

Policy Committee

Thursday, 02 December 2021 at 10:30

County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP

AGENDA

- | | | |
|---|--|---------|
| 1 | Minutes of the last meeting of Policy Committee held on 14 October 2021 | 3 - 6 |
| 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 | Improving Outcomes for Survivors of Domestic Abuse | 7 - 30 |
| 5 | Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Case for Devolution - Resourcing Requirements | 31 - 46 |
| 6 | Highways Review | 47 - 58 |
| 7 | Provision of New Primary School Places in East Leake | 59 - 64 |
| 8 | The Integrated Rail Plan in the East Midlands | 65 - 68 |
| 9 | Work Programme | 69 - 72 |

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 Keith Ford (Tel. 0115 977 2590) or a colleague in Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

- (4) Councillors are reminded that Committee and Sub-Committee papers, with the exception of those which contain Exempt or Confidential Information, may be recycled.
- (5) This agenda and its associated reports are available to view online via an online calendar - <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx>

Meeting **POLICY COMMITTEE**

Date **Thursday 14 October 2021 (commencing at 10.30 am)**

membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Ben Bradley MP (Chairman)
Bruce Laughton (Vice-Chairman)

Chris Barnfather
Anne Callaghan
Neil Clarke MBE - **A**
John Cottee
Jim Creamer
Boyd Elliott
Kate Foale
Glynn Gilfoyle
Keith Girling

Richard Jackson
David Martin
Philip Owen
David Shaw - **A**
Helen-Ann Smith
Tracey Taylor
Michelle Welsh - **A**
Gordon Wheeler - **A**
Jason Zadrozny

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillor Mike Adams substituted for Councillor Neil Clarke

Councillor Sinead Anderson substituted for Councillor Gordon Wheeler

Councillor Mike Pringle substituted for Councillor Michelle Welsh

OTHER COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE

None

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Anthony May Chief Executive's Department
Marjorie Toward
Keith Ford

Colin Pettigrew Children, Families and Cultural Services Department

Adrian Smith Place Department
Derek Higon
Matthew Neal

1 MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting of Policy Committee held on 2 September 2021, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Neil Clarke – medical reasons

Councillor Dave Shaw – medical reasons

Councillor Michelle Welsh – other reasons

Councillor Gordon Wheeler – medical reasons

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

No interests were declared.

4 REVISED NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FAIR ACCESS PROTOCOL

In response to a query raised by Members officers agreed to provide details of how many children had been dealt with through the Fair Access Protocol since 2018.

RESOLVED: 2021/060

That the revised Nottinghamshire Fair Access Protocol be approved.

5 THE BIG NOTTS SURVEY: INITIAL FINDINGS AND NEXT STEPS

In response to a request from Members, officers agreed to produce, via the political group support officers, a high level summary of casework dealt with by Members to better understand existing areas of focus and priorities of residents.

RESOLVED 2021/061

- 1) That the initial findings of the resident and stakeholder engagement be noted.
- 2) That a high level summary of casework be collated by officers to help inform the development of the new Council Plan.

6 SOCIAL HOUSING DECARBONISATION FUNDING – WAVE 1 BID SUBMISSION

RESOLVED 2021/062

- 1) That the submission of a bid to the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund under Wave 1, utilising the Memorandum of Understanding, as further detailed in the exempt appendix to the committee report, be approved in principle.
- 2) That authority for the final sign-off of the Wave 1 submission be delegated to the Corporate Director, Place Department, in consultation with the Chairman of Policy Committee and the Section 151 Officer.
- 3) That subject to the bid being successful, a further report be submitted to a future meeting to approve the appropriate amendment to the Council's Capital Programme to reflect the amount of funding awarded and the Council entering into the necessary agreements to deliver Wave 1 with the Council's partners.

7 WORK PROGRAMME

In response to a request from Members, officers agreed to clarify whether the previously requested agenda item on a review of secondary school places in Hucknall had been scheduled for Children and Young people's Committee instead of Policy Committee.

With regard to the scheduled item on the East Midlands Freeport, officers explained that briefings and further discussions will be arranged for Group Leaders and non-aligned Members. These discussions would include the format of the report and arrangements for sharing information if possible ahead of the publication of the agenda for the 2 December meeting.

In response to a request from Members, it was agreed to add an update on HS2 and the Integrated Rail Plan to a future meeting agenda following any subsequent Government announcements.

RESOLVED: 2021/063

That the work programme be updated as discussed.

8 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: 2021/064

That the public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the discussions were likely to involve disclosure of exempt information described in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

**9 SOCIAL HOUSING DECARBONISATION FUNDING – WAVE 1 BID
SUBMISSION – EXEMPT APPENDIX**

RESOLVED: 2021/065

That the information contained in the exempt appendix be noted.

The meeting closed at 11.53 am.

CHAIRMAN

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC
HEALTH COMMITTEE****IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE –
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE’S DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to approve the ongoing approach to develop the Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Strategy, with additional chapters to be approved by Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee and to approve the Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Strategy (Appendix A).

Information**Statutory Context**

2. Domestic abuse is a complex and multifaceted problem affecting a wide range of people and requires comprehensive services and systems to tackle the issues effectively. The authority is driving strategic change through partnership and leadership delivering the strategic vision which is to make Nottinghamshire a place where survivors of domestic abuse receive the support they need to feel safe and rebuild their lives. Perpetrators are held to account for their actions by the police, criminal justice systems and wider services. Communities recognise and respond to domestic abuse early to prevent abuse from happening and support survivors and their families.
3. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 gives Nottinghamshire County Council, as a lead authority, statutory duties for commissioning Domestic Abuse support services for adults and children within safe accommodation. The Act has created a statutory definition of domestic abuse, established a Domestic Abuse Commissioner, and enhanced legal processes.
4. The duties are:
 - a. Lead authorities to convene a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board to:
 - i. Assess the need and demand for accommodation-based support for all victims and their children, including those who require cross-border support.

- ii. Develop and publish strategies for the provision of support to cover the locality and diverse groups of victims.
 - iii. Make commissioning / de-commissioning decisions.
 - iv. Meet the support needs of victims and their children.
 - v. Monitor and evaluate local delivery.
 - vi. Report back to Central Government.
 - b. Lead authorities to have regard to statutory guidance in exercising these functions.
 - c. The Secretary of State to produce the statutory guidance.
 - d. Tier 2 district, borough and city councils and London Boroughs to co-operate with the Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Boards.
5. It has also placed a statutory duty on local authorities in England to provide support to survivors of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation.

Development of Domestic Abuse Support Services Strategy in Nottinghamshire

- 6. The Domestic Abuse Support (Local Authority Strategies and Annual Reports) Regulations 2021¹ came into effect on 1st October 2021. These regulations state that ‘a relevant local authority must publish a section 57 [Domestic abuse] strategy before 5th January 2022.’ Prior to the publication of the Strategy ‘a relevant local authority must publish a draft of the strategy, at least 10 weeks before the date on which the authority intends to publish it.’
- 7. The Domestic Abuse Strategy provided in **Appendix A** outlines plans to improve the systemwide response to domestic abuse. The Strategy will be a live document with individual chapters being developed for each priority area. The strategy will be reviewed at least every three years in line with the regulations and to reflect best practice.
- 8. The strategic vision is to ensure *“Nottinghamshire is a place where survivors of domestic abuse receive the support they need to feel safe and rebuild their lives. Perpetrators are held to account for their actions by the police, criminal justice systems and wider services and communities recognise and respond to domestic abuse early to prevent abuse from happening and support survivors and their families”*.
- 9. The Strategy sets out Nottinghamshire County Council’s approach to tackling Domestic Abuse. Domestic abuse is a complex and multifaceted problem affecting a wide range of people across the population and requires comprehensive services and systems to tackle the issues effectively. To deliver the vision there are eight priority areas within the Domestic Abuse Strategy and a chapter will be developed for each:
 - i. **Safe Accommodation**
 - ii. **Health**
 - iii. **Community**
 - iv. **Criminal Justice**
 - v. **High risk survivors**

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2021/990/regulation/3/made>

- vi. Children and Young people**
- vii. Prevention**
- viii. Perpetrators**

10. The first chapter of the strategy covers the priority area of 'safe accommodation' as detailed in the Commissioning Plan agreed by Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee on 26 July 2021. Future commissioning decisions for each priority area will follow a similar process to the approach developed for the delivery of the domestic abuse duty and safe accommodation commissioning.
11. The Domestic Abuse Strategy was discussed at the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee on 8 November and the Committee endorsed the strategic approach taken in Nottinghamshire and agreed for the Domestic Abuse Strategy to be submitted to the Policy Committee for approval.

Next Steps

12. The next steps for improving the outcomes for survivors of domestic abuse in Nottinghamshire include;
 - Develop a domestic abuse communications plan to promote the services and developments across the County.
 - Nottinghamshire County Council will support 16 days of action to end violence against women and white ribbon day on 25th November 2021.
 - Undertake an equality impact assessment on the Domestic Abuse Strategy.
 - Share the final Strategy with the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) by 5 January 2022.

Other Options Considered

13. An individual strategy for safe accommodation was considered, but rejected due to its narrow focus, which would not consider the complexity within the domestic abuse agenda.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

14. To fulfil the statutory requirements outlined by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 in regard to the establishment of a Domestic Abuse Strategy
15. To enable the delivery of the recommendations from the needs assessment as required by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Statutory and Policy Implications

16. 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.

Data Protection and Information Governance

17. Services will be required to adhere to all data protection and governance processes.

Financial Implications

18. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Any financial implications arising from the delivering of the Local Partnership Board and commissioning required by the Domestic Abuse Duty has been approved and is funded by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) allocation and shared with Committee in July 2021.

Human Resources Implications

19. No additional human resource implications.

Public Sector Equality Duty implications

20. The duty requires the authority to consider the availability of safe accommodation for all people with protected characteristics, alongside district partners. This forms part of the responsibility of the Domestic Abuse Strategy.

21. There will be a requirement to undertake an equality impact assessment on the draft strategy.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

22. The needs of all domestic abuse survivors and their children will be aligned with wider safeguarding procedures.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1). To approve the ongoing approach to develop the Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Strategy, with additional chapters to be approved by Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee
- 2). To approve the Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Strategy (Appendix A)

Councillor Boyd Elliott
Chairman of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee
Nottinghamshire County Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (LW 08/11/2021)

23. Policy Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

Financial Comments (DG 08/11/2021)

24. There are no direct financial implications arising 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.

- Domestic Abuse Act 2021 [Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/51/contents/enacted)
- [Commissioning Domestic Abuse Support Services](#)
Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee (1 April 2019)
- [Funding for support to survivors of Domestic Abuse within safe accommodation](#)
Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee (9 December 2019)
- [Consultation response and preparation for the Domestic Abuse duty](#)
Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee (9 November 2020)
- [Improving Outcomes for Survivors of Domestic Abuse](#)
Report to Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee (26 July 2021)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-2024

Contents

Introduction

Chapter 1. Safe Accommodation *(September 2021)*

Chapter 2. High Risk Survivors *(March 2022)*

Chapter 3. Children and Young People *(March 2022)*

Chapter 4. Prevention *(June 2022)*

Chapter 5. Health Services *(September 2022)*

Chapter 6. Community Services *(December 2022)*

Chapter 7. Criminal Justice and the Courts *(March 2023)*

Chapter 8. Perpetrators *(March 2023)*

Introduction

Foreword

Welcome to the Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Strategy and thank you to everyone who has helped with its development. This Strategy sets out Nottinghamshire County Council's approach to tackling Domestic Abuse. Domestic abuse is a complex and multifaceted problem affecting a wide range of people and requires comprehensive services and systems to tackle the issues effectively.

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment on Domestic Abuse (2019) highlighted the need and impact of domestic abuse on our population. In 2021 two major milestones have taken place with the enactment of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and the development of the Violence against Women and Girls Strategy in July 2021. The new legislation and strategy are pivotal in the securing improved outcomes for the survivors of domestic abuse and their children. Local Authorities now have a statutory duty to provide safe accommodation for survivors of domestic abuse, along with new tools and powers for criminal justice agencies.

There is a huge amount of work already underway in Nottinghamshire on Domestic Abuse and we have a well-established partnership approach.

This strategy sets out Nottinghamshire's vision and approach to the prevention of domestic abuse and support for the survivors of domestic abuse.

Our Vision

Nottinghamshire is a place where survivors of domestic abuse receive the support they need to feel safe and rebuild their lives. Perpetrators are held to account for their actions by the police, criminal justice systems and wider services. Communities recognise and respond to domestic abuse early to prevent abuse from happening and support survivors and their families.

We look forward for your help and support in delivering this vision and strategy.

Councillor Boyd Elliott

Chairman of the Adult Social Care and
Public Health Committee

Councillor Scott Carlton

Vice Chairman of the Adult Social Care
and Public Health Committee

Public Health lead

1.What is Domestic Abuse?

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 sets out a new definition of domestic abuse which will be used throughout this strategy. The definition states that behaviour will be classed as domestic abuse if:

- Both individuals involved are aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and
- The behaviour is abusive

Behaviour is 'abusive' if it consists of any of the following:

- Physical or sexual abuse
- Violent or threatening behaviour
- Controlling or coercive behaviour
- Economic abuse
- Psychological, emotional, or other abuse.

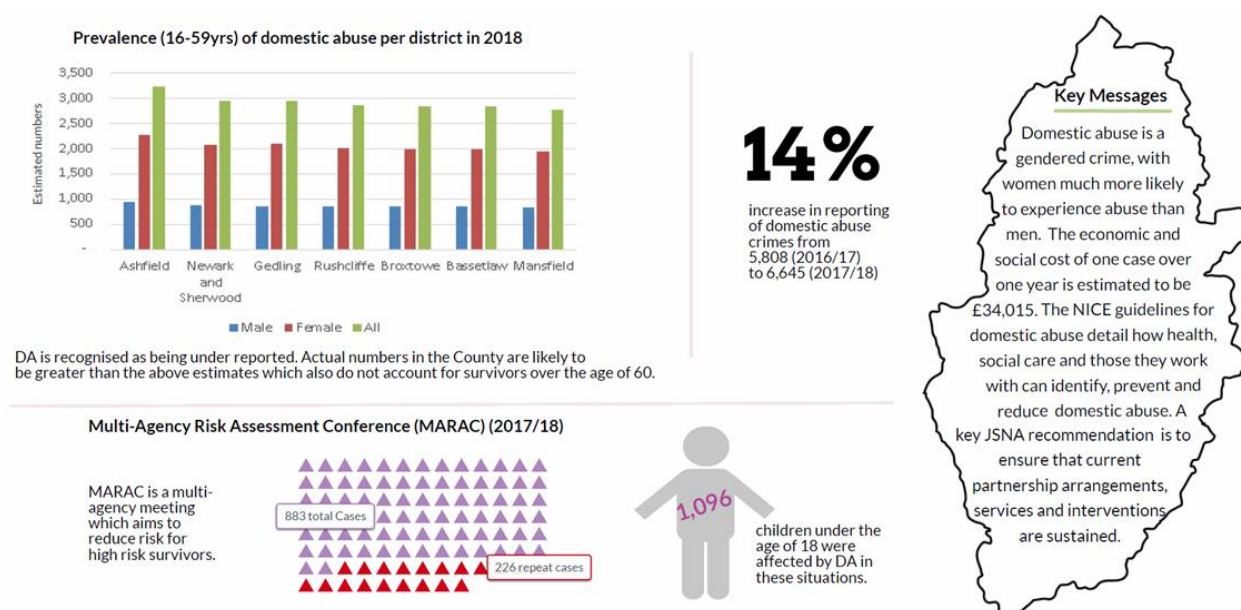
Irrespective of whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.

The 2021 Act identifies that children of domestic abuse survivors who have seen, heard, or experienced the effect of that abuse are survivors.

2. What are the needs of our population?

Nottinghamshire County's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) on domestic abuse was published in 2019. The summary findings are shown within Figure 1. These findings highlight the gendered nature of domestic abuse with women much more likely to experience abuse than men. The prevalence and crime data highlight the level and increase in reporting however, we know that under reporting is a key feature of abuse so actual case figures are likely to be higher. The Multiagency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) data highlights the repeat victimisation involved in high risk cases along with the high number of children affected by domestic abuse.

Figure 1: Summary of information in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment on Domestic Abuse (2019)



Source: Nottinghamshire insight website (2021)¹

The findings from this JSNA resulted in a series of recommendations (Table 1) many of which remain relevant to the continued response to domestic abuse and will be reflected throughout this strategy within relevant chapters. Each recommendation within the table has been updated to briefly outline updated responsibilities and progress.

Table 1: Recommendations from the Domestic Abuse JSNA 2019

	Recommendation	Status
Partnership working		
1	Maintain the Nottinghamshire Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group, ensuring broad representation, including the specialist Domestic and Sexual Abuse (DSA) voluntary sector; to ensure partners are working to an over-arching strategy with an action plan and analysis.	Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive to be replaced by the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board and will maintain the partnership working ethos from this recommendation.
2	To maintain a co-ordinated commissioning approach to Domestic Abuse across Nottinghamshire	To be delivered through Local Partnership Board and
3	All agencies to develop and promote policy and procedures for work with survivors, children, and perpetrators, including workforce training and employee domestic violence policies	Support from the Local Partnership Board and commissioned domestic abuse training Provider.
4	Agencies to acknowledge the importance of maintaining provision of refuge and other specialist services and	It is now a statutory duty for Local Authorities to provide safe accommodation

¹ <https://www.nottinghamshireinsight.org.uk/research-areas/jsna/adults-and-vulnerable-adults/domestic-abuse-2019/>

	work with the Safer Nottinghamshire Board to address sustainability	support services and this will include maintaining existing provision.
5	Further ongoing engagement work with survivors to continually inform practice is valuable therefore it is suggested that the DSA Exec develop a Domestic Abuse Engagement Strategy.	It is now a statutory requirement to ensure that survivors are engaged within the Local Partnership Board and a service is being commissioned to deliver a survivor network to represent the voice of survivors.
6	Assess the implications of the Domestic Abuse Bill published January 2019	Completed
Prevention		
7	Continue to support and promote campaigns to promote healthy relationships, gender equality and raise awareness of domestic abuse.	To be delivered through a Communications – Prevention and Awareness sub-group of the Local Partnership Board
8	Encourage more schools to take up specialist early intervention and prevention programmes for children and young people, building on mandatory healthy relationships and sex education (RSE) from September 2020.	To be delivered through a Children and Young people Sub-group of Local Partnership Board
9	Develop targeted interventions to support at risk survivors and young people that harm	To be delivered through a Communication, Prevention and Awareness sub-group
10	Programme to ensure a mixed economy of risk and needs based services and approaches, for example through Change that Lasts	Reviewed via the Local Partnership Board
Provision		
11	Support and promote awareness of access to Women's Aid Nottinghamshire 24-hour Freephone Helpline and other local services	To be delivered via a Communications, Prevention, and awareness Sub-group
12	Ensure maintenance of, at least, essential specialist community-based Domestic Abuse services in line with NICE PH50 guidance, including for women, men, teenagers, and children.	Delivered via the Local Partnership Board and Commissioning organisations contract management processes.
13	Professionals and specialist services respond effectively: for example, professionals to be trained to identify Domestic Abuse, utilise the DASH RIC* to identify levels of risk and referral routes	To be delivered by a High-Risk Survivors sub-group
14	Improve identification and response across healthcare settings, including mental health (women, men, teenagers, and children) e.g. therapeutic counselling	Healthcare Services Sub-group of the Local Partnership Board
15	Access to specialist housing, refuge, and post-refuge support	Local Partnership Board – Safe Accommodation
16	Develop support for survivors of harassment & stalking	Responsibility sits with Violence Against Women

		and Girls Strategy led by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
17	Increase capacity for support for children affected by domestic abuse, both in the community and in refuge	To be delivered through a Children and Young people Sub-group of Local Partnership Board
Protection		
18	Ensure decision making about undertaking of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR's) and the learning from DHR's is shared across Nottinghamshire through the development of a process that is both consistent and best value	Domestic Homicide Review Assurance, Learning and Implementation Group (DHR ALIG)** Community Safety Partnerships with Local Partnership Board
19	Identify effective and evidence-based ways of working with perpetrators, ensuring programmes are aligned with the RESPECT guidelines and running in parallel with specialist women's services.	Responsibility of Local Partnership Board – Perpetrator Subgroup

*DASH RIC is a Domestic Abuse and Serious Harm Risk Assessment Form filled in by organisations that work with the survivor

** Domestic Homicide Review Assurance, Learning and Implementation Group (DHR ALIG) looks at the systemwide and partner learning from the local DHRs.

3. What is our Strategic Approach?

To provide a comprehensive response and address all aspects of domestic abuse. Eight priority areas have been identified to cover the breadth of issues for survivors and their families and provide a community coordinated response. The priority areas are:

- Safe accommodation
- Children and young people
- High risk survivors
- Health services
- Prevention
- Community services
- Criminal justice and the Courts
- Perpetrators

The Domestic Abuse Strategy will evolve and address each priority as detailed in **Table 2**. Safe accommodation provides the first chapter and forms the basis of the initial part of the strategy. By March 2022 three sections will be completed, and full action plans developed. Partners will develop each section with stakeholders to update a needs assessment and develop and agree a multiagency action plan. Each chapter will be added to the strategy as it is completed. The completed strategy will begin to be sequentially refreshed in 2024 when each chapter is three years old.

The work in year two will take into consideration the proposed Victims Bill and the Police and Crime Plan 2021, which is being developed and led by the Police and Crime Commissioner. It will also consider the Violence against Women and Girls Strategy (which includes men and boys), Safeguarding and Supporting Families and Safeguarding Adults, Community Safety, Housing and Homelessness, and Modern Slavery agendas.

Table 2. Proposed Strategic Plan timeline

Year	Quarters	Priority area
2021/22	April – September 2021	Safe accommodation – completed as Chapter 1
2021/22	October – March 2022	High Risk Survivors Children and Young People
2022/23	April – September 2022	Health services Prevention
2022/23	July – December 2022	Community services
2022/23	April 2022 – March 2023	Criminal justice and the Courts Perpetrators

4. How will we deliver the strategy?

Nottinghamshire County Council will appoint the Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (LPB) to replace the Domestic and Sexual Violence Executive. The role of the Local Partnership Board will be to support, advise, and work in partnership with Nottinghamshire County Council to ensure survivors of domestic abuse have access to adequate and appropriate support within safe accommodation services. The Board will link to Nottinghamshire Safeguarding children and adults' partnership and MARAC processes along with the wider Community Safety agenda, delivered by the Safer Notts Board (SNB).

A working group will be established for each of the 8 priority areas as detailed on page 5. These working groups will provide the LPB with advice related to the needs of the population, assess the current provision, demand for service and identify gaps. Recommendations from the working groups will be discussed with key stakeholders. Stakeholders will be asked to provide feedback on solutions and to prioritise areas of work. The feedback provided, along with the findings and recommendations from the needs assessment, will be used to determine priorities and formulate the commissioning and decommissioning plans. All commissioning plans will require approval from Nottinghamshire County Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee.

Chapter One: Safe Accommodation

1.1 Introduction

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places a new statutory duty on “local authorities in England to provide support to survivors of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation” (Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2021).

The Act requires that each local authority must:

- Appoint a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board which must be consulted on the other functions listed below.
- Assess, or make arrangements for the assessment of, the need for domestic abuse support in their area for all survivors (and their children) who reside in relevant safe accommodation, including those who come from outside the area.
- Prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of such support to cover their area having regard to the need's assessment.
- Give effect to the strategy (through commissioning/de-commissioning decisions)
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy
- Report back annually to central government.

(Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2021).

Statutory guidance² published on 1 October 2021 outlined the Government's intentions of the right support to protect and assist all survivors of domestic abuse to make individuals and families safe.

The Government also recognises the critical importance of support for survivors and their children within relevant safe accommodation, as they rebuild their lives after the trauma of domestic abuse².

1.2 Definition of “Safe Accommodation”

The statutory guidance defines ‘safe accommodation’ as:

1. **Refuge Accommodation** - a service that provides accommodation and support only for a person experiencing domestic abuse. Refuges can be a range of shared, communal housing units; self-contained units; or dispersed housing.
2. **Specialist Safe Accommodation** - Safe accommodation which provides dedicated support to survivors with protected characteristics.

² Statutory guidance: Delivery of support to victims of domestic abuse in domestic abuse safe accommodation services 1 Oct 2021 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-support-within-safe-accommodation/delivery-of-support-to-victims-of-domestic-abuse-in-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-services>

3. **Dispersed accommodation** - Self-contained units which provide the same level of specialist domestic abuse support provided in a refuge but is more suitable for survivors who are unable to stay in a refuge due to complex support needs.
4. **Sanctuary Schemes** - A sanctuary scheme is a multi-agency programme which provides survivors of domestic abuse a range of security measures within their own homes to provide a safe place or 'sanctuary' for a person to live in. Security measures aim to help protect a survivor from a range of threats, from violent forced entry to arson. Examples of measures which may be fitted include reinforced doors, window alarms, intercom and video entry systems and fire-retardant letter boxes. These are individually assigned, based on needs and risk. Alongside security measures support is also offered by specialist domestic abuse services in terms of emotional support and practical support such as safety planning.
5. **Move-on and/or second stage accommodation** - Temporary accommodation for survivors and families who no longer need the intensive level of support provided in a refuge but would still benefit from a lower level of specialist support.
6. **Other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation** – A safe place with support.

1.3 Types of Support

The statutory duty requires Local Authorities to provide support to survivors within safe accommodation. This support includes the following:

- **Overall management of services within relevant accommodation** – including, the management of staff, payroll, financial and day to day management of services and maintaining relationships with the local authority (such functions will often be undertaken by a service manager)
- **Support with the day-to-day running of the service**, for example scheduling times for counselling sessions, group activities (such functions may often be undertaken by administrative or office staff)
- **Advocacy support** – development of personal safety plans, liaison with other services (for example, GPs and social workers, welfare benefit providers).
- **Domestic abuse prevention advice** – support to assist survivors to recognise the signs of abusive relationships, to help them remain safe (including online), and to prevent re-victimisation.
- **Specialist support for survivors**
 - Designed specifically for survivors with relevant protected characteristics (including 'by and for'), such as faith services, translators and interpreters, immigration advice, interpreters for survivors identifying as deaf and / or hard of hearing, and dedicated support for LGBTQ+ survivors [not limited to].
 - Designed specifically for survivors with additional and / or complex needs such as, mental health advice and support, drug and alcohol advice and support [not limited to], including sign posting accordingly.
- **Children's support** – including play therapy and child advocacy.

- **Housing-related support** – providing housing-related advice and support, for example, securing a permanent home, rights to existing accommodation and advice on how to live safely and independently.
- **Advice service** – including financial and legal support, including accessing benefits, support into work and establishing independent financial arrangements; and,
- **Counselling and therapy** (including group support) for both adults and children, including emotional support.

1.4 Funding

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) allocated Nottinghamshire County Council £1,540,091 to deliver the duty for 2021-2022. District/Borough authorities have been granted an additional £31,000 each to enable them to support the delivery of the duty.

1.5 Needs Assessment

A Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment was undertaken between January and April 2021 to assess the current provision, demand for service and identify gaps. The key findings of the needs assessment were:

- Insufficient refuge provision to meet demand and accessibility issues for the spaces which are available within Nottinghamshire
- Sanctuary Schemes being unable to meet demand due to resourcing issues.
- No provision for refuge for male survivors in Nottinghamshire however, there is currently insufficient evidence of the level of demand
- No recourse to public funds can prevent survivors from accessing safe accommodation
- The level of support provided for children and young people is insufficient.

Table 3 Recommendations arising from the Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment 2021

	Recommendation
1	Develop a governance and operational structures, with a survivor-centred approach, where all partners communicate, co-operate, and collaborate to provide safe accommodation and support to all survivors of domestic abuse. E.g. Work towards developing <i>The Whole Housing Approach</i>
2	Establish a Domestic Abuse Local Partnership board with attendance from all relevant parties involved in providing safe accommodation as set out within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
3	Develop a survivor-centred pathway, outlining what their journey through domestic abuse services should be, from their initial presentation to services and support provided, to their exit into permanent safe accommodation.

4	Consideration should be given to the feasibility of increasing the number of units available within Nottinghamshire across all types of safe accommodation.
5	Investigate the needs and geographic arrangements for safe accommodation, consider the provision of safe accommodation options within or across districts.
6	Increase the support given to children and young people in all types of safe accommodation, to include Sanctuary Schemes.
7	Develop the Sanctuary Schemes in partnership with District and Borough Councils to ensure a consistent standard of service is delivered to meet the needs of survivors, enabling all survivors access to a well-resourced and quality provision.
8	Publicise the Sanctuary Scheme providing clear referral processes and quality standards.
9	Improving equity of access to refuges and other safe accommodation options in-light of barriers faced by certain groups and protected characteristics. This will include:
9a	Improving access for people with physical disabilities
9b	Ensuring survivors have easy access to healthcare and support for both their physical and mental health. This includes survivors who need carers.
9c	Considering how access can be improved for black and minority ethnic survivors in accessing safe accommodation services.
9d	Provision of language services to support survivors in accessing support.
9e	Working with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender plus (LGBT+) community to understand the needs of survivors and how they can be supported in accessing safe accommodation services and support.
9f	Exploring options of how to support providers to respond to the needs of women and their families with no recourse to public funds.
9g	Working with Equation and other local partners to better understand the accommodation and support needs of male survivors of domestic abuse, to develop a suitable model for safe accommodation provision, with appropriate levels of support for male survivors and their children.
10	Consider how financial barriers to moving on from refuge accommodation can be overcome.

11	Review the data collection tool used by safe accommodation providers to ensure key information is captured to assist ongoing assessment and consistent reporting, providing clear guidance on how this data should be collected.
12	Invest in digital services ensuring that all providers have a standardised method of collecting and analysing data. E.g. All refuge services using the 'On Track' system and other providers too if transferrable
13	The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board should regularly assess both national and local data information to inform commissioning decisions.

1.6 Process

Recommendations from the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment were discussed with key stakeholders at a workshop held on 18th May 2021. This gave wider stakeholders the opportunity to input into the needs assessment process and inform the commissioning plan. Attendees at the workshop were asked to provide feedback on solutions and to prioritise areas of work. The feedback provided from this session along with the findings and recommendations from the needs assessment have been used to determine priorities and formulate the commissioning plan, in partnership with District and Borough Council Housing leads.

1.7 Summary of priorities

The priorities for addressing the support needs of survivors in safe accommodation identified through the needs assessment and the subsequent consultation are:

- Maintain existing refuge provision and seek opportunities to increase safe accommodation provision
- Strengthen Sanctuary Scheme provision
- Remove barriers for moving in to and on from refuge
- Provision of appropriate safe accommodation for male survivors, those with protected characteristics and complex needs including mental health.
- Establishment of effective governance structures with a strong survivor and provider voice
- Provide communication and training to strengthen the response to domestic abuse across the specialist sector and Housing providers

1.8 Approach

A comprehensive three-year Commissioning Plan has been developed to address the 13 recommendations highlighted from the needs assessment. The Commissioning Plan outlined in Table 4 was approved by Nottinghamshire County Council Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee in July 2021. Performance outcomes will be monitored by the Safe Accommodation subgroup, reporting to the Local Partnership

Board and the Performance group of the Safer Notts Board. The needs assessment will be refreshed in readiness of recommissioning in April 2024.

The approach taken is survivor focused and delivered via a strong collaborative engagement of all stakeholders. This approach will be replicated with the other priority areas to ensure systemwide improvements are made. It is recognised that there are gaps and limitations in each priority area and that these will need to overlap and work together over the timeline of the strategy. This will include considering the accommodation needs of perpetrators in the perpetrator subgroup.

1.9 Expected outcomes

By the end of 2023, partners should have an improved awareness of the support needs of survivors in different types of safe accommodation. They will be working together effectively to ensure survivors are accessing safe accommodation quickly with the wrap around support they need to rebuild their lives.

1.10 Next steps and contacts

As detailed in Table 2 sub-groups of the LPB will develop Chapters 2 and 3 of the strategy related to High Risk Survivors and Children and Young People.

Should you need any further information please contact:

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Table 4 Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Commissioning Plan 2021 - 2024

Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Commissioning Plan 2021 - 2024		
1.	Strategic leadership, Development and System Change	
1.1	Strategic leadership, partnership maintenance and system change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ develop the Local Partnership Board, governance structures and functions ➤ Commission services and manage the duty budget ➤ Work in partnership with Tier 2 Authorities ➤ Responsibility for reporting back to Central Government and the Domestic Abuse Commissioners Office on activity and spend ➤ Work towards the development of 'whole Housing Approach' model in Nottinghamshire ➤ Work with Housing Providers across the County to identify more properties for refuge/move on accommodation
1.2	Tier 2 Local Authority Co-ordination and data reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Development of local safe accommodation pathways by working in partnership with tier 1 local authority and providers to include Sanctuary, flexible funding and working towards a 'Whole Housing Approach' in delivering safe accommodation for survivors. ➤ Provision of quality information and timely data for the Local Partnership Board to inform commissioning decisions. ➤ Reporting of required data for the Needs Assessment and monitoring and reporting to Central Government and Domestic Abuse Commissioners Office.
1.3	Co-production of services with survivors (including male survivors) and children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure survivors and children's voices are at the heart of decision making ➤ Development of survivor centred pathways ➤ Manage the survivor network
1.4a	Provide training and communications on the new Domestic Abuse Act and statutory duty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To provide professionals with the skills to support survivors in accessing safe accommodation and support. ➤ To communicate to local communities the services available and points of access to reduce duplication, promote services, and dispel myths.

1.4b	Training across the domestic abuse sector workforce on trauma informed service delivery	➤ Ensure support for survivors and their children is trauma informed
2.	Service Provision	
2.1a	Domestic abuse refuge provision throughout 2021/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fund wellbeing and support for women and their children living within the existing 40 refuge units across the County ➤ Practical and emotional support provided to women and children ➤ The development and delivery of consistent Data management and recording systems across the sector
2.1b	Re -commission domestic abuse refuge provision in Year 2 to include support in move on provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increase the number of units available by up to 10 additional units. ➤ Provision of 'Move on' properties attached to each refuge for a phased approach to exiting refuge. ➤ Move on Accommodation support provision ➤ Provision of accessible safe accommodation options for survivors with physical disabilities. ➤ Comprehensive support for children and young people within safe accommodation ➤ Provision of pathways for safe accommodation for male survivors in line with the findings of the 'deep dive' on male survivor needs.
2.2	Domestic abuse Support Workers embedded with Tier 2 Authorities to improve the offer to survivors and their children in their own homes and/or when seeking safe accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provide support to survivors accessing safe accommodation, including the provision for beneficiaries of Sanctuary Schemes ➤ Provide support to professionals within tier 2 authorities to ensure appropriate support is provided for survivors
2.3	Trauma informed therapeutic support pathways	➤ Support refuge providers in working with survivors and children with complex mental health problems as a result of trauma.
2.4	Development of Sanctuary schemes to deliver a quality and consistent service along with improved support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provide survivors with swift and effective safety measures to keep them safe in their existing home. ➤ Ensure ongoing support is provided to survivors and children remaining in their own homes to help them stay safe.

2.5	Removing barriers: Flexible funding to be made available to improve pathway efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Removing financial barriers for survivors who need to access safe accommodation such as transport to refuge, storage costs for belongings etc. ➤ Removing financial barriers for survivors ready to move on from refuge into independent, permanent accommodation. ➤ Clear governance process to be developed for flexible funding with full auditable spend at the end of each year.
2.6a	Deep dive on groups with protected characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Deep dive on women with protected characteristics accommodation requirements to understand how to overcome barriers and challenges in accessing services ➤ As a result of the findings from the deep dives in year one, develop evidence-based services to be delivered in years 2 and 3. ➤ To ensure the findings are used in co-production and incorporated into the ongoing survivor voice.
2.6b	Deep dive on male survivors of domestic abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Deep dive on male survivor's accommodation needs and the best ways to support men in accessing safe accommodation ➤ To understand the support services required to meet the needs of male survivors of Domestic Abuse. Inform pathway development and commissioning decisions for years 2 and 3. ➤ To ensure the findings are used in co-production and incorporated into the ongoing survivor voice.
2.6c	Deep dive on mental health provision for domestic abuse survivors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To provide an in depth understanding of the mental health provision for domestic abuse survivors ➤ To assist in the development of effective survivor centred pathways for accessing mental health provision for domestic abuse survivors

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CASE FOR DEVOLUTION
RESOURCING REQUIREMENTS****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide an update on the work of The City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire's Economic Prosperity Committee (EPC), Chaired by Councillor Ben Bradley MP, in developing the case for a devolution deal and collaborative working.
2. To seek approval for the establishment of a small team for a 12 month fixed term period, funded through the shared National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) Pool Reserve, to drive forward the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire joint working and devolution programme.

InformationBackground

3. Nottingham and Nottinghamshire councils (City, County, Districts and Boroughs) have been working together to identify areas for greater collaboration and opportunities to make an even bigger difference for our residents. The national policy context is a driver for this work, with the Levelling Up White Paper expected to set out plans for further rounds of local devolution. Following the Prime Minister's Levelling Up speech on 15 July 2021, the then Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government wrote to all local authority leaders, chief executives and mayors outlining initial details of new devolution deals and seeking expressions of interest. Government is holding discussions with selected local authority areas across the Country, including Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. It is expected that the Government will invite a small number of these to be "pathfinder" areas. This would mean an intense period of co-production, with the potential for a devolution deal from 1 April 2022.
4. An expression of interest was submitted to Government in September 2021 for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire to be selected as one of the new devolution deal "pathfinders". Nottingham and Nottinghamshire councils have subsequently worked together to put forward a devolution proposal. The "Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Case for Devolution" was approved by the EPC on 29 October 2021 and is attached as **Appendix 1**. The ambition is to:

- Attract significant inward investment, boosting economic growth and raising productivity, as well as growing the private sector
 - Raise living standards and achieve a demonstrable reduction in inequalities including in poverty, health and social care
 - Deliver high quality places to live for all residents
 - Regenerate our city and town centres, unlocking difficult sites for development
 - Tackle climate change and protect local people from its impacts including a focus on delivering cleaner air
 - Deliver better services for residents
 - Secure better outcomes and value for money for local taxpayers through public sector reform and efficiencies
 - See Nottingham and Nottinghamshire realise its true potential as a core city and county working together, restoring local pride
5. Together Nottingham and Nottinghamshire councils, through the EPC, have identified the following six priority themes under the devolution programme, all supporting the core aim of changing things for the better for local people:
- Education and Skills
 - Transport
 - Environment
 - Economy and Infrastructure
 - Land and Housing
 - Youth services and support to vulnerable families and adolescents
6. Other areas of work that will be developed over the next three months include:
- Health and social care;
 - Visitor economy, heritage and culture;
 - Community safety, cohesion and reducing reoffending;
 - Public sector reform
7. Scopes are being prepared for the first six priority themes and will be developed through the EPC into outline business cases by the end of December 2021. This collaborative work will continue regardless of the outcome of discussions on devolution. In the event of a devolution

agreement being reached with Government, Nottinghamshire councils will use the EPC as the delivery vehicle to determine priorities and ensure distributed leadership across the priority themes. Specific powers would be devolved to the leaders of the upper tier councils.

8. Nottingham and Nottinghamshire councils met with Government officials to talk about their devolution proposal on 10 November 2021. At the time of writing, it is expected a decision on “pathfinder” areas will be announced before the end of 2021. A verbal update on the latest discussions with Government will be made at Policy Committee.
9. Work continues at pace, with the priorities including:
 - Developing the detailed proposals that will be required for a devolution deal with sponsorship from Leaders and leadership from Chief Executives
 - Creating an implementation plan for how we would deliver an agreed deal
 - Ensuring the necessary governance arrangements are in place and fit for purpose
 - Communications and engagement of delivery partners and stakeholders
 - Continued engagement with central government to make our case for change
 - Mapping organisational strengths and challenges and existing partnerships
 - Engaging with wider partners through the Chief Officers Forum.

Resourcing Proposals

10. Collaborative working at this scale will require resources. On 29 October 2021, the EPC approved the establishment of a dedicated programme team to drive forward the work. The EPC approved an annual budget of £450,000 for the programme, funded through the shared NNDR pool. The EPC agreed that Nottinghamshire County Council should be asked to act as the host organisation and be the employing body. As a consequence, approval is requested to establish this new team as set out in paragraph 11.
11. The Programme Team will comprise the following roles, established initially for 12 months. The job descriptions and grades of the recently reviewed central programme and projects team will be utilised, because they capture the skills, knowledge and experience needed for this collaborative working.

Role	Grade
1x Programme Manager	Hay Band D
1x Senior Communications Officer	Hay Band C
4x Project Officers	Band A
2x Business Support Administrator	NJE Grade 2

The team is a resource which will be deployed under the strategic direction of the EPC in order to drive collaborative working and devolution. For the purposes of day to day management, the team will report to the newly appointed Group Manager, Transformation and Change. The exception to this will be the Senior Communications Officer post, which will report to the Head of Communications and Marketing. Close links would be maintained between the programme team and the dedicated communications post.

12. The estimated cost of the programme team per annum is £310,000.

Resource	£
Programme Team	310,000
Programme Budget	100,000
Equipment, Travel and Subsistence	10,000
Communications Budget	30,000
Total Programme Budget per annum	450,000

13. The costs of delivering the programme will be shared across Councils using the following split:

Council	£
County Council 40% split	180,000
District and Borough Councils 60% split	270,000 (38,571 per council)

14. The programme will be funded from the Nottinghamshire Councils shared NNDR Rates Pool. It is estimated that posts could be filled from January 2022 at the earliest, with the total programme spend for this financial year estimated as £150,000. This assumes three months' of salary costs and six months' budget provision October 2021 to March 2022.

15. Nottingham City Council has agreed to provide in kind contributions, as the City Council is not part of the Nottinghamshire Councils Rates Pool.

16. These resourcing proposals seek to provide a programme delivery mechanism specifically aimed at achieving better outcomes for local people and places across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. The new team would deliver the following:

- Accelerating and supporting the implementation of business cases, delivery plans and proposals
- Further extend and deepen engagement and involvement of Elected Members, senior managers and partner organisations through agreed implementation and delivery proposals
- Develop appropriate and strong governance arrangements through a review of the EPC
- Develop and deliver an agreed clear communications strategy

- Build a broader longer term delivery programme to meet agreed ambitions
- Build the foundations for a devolution deal.

17. To ensure best use of resources we also propose to:

- Utilise existing partnership groups
- Develop and strengthen expertise of existing staff where possible through use of secondments
- Minimise the use of external consultants, relying on the wealth of existing expertise across partners, wherever possible.

18. The programme has the potential to deliver significant savings and efficiencies in the future and these will be scoped as the programme progresses.

19. These resourcing proposals represent the anticipated requirements over the next twelve months. Delivering on a successful devolution deal and discharging additional powers to deliver benefits to local people will, however, be a complex undertaking. Resource requirements will continue to be reviewed by the programme team and any additional resource requirements requested from the appropriate committee.

Other Options Considered

20. Do Nothing - Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Councils could continue with current resourcing levels. However, this option is not sustainable in the short and medium term because resources and capacity to deliver identified programmes of work are not sufficient. This option was therefore rejected as all councils have agreed to progress joint working at pace. Early collaborative work and preparation for a devolution deal has stretched existing resources and demonstrates the need for additional capacity.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

21. To ensure that sufficient resource is made available to effectively drive forward ambitious joint working proposals. Agreeing to fund additional resource will give Nottingham and Nottinghamshire councils collectively the best chance of success in achieving the shared ambitions set out at paragraph 4 and in Appendix 1.

Statutory and Policy Implications

22. 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

23. The financial implications are detailed in paragraphs 10 and 12 to 14. The 29 October 2021 EPC meeting agreed to resource a programme team and budget at a cost of up to £150,000 in 2021/22 and £450,000 over the full 12 month period. This will be funded through the National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) Pool Reserve, which is assessed each December. An in kind contribution will be made by Nottingham City Council.

Human Resources Implications

24. Seven Full Time Equivalent fixed term roles would be created and hosted by Nottinghamshire County Council, utilising existing job descriptions from the centralised Projects and Programmes team. The roles will initially be filled on a secondment basis with any vacancies being subject to the normal agreed recruitment process.

25. Due to the need to demonstrate to the Government that Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Councils can deliver at pace, the jobs will be advertised as expressions of interest across Nottinghamshire public service agencies as soon as possible. A caveat will be added that progression to interview stage is dependent on Policy Committee approval to establish the posts. Subject to Policy Committee approval, interviews are planned for December 2021 to enable appointments to be made as soon as possible.

Public Sector Equality Duty implications

26. The recruitment to the new roles will be carried out in accordance with Nottinghamshire County Council's employment and equalities policies.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that Committee:

Approves the establishment of the staffing structure changes and seven FTE posts (detailed within the report at paragraphs 11 and 24) for an initial period of twelve months, the costs of which will be funded through Nottinghamshire's shared NNDR Pool Reserve

Councillor Ben Bradley MP
Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
Anthony May
Chief Executive
Tel: 0115 9773582

Constitutional Comments [KK 18/11/2021]

The proposal in this report is within the remit of the Policy Committee.

Financial Comments [RWK 18/11/2021]

The report proposes the creation of a programme team and budget to support partnership working and the development of devolution proposals in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire at an estimated cost of £450,000 for a 12-month period. These costs will be funded from the National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) Pool Reserve.

HR Comments (GME 17/11/21)

The use of secondments is an effective and expedient way to fill these time sensitive fixed term roles. Selection will be in accordance with the agreed recruitment policy and procedures of Nottinghamshire County Council.

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.

- Nottinghamshire County Council Press Release [“Devolution vision for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire”](#) 21 October 2021
- [“Nottingham and Nottinghamshire – Case for Devolution”](#), The City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee 29 October 2021
- [“Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Case for Devolution – Resourcing Requirements”](#), The City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee 29 October 2021
- Letter from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government dated 15 July 2021: https://www.emcouncils.gov.uk/write/150721_SoS_MHCLG_letter_-_County_Deals.pdf

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

Nottingham & Nottinghamshire

Case for Devolution

A summary of our vision for change



Councils across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire are working together on a series of projects to tackle critical issues such as the economy and climate change.

Our intention is that this collaboration will bring much needed investment into our area.

Leaders from the nine councils, which cover a population of more than 1.1 million people, are also working on ways to make local government services more impactful and better for residents and businesses through collaboration.

Context

This new approach is in response to the government's call for local leaders to work jointly on the new "levelling up" agenda including devolution – a key initiative to ensure every area has the powers and resources needed to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and ensure economic growth and prosperity.

Government are particularly keen to see this collaborative approach in areas which have been hard hit by Covid and which have missed out on public and private investment over the years.

The government's Levelling Up White Paper is expected to set out plans for further rounds of local devolution.

New devolution deals will take a more flexible approach and be bespoke to the needs of individual places.

In readiness for this publication, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire councils are preparing the case for the city and county to hold greater powers - moving some of those currently controlled by central government in London.

Holding powers and funding at a more local level gives us the opportunity to improve public services and enrich the lives of people who live and work in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

Local and bespoke solutions to the area's particular challenges are only possible with the requisite local decision-making powers.

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire are home to more than 1.1 million people and nearly **40,000** active enterprises.

The economy of the city and county has a diverse mix with a core city, historic market towns, countryside, and distinct culture and communities.

The county and city's economy generates more than **£26.5 billion** GVA yet has much untapped potential for growth.

Despite this potential, the area has historically received some of the lowest levels of government investment. It is also acknowledged that there are fundamental gaps in productivity across the county and city impacting on a major driver of economic growth and prosperity. The right devolved powers would help address the wide range of factors that influence improved productivity including innovations in industry, supply of labour, skills development and use of better technology.

The resurgence of economies such as ours is critical for the renewal of the UK economy.

Devolution and joint working are important as we face complex financial, economic and social challenges in our region, which require an innovative and dynamic response – we cannot face them operating within the status quo and expect any significant change.

Nottingham city and three districts in North Nottinghamshire (Mansfield, Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood) are top priority areas for “levelling up” as recognised by government; whilst Ashfield similarly is among the most disadvantaged communities in the region.

We know there are problems in our city and county – comparable with many other areas nationally – of inequality in skills and health, in particular, of lower wages and less secure jobs, and gaps in productivity. We want to improve the lives of all Nottingham and Nottinghamshire residents and ensure no one is left behind.

Our ambition is to:

- Attract significant inward investment, boosting economic growth and raising productivity, as well as growing the private sector.
- Raise living standards and achieve a demonstrable reduction in inequalities including in poverty, health and social care.
- Deliver high quality places to live for all residents.
- Regenerate our city and town centres, unlocking difficult sites for development.
- Tackle climate change and protect local people from its impacts including a focus on delivering cleaner air.
- Deliver better services for residents.
- Secure better outcomes and value for money for local taxpayers through public sector reform and efficiencies.
- See Nottingham and Nottinghamshire realise its true potential as a core city and county working together, restoring local pride.

We will build on our existing track record working together. A strong foundation is in place with recent successes including:

- Transforming Cities Fund was awarded **£99m** in investment in March 2020 for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire projects.
- Local councils, with support from local public and private organisations, have been successful in securing funding up to **£121m** from the Towns Fund.
- Our new Development Corporation, EMDevco, is working to generate **£4.8** billion of GVA for the region’s economy per year, as well as **4,500** homes and **84,000** net additional jobs.
- Local councils are working in partnership with our D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership, universities, businesses and colleges to increase opportunities and access jobs, education and training for local people.
- Partners are working across the region on our response to Covid-19 and the post-pandemic recovery, including delivering vital Covid-19 grants to businesses.

- > Our N2 Environmental Strategy group has brought local councils together with the Midlands Energy Hub and universities to coordinate our approach to delivering a zero carbon future and address the climate change emergency.
- > Transport for the East Midlands provides collective leadership on strategic transport issues, agreeing major investment priorities and providing collective input into the work of Midlands Connect and the Department for Transport.
- > Nottingham City Council is spearheading a blueprint for the future of cities through the Broadmarsh re-development, working jointly with the Greater Broadmarsh Advisory Group and supported by Heatherwick Studio and Stories.
- > Collaborative work to deliver the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System, improving health outcomes and tackling inequality.
- > There is joint work and a strong political consensus across the region on the development of a coherent vision for HS2, the electrification of the Midland Mainline and wider Midlands Engine Rail.
- > Partners across the region are working on a business case for an inland Freeport, centred on a port of entry at East Midlands Airport.
- > Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station has made the shortlist of what is hoped to be the world's first prototype fusion energy plant.
- > Partners are working together on "Tomorrow's NUH", part of the government's billion-pound hospital building programme.

These examples demonstrate the potential of collaboration across the city and county, as well as with our neighbouring counties – but the current system is constraining.

A devolution deal and working more collaboratively would change this, providing local determination of strategic priorities and a stronger unified voice for the city and county's priorities in discussions with government.

The Ambition

Securing a Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Deal is ultimately about changing things for the better for local people and giving all our residents and businesses the best possible opportunities and experiences.

Together we have identified a wide range of priorities where we think we can make a real difference for residents. The five priority themes are:

Education and Skills



Transport



Environment



Economy and Infrastructure



Land and Housing



Priority Theme

Education and Skills



Benefits we're seeking to achieve

- > A focus on early years literacy and numeracy.
- > Increased skills levels and a better equipped workforce through stronger links with universities.
- > Better support into employment, particularly for those furthest away from the labour market.
- > Accelerated delivery of the government's Skills for Jobs White Paper.

Priority Theme

Transport



Benefits we're seeking to achieve

- > Improved infrastructure and connectivity.
- > Better public transport, walking and cycling.
- > Cleaner air.

Priority Theme

Environment



Benefits we're seeking to achieve

- > Engagement of local people, with a focus on improving the environment for those most in need.
- > This would include action on air quality to improve health.
- > Maximise public sector investment in areas such as: Public service estate; domestic homes refit; vehicle replacement; air quality measures.
- > Improved waste management services for local people.
- > Accelerate delivery of existing strategies and cooperation on policy development ahead of the Environment Bill.
- > Enhanced and protected green and blue infrastructure: increased woodland cover, cleaner rivers, increased biodiversity.
- > Improved flood alleviation.
- > Accelerate net zero targets for some and assist all to achieve existing targets.

Priority Theme

Economy and Infrastructure



Benefits we're seeking to achieve

- > More and better coordinated investment in infrastructure.
- > Regenerated city and town centres, and communities: increased occupancy rates, improved public realm.
- > Accelerated delivery of full fibre and 5G connectivity, improving people's quality of life and equipping businesses to compete on a global scale, working faster and more efficiently.
- > Achieving benefits of Smart Cities approach for all of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.
- > A dedicated statutory delivery vehicle – East Midlands Development Corporation – enabling more inward investment.
- > Stronger partnerships with Derby and Derbyshire to unlock joint economic potential.

Priority Theme

Land and Housing



Benefits we're seeking to achieve

- > Unblocking challenging sites through partnership working.
- > More affordable housing.
- > Improved health outcomes and reduced social isolation through enabling people to stay in their communities.
- > Reduced health and social care costs.
- > Accelerated work on One Public Estate.

We have created a long list of other areas which we will continue to develop.

These include:

- > Health and social care, working closely with health commissioners
- > Visitor economy, heritage and culture.
- > Youth services and support to vulnerable adolescents.
- > Community safety, cohesion and reducing reoffending.
- > Public sector reform.

How we will work together

We already have a joint City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee (EPC), which we propose to use as the governance vehicle for partnership discussions.

All councils will come together under the EPC to determine priorities and ensure distributed leadership across priority themes and devolved powers and resources.

We have already completed initial legal checks to confirm that the EPC has the potential to be a vehicle for devolution and identified the necessary steps we need to take to make this a reality.

The following workstreams have been identified as key areas of focus in the coming months:

- The content of a devolution deal (ask, offer, benefits) with sponsorship by leaders and leadership by chief executives.
- Implementation plan to deliver the deal.
- Building our Levelling Up team.
- Governance.
- Mapping communications and engagement of delivery partners and stakeholders. Nottingham and Nottinghamshire would seek to work with a wide range of partners across industry, higher and further education and the wider public sector.

Next Steps

As part of this approach, leaders from nine councils in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire have been meeting to formulate a plan for joint actions.

Although it is early days, themes and priorities are emerging, with a focus on transport and infrastructure as well as innovation of industry to reduce the productivity gap, support better skills, boost employment and tackle climate change.

Detailed programmes of activity will be formulated in the coming months, and early conversations are being held with government, to seek devolved powers and resources to drive the ambition of local leaders.

In return, leaders are in discussions about joining up local services.

Potential examples include joint working to deliver the new waste collection duties contained in the Environment Bill; areas where there are currently skill shortages, for example planning, and some back office functions which could be provided in a more streamlined way.

If this initiative is successful, there would be tangible outcomes and the public would notice the difference in the short and medium term.

For clarity, this approach does not require the creation of additional tiers of government or the creation of a regional or local Mayor.

To move our work forward, we will take the following action:

- > Leader sponsors have been identified and scopes are being prepared for each priority theme.
- > Work to develop those theme areas on the longer list.
- > Agree resources to drive forward the work at the next EPC meeting, with the costs met jointly by local councils from existing resources.

The involvement of a wide range of partners including Nottinghamshire Police, the D2N2 local enterprise partnership, our local universities and our integrated care system will be crucial to the success of this programme and work and early conversations are starting to happen as plans take shape.

We are focussed on a devolution deal for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

That said, we want to work with our partners across the East Midlands to track their progress and work in a complementary way. We are in conversation with Derby and Derbyshire to consider synergies and ensure maximum benefits of this vital economic corridor. For the wider region, we support a refreshed Alchemy project, which has been central to regional collaboration on our Development Corporation and Freeport – and is core to continued partnership working across the East Midlands, in the Midlands Engine.

This pre-existing regional vehicle could potentially facilitate the kind of inter-county cooperation that you might otherwise achieve through a Combined Authority, allowing us to draw on our individual devolved powers and put them to use together where it's beneficial, subject to our neighbours being able to bring forward similar deals in the future.

The early signs of this joint working are positive, with leaders recognising they are stronger together.

Crucially, leaders know the challenges we face are greater than any one organisation and that partnership and collaboration are critical to improving both the long-term future of communities, and the day to day lives and prospects of local people.



D5P/8709/10.21



REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

HIGHWAYS REVIEW

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - Update Committee on the highway services review which has been taking place following on from the motion agreed at Full Council on 27th May 2021
 - To recommend to Committee that the actions arising from the review are delivered through a Highways Improvement Plan with continuing monitoring from the Highways Review Panel and continued external support and challenge.

Information

2. The Transport and Environment Committee of 15th June 2021 agreed to the commencement of a cross-party highway review. A summary of the agreed scope of the review is set out below:
 - Review of relative performance against national and Council metrics.
 - Practice, policy and guidance
 - Capital maintenance programme including funding allocation methodologies across the County for the annual capital maintenance repair methods, use of technology and innovation.
 - Revenue maintenance programme - highway and associated footway repair treatment - include review of the use of Viafix and use of technology and innovation.
 - Utility works – including coordination, traffic management and damage to infrastructure
 - Work quality and value for money - review processes to ensure good quality work and value for money is delivered
 - Performance management - review of performance management arrangements and contract management of Via
 - Communications
 - Drainage, Tree Maintenance and Verge Maintenance
 - Functions and Leadership – including review of functional split between NCC and Via
3. A cross party highways review panel was established to oversee and direct the review. Its membership comprises:
 - Cllr Neil Clarke OBE (Chairman)
 - Cllr John Ogle
 - Cllr Nigel Turner
 - Cllr Sam Smith
 - Cllr Tom Hollis

- Cllr Penny Gowland
- Cllr Maureen Dobson

Cllr David Martin, Cllr Bruce Laughton and Cllr Matt Barney also participated in some meetings of the review panel as substitutes for panel members who were unable to attend individual meetings.

4. At the 20th October panel, Members were able to bring together the knowledge and inputs from the following:
 - The 5 cross-party panel meetings.
 - 3 additional “fact finding” panel meetings with highways lead members and officers from Derbyshire, Staffordshire, and Hertfordshire County Councils.
 - The outcomes from an Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Review of highways services, conducted between 21-23 September, and involving members and officers from Kent, Cumbria, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, and Wiltshire County Councils. The focus of the Peer Review was to consider the progress made and emerging outputs from the highways review work. A significant part of the LGA Review was interviews with stakeholders including Councillors and external partners. In total 40 people were interviewed as part of the LGA review and information was gathered from 33 meetings, with a total of 230 hours spent to determine the Review findings. This work complemented the call for evidence issued to all County Councillors.
 - WSP, an international highways and engineering consultancy, were engaged to provide external sector expertise and input into the review. WSP has many years’ experience of working in the highways sector and currently has clients in over 20 highway authorities providing guidance and support on highways reviews and highway asset management and maintenance practice. Matthew Lugg, the lead consultant, has gathered evidence from Councillors and officers to inform his work.
 - Knowledge from recent Future Highways Research Group membership

Key Issues and Current Situation

5. At the 20th October panel, Members agreed a summary of the key findings and highways issues facing Nottinghamshire:
 - Whilst the condition of the County’s A and B/C roads is good and stable, with the standard of these roads being in the top quartile of all Counties, the unclassified network condition requires improvement. Here, the overall standard of these roads sits within the third quartile of all Counties.
 - Overall national funding levels for highway maintenance have fallen by 40%+ over the last decade. As a result, the long-term deterioration of the condition of roads is an issue for all local authorities. In Nottinghamshire, the backlog of works required to fully address this long-term deterioration would be in the region of £150m.
 - Nottinghamshire faces similar issues in terms of funding, road condition and public perception as other county areas. A particular local factor, however, is the use of Viafix and current practice around pothole/patching repairs.
 - The Council’s highways policy framework is sound overall. However, some aspects of it require updating, including the provision of greater clarity on the funding allocation model in use, and the development of a refreshed approach to asset management that reflects national best practice.

- The current approach to capital/revenue highways programming – based around one-year plans for each - is a barrier to long term planning.
 - The establishment and development of Via as the Council's highways service provider and contractor is seen as a positive vehicle for service delivery overall. However, with the Via contract at its midpoint, and with Via now in the ownership of the Council, there are opportunities to improve and refine the arrangement to benefit highways and residents.
6. At the 17th November Transport and Environment Committee, councillors approved the improvement outcomes and recommendations from the cross-party highways review panel. These are included at Appendix 1 to the report and summarised in para 7 below.

Summary

7. The recommendations can be summarised as follows:

We will:

- *Move to a right first-time approach to our highway maintenance and reduce the need to use reactive short-term maintenance.*
- *Recognise that prevention is better than cure and that whole street approaches are desirable.*
- *Publish a longer-term programme of capital works to support our ability to plan for the long term and keep residents well informed about this.*
- *Maintain our overall network condition and seek to improve it within financial constraints, whilst prioritising local roads (the unclassified network) alongside our footways wherever possible.*
- *Improve our communications, so that residents are better informed about our work, and understand our approaches.*
- *Improve our major capital programme management*
- *Increase our effectiveness and efficiency, maximising the return on our investment in highways by ensuring that our highways policies and strategy drive our maintenance priorities and treatments/techniques, alongside our increased use of innovation and technology.*

Highways Improvement Plan

8. In view of the volume, range, and scope of the panel's recommendations, it is intended to develop a detailed Highways Improvement Plan to support the successful delivery of the recommendations. The Plan will identify responsibility for delivery, sequencing and timelines, and the cost implications for individual actions. In order to develop and implement this significant piece of work, the support of an external partner will be required to provide additional technical expertise and continuing challenge. There are approximately 50 recommendations from the panel and it is envisaged that the Highway Improvement Plan will run for at least 6 months.
9. As part of the development of the Highways Improvement Plan, it is intended to develop business cases for potential additional capital and revenue investment. Additional investment will be considered as part of the new operating model. Areas for consideration are likely to be capital spend on the unclassified network, footways and drainage, and revenue spend on mechanised patching, drainage works and verge/tree maintenance.

10. Monitoring of the Highways Improvement Plan will clearly be important, and it is intended for the cross-party panel to continue to meet on a regular basis to monitor the plan once it is in place, and report progress back to Transport and Environment Committee. It is intended to draft the plan for consideration at a future meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee.

Other Options Considered

11. None

Reasons for Recommendations

12. The recommendations agreed at the 17 November Transport and Environment Committee were developed by a cross-party panel over a series of five meetings, with input from a significant LGA peer review and external input from sector experts WSP and form a comprehensive list of activities to now be shaped into a Highways Improvement Plan. From a resident perspective they are designed to improve the Council's highway maintenance offer as set out in paragraph 7 above.
13. In order for the detailed proposals to be fully implemented, it is important to continue with external technical support and challenge as well as achieve Member oversight of progress through the continuance of the cross-party panel.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. 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

15. Any financial implications arising from the review outcomes will be considered as part of the Highways Improvement Plan and reported to Transport and Environment Committee. The cost of the continuing external technical support and challenge will be met from existing highway budgets.

Public Sector Equality Duty implications

16. Any public sector equality duty implications arising from the review will be considered as part of the Highways Improvement Plan and subsequent reports to Transport and Environment Committee.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

17. Effective highway maintenance approaches can reduce congestion, its knock-on effects on air quality and its impacts on local communities. The recycling of materials and aggregates is also considered when delivering highways schemes. Any specific implications for sustainability and the environment will be considered as part of the Highways Improvement Plan and subsequent reports to Transport and Highways Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 1) A Highways Improvement Plan be developed to deliver the review recommendations, with the detailed Plan, and proposals for continuing external support, to be considered at a forthcoming Transport and Environment Committee.
- 2) Committee approves the continuation of the cross-party highways review panel to effectively monitor the progress of the Highways Improvement Plan

Councillor Ben Bradley
Leader Nottinghamshire County Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Derek Highton – Service Director Place and Communities - 0115 9773498

Gary Wood – Head of Highways and Transport – 0115 9774270

Constitutional Comments (SJE – 03/11/2021)

18. This decision falls within the Terms of Reference of the Policy Committee to whom responsibility for all decisions within the control of the Council, of policy development and approval in relation to all matters (except those reserved for Full Council) and monitoring and review the overall performance of the Council, has been delegated.

Financial Comments (SES 03/11/2021)

19. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 15 of the report.

20. Any financial implications arising from the review outcomes will be considered as part of the Highways Improvement Plan and reported to Transport and Environment Committee. The cost of the continuing external technical support and challenge will be met from existing highway budgets.

Background Papers and Published Documents

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

- Reports to Transport and Environment Committee June to November 2021 – Highways Review

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

Appendix 1 Highways Review – Outcomes

As agreed at 17 November Transport and Environment Committee

Vision, Strategy and Policy

We will:

- Develop a new Highways Strategy which will set out the highways service the Council wants and the quality/outcomes we require, within the context of the new Council Plan for 2021-31. The strategy will also set out clearly the scope of the Council's client/contractor relationship with Via (LGA and WSP).
- Refresh and update the current Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan and Policy, and the Network Management Plan, to reflect the latest national policy, the changed way in which people are living their lives (such as undertaking more active travel and prioritising actions to address the climate emergency), and key contemporary issues such as highways flooding and drainage. This update should incorporate a clear highway maintenance funding allocation model, which will be based upon highway condition criteria. The model should also recognise the need to prioritise the unclassified network, and the differing maintenance needs within the unclassified network (across urban roads, for example) (LGA and WSP).
- Embed a "right repair, right first time" approach in our Asset Management Plan and Policy, and Network Management Plan (LGA and WSP).

Capital Maintenance Programme

We will:

- Introduce a three-year rolling capital programme to support long term planning, scheduling and delivery (LGA and WSP).
- We will continue the annual member request process (WSP).
- Develop and implement a formal "cross asset" prioritisation process to improve targeting of investment and maintenance treatments for all highways assets including drainage. Within this, we will incorporate the prioritisation of footways and the prioritisation of the unclassified network (with weighting to reflect both highway hierarchy and condition) (LGA and WSP).
- Optimise the application of in-situ recycling on capital maintenance works, adopting new and best practice as methods become proven in the market
- Work with Via to improve the management oversight and quality assurance of sub-contractors (LGA and WSP).

Revenue Maintenance Programme

We will:

- Move to a right repair, right first-time approach, and deliver permanent repairs whenever possible, to reflect the policy position set out in paragraph 11 above (LGA and WSP).
Within this context, we will:
 - continue to meet national timescales for Category 1 highway defects and acknowledge that this will require the continuing use of cold lay treatments similar to Viafix in order to protect the safety of road users, whilst seeking permanent repair where possible (WSP).

- adopt a right repair, right first-time approach whilst remaining within standard response times for Category 2 and 3 highway defects (WSP).
- Ensure appropriate investment in early intervention/prevention treatments to extend the sustainable and effective life of the highway.
- Refresh the core specification for highways defect repairs to reflect the Asset Management/Network Management plans and policies, to ensure optimal treatment selection (WSP).
- Ensure that the refreshed specifications are set by the Council and are based around required outcomes rather than outputs (WSP).
- Ensure that the selection of highways plant by Via is based on these required outcomes, and the requirements of the move to longer term highway maintenance programming (WSP).
- Ensure that the revenue highways maintenance programme is better driven by data and evidence (WSP), including:
 - Use of insurance claim data;
 - Artificial intelligence and use of new video survey techniques;
 - real time highway survey data.

Operational Improvements – Via

To support the revised approach to capital and revenue funded highways maintenance programming set out in 12 and 13 above, Via will make the following operational improvements: -

- Introduction of an Operational Hub to better co-ordinate daily maintenance works and improve efficiency and productivity, and develop a “whole street” approach to highway maintenance (WSP).
- Revise its staff training programmes to strengthen focus on customer care, work quality and performance, and better use of IT, and strengthen training for highways operatives on patching techniques (LGA and WSP).
- Use of technology – Roll out mobile devices to patching teams to improve co-ordination and productivity.
- Invest in mechanised patching plant and equipment that will best deliver the Council's required outcomes set out in 12 and 13 above (WSP). This will include continuing to seek out, test and trial new plant and techniques.

Drainage

In addition to core highways maintenance matters, the review panel explored current practice and opportunities for improvement in respect of highways drainage management and works. The panel's recommendations are set out below.

We will:

- Increase the financial provision for drainage maintenance activity and works within the current overall highways funding provision.
- Establish through Via a comprehensive register of grip locations and deliver a planned periodic maintenance programme (WSP).
- Through Via, further develop the existing register of highway ditch locations and deliver a planned periodic maintenance programme (WSP).
- Through Via, establish a register of sensitive carrier drains and deliver a programme of planned inspections and cleaning (WSP)

- Through Via further develop the current register of other highway drainage assets (culverts, manholes, catchpits & SUDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems)) and deliver a planned periodic maintenance programme (WSP).
- Through Via establish a planned priority programme of soakaway replacements.
- Utilise a proportion of income from the Permit Scheme income (see paragraph 17) to undertake enhanced inspections of utilities works that take place in the vicinity of drainage assets, strengthening our approach to third party damage recovery and prevention
- Update the MyNotts app to allow easier drainage issue reporting for residents.
- Strengthen our engagement with riparian owners to support better drainage maintenance by the relevant watercourse owners.
- Develop community-based approaches – with local community groups and Town/Parish Councils – to support local drainage maintenance activity that complements the work of the Council/Via.

Neighbourhood (Streetscene) Maintenance

In addition to core highways maintenance matters, the review panel explored current practice and opportunities for improvement in respect of neighbourhood/streetscene maintenance. The panel's recommendations are set out below.

We will:

- Undertake trials of reactive weed spraying in identified rural/urban locations where there is community support/interest.
- Collaborate further with District/Borough Councils to establish whether street sweeping regimes could be established to better manage highways weed growth and coordinate litter collection (WSP).
- Further investigate the use of alternative weed spraying treatments and regimes (with the proviso that there is currently little evidence of the long-term viability of current alternative treatments).
- Revise and re-establish a parish engagement/lengthsman scheme, ensuring that where it is implemented it is cost effective (WSP).
- Develop a community partnership plan for neighbourhood maintenance (WSP) that will incorporate:-
 - Opportunities and resources to encourage communities to engage in streetscene maintenance (for example, managing verges to promote wildlife or manually removing weeds in urban areas).
 - Opportunities for communities to participate in reduced weed spraying and grass cutting trials to test public appetite for different/reduced maintenance regimes
 - Reassess how budgets are deployed to increase the provision for streetscene maintenance (eg for tree planting, collecting grass cuttings or for the further roll out of weed removal works).

Street works and Utility Permit Schemes

In addition to core highways maintenance matters, the review panel explored current practice and opportunities for improvement in respect of street works and utility permit schemes. The panel's recommendations are set out below.

We will:

- Continue to implement and strengthen the street work management and permit scheme:
- Continue to analyse the most congested streets and peak travel times to inform and strengthen our permitting arrangements
- Continue to coordinate permits with different street works undertakers in locations and for schemes where there is public benefit
- Explore the potential for increased use of “service strips” in new developments, in partnership with local planning authorities.
- Monitor the approach to lane rental in other County Councils and commission a feasibility study for the introduction of a Nottinghamshire scheme once the permit scheme is fully embedded (2023/24)
- Continue the development of Street Manager software to support timely and efficient permitting.

Communications

We will:

- Move to a communications model that is led and directed by the Council to better support communication and engagement with residents – strategic, operational and campaigns.
- Consider whether this move will require the redirection of resources within the Council and Via.
- Develop and deliver a refreshed comms and engagement plan (LGA/WSP) to support the new model, including the development of a single revised Nottinghamshire Highways brand for all highways related activity. The plan will incorporate:-
 - Greater use of the MyNotts app and digital tools such as push notification
 - Better information for Members’ related to highways activity in their wards.
 - The wider use of video explainers – with greater involvement of Members and operatives to better explain highways works
 - Improved correspondence (including web based automatically generated responses) approaches to reflect a more, personalised, and plain-English approach for residents with queries/concerns.
 - Closer links with community influencers such as Parish Councils, to ensure that communities are better informed about local works.
 - Updating and refreshing scheme information/signage to better promote the benefits of highways works.

Performance Management

We will:

- Move to a more outcomes based contractual model with Via – away from outputs towards measuring the things that matter and that contribute to resident-focused outcomes (LGA / WSP).
- Strengthen the Council’s commissioning arrangements to support greater operational engagement with, and monitoring of, Via (LGA / WSP). Within this, consideration will be given to the potential need for additional resources.
- Unify and better co-ordinate the Council’s commissioning arrangements with Via – Highways, Flood Risk, Property, Strategic infrastructure (LGA).
- Strengthen external contractor performance and quality control (by Via) through better procurement models and contract mechanisms for performance management (LGA/ WSP)

- Improve benchmarking arrangements to help drive performance and provide proof of value for money with visibility for Members and the public (WSP)

Functional Split and Leadership

We will:

- Undertake a detailed review of the division of responsibility between the Council and Via in key areas, including (LGA/WSP):-
 - policy and strategy,
 - core asset management and works/scheme/treatment prioritisation
 - major capital programme management
 - the interface with members and residents, including District Managers
- Ensure leadership arrangements in both the Council and Via reflect the outcomes of the Review and the revised roles of both organisations (LGA/WSP)

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ASSET
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE****PROVISION OF NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES IN EAST LEAKE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval to provide new nursery and primary school places in East Leake to meet demand through the construction of a Temporary Learning Village at Sheepwash Way, East Leake, to open for September 2022; and for the construction of a permanent 1.5 Form of Entry primary school with 26 place nursery at Rempstone Road, East Leake estimated to open in September 2023.
2. To seek approval to vary the Children and Young People's capital programme to include £2.6m of Section 106 contributions that are proposed to part fund this new school project.

Information

3. The Council's pupil place projections illustrate that there will be a growing deficit of primary school places in the East Leake Planning Area from academic year 2022-23.
4. In October 2020, the County Council began the process of selecting a sponsor for a proposed new primary school in East Leake. The documentation that was published stated that the new school would open in September 2022. In July 2021, DfE confirmed that they had selected the Spencer Academy Trust to sponsor the new school and the Trust is now making plans to open Millside Spencer Academy in September 2022.
5. The latest pupil place projections show that for the year 2025 -26 the deficit will be greater than the 210 places, provided by a one form entry school. Given the likely housing delivery trajectory and the associated demand for school places, the new school will be commissioned as a 1 ½ FE (315 place setting) from the outset as described above, in order to secure long term sufficiency and a more cost-effective delivery programme.
6. Due to the identified pupil place pressures in East Leake, the property team has been progressing plans to provide the necessary accommodation in East Leake. An options appraisal was undertaken to review all school sites in East Leake to meet the additional demand. This included Brookside School, Lantern Lane (PFI) and land at Rempstone Road/Sheepwash Way. Brookside School was unsuitable as it has recently been expanded and is at capacity and Lantern Lane has a very constrained site. Based on the option appraisal however, land which had been set aside from two developers in East Leake - land at Sheepwash Way that is being provided by Persimmon, and land to the north of Rempstone Road that is being provided by David Wilson Homes (DWH), was confirmed as the preferred option, as the other sites could not physically accommodate the Council's requirement to meet this demand.

7. The development sites at Sheepwash Way and Rempstone Road respectively are provided by way of two Section 106 Agreements – one for each development site. Both include for land to be acquired by Nottinghamshire County Council for the purpose of delivering one school, but only upon the meeting of three conditions: Condition 1 - Proof that the land is needed for a school; Condition 2 - That the Council obtains planning permission for the school; and Condition 3 - That the Council will have entered a contract with an operator. All three conditions have been met and the legal process of acquiring both sites is underway. The agreements are almost identical in content, and due to their historical nature do not provide certain safeguards in respect of the development of school. Some examples of these are;
- (i) There is no set specification by which the site needs to have been left in order to build the new school;
 - (ii) There is no set requirement for services such as electricity, gas and water to have been delivered to the site;
 - (iii) There is no set requirement for an access road to be provided by the date of opening of the new school; and
 - (iv) Not addressing a third-party piece of land that separates the two sites.
8. Consequently, our standard build process for a primary school has had to be adapted to deal with each of the above scenarios and 'workaround' solutions have had to be applied. Fortunately, we have been able to develop good partnership arrangements with both developers who are supporting us with this project.
9. Due to these complexities and with the demand to provide new places in the area it is intended to use both sites to deliver one temporary school (at Sheepwash Way), that would be Phase 1, and one permanent 1.5FE primary school with 26-place nursery (at Rempstone Road) – that would be Phase 2. Upon completion of the permanent school, the temporary 'learning village' would be removed and the land at Sheepwash Way re-purposed to provide play and recreational areas for the school. Planning permission has been granted for the permanent school building, and the application for the temporary school and associated access road is due to be determined at the December 2021 planning committee meeting.

Total Costs related to meeting Pupil Place Demands in East Leake

10. In order to meet the pupil place demand in East Leake by September 2022 the following costs will need to be met:

Summary of latest estimated cost to meet pupil place demands:

Description	Cost
1.5 FE School and 26 place Nursery	£10.1m
Temporary School	£2.06m
Section 106 Abnormal Costs	£1.46m
Total	£13.62m

11. The lack of detail in the s106 agreement has meant that a number of 'work-around' solutions have had to be applied as part of the build. These include; works to the ground to improve site conditions; delivering services to the new school site; building up site levels through fill so that the new school is located on a reasonably level and tiered site; and the application of an appropriate level of topsoil to enable the construction of the school.
12. These types of S106 agreements are typical of some of those that were signed in and around the period 2015 to 2017. Since this time though the Investment and Growth team has

established a developer contribution team to work in partnership with our District and Borough Councils, and colleagues in Legal Services have prepared a revised form of words which are to be used in all future agreements that require the Council to deliver school accommodation.

Overall Costs

13. The latest overall estimated cost for this development is £13.62m. This comprises £12.16m costs for the provision of the new school places and £1.46m of s106 abnormal costs. The proposals in this document will be entirely funded entirely through a mix of Government Basic Need Funding and s106 allocations which are as follows:

Section 106 Contributions:

Land at Kirk Ley Road (Persimmon):	£1,258,793
Land at Rempstone Road (DWH):	£556,726
Land at Lantern Lane (Gladman):	£780,015
TOTAL:	£2,595,534

14. The balance of £11,024,466 will be funded through the Basic Need programme.

Other Options Considered

15. Do not provide the temporary accommodation. This option was discounted as it would not meet the pupil place planning demands in this area and would result in the Council failing to meet its statutory duty to provide school places.
16. Expand other schools within East Leake - Brookside School has already been expanded to capacity as part of the drive to provide new primary places as a result of recent residential development in East Leake. The Council has provided funding to refurbish and establish two further classrooms on this site. Lantern Lane School is also at capacity and cannot be expanded further.

Reasons for Recommendations

17. The reasons for the recommendations are detailed in the main body of the report at paragraph 5.

Risk

18. This is a project which relies on two separate developers, and the Section 106 Agreements to ensure timely delivery. There also continues to be design and technical risks (as there are with most projects), such as the location of services and the capacity to support the temporary and permanent schools. These are all part of the design process that Arc is undertaking.

Statutory and Policy Implications

19. 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

20. Financial implications are discussed in the main body of the report at paragraph 10.

Implications for Service Users

21. The increase in school places will ensure that sufficient primary school places are available in this area.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

22. The increase in school places will reduce the need for local children to travel. The temporary and new school buildings will be energy efficient. Considerations to energy conservation include ensuring high insulation levels, air tightness and well considered details to minimise thermal bridging. The use of good natural lighting, sensor-controlled LED lighting, Electric Vehicle charging, mechanical ventilation and heat recovery in winter as well as natural ventilation. Summer comfort will be achieved through passive cooling with high specification glass, landscaping screening and shading as well as natural ventilation. Regarding low carbon solutions the school will help set an example for a fully electric building which will form part of the Council's contribution to the journey towards a zero-carbon future once the grid is eventually decarbonised.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That approval is given to provide new nursery and primary school places in East Leake to meet demand through the construction of a Temporary Learning Village at Sheepwash Way, East Leake, to open for September 2022; and for the construction of a permanent 1.5 Form of Entry primary school with 26 place nursery at Rempstone Road, East Leake estimated to open in September 2023.
- 2) That approval is given to fund this project in its entirety to ensure that a sufficiency of primary school places are provided in East Leake.
- 3) That approval is given to vary the capital programme to include the £2.6m Section 106 contributions that are proposed to part fund this project.

Matthew Neal

Service Director, Investment & Growth

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Matthew Neal, Service Director, Investment & Growth – Tel: 0115 9773822

Constitutional Comments (LPW 26/10/2021)

23. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Policy Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (GB 23/11/2021)

24. The estimated cost of this new school project totals £13.6m. It is proposed that £11.0m of these costs will be funded from the School Places programme which is already approved within the Children and Young People's capital programme. It is also proposed that the remaining £2.6m will be funded from Section 106 contributions which have been successfully

secured by the Authority. In line with the financial regulations, following detailed design of this project, a Latest Estimated Cost report will be reported to Finance Committee.

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.

- 17.09.2018: Children and Young People's Committee Report - Commissioning Strategy for Free School Presumption to secure Sponsors.
- 18.09.2019: Policy Committee – New Primary Schools at Bingham and East Leake.
- 18.11.2019: Children and Young People's Committee Report – Schools Capital Programme Progress Report.
- Children and Young People's Committee – Schools Capital Programme Progress Report and 2022/23 Schools Building Improvement Programme.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- East Leake Cllr Matt Barney
Cllr Reg Adair

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

THE INTEGRATED RAIL PLAN IN THE EAST MIDLANDS

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Policy Committee with an overview of the recently announced Integrated Rail Plan (IRP) and the opportunities for growth and investment in Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands.

Information and background

2. In February 2020, Government announced a commitment to providing better rail connectivity between London, the Midlands and the North. As well as committing to deliver HS2, the Government announced a commitment to improving connectivity between northern cities as well as between London, the Midlands and the North.
3. The Government has engaged the National Infrastructure Commission, HS2 Ltd and local leaders to develop the Integrated Rail Plan for the Midlands and the North. Nottinghamshire County Council has engaged with the IRP development throughout and had regular engagement with Government, the NIC, and worked in close partnership with regional partners through Midlands Connect, the East Midlands HS2 Strategic Board, chaired by the Leader, and the HS2 East Campaign, jointly chaired by the Leader and the Leader of Leeds City Council. The IRP was announced in November 2021.

The key proposals for Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands

4. The IRP provides the basis for major rail investment in the East Midlands over the next 30 years. For Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands, the key proposals are:
 - Investment valued at c£12 billion – connecting Birmingham and the West Midlands to the East Midlands via a High Speed connection to East Midlands Parkway, Nottingham, Derby and Chesterfield directly.
 - A commitment to review options to connect the East Midlands and Leeds in the North – including via Toton, via the Midland Mainline or via connection to the East Coast Mainline.
 - A regional station for Toton to complement the development being brought forward by the East Midlands Development Corporation; Government recognises the significant growth and development opportunities generated for the Toton site.

- A regional package of connectivity for road and rail, including full electrification of the Midland Mainline, exploring the extension of the Robin Hood Line to Ollerton, introduction of services on the Maid Marion Line and extension of the Tram to Toton.
 - HS2 Services to serve Chesterfield in north Derbyshire via the Midland Mainline.
 - Delivery of the Midlands Rail Hub with benefits for interregional connectivity between the East and West Midlands.
 - Commitment to accelerate the East Midlands Development Corporation (EM DevCo) as a key means of delivering the IRP for the region to unlock economic, social and environmental benefits, as well as support the East Midlands Freeport proposition.
5. An initial assessment of the IRP demonstrates that a significant proportion of the benefits set out in the HS2 Growth Strategy, EM DevCo business case and Freeport business case can be unlocked through this investment. Further work is required to recalculate the full benefits and to programme their delivery.
 6. There are additional benefits in the IRP that will need to be more fully analysed and assessed. These include the significant acceleration of delivery – the services and upgrades are expected to be delivered many years sooner than the original estimates for the full delivery of HS2 Phase 2b. The acceleration of benefits and the commitment to Toton, will also help bring forward development on the County Council owned land and related opportunities in the EM DevCo business case.
 7. The Government investment in this regional package would complement proposals currently under discussion with local partners for a County Deal. A strong Nottinghamshire and regional plan for economic growth is moving forward positively. Business cases for schemes that would support the Robin Hood Line extension and the Maid Marion Line, for example, are in development by the County Council with local District and Borough partners.

Further considerations

8. Midlands Connect, the East Midlands HS2 Executive Board and Transport for the East Midlands (TfEM) will meet over the coming weeks to consider the IRP in detail. The County Council will continue to engage constructively in influencing the programming of IRP delivery.
9. Clearly much work will be required to implement these and other proposals in the IRP. Early engagement with the Department for Transport will be sought in order to explore the full detail of the IRP and to develop collaborative approaches with Government to expedite delivery and the development of the additional schemes.
10. Local leaders in the East Midlands will continue to make the case for full delivery of the Eastern Leg of HS2 to connect the towns and cities of the Midlands and the North. Toton remains a key regional growth asset and local partners will continue to advocate for the northern section of HS2 to be built through the Toton route.

Other Options Considered

11. None

Reason for Recommendation

12. To enable the Committee to consider emerging Government investment in rail connectivity and opportunities this brings for Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. 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

15. There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report. There is no financial contribution of resources required at this stage. It will be a matter for a future Policy Committee to consider benefits and delivery plans, including any financial implications.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

16. Core components of the East Midlands Development Corporation and Freeport bids are focused on enhancing natural capital, environmental sustainability and our journey to a zero carbon future. The proposition at Ratcliffe on Soar includes the 'ZERO' facility, bringing research, innovation and enterprise together with industry and investors on one site to accelerate the design and delivery of new zero carbon technologies and manufacturing. Similarly, the proposals at EM Intermodal Park and the Airport sites in the Freeport bid will include low carbon industries.

RECOMMENDATION

17. Policy Committee is invited to:

1. Welcome the positive Government commitments in the IRP to invest in a significant rail package for the benefit of Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands
2. Agree that the Leader of the Council continue to advocate for Nottinghamshire and the region in engaging with Government and regional partners such as HS2 East and Transport for East Midlands.
3. Seek early engagement with Government to explore the commitment to 'accelerate' the East Midlands Development Corporation.
4. Agree to a further report being brought to Committee to set out the revised benefits, delivery plans and the capacity/support required from the County Council to move forward the next steps.

Councillor Ben Bradley MP
Leader of the Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Adrian Smith, Corporate Director Place –
Tel: 0115 977 3680

Constitutional Comments (CEH 18/11/2021)

19. The report falls within the remit of Policy Committee

Financial Comments (RWK 18/11/2021)

20. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/integrated-rail-plan-for-the-north-and-the-midlands>

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CUSTOMERS, GOVERNANCE AND
EMPLOYEES****WORK PROGRAMME****Purpose of the Report**

1. To review the Committee's work programme for 2022.

Information

2. The County Council requires each committee to maintain a work programme. The work programme will assist the management of the committee's agenda, the scheduling of the committee's business and forward planning. The work programme will be updated and reviewed at each pre-agenda meeting and committee meeting. Any member of the committee is able to suggest items for possible inclusion.
3. The attached work programme includes items which can be anticipated at the present time. Other items will be added to the programme as they are identified.

Other Options Considered

4. None.

Reason for Recommendation

5. To assist the Committee in preparing and managing 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.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee considers whether any amendments are required to the Work Programme.

Marjorie Toward

Service Director, Customers, Governance and Employees

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Keith Ford, Team Manager, Democratic Services, Tel: 0115 9772590

Constitutional Comments (EH)

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 financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers

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

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

POLICY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME (AS AT 23 NOVEMBER 2021)

<u>Report Title</u>	<u>Brief summary of agenda item</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Report Author</u>
13 January 2022			
East Midlands Freeport – Full Business Case	To consider the Full Business Case ahead of submission to Government by the deadline.	Adrian Smith	Adrian Smith
Use of Urgency Procedures	Six Monthly Update report on the use of the Council's procedures for taking urgent decisions in the period July-December 2021.	Marjorie Toward	Keith Ford
Gamston Highways Depot	To seek approval to proceed with the redevelopment of Gamston Highways Depot.	Adrian Smith	Gary Wood / Chris Wood
Working with Nottinghamshire's Universities	To update on the Council's work with Nottingham Trent University and University of Nottingham.	Anthony May	Derek Higton / Katrina Crookdake
Local Government Association Annual Conference and Exhibition 2022	To seek approval for Member and officer attendance at this event in Harrogate – 28-30 June 2022.	Anthony May	Keith Ford
10 February 2022			
24 March 2022			
Outside Bodies Register - Update Report –	To notify Committee, on a six monthly basis, of any changes to the Council's Outside Bodies Register and to seek approvals where appropriate.	Marjorie Toward	Keith Ford
Day Opportunities Strategy	To consider a new Day Opportunities Strategy	Melanie Brooks	Kashif Ahmed

