



Nottinghamshire County Council

Culture Committee

Date: Tuesday, 29 May 2012
Time: 10:30
Venue: County Hall
Address: County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP

AGENDA

- | | | |
|-----------|--|----------------|
| 1 | <u>Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman</u> | 1-2 |
| | To note the appointment by the County Council of Councillor John Cottee as Chairman of the Committee and Councillor Liz Yates as Vice-Chairman | |
| 2 | <u>To note the Membership of the Committee</u> | 1-2 |
| | Details | |
| 3 | <u>Apologies for Absence</u> | 1-2 |
| | Details | |
| 4 | <u>Declarations of Interest</u> | 1-2 |
| | (a) Personal | |
| | (b) Prejudicial | |
| 5 | <u>Terms of Reference</u> | 3 - 6 |
| | Details | |
| 6 | <u>Introduction to Services</u> | 7 - 8 |
| | Details | |
| 7 | <u>Work Programme and Tour of Provision</u> | 9 - 16 |
| | Details | |
| 8 | <u>Application to DEFRA for Local Nature Partnership Status</u> | 17 - 20 |
| | Details | |
| 9 | <u>Six Cs Strategic Green Infrastructure</u> | 21 - 24 |
| | Details | |
| 10 | <u>Greenwood Community Forest</u> | 25 - 30 |
| | Details | |

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose of the Report

1. To note the Committee's terms of reference.

Information and Advice

2. County Council on 29 March 2012 agreed the following terms of reference for the Culture Committee:-

- 2.1. The exercise of the powers and functions set out below are delegated by the Full Council in relation to culture:

- 2.1.1 All decisions within the control of the Council including but not limited to those listed in the Table below

- 2.1.2 Policy development in relation to culture, subject to approval by the Policy Committee or the Full Council

- 2.1.3 Review of performance in relation to the services provided on at least a quarterly basis

- 2.1.4 Review of day to day operational decisions taken by officers

- 2.1.5 Approval of consultation responses

- 2.1.6 Approval of departmental staffing structures as required

- 2.2. If any report comes within the remit of more than one committee, to avoid the report being discussed at several committees, the report will be presented and determined at the most appropriate committee. If this is not clear, then the report will be discussed and determined by the Policy Committee.

- 2.3. As part of the detailed work programme the Committee will receive reports on the exercise of powers delegated to Officers.

- 2.4. The Committee will be responsible for its own projects but, where it considers it appropriate, projects will be considered by a cross-committee project steering group that will report back to the most appropriate Committee.

Table
Responsibility for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• libraries and archives• adult learning• strategic development of the arts• development of cultural and heritage activities• support for sports development and sports facilities throughout the County• country parks, open spaces and other countryside services• promotion and development of tourism in the County• conservation and archaeology

Other Options Considered

3. None.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

4. To inform the committee of its terms of reference.

Statutory and Policy Implications

5. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the report be noted.

Mick Burrows

Chief Executive

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Martin Gately (0115 977 2826)

Constitutional Comments

6. As the report is for noting only, no constitutional comments are required.

Financial Comments (PS 2/5/12)

7. 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.

- a) Report to County Council – 29 March 2012 (published).

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE

INTRODUCTION TO SERVICES

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the Culture Committee with an introductory overview of the key service areas within its remit.

Information and Advice

2. To support the new Committee's work, officers will deliver short introductory presentations at the first meeting, in order to provide members with an overview of the following key service areas:
 - Country Parks and Green Estate
 - Libraries, Archives and Information
 - Sports and Arts
 - Conservation
3. Members will have the opportunity to ask questions following each presentation.
4. The Committee's consideration of the presentations will inform the future Work Programme.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

5. To support the Committee's ongoing consideration of cultural services matters across Nottinghamshire.

Statutory and Policy Implications

6. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That Committee notes and comments upon the introductory service presentations.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Youth Families and Culture

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Derek Higton
Service Director, Youth Families and Culture
T: 0115 9773498

Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (NDR 18/05/12)

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

Background Papers

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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

WORK PROGRAMME AND TOUR OF PROVISION

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the Committee's work programme for 2012/13.

Information and Advice

2. The County Council requires each committee to maintain a work programme. The work programme will assist the management of the committee's agenda, the scheduling of the committee's business and forward planning. The work programme will be updated and reviewed at each pre-agenda meeting and committee meeting. Any member of the committee is able to suggest items for possible inclusion.
3. The **attached** work programme has been drafted in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and includes items which can be anticipated at the present time. Other items will be added to the programme as they are identified.
4. As part of the transparency introduced by the new committee arrangements, committees are expected to review day to day operational decisions made by officers using their delegated powers. It is anticipated that the committee will wish to commission periodic reports on such decisions. The committee is therefore requested to identify activities on which it would like to receive reports for inclusion in the work programme.
5. A further element of transparency is reports from officers on the activity of working groups which relate to this committee's terms of reference.
6. It is also expected that the committee will wish to receive regular reports on outside bodies. Administration Committee, which has overall responsibility for outside bodies, will decide which outside bodies should report to which committees. There will be a report to a future meeting about this.
7. There is also a review which has recently been completed and a response to its recommendations is under development. The response to the review will be brought to this committee when it is ready:-

§ Seasonal Canine Illness

8. To support the committee's development of areas of critical interest, it is proposed that a programme of visits be organised for committee members to key elements of the Council's cultural services portfolio, including libraries, country parks, archives, adult and community learning and sports/arts provision.
9. The visits would allow members the opportunity to meet staff and customers, and could be organised either on a geographical or service basis.

Other Options Considered

10. None.

Reason for Recommendations

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

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) the committee's work programme be noted, and consideration be given to any changes which the committee wishes to make;
- 2) the committee indicate which operational activities it wishes to receive regular reports on;
- 3) it be noted that responses to previous scrutiny reviews which are relevant to this committee will be included in the work programme;
- 4) the committee establish a programme of Culture Committee visits to key cultural services points of delivery.

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

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Martin Gately
Democratic Services Officer
T: 0115 9772826

Constitutional Comments (SLB 30/04/2012)

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

Financial Comments (PS 02/05/12)

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

Background Papers

Report to County Council – 29 March 2012 (published).

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

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

CULTURE COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME

<u>Report Title</u>	<u>Brief summary of agenda item</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>
29 May 2012		
Introduction to services		Derek Higton/ Sally Gill
Terms of reference	For noting	Derek Higton
Work Programme and tour of provision	To agree future priorities, locations of future meetings and arrangements for Committee Members to visit Countywide cultural services provision	Derek Higton
Six Cs Strategic Green Infrastructure	To report on the work undertaken through the 6Cs Strategic Green Infrastructure Programme and present Project Closure Report	Sally Gill
Application to DEFRA for Local Nature Partnership Status	To provide update on progress to deliver Local Nature Partnerships elements of Natural England White Paper and approval of Local Nature Partnership application.	Sally Gill
Greenwood Community Forest	To provide Members with information on the work of the Greenwood Community Forest Partnership and seek endorsement for proposals relating to future priorities	Sally Gill
26 June 2012		
Final committee accounts – 2011/12	Final accounts for those services reporting to Culture Committee	Neil Robinson
Complaints	Quarterly monitoring report	Derek Higton
Sherwood Forest Regional Park	For noting	Sally Gill
4 September 2012		
Cultural Services capital projects	Update report on key projects	Derek Higton
Local Improvement Schemes Heritage and Conservation Projects	Update report on Year 9 projects	Sally Gill

<u>Report Title</u>	<u>Brief summary of agenda item</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>
Archives Plan	Seeking approval for the Archives Plan	Peter Gaw
A46 archaeology	Presentation of the archaeological work and finds from the dualling of the A46 through Nottinghamshire	Sally Gill
Establishment of a 1 fte Library Building Officer (West Bridgford Library and Young People's Centre)	Approval for establishment of post	Peter Gaw
2 October 2012		
Cultural Strategy	Six monthly monitoring report	Patrick Candler
Libraries Strategy	Six monthly monitoring report	Peter Gaw
Historic Environment Record	To provide Members with information on the County's Historic Environment Record and seek endorsement for future working relationships with other Local Planning Authorities.	Sally Gill
30 October 2012		
Initial committee budget proposals 2013/14		Derek Higton
Archives Acquisitions Policy	Revision to policy	Peter Gaw
Grizzled Skipper Project	Interim report on SITA funded Grizzled Skipper project	Sally Gill
27 November 2012		
Performance Monitoring report	Six monthly performance monitoring report for Key Performance Indicators	Derek Higton
Complaints	Quarterly monitoring report	Derek Higton
Community Archaeology	To provide update on Community Archaeology projects	Sally Gill
8 January 2013		
5 February 2013		
Complaints	Quarterly monitoring report	Derek Higton

<u>Report Title</u>	<u>Brief summary of agenda item</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>
Fees & Charges – Libraries, Archives & Information	Annual determination	Peter Gaw
Fees & Charges – Country Parks and Green Estate	Annual determination	Patrick Candler
Partnership funding to Creswell Crags Heritage Trust 2013/14	Annual determination	Patrick Candler
Committee budget		Derek Higton
5 March 2013		
Revisions to library opening hours		Peter Gaw
Adult & Community Learning Service Priorities	Annual report to set priorities	Peter Gaw
Trent Vale Landscape Partnership	To report on the achievements of the Heritage Lottery funded Trent Vale Landscape Partnership project	Sally Gill
26 March 2013		
Biodiversity Offsetting Pilot Project	To provide Members with a Year 1 report on progress with the national Biodiversity Offsetting pilot project	Sally Gill
April 2013 date tbc		
Cultural Strategy	Six monthly monitoring report	Patrick Candler
Libraries Strategy	Six monthly monitoring report	Peter Gaw
May 2013 date tbc		
Performance Monitoring report	Six monthly performance monitoring report for Key Performance Indicators	Derek Higton
Complaints	Quarterly monitoring report	Derek Higton
To be placed		
Budget monitoring	Quarterly reports	Derek Higton
Sport England Youth & Community Strategy		Steve Bradley
Green Estate Management Plan	Seeking approval for the Plan	Patrick Candler
Sports and Arts Development Plan	Seeking approval for the Plan	Steve Bradley
Seasonal Canine Illness	For response to scrutiny/Cabinet recommendations	Patrick Candler

REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER PLANNING

APPLICATION TO DEFRA FOR LOCAL NATURE PARTNERSHIP STATUS

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on progress to deliver the Local Nature Partnerships element of the Natural Environment White Paper.
2. To seek approval for the County Council to support the submission of an application to DEFRA to establish the Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Nature Partnership.

Information and Advice

3. The Government has stated that it wants this generation to be the first to leave the natural environment in a better condition than it inherited and in June 2011 it published the Natural Environment White Paper, "*The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature*", outlining its vision for the natural environment over the next 50 years. The mission to 2020 is to "*halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people*".
4. The White Paper recognises the value of the natural environment in supporting economic regeneration, improving public health and wellbeing, giving improved educational outcomes, reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, helping climate change adaptation, and providing vital 'ecosystem services' such as atmospheric, climatic and hydrological regulation, nutrient cycling, soil formation, pest control and pollination.
5. However, the White Paper also highlights that nature is often taken for granted and that the services and benefits it provides are undervalued, particularly in conventional economic assessments and during decision-making. It states that a healthy, properly functioning natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal wellbeing, and that action needs to be taken across sectors rather than by treating environmental issues in isolation.
6. The Government recognises that effective action is best achieved through a partnership approach, and wants local authorities to work through partnerships, linking national environmental priorities to local circumstances. To this end, it is encouraging and supporting the creation of Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) which will work at a strategic scale, demonstrating local leadership, raising awareness about the vital services and benefits that a healthy natural

environment brings, and contributing to the green economy. Such partnerships will work alongside Local Enterprise Partnerships and Health and Wellbeing Boards and actively engage with other sectors and organisations not traditionally associated with the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment.

7. A one-off fund of £1 million has been provided by the Government to fund capacity-building work to develop the broadened agenda required by the new LNP approach. A successful joint bid was made to this funding pot by organisations within Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire (including both County Councils, both Wildlife Trusts, and both Local Biodiversity Action Plan partnerships), for the development of a 'Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Nature Partnership'. A total of 47 bids covering most of the country were successful, including neighbouring bids from Lincolnshire, the Humber Estuary, the Peak District and South Yorkshire.
8. The capacity-building funding has supported a series of events in April and May with key organisations from the business, community, education, environment, health and land management sectors. These events have explored areas of shared interest and helped to identify both the potential mutual benefits of forming an LNP and some of the key strategic objectives.
9. DEFRA has now written to all the potential LNPs inviting the submission of applications to formally establish the Partnerships. It has also indicated that there will be a single round of applications in June 2012 and that Government intends to announce the successful Local Nature Partnerships in early summer.
10. It is anticipated that, having considered the outcomes of the development work, the partners in Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire will have reached a decision on whether they wish to submit an application to DEFRA by the end of May. Approval is, therefore, sought for the County Council to support the submission of an application to formally establish a Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Nature Partnership.

Other Options Considered

11. The County Council could choose not to support the submission of an application to DEFRA. The County Council is, however, one of the leading partners in the current work arising from the Natural Environment White Paper and has taken the lead role in the development work for the Local Nature Partnership. If the County Council does not support an application, the remaining partners could still choose to submit one but it is considered unlikely that they will do so.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

12. Key messages arising from the events with the business, community, education, environment, health and land management sectors were that a Local Nature Partnership could offer the opportunity to deliver benefits across sectors and at a greater scale than is achievable through existing county-based environmental partnerships. The potential to identify and overcome barriers to action; share evidence, expertise and experience; and provide strategic support to communities were also consistent themes. The identification of the potential added value of a

Local Nature Partnership by cross-sectoral partners has informed the recommendation to support an application to DEFRA for formal establishment of a partnership.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

The Government has indicated that it expects Local Nature Partnerships to be self-sustaining and it is, therefore, anticipated that all work associated with a Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire LNP would be contained within the existing resources of the partners.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) To note progress to deliver the Local Nature Partnerships element of the Natural Environment White Paper.
- 2) To approve County Council support for the submission of an application to DEFRA to establish the Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Nature Partnership.

Sally Gill
Group Manager Planning

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Heather Stokes, Conservation Team Manager (0115 969 6508)

Constitutional Comments (SHB.15.05.12)

14. Committee has power to decide the Recommendation.

Financial Comments (DJK 15.05.12)

15. The contents of this report are duly noted; any costs arising from formation of a Nottinghamshire LNP would need to be contained within the existing Conservation Revenue budget for 2012/13.

Background Papers

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER PLANNING

PROJECT CLOSURE REPORT ON THE 6CS STRATEGIC GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME

Purpose of the Report

1. To report on the work undertaken through the 6Cs Strategic Green Infrastructure (SGI) Programme and the Project Closure Report.

Information and Advice

2. Natural England defines Green Infrastructure as “a strategically planned and delivered network comprising the broadest range of high quality green spaces and other environmental features...designed and managed as a multifunctional resource capable of delivering those ecological services and quality of life benefits required by the communities it serves and needed to underpin sustainability. Its design and management should also respect and enhance the character and distinctiveness of an area with regard to habitats and landscape types.” It also considers that Green Infrastructure (GI) “needs to be delivered at all spatial scales...accommodating both accessible natural green spaces within local communities and often much larger sites in the urban fringe and wider countryside.”
3. The Three Cities (Derby, Leicester and Nottingham) and the Three Counties (Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire), or 6Cs, Growth Point came into being in 2006, as one of 29 areas proposed nationally for significant housing growth under the Sustainable Communities Plan.
4. The 6Cs Growth Point Partnership was co-ordinated through a Programme Management Board and this Board took a decision to top slice 10% of Growth Point funding to develop and deliver strategic GI. This was strongly recommended by the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) but was not a mandatory requirement and was testament to the 6Cs Growth Point Partnership’s commitment to the importance of delivering strategic GI to support growth.
5. A Strategic Green Infrastructure Board was formed to co-ordinate the delivery of an agreed programme comprising:
 - the production of the 6Cs GI Strategy and Action Plan to provide a long term vision and strategic framework for the delivery of GI across the sub-region and a robust evidence base for the LDF process;

- administration of Growth Point funding for SGI;
- championing GI and promoting best practice.

Membership of the Board includes Country Land and Business Association, Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council, English Heritage, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Greenspace East Midlands, Leicester City Council (Accountable Body), Leicestershire County Council (Secretariat), Natural England (Chair), Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council (Vice Chair) and the voluntary sector through East Midlands Environment Link.

6. The programme is now coming to a close and the Project Closure Report will provide detail on the work undertaken on each strand of the programme. Key achievements from the Report are included here. The table below summarises the total programme budget and expenditure:

SGI Growth Fund Programme	Capital £	Revenue £
Current Programme Totals	3,002,441	369,239
Unallocated	98	0
SGI Lifetime Budgets	3,002,539	369,239

11 Strategic GI projects have been delivered through the Programme and details of these, with budget allocations are included in the table below:

Project Name	Project Description	Contract Value
Derby City Greenway	Riverside Path & Access improvements and biodiversity enhancements	£318,000
Derwent Valley Greenway	New high quality multi-user trail in a green corridor (Greenway)	£131,000
Erewash Valley Trail	Formation of walking and cycling trail with improvements to the quality of the route, enhancing biodiversity interest and providing information about the valley.	£453,086.86
National Forest Cycling Centre	Trails, Interpretation and Way Marker aspects of wider creation of a specific cycling centre.	£300,000
Abbey Meadows	Enhancement and creation of a series of connecting habitats, improved access and increased visual amenity.	£110,330.13
Rally Park	Improvements to Rally Park to provide enhanced GI for existing and new communities.	£484,669.87
Shipleigh Lakeside Nature Reserve	Purchase 148.2 acres to establish the land as a nature reserve and extension to Shipleigh Country Park	£608,954

Soar Valley Signage	A programme of branded signage improvements to link the city centre with the Soar Valley GI corridor	£68,000
Syston Land Purchase	Purchase of 9.5ha former gravel extraction site for nature reserve for the benefit of wildlife and people and improved access to quality green space.	£26,400
South Hucknall GI	Upgrading accessibility/functionality of pedestrian/cycling corridors to the south of Hucknall, enhancing the biodiversity value of the routes and the green spaces they connect.	£203,000
Leen Corridor Enhancement	Enhancing the accessibility, recreation value and biodiversity of a 3km stretch of the River Leen Corridor	£299,000

Other Options Considered

7. Not applicable.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

8. The 6Cs Strategic Green Infrastructure Programme has been very successful, setting high standards for delivering GI projects with a range of partners and attracting interest from government and partnerships in other parts of the country. In November 2010, the Strategic Green Infrastructure Strategy won the East Midlands RTPI 2010 Regional Award for Rural Areas and Natural Environment.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

10. To note the work undertaken through the 6Cs Strategic Green Infrastructure Programme and the highlights of the Project Closure Report .

Sally Gill
Group Manager Planning

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Heather Stokes, Conservation Team Manager (0115 969 6508)

Constitutional Comments (SHB.15.05.12)

11. There are no constitutional comments as the report is for noting only.

Financial Comments (DJK 15.05.12)

12. The contents of this report are duly noted; there are no financial implications.

Background Papers

The 6Cs Strategic Green Infrastructure Strategy , advice sheets and information on projects:

<http://www.emgin.co.uk/default.asp?PageID=192>

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

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Hucknall	Beauvale	Beeston North
Beeston South & Attenborough	Bramcote & Stapleford	Chilwell & Toton
Eastwood	Kimberley & Trowell	Nuthall
Arnold North	Arnold South	Calverton
Carlton East	Carlton West	Newstead
Bingham	Cotgrave	Keyworth
Radcliffe-on-Trent	Ruddington	Soar Valley
West Bridgford Central & South	West Bridgford West	

REPORT OF GROUP MANAGER PLANNING

GREENWOOD COMMUNITY FOREST

Purpose of the Report

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

Information and Advice

Background

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

Activities

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

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

Links to NCC priorities

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

Looking forward

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

Other Options Considered

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

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

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

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

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

Sally Gill
Group Manager Planning

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Malcolm Hackett
Senior Practitioner Greenwood
0115 9696530

Constitutional Comments (SHB 15.05.12)

15. Committee has power to decide the Recommendation.

Financial Comments (DJK 15.05.12)

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

Background Papers

General information on Greenwood Community Forest:

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

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

http://www.greenwoodforest.org.uk/read_all_about_it.php#publications

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

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

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

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

Appendix: Members of Greenwood Community Forest

Greenwood Community Forest Partnership is made up of:

Local authorities (voting members)

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

Others (advisory, non-voting)

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

