asset Management thanked the Committee and the review group for their work on this issue and reiterated that no decisions had been made as yet and that any subsequent decisions would be subject to robust business cases.

#### **RESOLVED 2023/002**

That the recommendations from the scrutiny review of Council buildings, as detailed in the report, be endorsed and referred to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management for their consideration.

#### 6. WORK PROGRAMME

Martin Elliott, Senior Scrutiny Officer, introduced the Committee's current work programme and encouraged Members to consider future Forward Plan updates in order to highlight any Key Decisions for possible pre-decision scrutiny.

# **RESOLVED 2023/003**

That the work programme be noted, with no further changes suggested.

The meeting closed at 12.04pm

## **CHAIRMAN**

### **Report to Overview Committee**

23 March 2023

Agenda Item: 4

# REPORT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSFORMATION

#### THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE PLAN - ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN 2023-24

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To update Overview Committee on the process for developing the Council's Annual Delivery Plan for 2023-24, which highlights the actions the Council will take in the coming financial year, to continue to progress against the overarching ambitions of The Nottinghamshire Plan.

#### Information

- 2. The Annual Delivery Plan itself is a high-level document which outlines the actions to be delivered during 2023/24 to deliver on the ambitions outlined in the Nottinghamshire Plan. It is publicly available.
- 3. The Annual Delivery Plan is being developed for approval at Cabinet on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023.
- 4. The Policy and Research Team is responsible for the coordination and development of the Annual Delivery Plan. They work closely with departmental leads and Leadership Teams to shape and develop the plan. This ensures that all departments engage and input to the Plan's creation and ensure areas of work are accurately and sufficiently reflected.
- 5. The plan for 2023-24 has been developed to reflect the new actions to be delivered during 23/24, but also reflects the important 'business as usual' activity that is important to make visible to residents.
- 6. Following consultation and engagement, we are proposing the following improvements for 2023/24, which have been visualised in Appendix A against actions from the current year's Plan, to evidence the changes made;
  - a. Using wording throughout that gives greater clarity about the impact of our actions, for Nottinghamshire's people and communities.
  - b. The removal of departmental ownership of actions in the public facing version. This places a greater emphasis on a 'one Council' approach.
  - c. A reduction in the overall number of actions to roughly 10 per ambition and removing the differentiation between 'new' and 'continue to' actions. This makes the document more

meaningful and accessible for residents, and allows regular reporting on progress against all actions, without significant additional burden.

- 7. The measures are being reviewed to ensure that we have both relevant baselines and targets in place. It is proposed that the majority of measures remain the same, to provide consistency and to enable monitoring of impact over the longer-term.
- 8. The alignment of the reporting against the annual planning processes with budget setting processes for 2024/25 is being considered.
- 9. Where required, the Plan will be updated in year as appropriate. The Council will also continue with regular progress reporting, to provide regular in year updates against the actions and measures agreed in the latest Annual Delivery Plan.

#### RECOMMENDATION/S

1) That Overview Committee consider the process in place for development of the Annual Delivery Plan 2023-24

**Councillor Bruce Laughton Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transformation** 

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Dr Isobel Fleming, Service Director Transformation and Change (01158546184)

#### **Constitutional Comments (CEH 13.03.2023)**

10. The Overview Committee has the remit to consider the report and recommendation.

#### Financial Comments (SES 14/03/2023)

11. 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.

- The Nottinghamshire Plan: Our plan for a healthy, prosperous and greener Nottinghamshire
- Previous <u>Annual Delivery Plan 2022/23</u>

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

All

# **PREVIOUS:** Annual Delivery Plan 2022/23

Owner

Place

Place

Rlace

Owner

Place

Place

Place

Place

Place

### In 2022-23, to achieve this, we will deliver the following actions:

- 7.1 We will facilitate and encourage partners to introduce new technologies and carbon neutral solutions:
  - > securing approval for the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund so that households in the most need are supported.
  - agreeing the approach for Hydrogen for Nottinghamshire so that we are ready to maximise the economic benefits.
  - supporting the Midlands' Energy Hub and participating in the Nottingham Energy Institute so that the County is at the forefront of low carbon energy production.
- 7.2 We will work with partners to develop and submit plans and business cases to secure funding for major projects, including:
  - Road and railway improvements to increase the capacity of our transport infrastructure within the county.
  - Toton and Chetwynd Masterplan to guide the development of this area to maximise the economic benefits.
- 7.3 We will support the delivery of the East Midlands Freeport and work to secure the seed funding allocation.
- 7.4 We will transition into delivery of the East Midlands Development Corporation with our commercial and local partners.
- 7.5 We will work with the landowners of the coal fired power stations in North Nottinghamshire in respect of their long- term future and proposals for each of the sites, including the case for using West Burton as a site for Spherical Tokamak Energy Production (fusion power).

New for 23/24: The removal of departmental ownership of actions in the public facing version to place a greater emphasis on a 'one Council' approach, and to align with the online text via the Nottinghamshire Plan website.

New for 23/24: Using wording throughout that gives greater clarity about the impact of our actions, for Nottinghamshire's people and communities.

#### n 2022-27 to achieve this we will also continue to

- 7.6 Ensure our residents and businesses benefit from major infrastructure projects, such as HS2 and strategic road improvements, and that these prioritise the environment and sustainability, improve biodiversity, and minimise carbon emissions wherever possible.
- 7.7 Support and advise businesses to help them to reduce their carbon footprint and to secure funding or investment that supports this. This will ensure that business can grow and prosper, creating jobs and opportunities, but minimising their environmental impact.
- 7.8 Promote the East Midlands Freeport, Development Corporation and STEP proposals which offer the County and the wider region significant economic investment opportunities.
- 7.9 Identify a pipeline of assets to be released for high quality housing and jobs.
- **7.10 Deliver the development at Top Wighay Farm,** ensuring that a master developer for the residential element is approved and a plan for the development of the remaining land including the employment of 50 is in place.

New for 23/24: Streamlining the overall number of actions, alongside the removal of the differentiation between 'new' and 'continue to' actions, to make the document more meaningful and accessible for residents.

# Nottinghamshire Council

### **Report to Overview Committee**

23 March 2023

Agenda Item: 5

# REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

# RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF COUNCIL OFFICE BUILDINGS

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide a response to the Overview Committee on the recommendations arising from the committee's review of Council office buildings.

#### Information

- 2. At the meeting of the Overview Committee held on 24 January 2023 it was resolved that:
  - "That the recommendations from the scrutiny review of Council buildings, as detailed in the report of the Chairman of the Overview Committee, be endorsed and referred to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management for their consideration."
- 3. In accordance with Section 21B of the Local Government Act 2000 the relevant Cabinet Member is required to provide a response to the recommendations of the Overview Committee within two months of receiving the recommendations of the Overview Committee. In providing this response the Cabinet Member is asked to state whether or not they accept each recommendation and the reasons for this decision. The Cabinet Member must also indicate what action, if any, it proposes to take in response to each recommendation.
- 4. The responses to the recommendations made are set out in the table at **Appendix 1.**

#### **Other Options Considered**

5. None. In accordance with Section 21B of the Local Government Act 2000 the relevant Cabinet Member is required to provide a response to the recommendations of the Overview Committee within two months of receiving the recommendations of the Overview Committee.

#### Reason/s for Recommendation/s

6. To provide the Overview Committee with the response of the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management on the recommendations made by the committee's review of Council office buildings.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

7. 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**

8. There are no direct financial implications relating to the recommendations of this report.

#### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- That the Overview Committee receives and notes the response of the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management to the recommendations arising from the committee's review of Council office buildings.
- 2) That the Overview Committee continues to monitor the implementation of the recommendations arising from the committee's review of Council office buildings.

# COUNCILLOR KEITH GIRLING CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENR

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

Martin Elliott, Senior Scrutiny Officer, Tel: 0115 9772564, e-mail: martin.elliott@nottscc.gov.uk, Matt Neal, Service Director Investment and Growth, Tel: 0115 9773822, e-mail: matthew.neal@nottscc.gov.uk

#### **Constitutional Comments (CEH 13/03/2023)**

9. The Overview Committee is the correct Committee to receive this report following their review of Council office buildings.

#### Financial Comments (MM 13/03/23)

10. As stated in paragraph 8 above, there are no direct financial implications relating to the recommendations of 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.

 Outcomes of the Scrutiny Review of Council Office Buildings – Report to Overview Committee 24 January 2023

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

ΑII

Appendix 1

# Response of the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management to the recommendations arising from the committee's review of Council office buildings

Overview Committee recommendation		Cabinet Member Decision (Accept or Reject)	Action to be taken (if any) and timescale for completion
1.	That the Overview Committee underlines its support for the Council's activities to date to develop an estate of operational buildings that supports the effective and efficient delivery of Council services and delivers on hybrid and smarter working principles.	Accept	No action as this is a statement of support for the vision of the programme.
2.	That the use of Sir John Robinson House and Lawn View House be further reviewed, giving consideration to the opportunities provided by development of the "Hub" projects and income generating opportunities.	Accept	A Programme Board consisting of Officers' representing all County Council Service Areas and chaired by the Corporate Director (Place) has been set up to provide ongoing review and challenge to the use of our Council Office Buildings. The use of Sir John Robinson House and Lawn View House will be regularly reviewed as part of the governance of the programme. Furthermore, partners who are already key occupiers of our buildings such as the NHS will be contacted to ensure that opportunities for co-location and using our "Hub" assets more efficiently are taken.  Timescale for completion: Ongoing
3.	That the use of the buildings at Sherwood Energy Village should be further reviewed, with regard to the services and teams located there in order to identify the potential for	•	A project team has been set up to review the accommodation requirements of the teams and services located at these buildings, so as to achieve further space rationalisation and utilisation in the next financial year. The process to be gone through will be as follows; consultation with relevant teams to

Page 19 of 50

	further efficiencies around space utilisation and rationalisation.		collate the details of the services and the staff currently operating from the buildings along with any space requirements they have (use of meeting rooms, reception, specialist areas, parking, storage). The space requirements of these will then be planned and any necessary adaptation works identified and costed. Any proposals will be consulted on prior to a Decision.  Timescale for completion: Autumn 23
4.	a) That where possible, work should be carried out with the teams and services currently based at Meadow House, Mansfield to review whether the space available at the Council's other building locations could be used by them in a way that does not adversely affect the delivery of services  and  b) That if having examined all possible options it is established that current service	Accept	a) A project team has been set up to review the accommodation requirements of the teams and services located at this building to understand whether the space available in other Council or Partner buildings can be used. The process to determine this will be as follows; Consultation with relevant teams to collate the details of the services and staff currently operating from the building along with any space requirements they have (use of meeting rooms, reception, specialist areas, parking, storage). There will be particular focus on the geographical requirements of the teams, the areas of the County where they work, and the limitations there are on the location of their base. There will be a review of other Council owned buildings, and available space will be identified to check on suitability for Meadow House teams. Any proposals will then be consulted on prior to a Decision.  Timescale for completion: Due to the need to inform a
	needs do not allow for services to utilise the space available at other Council buildings, then work should be carried out at Meadow House to ensure that the teams are based in the areas of the building that provide the best quality accommodation available.		works programme at Meadow House this will need to be completed by the end of April 23.  (b) Depending on the outcome of (a) above an analysis of suitable areas within Meadow House will be undertaken to ensure that staff are in areas of the building that provide the best quality of services for our residents. A scheme of works to

			include urgent repair works and works to improve the working environment will be identified and progressed.  Timescale for completion: Autumn 23
5.	That once built, the location of all teams based in County Council buildings, especially those located in or near to Mansfield be reviewed in order to inform those services that should be considered as being suitable for relocation to the Mansfield Hub.	Accept	Since the publication of the report in January 23 it has been recently announced that Mansfield District Council has been successful with its' bid for LUF funding for a new office building on the former Beales site in Mansfield town centre. Work will now take place to consider which teams located in or near to Mansfield are suitable for relocation to the Mansfield Hub. This is necessary to inform the brief for the building, to identify the size of the Councils requirement and the specifics of the design to support the services to be housed there.  Timescale for completion: Summer 23
6.	That following this review a full options appraisal should be carried out in order to identify the best use of County Council buildings, especially those located in or near to Mansfield.  That following this work, and in line with the Council's policies and procedures, that a full business case be submitted to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management for their consideration.	Accept	When the Council has identified its brief for the Mansfield hub and those staff that will be located there, Officers will undertake a review of spaces and buildings to assess whether they can be retained in efficient and effective use or disposed of through lease or sale. This work will inform a full business case to be submitted for a Decision.  Timescale for completion: Winter 23
7.	That consideration should be given to County Hall's role as a building within the Council's operational estate, subject to a suitably strong business	Accept	The Overview Committee Report highlights issues with aspects of the County Hall building including; sustainability and the ability to meet net carbon targets, high annual running costs and essential maintenance costs and low occupancy levels. The

Page 21 of 50

	case that recognises the significance of the "H" block's history and heritage as well as the opportunities provided at the Top Wighay site.		report also highlights the significant ongoing maintenance costs of County Hall. It also highlights the opportunities our "Hub" buildings can give the County Council, specifically Top Wighay which can provide flexible spaces for a wide range of uses and is designed in a way that can be expanded to meet the future needs of the County Council.  County Hall would appear to need significant upgrades to meet the commitment to be a net zero producer of Carbon by 2030 or be fit for purpose for the provision of our services into the future. Regarding this recommendation a project team has been set up to develop a business case that looks at all building options and provides a preferred option for the delivery of services.  The project team has also been asked to review the Top Wighay building design to assess whether there are further opportunities that can be considered for the benefit of the County Council.  All proposals in respect of this recommendation will be consulted on prior to a Decision being made.  Timescale for completion: Spring 2023
8.	That consideration should be given to the opportunities provided by the accommodation at Trent Bridge House and how it could be best used as part of the Council's operational estate.	Accept	A project team has been set up to review the space available in this building and how it can be used. The process to determine this will be to understand the current usage of the building, its running costs and income with a view to understanding how it can support additional usage.  Timescale for completion: Summer 2023
9.	That with regard to the findings above,	Accept	
	that comprehensive assessments of		These items will be considered in our business planning and
	the financial, human resources,		feasibility works across the estate.
	sustainability, equality and diversity,		Timescale for completion. Oppoing
	hybrid working, and environmental	Desire	Timescale for completion: Ongoing

Page 22 of 50

impacts of these findings be carried	
out.	

Page 23 of 50

### **Report to Overview Committee**

23 March 2023

Agenda Item: 6

#### REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

#### **OVERVIEW COMMITTEE REVIEWS - PROPOSED SCOPES**

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for the proposed scoping documents for the Overview Committee's reviews around Cost of Living and Resident Consultation.

#### Information

- Scrutiny review task and finish groups are informal and time-limited bodies and are established to undertake a discrete piece of scrutiny work, and report back to that committee with their findings and recommendations.
- 3. The Work Programming work that was carried out during summer 2022 and subsequent discussions in committee highlighted the Cost of Living and Resident Consultation as areas where members would like to carry out further detailed work.
- 4. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Overview Committee have worked with officers to create documents that set out the proposed scope of the work for each review.

#### Reason/s for Recommendation/s

5. To approve the proposed scoping documents for the Overview Committee's reviews around Cost of Living and Resident Consultation.

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

6. 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**

7. There are no direct financial implications from this report.

#### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

1) That the proposed scopes for the Overview Committee's reviews around Cost of Living and Resident Consultation be approved.

# COUNCILLOR BOYD ELLIOTT CHAIRMAN OF OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Martin Elliott, Senior Scrutiny Officer email: <a href="martin.elliott@nottscc.gov.uk">martin.elliott@nottscc.gov.uk</a>, Tel: 0115 9772564

- 8. Constitutional Comments (LW 08/03/2023)
- 9. The Overview Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

#### Financial Comments (SES 08/03/2023)

10. 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

Purpose of the review	<ul> <li>To consider how the current challenges around the cost-of-living are impacting on Nottinghamshire residents.</li> </ul>
Anticipated outcome(s)	To gain a clear understanding of the impact of the increase in the cost of living on Nottinghamshire residents.
	To gain an understanding of the activities being carried out by the Council, delivery partners and other organisations to support Nottinghamshire residents with cost-of-living pressures.
of wage and bene particularly rising ncome househol challenges, howe	ne. This decrease has been caused by rising inflation which has exceeded the rate efit increases. A number of factors have had an impact on households' budgets, energy, fuel and food costs and interest rates with the most affected being lowds. The current situation around the cost of living presents multifaceted ever the focus for scrutiny should be to examine the related issues affecting and its residents and to understand life as it is lived by local people.
Key lines of enquiry	<ul> <li>To gain an understanding of the relative nature of the impact of the cost-of-living difficulties on different residents and any associated socio-demographic issues, including by gathering evidence from other providers including partner agencies (including District and Borough Councils) and community and voluntary sector organisations.</li> <li>To gain an understanding of the County Council's role and responsibilities with regard to supporting residents who are facing cost-</li> </ul>

#### **Key questions**

- Which elements of the cost-of-living pressures are having the greatest impact on residents? This could include energy costs, inflation on consumables, house prices/rents and the essentials that people need to survive.
- Are some residents being disproportionately affected?
- Are there any gaps in information at this stage about the impacts?
- What might be preventing residents from accessing information, services, benefits etc?
   Page 27 of 50

	<ul> <li>What has the County Council's response to date been in supporting residents who are facing cost-of-living pressures?</li> <li>What is the Council doing to link in with other partner (including District/Borough Councils) and voluntary organisations to address these issues?</li> <li>What impact are cost-of-living pressures having on Council staff? Has there been an increase in staff turnover, staff reporting increased stress or staff using foodbanks?</li> <li>Are the cost-of-living pressures being experienced by residents having an impact on the delivery of Council services? Are cost-living-pressures leading to increased or decreased demand for services?</li> </ul>
Links to the council's corporate plan	<ul> <li>Supporting communities and families</li> <li>Keeping children, vulnerable adults and communities safe</li> <li>A forward looking and resilient Council</li> </ul>
Methodology	<ul> <li>Desktop research</li> <li>Information briefings from the Chief Executive and Corporate Leadership Team (CLT)</li> <li>Analysis of information held by Public Health</li> <li>Interviews with relevant Cabinet Members in relation to impact of cost-of-living pressures</li> <li>Interviews with other expert witnesses</li> <li>Information gathering with partner and voluntary organisations such as the CAB to gain an understanding on the level of need and impact of the cost-of-living situation on residents as well as the support they are offering.</li> <li>Analysis of member knowledge of the impact on their communities.</li> <li>Analysis of the support offered by partner and voluntary organisations (district/borough councils).</li> </ul>
Key background papers	
Evidence to be provided by	CLT Cabinet Members Public Health Transformation and Change Cross-Council financial resilience and inclusion project District/Borough Councils Elected Members Voluntary/Third Sector Organisations.

Timetable	The group's report and recommendations to be considered at Overview Committee  This initial broad, fact-finding review may be followed by more targeted reviews to address the most relevant outcomes through which further scrutiny could offer a beneficial impact.  Review activity to be carried out during April, May and June in advance of findings being finalised and considered by Overview Committee later in the year.
Reporting mechanism	The review will report its findings to the Overview Committee in advance of the recommendations being submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

#### Review of the Resident Consultation: Scope

# Purpose of the review

To examine and gain an understanding of the Council's current approach to formal resident consultation, within the context of ongoing wider resident engagement and co-production.

To examine what the Council's approach to formal resident consultation could look like in the future, across the Council, to encourage wider resident participation to ensure the most effective services and outcomes for Nottinghamshire residents.

A specific area of focus for the review will be the budget consultation process and other whole-council consultation activity. For example, any future consultation on the development of the Nottinghamshire Plan.

# Anticipated outcome(s)

Increased awareness and understanding of legal requirements and good practice in relation to consultation, and how Nottinghamshire County Council currently consults with people and communities on a formal basis.

To make recommendations on how formal consultation more widely, and how the annual budget consultation specifically, could be improved in terms of its effectiveness and impact for the benefit of both residents and the Council.

#### **Background**

Formal Council consultation with residents is an area of interest for members, with a request for this to form part of the committee's work programming received during summer 2022. This was subsequently included in the work programme.

At the December 2022 meeting of the Overview Committee, following a detailed discussion on the consultation process surrounding the 2023/24 budget it was agreed: "That a task and finish review takes place on the budget consultation process, giving regard to the budget consultations carried out by other local authorities."

The review does not include the statutory consultations that the Council is required to carry out and that carry legally defined rules of how they must be conducted. It also does not include consultation on employment matters which are governed by agreed policies and procedures.

# Key lines of enquiry

- When the Council is required to engage and consult with people and communities.
- To gain an understanding of how the Council currently consults with people and communities on a formal basis.
- To identify and explore what constitutes good practice in relation to resident consultation and learning from other authorities.
- Are there opportunities to integrate our resident consultation and engagement activity across the Council and wider partnership?
- To consider the most recent budget consultation process to identify any potential improvements in relation to how and when the Council consulted and how this was advertised in order to improve resident response and participation.

	To consider how the information gathered through consultation is used to inform the Council's budget and wider service development and delivery.
Specific areas for consideration	<ul> <li>Budget Consultation</li> <li>How is the budget consultation process run and managed? Are there any areas of the process that can be improved? What are the potential ways this could be achieved?</li> <li>What is the response rate like to consultations and the budget consultation specifically? How does this compare to the response to consultations seen by other Councils? How does the number of responses received impact on the quality of the information received?</li> <li>How is the information gathered through budget consultation activity being used?</li> <li>How are the results of budget consultation activity communicated with stakeholders and contributors?</li> </ul>
Links to the council's corporate plan	A forward looking and resilient Council (Ambition 10)
Methodology	Information briefings from relevant Service Directors and senior officers  Interviews with relevant Cabinet Members  Benchmarking activity on the processes and response rate to consultations and budget consultations at other similar Councils.  Benchmarking activity on the processes and response rate to consultations and budget consultations at other similar Councils.  O2/06/2023 Final Deadline for March Scrutiny Committee papers  O2/06/2023 Six weeks for review activity  Directors and senior officers  Interviews with relevant Cabinet Members  Benchmarking activity on the processes and response rate to consultations and budget consultations and response rate to consultations and budget consultations at other similar Councils.
Key background papers	
Evidence to be provided by  Timetable	Relevant Cabinet Members Service Director for Finance, Infrastructure & Improvement Service Director Transformation and Change TBC
Reporting mechanism	Report to be presented to the Overview Committee in advance of the findings of the review to be considered by Cabinet.  Page 32 of 50

# Nottinghamshire County Council

### **Report to Overview Committee**

23 March 2023

Agenda Item: 7

# REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, CUSTOMERS, GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYEES

#### **WORK PROGRAMME**

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the Committee's work programme.

#### Information

- 2. The attached work programme will assist the management of the committee's agenda, the scheduling of the committee's business and forward planning.
- 3. The work programme has been developed using suggestions submitted by committee members, the relevant Cabinet Member(s) and senior officers and has been approved by the Overview Committee. The work programme will be reviewed at each pre-agenda meeting and committee meeting, where any member of the committee will be able to suggest items for possible inclusion.

#### **Other Options Considered**

4. None

#### Reason/s for Recommendation/s

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

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

6. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, 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.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That the work programme be noted.
- 2) That committee members make any further suggestions for consideration by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for inclusion on the work programme, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s) and senior officers, and subject to the required approval by the Chairman of Overview Committee.

#### Marjorie Toward Service Director, Customers, Governance & Employees

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Martin Elliott, Senior Scrutiny Officer, martin.elliott@nottscc.gov.uk

#### **Constitutional Comments (HD)**

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

#### **Financial Comments (NS)**

8. There are no direct financial implications arising from the contents of this report. Any future reports to Committee on operational activities and officer working groups, will contain relevant financial information and comments.

#### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

None

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

All

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose/Outcomes	Resolutions
7 September 2022	Budget Monitoring Process and Budget Framework	Cabinet Member - Finance	To provide a progress report on the current budget monitoring process and the budget framework for 2023/24.  To monitor the implementation of the Council's 2022/23 Budget.	<ol> <li>That in advance of the launch of the public consultation on the 2023/24 budget, members of the Overview Committee receive a briefing on the proposed consultation in order to enable them to feed into to its development.</li> <li>That members of the Overview Committee receive a briefing on the Budget consultation responses once the consultation period has ended.</li> </ol>

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose/Outcomes	Resolutions
1 December 2022	Budget 2023/24 Development	Cabinet Member - Finance	To enable members to feed into the development of the Council's 2023/24 Budget.	<ol> <li>That the current position on the Council's 2022/23 budget be noted.</li> <li>That the process in establishing the Council's budget for 2023/24 be noted.</li> <li>That the current assumptions that have been made in establishing the Council's budget for 2023/24 be noted.</li> <li>That the public consultation process on the 2023/24 budget be noted.</li> <li>That the following issues raised by the Committee in its consideration of the budget consultation questions be progressed:         <ol> <li>a. that members of the Overview Committee be involved in the development of the consultation questions for the 2024/25 budget at the earliest possible stage of the consultation planning process.</li> <li>b. that the scheduled briefing for members of the Overview Committee on the budget consultation responses should also include information on how the consultation process was managed and delivered.</li> <li>c. that a task and finish review takes place on the budget consultation process, giving regard to the budget consultations carried out by other local authorities.</li> <li>d. that Cabinet be provided with a summary of the Overview Committee's comments on the development of the budget for 2023/24 and the budget consultation.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose/Outcomes Page 38 of 50	Resolutions

1 December 2022 Nottinghamshire Plan Performance Monitoring Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member – Transformation Transformation Transformation To receive a report on current performance against Council Plan Priorities.	<ol> <li>That the performance framework within which the Annual Delivery Plan 2022/23 sits be noted.</li> <li>That it be agreed that the current Annual Delivery Plan - Assurance Report Q2 2022/23 provides assurance for the delivery of the Annual Delivery Plan and that the actions identified and detailed are sufficiently progressed to ensure that the Annual Delivery Plan 2022/23 is on track.</li> <li>That it be agreed that the Annual Delivery Plan 2022/23 provides appropriate actions that are in line with the Council's ambitions, as set out in the Nottinghamshire Plan and also provides significantly robust measures that support and benefit the timely delivery of the ambitions as set out in the Nottinghamshire Plan.</li> <li>That the following issues raised by the Committee, including to help inform the development of the 2023/24 Annual Delivery Plan, be progressed:         <ol> <li>that future reports to the Overview Committee on the Annual Delivery Plan - Assurance Report include headlines on areas of performance that are doing well, and on which areas require further attention, as well as including more visual aids to show longer term trends on areas of performance.</li> <li>That the Place Select Committee carry out predecision scrutiny on the refreshed Visitor Economy Strategy in advance of the strategy being considered by the Cabinet Member for Communities.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
---	---

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose/Outcomes	Resolutions
24 January 2023	Budget 2023/24	Cabinet Member - Finance	To consider and make recommendations to Cabinet on the final draft budget for 2023/24.	That the comments made by members during their consideration of 2023/24 Draft Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2026/27 report be submitted to Cabinet for their consideration.
	Outcomes of the scrutiny review of council office buildings		To consider the findings of the task and finish review of Council Buildings	That the recommendations from the scrutiny review of Council buildings, as detailed in the report of the Chairman of the Overview Committee, be endorsed and referred to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management for their consideration.

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose/Outcomes	Resolutions
23 March 2023	Nottinghamshire Plan – Annual Delivery Plan	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member – Transformation	To receive a report on the development of the Nottinghamshire Plan – Annual Delivery Plan.	
	Response from the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management to the recommendations of the review of Council office buildings.	Cabinet Member  – Economic  Development	To receive the response from the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management to the recommendations of the review of Council office buildings.	
	Cost of Living – Review Scope		To consider the proposed scope and programme of work for the committee's review around the cost of living.	
	Council Consultations (including Budget Consultations) – Review Scope.		To consider the proposed scope and programme of work for the committee's review around Council Consultations (including Budget Consultations)	

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose/Outcomes	Resolutions
18 May 2023	Cost of Living Review – Progress Report		To receive a progress report on the work of the review on the Cost of Living.	
	Council Consultations (including Budget Consultations) – Review Progress Report		To receive a progress report on the work of the review on Council Consultations.	

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose/Outcomes	Resolutions
29 June 2023	Budget Monitoring	Cabinet Member - Finance	To monitor the implementation of the Council's 2023/24 Budget.	
	Nottinghamshire Plan Performance Monitoring	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member – Transformation	To receive a report on current performance against Council Plan Priorities as detailed in the Nottinghamshire Plan.	
	Cost of Living Review – Progress Report		To receive a progress report on the work of the review on the Cost of Living.	
	Council consultations (including budget consultations)		To consider the findings of the task and finish review of Council consultations	
	Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23		To approve the draft Scrutiny Annual Report to be forwarded to Council for consideration.	

# Items pending scheduling or removal

Item	Cabinet Member	Details	Status
	Responsibility		
Performance reporting	Cabinet Member -	To review the reporting procedures surrounding	Is scheduled to be considered by
and monitoring	Finance	Council companies and Category 'A' bodies.	Governance and Ethics Committee. To be
procedures for Council			considered for scheduling once the item has
companies and			been to Governance and Ethics Committee.
Category 'A' bodies			

## Reviews and pre-decision activity

m Cabinet Mo	ember Purpose of Review	Current Status and activity
Responsib	ility	
view of the uncil's Buildings Economic Ttfolio Developme Asset	mber - To review how the Council assets can be best utilised the delivery of the Council Council services.	in supporting considered at the 24 January 2023 meeting of the
V	riew of the uncil's Buildings tfolio  Responsib Cabinet Me Economic Developme Asset	Responsibility  view of the uncil's Buildings tfolio  Responsibility  Cabinet Member - To review how the Council assets can be best utilised the delivery of the Councils

Project Start	Item	Cabinet Member	Purpose of Review	Current Status and activity
Date		Responsibility		
Spring 2023	Recruitment and retention of Council staff	Cabinet Member - Personnel	To examine how the Council's Human Resource policies impact on the recruitment and retention of staff and to examine how activity in this area can be optimised to support the delivery of the Councils priorities and Council services by the recruitment and retention of high-quality staff.	

	Cabinet Member	Purpose of Review	Current Status and activity
January 2023 Co	All	To investigate how the Council can (taking into consideration its powers, budget and existing budget commitments required for service delivery) potentially mitigate the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on families and individuals in Nottinghamshire.	Scope to be considered for approval at March 2023 meeting.

Project Start	Item	Cabinet Member	Purpose of Review	Current Status and activity
Date		Responsibility		
September	Digital Strategy	Cabinet Member -	To review the implementation of the	
2023		Transformation	Council's new Digital Strategy.	

	em	Cabinet Member	Purpose of Review	Current Status and activity
Date		Responsibility		
March 2023 Co	Council Consultations Including Budget Consultations)	Responsibility  Deputy Leader and Cabinet  Member –  Transformation  Cabinet Member -  Finance	To examine the Council's approach to consultations.  To examine how the information gathered through consultations is used to inform service development and delivery.  To make recommendations on how the effectiveness and impact of consultations can be maximised for the benefit of both residents and the Council.  Resolved December 2022 "that a task and finish review takes place on the budget consultation process, giving regard to the budget consultations carried out by other local authorities."	Scope to be considered for approval at March 2023 meeting.

## Items to be scheduled for 2023/24

Item	Cabinet Member	Details	Status
	Responsibility		
Progress report on the	Cabinet Member for	To receive a progress report from the Cabinet Member	To be scheduled during 2023/23
recommendations	Economic Development	for Economic Management and Asset Management on	
made from the review	and Asset Management	the recommendations made from the review of Council	
of Council office		office buildings.	
buildings			