

Policy Committee

Wednesday, 10 February 2021 at 10:30

Virtual meeting, <https://www.youtube.com/user/nottsccl>

AGENDA

- | | | |
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| 1 | Minutes of the last meeting held on 13 January 2021 | 1 - 4 |
| 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 | Schools and Early Years Funding - Agreement of the Local Funding Formula for 2021-22 | 5 - 16 |
| 5 | Giving Children the Best Start - Nottinghamshire Best Start Strategy 2021-2025 | 17 - 50 |
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| 10 | Transforming Cities Fund - Scheme Update and Funding Agreements | 83 - 92 |
| 11 | Disposal of Land at Westdale Lane, Jacksdale | 93 - 96 |

13 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

The Committee will be invited to resolve:-

“That the public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the discussions are 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 outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.”

Note

If this is agreed, the public will have to leave the meeting during consideration of the following items.

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

14 Disposal of Land at Westdale Lane, Jacksdale - Exempt Appendix

- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information);

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 Wednesday 13 January 2021 (commencing at 10.30 am)

membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Mrs Kay Cutts MBE (Chairman)
Reg Adair (Vice-Chairman)

Chris Barnfather
Richard Butler
John Cottee
Kate Foale
Stephen Garner
Glynn Gilfoyle
Tony Harper
Richard Jackson **A**
John Knight

Bruce Laughton
Rachel Madden
David Martin
Philip Owen
John Peck JP
Mike Pringle
Alan Rhodes
Muriel Weisz

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

John Ogle

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Anthony May Chief Executive's Department
Nigel Stevenson
Marjorie Toward
Angie Dilley
Keith Ford
David Hennigan
Anna O-Daly-Kardasinska
James Silverward

Colin Pettigrew Children & Families Department

Adrian Smith Place Department
Neil Gamble
Sally Gill
Derek Highton
Matthew Neal

1 MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 9 December 2020, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Richard Jackson submitted an apology for absence due to other Nottinghamshire County Council business and Councillor John Ogle attended the meeting as his substitute.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS.

None.

4 SUPPORT FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SMALL TO MEDIUM ENTERPRISES IMPACTED BY CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

During discussions, Members requested that further research be undertaken by officers to identify any further impacts of the pandemic and potential gaps in support, for example to self-employed residents.

RESOLVED: 2021/001

- 1) That up to £10,000 from the 2020-21 Growth and Economic Development initiatives budget be allocated to support a programme of activities to help Nottinghamshire's businesses maximise the contracting opportunities available via national infrastructure projects and larger scale contracts.
- 2) That the Committee continues to monitor the effectiveness of business support and officers continue to seek feedback from Nottinghamshire SMEs to ensure that the Council's services continually improve in line with their needs.

5 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HIGHWAY DESIGN GUIDE

RESOLVED: 2021/002

- 1) That the draft Nottinghamshire Highway Design Guide be approved and adopted as County Council policy and procedure.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director for Place to make minor changes to the Design Guide when required, with any subsequent updates published via the Council's website.

6 LOCAL ENFORCEMENT PLAN UPDATE

During discussions, Members commended the excellent work of the Council's Monitoring and Enforcement Officers.

RESOLVED: 2021/003

- 1) That the updated Local Enforcement Plan be approved and adopted as County Council policy.
- 2) That the updated Policy be promoted via the Council's website and shared with relevant partner agencies and Councils as appropriate.

7 SUPPORTING NOTTINGHAMSHIRE YOUNG PEOPLE AS THEY MAKE KEY CHOICES ABOUT THEIR FUTURE

RESOLVED: 2021/004

That up to £10,000 be allocated from the 2020-21 Growth and Economic Development Initiatives budget to support the development and promotion of a suite of online resources and jointly sponsor a virtual careers fair for Nottinghamshire young people.

8 PROPOSED LEASE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MILL ADVENTURE BASE

In response to a query from Members, officers clarified that all references to 'The Council' in the proposed lease terms in the committee report related to Nottinghamshire County Council rather than the landlord, Ashfield District Council.

RESOLVED: 2021/005

- 1) That the leasing of the additional area be approved.
- 2) That the existing leases dated 13 May 2004 and 6 May 2015 be surrendered and one new lease be agreed on the terms contained in the committee report.

9 SUPPORTING A BID FOR AN EAST MIDLANDS FREEPORT

RESOLVED: 2021/006

- 1) That subject to the delegation and considerations contained within Resolution 2), the submission to Government of a Freeport Proposal for the East Midlands, including sites within Nottinghamshire, be endorsed.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director for Place, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to give consideration to the finalised Freeport Proposal and, subject to the proposal identifying potential benefits for businesses and people across Nottinghamshire (and advice being provided outlining any currently identifiable risks or negative impacts on the Council's statutory functions, finances or other risks), to approve submission of a formal letter of support from the County Council, signed by the Leader, for the proposal.
- 3) That, should the bid be taken forward by Government, a further report be submitted to the Committee to consider the full business case and any implications for the County Council.

10 OPERATIONAL DECISIONS ANNUAL REVIEW & QUARTERLY UPDATE
SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2020

RESOLVED: 2021/007

- 1) That continued support for the authorising of operational decisions as originally approved by Finance and property Committee on 20 January 2014, be confirmed.
- 2) That the operational decisions taken in the period September to November 2020 be noted.

11 OUTSIDE BODIES REGISTER UPDATE

During discussions, Members highlighted that, due to shared objectives, the Constable's Field Foundation had recently merged with the Arnold Education Foundation and County Council representation was no longer needed on the merged organisation.

RESOLVED: 2021/008

That the updated Outside Bodies Register and information highlighted by Members at the meeting be noted.

12 USE OF URGENCY PROCEDURES

RESOLVED: 2021/009

That no further information or actions were required in relation to the Council's urgency procedures in the latest monitoring period July 2020 – December 2020.

13 WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED: 2021/010

That no amendments were required to the Work Programme.

The meeting closed at 12.47 pm.

CHAIRMAN

10th February 2021**Agenda Item:****REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S
COMMITTEE****SCHOOLS AND EARLY YEARS FUNDING: AGREEMENT OF THE LOCAL
FUNDING FORMULA FOR 2021-22****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report seeks approval for the adoption of the Nottinghamshire Schools and Early Years local funding formula, as recommended by the Schools Forum, for the financial year 2021-22.

Information

2. All local authorities are required to use a local funding formula (LFF) to distribute the Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant funding to all mainstream primary and secondary maintained schools, academies and free schools.
3. In accordance with the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2020, the responsibility for determining the LFF for schools and early years providers lies with the Local Authority (i.e. the Council). Prior to agreeing the formula, the Local Authority must first consult with the Schools Forum and all maintained schools and academies in the area on the proposed changes. Where any proposed changes affect early years providers they too must be consulted. The Schools Forum is a representative body from the Nottinghamshire schools and early years community which is constituted to make decisions and give guidance to the Local Authority about the Schools Budget.
4. In 2018-19 the National Funding Formula (NFF) was introduced for schools, high needs and central school services. The NFF is used to calculate the funding blocks within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and determine the funding allocations that local authorities receive. Local authorities however, have continued to determine the final funding allocations for schools through their LFF and will do so again for 2021-22. The Early Years National Funding Formula was introduced in 2017-18.

Schools Local Funding Formula

5. When the NFF was introduced Nottinghamshire chose to mirror the formula factors and unit values in the LFF as far as possible. In 2018-19 and 2019-20 the Local Authority could not adopt the NFF in full because of the need to transfer 0.5% of Schools Block funding to the High Needs block to ease the significant pressures on it.
6. In 2020-21 there was a significant increase of £11.8m in High Needs Block funding for schools and children with special educational needs (SEN). This was deemed sufficient to cover the anticipated budget pressure for 2020-21 and invest in services to support the education of children and young people with SEND. Therefore, for 2020-21, no transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block was proposed and the LA was able to mirror the NFF in full.
7. For 2021-22 the indicative High Needs Block funding allocation indicated a further increase of £10.5m and no transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block was proposed. The High Needs Block is, however, still under significant pressure with an overspend of £2.1m forecast for 2020-21.
8. The 2021-22 funding announcement included key changes to the 2021-22 Schools Block NFF as follows:
 - Incorporation of the 2019 update to the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) data set.
 - The funding floor will be set at 2.0% (1.84% 2020-21) and based on individual schools funding floor baseline. This increase is based on pupil led funding only.
 - The Teachers' Pay Grant (TPG) and Teachers' Pension Employer Contributions Grants (TPEG), including the supplementary fund, have been rolled into the NFF by increasing the funding floor base line, basic per pupil entitlement and minimum per pupil funding.
 - The Minimum Per Pupil (MPP) funding levels will be set at £4,180 (including £180 for the rolling in of grants) for primary schools, £5,215 for Key stage 3 and £5,715 for Key stage 4. This means that for each secondary with a standard structure of 5 year groups the minimum per pupil amount will be £5,415 (including £265 for the rolling in of grants). These levels are mandatory for all local authorities to use in their local funding formula (LFF).
 - Schools that are attracting their core NFF allocations will benefit from an increase of 3% to the formula's core (i.e. pupil led) factors.
 - An increase to the maximum sparsity value from £26,000 to £45,000 for primary schools, and from £67,600 to £70,000 for secondary schools to improve support for small and rural schools.
9. A report was considered by the Schools Forum in November 2020 which outlined the position with the indicative 2021-22 Schools Block funding announcement and possible consultation options.
10. The consultation proposals were to address a potential affordability gap in relation to an increase in the number of children eligible for benefits related free school meals (FSM) between the October 2019 and October 2020 census points. An increase of approximately

26% was projected resulting in a potential funding shortfall of up £2.0m. This issue was not limited to Nottinghamshire and had been raised with the Education Skills Funding Agency and in other Forums.

11. The consultation document and financial models were considered further by a small number of Forum members and Council officers who liaised to agree and finalise them. The formal consultation on the proposals was held from 23 November to 6 December 2020.
12. The Schools Forum met on 10 December 2020 to consider the consultation responses and decide on how the formula should be implemented for 2021-22. The Forum approved all the Schools Block proposals as below and shown in **Appendix 1**:
 - adoption of all NFF factors and unit values
 - Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)/Funding Floor of between 0.5% - 2% with 2% being the preferred level
 - reintroduction of the gains cap if necessary.
13. On 17th December the Schools Block funding allocation was announced together with the October 2020 census data. Although the number of children eligible for FSM had increased as projected, other changes in the dataset and application of the formula have offset the financial impact of it and the local authority can therefore continue to mirror the NFF for 2021-22.
14. The Schools Local Funding Formula was submitted to the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) by its deadline of 21 January 2021 and indicated that it still required political approval.

Early Years Funding Formula

15. A report was considered by the Schools Forum in December 2020 which outlined the position with the indicative 2021-22 Early Years Block funding and consultation proposals which had been developed in collaboration with the Early Years Consultation Group. The formal consultation on the proposals for the Early Years Funding Formula was held from 14 December 2020 - 8 January 2021.
16. In 2020-21, Early Years settings in Nottinghamshire received an increase of 8p in the basic hourly rate following the increase in the per pupil unit of funding through the national funding formula for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. In addition, a temporary increase of 10p per hour for 3 and 4 year olds was agreed in anticipation of an identified trend of underspend due to a fall in the number of children accessing funded childcare places in the Autumn term. This trend has been experienced since 2017-18 and was expected to continue for 2020/21. Increasing the hourly rate was intended to ensure that Early Years Block funding was fully spent.
17. The financial situation for 2020-21 has changed significantly and this year's Early Years funding allocation is now forecast to overspend by £0.9m due to Covid-19 and the arrangements for paying early years settings during the lock down and subsequent restrictions. This will be funded from the Non-Individual School Budgets (Non-ISB) reserve.

18. In addition there is further uncertainty about funding to be received for Spring 2021 term and the take up of places for the headcount and census data which determine the calculation for the overall funding allocation as a result of the third national lock down.
19. The current forecast overspend and the uncertainty regarding the funding and potential future impacts of Covid on payments to providers has meant that the local authority could not extend the temporary 10p top up to the hourly rate for 2021-22. The Early Years funding formula must be sustainable and be contained within the overall Early years block funding allocation.
20. The consultation questions therefore were to seek the views of the sector on the impact of not extending the temporary 10p increase to the 3 and 4 year old hourly rate for 2021-22.
21. However, as part of the spending review announcement, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced his plan to increase early years spending by £44m in 2021/22 to increase the hourly rate that's being paid at maintained nursery schools and other childcare providers that deliver on the Government's free childcare offer. The consultation confirmed that 100% of the increase received would be added to the hourly rate which would go some way to offset the reduction in the base rate.
22. The sector was given further reassurance that the financial position would be monitored closely throughout 2021-22 and if this improved as the current situation stabilises any underspend would be reported to the Schools Forum and consideration given to distribute this via the hourly rate at a future date.
23. On 17th December 2020 the Department for Education announced the Early Years Block 2021-22 funding allocations and for Nottinghamshire this included an increase of 8p per hour for 2 year olds and 6p for 3 and 4 year olds.
24. The Schools Forum met on 14 January 2020 to consider the consultation responses and decide on how the formula should be implemented for 2021-22. The Forum approved all the proposals for the Early Years funding formula as below and shown in **Appendix 1**:
 - 4p reduction (6p increase minus temporary 10p) in the base hourly rate for 3 & 4 year olds
 - 8p increase to the base hourly rate for 2 year olds

High Needs Block

25. In 2020-21 there was a significant increase in the High Needs Block funding allocation but despite this there continues to be significant pressure on this budget. Currently, there is a projected overspend of £2.1m by the end of this financial year which will be funded, in part, from the Non-Individual School Budgets (Non-ISB) reserve. The reserve is projecting a deficit as a result and this will need careful management with the Schools Forum to bring it back into balance in the future. The significant increase in the funding allocation for 2021-22 is to be welcomed. However, it remains the case that whilst Nottinghamshire has been one of the most significant gainers' the County continues to receive less funding per head of population than all our statistical neighbours.

26. The additional funding allocated for 2021-22 will be used to address the overspend of the high needs budget for 2020-21, increase provision primarily in special schools, fund the increased demand for independent specialist provision and Post 16 places. A possible contribution to the Non-IsB reserve is also planned as part of the deficit recovery plan.

Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)

27. Local authorities are able to set a MFG in their LFF to protect schools from excessive year on year changes and to allow changes in pupil characteristics (e.g. deprivation) to flow through. For 2021-22 this must be set between +0.5% and +2.00% per pupil.
28. In order to mirror the minimum NFF increase of 2.00% (funding floor), to protect pupil-led per pupil funding in real terms, the MFG will need to be increased from its current level of 1.84%. This will ensure that schools per pupil funding is protected from any reduction in pupil characteristics or unit values and guarantees the minimum pupil led funding increase in the NFF.
29. There will be 73 schools in receipt of this minimum increase because their current funding allocation is already in excess of that they would receive under the LFF.
30. The impact on schools of setting the MFG at +2.00% will mean increases of between 2.00% and 12.24% compared to schools 2020-21 pupil led funding allocation.

De-delegated Funds

31. The Department for Education continues to require that any funding that was subject to de-delegation in 2020-21 should be re-approved by the Schools Forum if the de-delegation is to continue in 2021-22, along with any new items. Maintained schools in each phase agreed collectively, through the Schools Forum, to de-delegate funding to the Local Authority to meet centrally the permitted categories of expenditure listed below. The rationale for de-delegation is to achieve economies of scale and to pool risk across schools for these costs. For 2021-22 the Forum recommends that the following items continue to be de-delegated:
- Free School Meals eligibility assessment
 - support to underperforming ethnic minority groups & bilingual learners
 - contingency for crisis communications
 - Trade Union Facilities.

Growth Funding

32. The government introduced a new formula to allocate funding for growth in pupil numbers to local authorities in 2019-20. Allocations received via this formula will be recalculated each year and therefore not guaranteed to continue at the same level. The allocation for Nottinghamshire for 2021-22 is £3.6m (2020-21 £3.8m).
33. This allocation will be used to fund all pupil growth including the primary pupil growth fund, new free schools and pupil number variations for schools as a result of basic need.

34. The primary pupil growth fund must be agreed by the Schools Forum and in 2020-21 it was set at £1.0m with £0.8m to support the maintenance of infant class sizes and £0.2m to support basic need provision. No changes were proposed to this for 2021-22 so it will, therefore, remain at the 2020-21 level.
35. Any unallocated balance on the growth funding will be ring-fenced for future growth and held in the Non-ISB reserve.

Other Options Considered

36. Options were considered by the Schools Forum before the proposed formula was considered as part of the consultation.

Reason for the Recommendations

37. The Local Authority is required to decide upon the redistribution of the Schools Budget and Early Years budget through a funding formula which complies with current regulations and must have regard to the consultation with schools, early years providers and the recommendations of the Schools Forum.

Statutory and Policy Implications

38. 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

39. The DSG 2021-22 funding allocation is £702.3m (2020-21 £643.9m) for the Schools, High Needs, Early Years and Central Services Schools Blocks.
40. The 2021-22 Schools Block funding for Nottinghamshire is £46.8m more than that received in 2020-21. This is a consequence of changes to the NFF, higher pupil numbers and the inclusion of the Teacher Pay and Pension grants being rolled into the Schools Block accounting for around £23.9m of the increase. The resultant quantum of funding amounting to £556.7m (2020-21 £509.9m) distributed to schools overall is then unaffected by changes in the formula. There are financial implications for individual schools, however the effect of these have been minimised by the protections within the formula e.g. MPP and MFG.
41. All schools will see a minimum increase of 2.00% on their pupil led funding and the only reason for any reduction would be a fall in pupil numbers or school specific premises allocations.

42. The High Needs Block funding allocation for 2021-22 will see Nottinghamshire receiving an additional £10.875m which is hoped will be sufficient to cover the anticipated budget pressure for 2021-22. This negates the need for the Local Authority to propose a funding transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block.
43. The Early Years Block indicative 2021-22 funding allocation is £50.7m and the final allocation will be confirmed in July 2022 (determined by January 2021 and January 2022 census data). The proposed 4p reduction in the base hourly rate for 3 and 4 year olds is necessary to manage the level of uncertainty regarding the actual 2021-22 funding allocation, the take up of child care places and the payments to providers in response to Covid.
44. The Early Years Block financial position will be monitored closely throughout 2021-22 and if this improves, as the current situation stabilises, any underspend will be reported to the Schools Forum and consideration given to distribute this via the hourly rate at a future date.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That the Committee approves the recommendations of the Schools Forum, as outlined in **Appendix 1**, to distribute available funding between Nottinghamshire schools, academies and early years providers in 2021-22.

Councillor Philip Owen

Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Marion Clay

Service Director – Education, Learning and Skills

T: 0115 977 3589

E: marion.clay@nottscc.gov.uk

Sue Summerscales

Senior Finance Business Partner – Children and Families

T: 0115 977 3468

E: sue.summerscales@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (EP 26/01/21)

46. The recommendation falls with the remit of the Policy Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SAS 18/01/21)

47. The financial implications are set out in **paragraphs 39 to 44** and throughout the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

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

The School Forum papers are available via the links below:

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/information-for-schools/schools-forum

[10 December 2020 | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

Agenda item 3b - Agreement of Schools Local Funding Formula 2022-22
Agenda item 3b – 2021-22 School Consultation Responses Appendix A
Agenda item 3b – schools local funding formula 2021-22 consultation
Agenda item 3b – schools local funding formula consultation appendix 1
Agenda item 3b - schools local funding formula consultation appendix 2
Agenda item 3c – Early Years LFF 2021-22 consultation proposals report
Agenda item 3c – Early years Local Funding Formula consultation draft

[14 January 2021 | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

Agenda Item 2 – Agreement of Early Years Local Funding Formula 2021-22
Agenda Item 2 – 2021-22 Early Years Consultation Responses

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1438

Early Years Block Funding Formula			
Factor		2020-21 Nottinghamshire Criteria	Schools Forum recommendation for application of the factor in 2021-22
Pupil led factors			
1	Base hourly rate for 2 year olds School & PVI (Private, Voluntary & Independent) settings	£5.31 per hour 38 weeks per annum	That the base hourly rate be increased by 8p to £5.39 per hour.
2	Base hourly rate for 3 & 4 year olds universal and working parents. School & PVI settings	£4.35 per hour (£4.25 + temporary 10p) 38 weeks per annum	That the base hourly rate be reduced by 4p (increase of 6p minus temporary 10p) to £4.31 per hour
3	Deprivation Supplement (a)	Provider to attend at monthly children in need and child protection plan and looked after children meetings payable for 4 hours at an hourly rate equivalent to the national living wage.	No change
4	Deprivation Supplement (b)	3 & 4 year olds eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium, to be paid at 10p per hour.	No change

Schools Block Funding Formula			
Factor		2021-22 NFF	Schools Forum recommendation for application of the factor in 2021-22 LFF
Pupil Led Factors			
1	Basic per pupil entitlement - age weighted pupil unit (AWPU)	Primary - £3,123 per pupil Key Stage 3 - £4,404 per pupil Key Stage 4 – £4,963 per pupil	Continue to mirror the NFF increase unit values to match.
2	Minimum level of per pupil funding for every school. (compulsory factor and unit values)	To allow local authorities to provide the NFF minimum per pupil funding levels to every school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £4,180 for primary schools and • £5,415 for secondary schools. 	
3	Deprivation (compulsory factor)	Measured by free school meals (either single year or Ever6 indicators) and/or Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI). Separate unit values for primary and secondary phase are permitted.	Continue to mirror the NFF increase unit values to match.
4	Low prior attainment	Primary pupils identified as not achieving the expected level of development in the early years foundation stage profile (EYFSP).	Continue to mirror the NFF increase unit values to match.

		Secondary pupils not reaching the expected standard in Key Stage 2 at either reading or writing or maths.	
5	English as an additional language (EAL)	Pupils identified in the October census with a first language other than English may attract funding for up to three years after they enter the statutory school system.	Continue to mirror the NFF and increase unit values to match.
6	Pupil mobility	Pupils starting school at non-standard start dates (i.e. not August, September or January for Year R) in the last three academic years. A 6% threshold will apply to attract funding.	Continue to mirror the NFF and increase unit values to match.
School Led Factors			
7	Sparsity	<p>A tapered value up to a maximum of £45,000 for primary schools and £70,000 for secondary schools applied to small schools where the average distance (as the crow flies) to pupils' second nearest school is:</p> <p>>2 miles primary >3 miles secondary</p> <p>and the maximum average number of pupils per year group is met.</p>	Continue to mirror the NFF and increase unit values to match.
8	Lump sum	Each school receives a lump sum irrespective of its size or phase of £117,800.	Continue to mirror the NFF and increase unit value to match.

9	Split sites	To support schools that have unavoidable extra costs because the school buildings are on separate sites. The criteria used for this factor can continue to be determined locally but must clearly define what constitutes a split site and how much is paid.	The factor is part of the NFF and no change was proposed to the current locally determined criteria.
10	Rates	Rates will continue to be funded at the latest estimate of cost.	The factor is part of the NFF and no change was proposed to the current arrangement to pay rates centrally.
11	Minimum Funding Guarantee/Funding Floor	Ensures all schools see a minimum gain per pupil of 2% above their 2020-21 baseline per pupil funding.	Continue to mirror the NFF and increase the percentage to match.
Exceptional Factors			
11	Joint Use and Rental	In 2013-14 Nottinghamshire was successful in its application to use exceptional factors for joint use arrangements and rental of premises. Approved factors can continue to be applied but any new ones must be approved by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.	Exceptional factors are part of the NFF and no change was proposed to their application.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S
COMMITTEE****GIVING CHILDREN THE BEST START: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BEST START
STRATEGY 2021 - 2025****Purpose of the Report**

1. The report seeks approval of the Nottinghamshire Best Start Strategy 2021 - 2025, attached as **Appendix 1**.

Information

3. The Health and Wellbeing Board endorsed the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy in December 2017. The strategy contains four strategic ambitions including giving children a good start in life. This ambition is also reflected in the Council Plan 'Your Nottinghamshire, Your Future' which includes the priority to make Nottinghamshire a great place to bring up a family so that children get the best possible start in life.
4. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy aims to improve the life chances of all children in Nottinghamshire as there is overwhelming evidence that making healthier decisions early, from pregnancy, can influence someone's physical and emotional health and economic outcomes throughout their life.
5. In February 2020, a Health and Wellbeing Board workshop was held focusing on giving children the best start in life. The workshop was attended by a range of stakeholders including Elected Members, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Community and Acute Health Services as well as representatives from organisations working with children and families. The workshop has helped to inform the draft Best Start Strategy.

Best Start Strategy

6. Giving a child the 'best start' begins before birth, with good pre-conception and maternity care. Pregnancy and the early years offer a unique opportunity to shape the lives of children: if a child receives appropriate support during their early years, they have a real chance of maximising their potential. The Strategy therefore focuses on pre-conception, antenatal, postnatal stages and support for families until a child reaches statutory school age.

7. The Strategy has been developed mainly using two Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNA) focusing on the first 1,001 Days, and Early Years and School Readiness. Both JSNA chapters include a review of research, evidence-based practice, local data and needs as well as mapping service provision. Both JSNA chapters were reviewed by Children and Young People's Committee in December 2019.
8. The Health and Wellbeing Board workshop confirmed the following priorities for inclusion in the Best Start Strategy:
 - a) prospective parents are well prepared for parenthood
 - b) mothers and babies have positive pregnancy outcomes
 - c) babies and parents/carers have good early relationships
 - d) parents are engaged and participate in home learning from birth
 - e) parents experiencing emotional, mental health and wellbeing challenges are identified early and supported
 - f) children and parents have good health outcomes
 - g) children and parents are supported with early language, speech and communication
 - h) children are ready for nursery and school and demonstrate a good level of overall development
 - i) children have access to high quality early years provision
 - j) parents are in secure employment.
9. The proposed Best Start Strategy is attached as **Appendix 1**.
10. The Strategy will also focus on the impact of Covid-19 on maternal health, babies born during lock down, emotional health and wellbeing and access to services and childcare.

Nottinghamshire Best Start Partnership Steering Group

11. It is proposed that the Best Start Strategy be overseen by the new Best Start Partnership Steering Group which will report to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Best Start Partnership Steering Group will also work very closely with the Children and Young People's Committee. The governance structure is included within the Best Start Strategy in **Appendix One**.
12. Membership will comprise senior management representatives from organisations working with expectant parents, and families with pre-school children.
13. Members will be expected to champion and deliver effective and meaningful multi-agency planning and service delivery to give every child in Nottinghamshire the best start in life.
14. A number of pre-existing and new partnership groups will report to the Best Start Partnership Steering Group so that service commissioning, planning and delivery can be co-ordinated across Nottinghamshire.
15. The new Steering Group will oversee the Strategy and be responsible for regular reports and updates to the Health and Wellbeing Board annually and to the Children and Young People's Committee every six months.

Other Options Considered

16. No other options have been considered.

Reasons for Recommendations

17. Work to enable children to have the best start in life spans a wide range of services and social issues. There has been no co-ordinated partnership strategy which brings together all key partners and activities which focus on antenatal and postnatal care, children's development and support for families with pre-school children.
18. The Best Start Partnership Steering Group will provide a cross-cutting solution to a complex set of problems and risks which face children and families. For this reason, the Strategy and Steering Group will build links between many different parts of the system to provide joined-up and holistic services.

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.

Crime and Disorder Implications

20. By using evidence-based practice to target and engage children at risk of poor outcomes, it is anticipated that longer term outcomes for children involved in offending behaviour will reduce.

Financial Implications

21. Partners in the delivery of the Best Start Strategy will use their own resources to help shape and improve services and interventions for pre-school children and their families.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

22. Safeguarding children and families will continue to be a key priority within the Best Start Strategy and for all partners represented at the Best Start Partnership Steering Group.

Implications for Service Users

23. Successful delivery of the Best Start Strategy will improve a range of outcomes for children and families including emotional health and wellbeing, healthy pregnancy, school readiness, speech and language to name but a few.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That Committee approves the Nottinghamshire Best Start Strategy 2021 - 2025, attached as **Appendix 1**.

Councillor Philip Owen
Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Irene Kakoullis
Group Manager Early Childhood Services
T: 0115 9774431
E: Irene.kakoullis@nottsc.gov.uk

Kerrie Adams
Senior Public Health and Commissioning Manager
T: 0115 9772198
E: Kerrie.adams@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (initials HS 29/01/21)

24. The recommendations within the report fall within the delegation to Policy Committee (HD-29/1/2021)

Financial Comments (initials SS 29/01/21)

25. Partners in the delivery of the Best Start Strategy will use their own resources to help shape and improve services and interventions for pre-school children and their families.
26. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

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

[Second Nottinghamshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy – report to Health and Wellbeing Board on 6th December 2017](#)

[Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Chapter – 1,001 Days, Conception to Age 2 – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 16th December 2019](#)

[Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Chapter – Early Years and School Readiness – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 16th December 2019](#)

[Giving children the best start: Nottinghamshire Best Start Strategy 2021 – 2025 – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 30th November 2020](#)

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

All.

C1433

Nottinghamshire Best Start Strategy

2021-2025



Foreword

Foreword by Councillor Philip Owen, Chair of the Children and Young People's Committee and Cllr Kevin Rostance, Chair of the Nottinghamshire Health and Well-Being Board

Giving children in Nottinghamshire the best start in life is a priority that we can all sign up to. All children have the right to grow up with the best health possible, to be protected from harm and to have access to an education that enables them to fulfil their potential. We know, from research, that a great start in life for all is one of the key ways to success.

We want every child in Nottinghamshire to have the best possible start in life, because we know that a good start shapes lifelong health, wellbeing and prosperity.

We're proud to support Nottinghamshire's new Best Start Strategy which has been developed in partnership and builds on the existing relationship with key partners from Nottinghamshire County Council, Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS Acute and Community Health Service Providers, Early Years Providers including schools, the private, voluntary and independent sector, as well as parents and carers.

We recognise that by working together we will be more effective in enabling all children to get the best start in life. There is much to be gained by creating a more integrated approach which maximises the benefits of services working together better and involving the public and communities at every stage.

By working together, we have a better chance of achieving the 10 key ambitions of this strategy:

- 1. Prospective parents are well prepared for parenthood**
- 2. Mothers and babies have positive pregnancy outcomes**
- 3. Babies and parents/carers have good early relationships**
- 4. Parents/carers are engaged and participate in home learning from birth**
- 5. Parents/carers experiencing emotional, mental health and wellbeing challenges are identified early and supported.**
- 6. Children and parents/carers have good health outcomes**
- 7. Children and parents/carers are supported with early language, speech and communication**
- 8. Children are ready for nursery and school and demonstrate a good level of overall development**
- 9. Children have access to high quality early years provision**
- 10. Parents/carers are in secure employment**

We look forward to seeing the positive outcomes of this strategy and to see our children and families aspire to achieve their potential.

Introduction

What do we mean by Best Start?

Giving children the best start in life is a fundamental part of improving health and reducing inequalities. The earliest years of a child's life have a significant impact on their long-term development and their life chances.

Giving a child the 'best start' begins before birth, with good pre-conception and maternity care. Pregnancy and the early years offer a unique opportunity to shape the lives of our children: if a child receives appropriate support during their early years, they have a real chance of maximising their potential.



Background

Why focus on giving children the Best Start?

“ The foundations for virtually every aspect of human development – physical, intellectual and emotional – are laid in early childhood. What happens during these early years (starting in the womb) has lifelong effects on many aspects of health and wellbeing - from obesity, heart disease and mental health, to educational achievement and economic status ”

Michael Marmot, 2010, Fair society, Healthy Lives

How we treat young children shapes their lives – and ultimately our society. If we get the early years right, we pave the way for a lifetime of achievement. If we get them wrong, we miss a unique opportunity to shape a child's future.

The first 1001 days - from conception to the age of 2 - are a critical period of development. This is because the earliest experiences, starting in pregnancy, shape a baby's brain development and have a lifelong impact: during the first two years of life the brain develops a remarkable capacity to absorb information and adapt to its surroundings. From birth to 18 months, connections in the brain are created at a rate of one million per second.

From a baby's perspective, their environment is made up almost entirely of the relationships with their parents or carers. The quality of this environment influences the development of their brain and social behaviours in a way that forms a foundation for their future experiences, and the way they will be equipped to respond to them.

Loving, secure and reliable relationships with parents, together with the quality of the home learning environment, support a baby's emotional wellbeing, brain development, language development, ability to learn, and capacity to develop and maintain good relationships with others.

Babies are born ready to learn; however, their development is dependent on their parents and caregivers as their first teacher. Play helps to develop social, intellectual, language and problem-solving skills and is one of the main ways that babies learn about the world. From birth, a natural flow of affectionate and stimulating talk supports a baby's brain and language development.

When a baby's development falls behind the norm in the first year of life, it is more likely to fall further behind in subsequent years than to catch up with those who have had a better start.

Research shows that access to high quality early learning experiences, together with a positive learning environment at home, are vital to ensure children reach a good level of development.

Securing a successful start for our youngest children, and particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, is crucial. Attending any pre-school, compared to none, predicted higher total GCSE scores and the more months spent in pre-school, the greater the impact (DfE, 2016).

Ensuring children are able to get the best from education is vital. School readiness is a strong indicator of how prepared a child is to succeed in school cognitively, socially and emotionally. Not enough of our children are starting school with the range of skills they need to succeed. Educational attainment is one of the main markers for wellbeing through the life course, it is therefore essential that no child is left behind at the beginning of their school life.

There is a clear economic case for investing in the early years of children's lives. Investing in quality early care and education has a greater return on investment than many other options. For every £1 invested in quality early care and education, taxpayers save up to £13 in future costs; and for every £1 spent on early years education, £7 would need to be spent to have the same impact in adolescence.

Supporting healthy pregnancies and protecting and promoting the health of infants are also key to providing the best start in life: stopping smoking in pregnancy has a hugely positive impact on the health of mother and baby, as does good nutrition, vaccination and immunisation, and breastfeeding.

A parent's ability to support their child's health and development can be adversely affected by a number of issues including domestic abuse, being a teenage parent, experiencing stress, or by having many vulnerabilities or

complex social needs. Parents can be affected by experiences from their childhood too; events in their childhood can have a profound effect on their lives as adults, affecting their physical or mental health and influencing their parenting behaviour.

Having a low income also has an impact: at age 3, children from poorer backgrounds have fallen behind in terms of cognitive outcomes, social skills and whether they experience behavioural issues. This doesn't mean that every young child growing up in relatively advantaged circumstances will necessarily experience good development, nor that children facing disadvantages won't achieve positive outcomes; however, young children facing various disadvantages are less likely than others to experience good development.

In summary, this time in a child's life represents a phase of increased vulnerability, yet also provides a short window of significant opportunity to improve outcomes. We recognise the need to engage families and children much earlier, taking a wider partnership approach, starting in pregnancy and before children access early education and childcare. This strategy will help us to achieve that.

Further information, evidence and local data can be found in the 1001 Days and Early Years and School Readiness joint strategic needs assessment chapters.

<https://nottinghamshireinsight.org.uk/research-areas/jsna/children-and-young-people/>



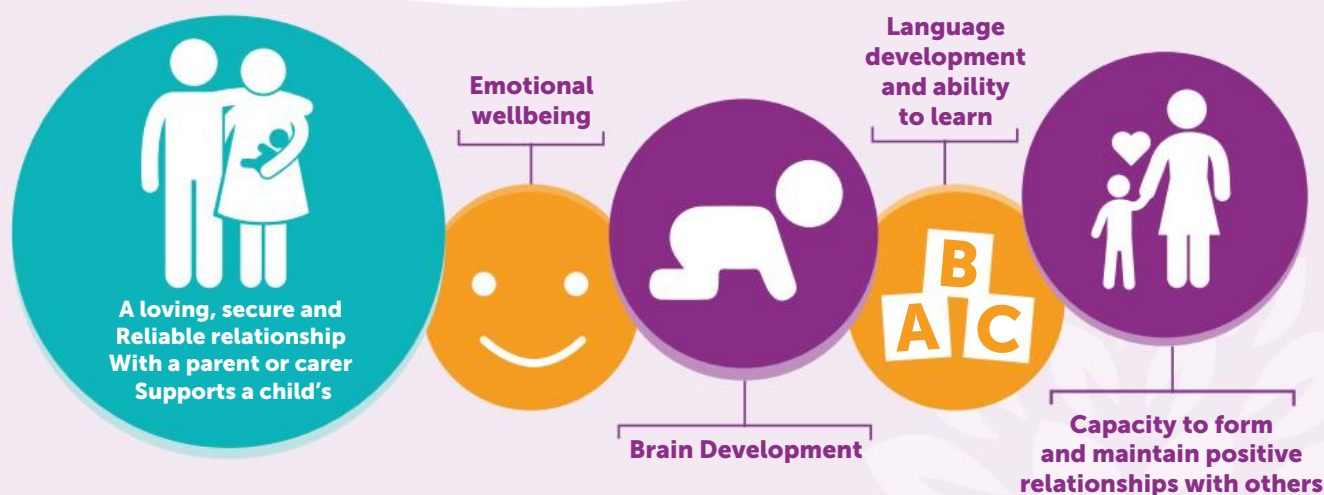
Passionate about giving every child the best start in life

The Best Start approach is underpinned by a range of national policy guidance including:

- Marmot: Fair Society, Healthy Lives, and the Marmot Review 10 years on: Health Equity
- First 1000 days of life, Health Select Committee
- 1001 Critical Days: the importance of the conception to age 2 period, All Party Parliamentary Group Cross Party Manifesto
- Frank Field independent review of poverty and life chances
- WAVE Trust report Conception to 2 years: The Age of Opportunity
- Social Mobility Commission's State of the Nation
- Public Health England's Health Matters

Ensuring families prosper and achieve their potential is a priority within Nottinghamshire County Council's Strategic Plan 2017-2021, and the aim to give every child a good start in life is a key priority in the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2022.

Giving every child the best start in life



The Health and Wellbeing Board facilitated a workshop to shape this new Best Start Strategy, and the accompanying Best Start Partnership Steering Group, which will lead and oversee the work.

The workshop:

- Shared findings of the recent joint strategic needs assessment chapters: '1,001 Days – Conception to Birth' and 'Early Years and School Readiness',
- Celebrated the unique opportunity that pregnancy and the early years offer to shape a child's life,
- Explored local successes and challenges, and generated ideas for improvement,
- Developed a shared understanding and commitment to drive accelerated improvement,
- Sought multi-agency engagement and ownership of evidence-based interventions to support children's best start in life.



Recognising the impact of Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic has widened existing inequalities across society. It is important that we reflect and acknowledge the changing needs of babies, young children and their parents/carers as a result of Covid-19 and the associated restrictions.

Several national reports have examined the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic across the early years. Many parents found their ability to cope with their pregnancy or baby had been impacted and reported that the changes brought about by Covid-19 had affected their baby or young child. Many more families are experiencing food insecurity and the number of children living in poverty is rising. There is a

risk to child development, including to social and emotional development, as a result of Covid-19 restrictions. Domestic abuse is likely to have increased. There is also a higher prevalence of emotional and mental health needs in parents and children, and fewer opportunities to identify and support them.

Families with lower incomes, those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, and young parents, have been hit hardest by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is more important than ever that we target our joint efforts to support these families. The needs of Nottinghamshire's babies and young children must be centre-stage.

Building on previous successes – key achievements

We are committed to building on our previous successes and have worked with our partners to identify our key achievements and good practice. These are summarised in Appendix One.

Our vision

For every child in Nottinghamshire to have the best possible start in life, because we know that a good start shapes lifelong health, wellbeing and prosperity.

For partner agencies to work together to improve the life chances of all children in Nottinghamshire; working as a multi-agency Best Start Partnership Steering Group to engage and support families prior to conception, in pregnancy, and across the early years.

For partners, families and communities to work collaboratively to ensure every child has a healthy and fulfilling start to life and starts schools with the range of skills they need to succeed.



Our ambitions

The Best Start recognises the importance of, and are committed to supporting:

- Healthy pregnancies
- Preparation for parenthood
- Parental mental health and good attachment
- Parent-infant interaction
- Opportunities to support a child's cognitive, language and social and emotional development
- High quality and accessible early years education
- Identifying and supporting our more vulnerable parents as early as possible

To achieve Our Vision, we have developed **ten ambitions** for Nottinghamshire informed by the evidence base and our engagement with partners.

The ten ambitions for Nottinghamshire are as follows:

1. Prospective parents are well prepared for parenthood
2. Mothers and babies have positive pregnancy outcomes
3. Babies and parents/carers have good early relationships
4. Parents/carers are engaged and participate in home learning from birth
5. Parents/carers experiencing emotional, mental health and wellbeing challenges are identified early and supported
6. Children and parents/carers have good health outcomes
7. Children and parents/carers are supported with early language, speech and communication
8. Children are ready for nursery and school and demonstrate a good level of overall development
9. Children have access to high quality early years provision
10. Parents/carers are in secure employment

The work of the Partnership will be underpinned by a number of key principles:

- Clear leadership and accountability
- Partnership working, engaging a broader and more diverse range of partners
- Co-production and engagement with families
- Using evidence-base practice
- Using whole family and strength-based approaches
- Resources and collective action targeted in areas of greater deprivation and with groups most at risk of poor outcomes
- Digital innovation and making better use of social media communication channels
- Trauma-informed care

Our actions

1

Prospective parents are well prepared for parenthood

Transition to parenthood starts before and during pregnancy. Pregnancy, birth and the weeks and months beyond are a key time of change and development for parents, as well as for their baby. This is an extraordinary and life-defining time however it is also a demanding time, and while most parents do well, some may struggle to cope with the changes or to adjust to their new roles.

Planning pregnancy, promoting healthy behaviours and reducing or managing risk factors are important for improving pregnancy outcomes. It is important that prospective parents are supported with their mental health, smoking and alcohol use, weight management and activity levels, and with anything else that may have detrimental impact on their wellbeing.

We will

- Support health and wellbeing prior to conception with a key focus on mental health, healthy relationships, smoking cessation, healthy weight and good nutrition
- Ensure parents-to-be have access to information and support that will equip them with the knowledge and skills they need. There should be a focus on the emotional preparation for parenthood as much as on practical skills
- Deliver targeted support to our more vulnerable parents-to-be including pregnant teenagers
- Have a greater focus on young men and fathers-to-be
- Empower a wide range of partner organisations to prepare prospective parents for parenthood
- Reflect the voice of young people, prospective parents and new parents
- Maximise opportunities to improve health, wellbeing and preparation for parenthood between pregnancies
- Champion high-quality relationship and sex education in schools (primary, secondary, special schools and alternative education providers) and organisations working with young people

Mothers and babies have positive pregnancy outcomes

Pregnancy is a critical period during which the physical and mental wellbeing of a mother can have lifelong impacts on her child. Supporting women's health in pregnancy is important for many reasons: for the safe delivery of babies, to prevent adverse health outcomes, and to promote a good birth weight, important because premature and small babies are more likely to have poor outcomes. Addressing these key factors will help to support good antenatal outcomes:

- Smoking in pregnancy
- Substance and alcohol use
- Healthy weight and good nutrition
- Screening and immunisation
- Low birth weight
- Healthy relationships

We will:

- Work in partnership to reduce the proportion of women smoking in pregnancy
- Promote and support early access to maternity care
- Increase opportunities for women to receive continuity of carer across maternity services through the Local Maternity Neonatal System (LMNS)
- Improve the uptake of screening and immunisation
- Review and strengthen pathways of care and partnership working for women with complex social needs or multiple vulnerabilities. One aim of this is to reduce parental stress
- Ensure swift referral pathways are in place for expectant parents who are deemed as vulnerable
- Engage a more diverse group of partners in supporting healthy pregnancies
- Support expectant teenagers to access antenatal services which are non-judgemental, young people friendly and accessible; with tailored antenatal care provided for those most vulnerable
- Promote national and local digital resources such as the Baby Buddy app
- Improve communication and handover of care between maternity services and Healthy Family teams, and information sharing across other key services
- Engage more families-to-be in pregnancy in services that support their health and wellbeing

Babies and parents/carers have good early relationships

Early relationships are important for building healthy brains and have an immeasurable impact on social and emotional development. The way babies' brains develop is shaped by their interactions with the world around them: parent-infant relationships and the quality of parent-infant interaction are very important.

Secure, responsive relationships between a baby and their parent is essential for healthy brain development. This relationship reassures a child that their needs will be met, which helps them regulate their emotions and supports resilience into adulthood. Good early relationships help a growing brain to become socially efficient and support emotional, behavioural and intellectual development. Infant mental health describes the emotional wellbeing of children in the earliest years of life, and reflects whether children have the secure, responsive relationships that they need to thrive.

We will:

- Equip a wider range of practitioners with the knowledge and skills to support bonding, attachment and the early parent-infant relationship and understand the role of this in baby brain development
- Develop clear and consistent universal messages about the importance of sensitive, attuned and face-to face interactions from birth onwards
- Routinely assess parent-infant interaction in the first few weeks of baby's life
- Implement evidence-based interventions that support the development of good early relationships across the 1001 days
- Deliver targeted support to parents experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, challenges with the early parent-infant relationship
- Champion early childhood mental health – the healthy social, emotional and behavioural development of young children – and act early to support emerging needs

Parents/carers are engaged and participate in home learning from birth

Babies are born ready to learn, and their development is dependent on their parents and caregivers as their first teacher. From birth, learning comes from interaction with people and the environment around us. Play helps to develop social, intellectual, language and problem-solving skills and is one of the main ways babies and young children learn about the world. Home learning is one of the biggest influences on early years' outcomes. Every day conversations, make-believe play, and reading activities have a particular influence.

We will:

- Ensure parents/carers understand the importance of their role as 'first educator' and are aspirational for their children
- Support parents/carers to develop good home learning environments and prepare their children for learning from birth. We will target these actions at families with low incomes and those living in areas of multiple deprivation
- Work with voluntary and community organisations to foster and promote opportunities for babies and young children to play, learn and have new experiences close to home. Ensure these opportunities are clearly communicated to parents
- Support parents/carers to improve their wellbeing and parenting skills as well as to understand their child's development needs
- Develop clear and consistent universal messages about the importance of home learning (interaction, play and supporting development) from birth



Parents/carers experiencing emotional, mental health and wellbeing challenges are identified early and supported

Mental health issues can impact on a mother and her partner's ability to bond with their baby, and to be sensitive and responsive to the baby's emotions and needs. Around one in five women will experience mental health difficulties before or after birth, yet this may remain unrecognised or untreated. A women's mental health before and after the birth is closely linked to the development of good early relationships. Fathers can also find the transition to parenthood challenging and may need support for their mental health.

Parents/carers who are experiencing stress may be less able to provide a secure, healthy, nurturing environment for their child. In pregnancy, maternal stress can impact on baby's developing brain, though the effects of this are helped by sensitive and responsive parenting in the first year.

We will:

- Work with partners to strengthen the pathway of care for women with mental health needs in the perinatal period, with a particular focus on mild to moderate and emerging mental health need
- Map and clearly communicate information about mental health support and services to all who might signpost, refer or wish to access
- Identify and engage people and communities that are not represented in services
- Share information about referrals and access to services with relevant partners so that opportunities to engage and support parents are not lost
- Develop a culture that recognises the importance of parental mental health and emotional wellbeing and the part this plays in healthy child development
- Share information about the changes in emotional and mental health that new parents may experience and support parents and carers to recognise and respond to these
- Promote a range of interventions that support the emotional and mental health of parents and carers of preschool children

Children and parents/carers have good health outcomes

What happens during the early years influences health and wellbeing in later life: good nutrition is essential to a child's development, breastfeeding has particular benefit. Vaccination, immunisation and home safety are important for health promotion. Addressing these key factors will help to promote good health:

- Breastfeeding
- Screening and vaccination
- Good nutrition
- Weight management and healthy weight
- Safer sleep

We will:

- Target existing resource, services and support at those most in need, including those in areas of deprivation
- Have a greater focus on promoting the health of whole families, including fathers, partners and households
- Increase uptake and promotion of the Healthy Start Scheme including a radical increase in the uptake of vitamins in pregnant women, babies and children to age 4
- Promote safer sleep messages across a wide variety of partners and equip these partners with the knowledge and skill to recognise and support families most at risk of sudden and unexpected death in infancy
- Continue efforts to improve the prevalence of breastfeeding, focused on areas of the county with the lowest rates
- Work to improve the food environment for families with young children through delivery of the Childhood Obesity Trailblazer by:
 - Making access to affordable, healthy food easier
 - Improving the quality of food provision through early years settings
 - Enabling parents to develop good eating habits with their children
 - Promoting consistent messages
- Develop key messages about health and wellbeing in the early years that are shared widely by a wider range of professionals and partner organisations
- Continue to educate and support parents to reduce the risks of avoidable injuries in babies and children

Children and parents/carers are supported with early language, speech and communication

Language difficulties predict problems in literacy and reading comprehension, but they may also be indicative of problems in children's behaviour and mental health. Once children enter school, language skills remain a strong predictor of their academic success. Children's vocabulary skills are linked to their economic backgrounds. Children living in areas of socio-economic disadvantage are at much higher risk, with around 50% of children starting school with delayed language or other speech, language and communication needs (SLCN). Evidence shows that difficulties in early language development can lead to:

- educational disadvantage
- emotional and behavioural difficulties
- risky behaviours
- involvement in offending
- economic disadvantage
- emotional disadvantage

We will:

- Address speech, language and communication needs and improve skills amongst preschool children through the commissioning and delivery of the Home Talk programme for 2 year olds, Little Talkers Groups and specialist Speech and Language Therapy
- Jointly commission SLCN services to provide one service which includes early help approaches and specialist speech and language therapy
- Develop a partnership SLCN Action Plan for children under the age of 5 focusing on universal to specialist services
- Intervene early, reducing the need for specialist speech and language interventions
- Improve the knowledge of skills of local practitioners to help identify and address SLCN
- Narrow the attainment gap between children who are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) and their peers by targeting SLCN early help programmes in areas of greatest need
- Develop a partnership SLCN Action Plan
- Work with a wide range of partners to promote the nationally developed resources, Tiny Happy People and Hungry Little Minds, as part of universal and targeted support from pregnancy to 5
- Ensure children have access to communication friendly spaces

Children are ready for nursery and school and demonstrate a good level of overall development

School readiness is a strong indicator of how prepared a child is to succeed in school and in later life. Levels of school readiness links to educational attainment, which impacts on life chances. School readiness has been shown to impact on health, mental health, future earnings, involvement in crime, and even death.

Ensuring children get the best from education is vital; education is central to improving life chances for children and young people and yet not enough children are starting school with the range of skills they need to succeed. Educational attainment is one of the main markers for wellbeing through the life course and so it is important that no child is left behind at the beginning of their school life.

We will:

- Identify children with developmental delay and/or additional needs as early as possible and provide them with early support
- Work in partnership to ensure all children, particularly Looked After Children, children eligible for free school meals, children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND), and children for whom English is an additional language achieve a good level of development
- Support the most vulnerable children and families to access the right support at the right time whether it be access to childcare or 1-2-1 family support
- Improve children's development at the Early Years Foundation Stage to be at least on par with statistical neighbours, as well as narrowing the attainment gap
- Ensure 2 year olds from low income families access their early education entitlements
- Ensure practitioners across Nottinghamshire are knowledgeable and effective in identifying and assessing the needs of 0-5's through a comprehensive workforce development offer and regular support and interventions
- Ensure children and families experience seamless interventions and services
- Review and strengthen the transition arrangements for children particularly with SEND
- Put in place robust pathways to comprehensive support where there are any issues identified at the Healthy Family Team 2-2 ½ year health and development review
- Continue to promote and champion the value of early education
- Have a greater focus on social and emotional development across the early years

Children have access to high quality early years provision

High quality, accessible early learning experiences together with a positive learning environment at home is a vital combination to ensure that children reach a good level of development at school age. High quality early years practitioners and leaders are essential for delivering a high standard of care and education to create an effective early learning environment.

Early years education for children below the age of four has a positive impact on the life chances of disadvantaged children, yet disadvantaged children spend significantly less time in pre-school than children from more affluent backgrounds. It is therefore essential to increase the take up of childcare funding entitlements for low income families.

We will:

- Ensure children and families, particularly those living in areas of disadvantage, have access to high quality, sufficient, sustainable early years education and childcare provision
- Offer support for providers of childcare and early education including providing training and support packages e.g. Ofsted readiness, working with children with SEND etc
- Work in partnership to ensure all children, particularly Looked After Children, children eligible for free school meals, children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND), and children for whom English is an additional language achieve a good level of development
- Ensure vulnerable children have access to good or outstanding early years settings
- Continue to recognise the skill and expertise of the early year's workforce: further invest in training around the importance of the 1001 days, and skills to engage and support families collaboratively, building relationships based on trust
- Provide proactive support and assess the sustainability of the Early Years and Childcare Sector during and after the Covid-19 pandemic
- Carry out further analysis of the sufficiency of Early Years provision across all areas of the county considering the numbers of vacant spaces already available
- Deliver target support for Early Years providers working in areas of high levels of disadvantage and where vulnerable children would be adversely affected if there were no provision available
- Support the Early Years Sector to encourage families "Back in to Childcare" and promote the take up of childcare as a choice that benefits the child's development
- Explore how Nottinghamshire County Council can continue to fulfil the duty to provide sufficient childcare places for the most disadvantaged communities
- Carry out detailed consultation with parents on using Childcare and Early Education provision

Parents/carers are work ready and in secure employment

Growing up in poverty can affect every area of a child's development and future life chances. We know that the most disadvantaged children are less likely to achieve their academic potential, secure employment and gain a sense of future financial security. They are more likely to suffer from poor health, live in poor quality housing and unsafe environments. Growing up in poverty can mean being cold, going hungry, not being able to join in activities with friends, and not being able to afford even one week's holiday.

Worklessness is still a key reason why many children in Nottinghamshire are living in poverty; however, understanding and tackling in-work poverty remains a priority.

We will:

- Provide opportunities for parents/carers to be work ready, by working in partnership to improve skills, confidence and aspirations for their families e.g. Job Clubs, Work Coaches
- Increase families' money management skills and build financial resilience for children and families in poverty
- Provide parents/carers with access to volunteering opportunities that support them to move closer to the labour market
- Gain a greater understanding and reduce the negative impact of Covid19 on child and family income
- Target families from low income households to deliver a range of interventions to give children the best start
- Successfully deliver the Troubled Families programme which supports parents into sustained employment and increases the number of young people in training, education or employment
- Support families' income and improve outcomes through tackling food insecurity
- Increase uptake of funded childcare provision and Tax Credits to remove barriers to employment for many parents
- Support teenage parents into employment by promoting and increasing take up of the Care to Learn grant for young parents in education or training
- Actively promote schemes to support parents with mental health problems into work
- Support families reliant on welfare to navigate the system
- Narrow the health inequalities gap for low income groups and their peers by commissioning and delivering services and interventions which target localities and groups with poorer health and wellbeing outcomes

Best Start Partnership Steering Group

The purpose of the Best Start Partnership Steering Group is to assess local needs and subsequently develop and co-ordinate the effective delivery of the Best Start Strategy which will focus on pre-conception to statutory school age concentrating on the first 1,001 days.

Responsibilities

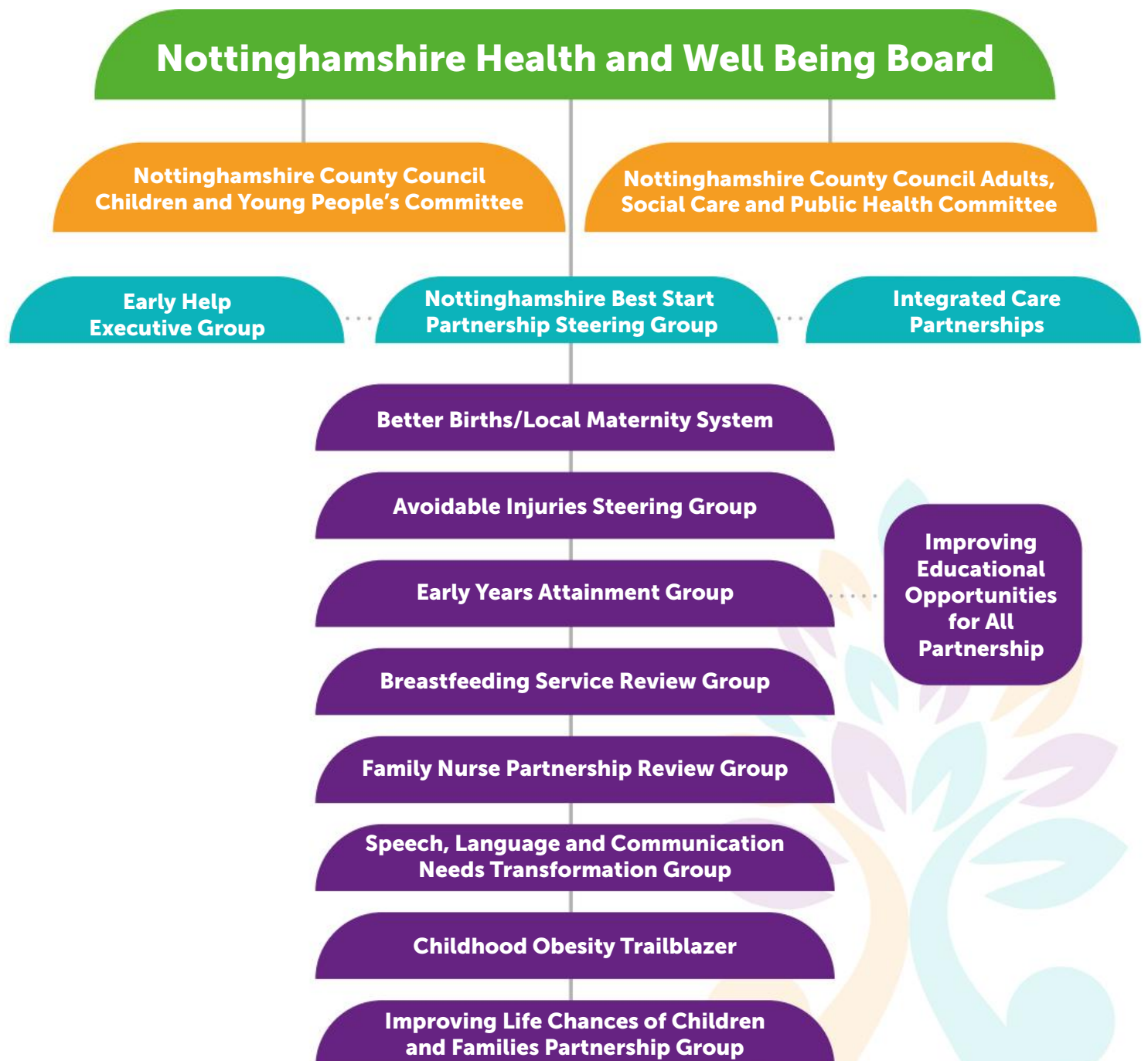
- Facilitate a partnership approach to ensuring children have the best start in life.
- To consider and implement the recommendations of the relevant Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment chapters relating to pre conception, antenatal and postnatal support, school readiness and public health outcomes for children under the age of 5.
- Development, implementation and monitoring of the Best Start Strategy and Action Plan.
- To identify and progress new joint strategic needs assessment chapters, mapping exercises and reviews that may be required to better inform planning and delivery.
- To identify and refer to the evidence base for ensuring children get the best start in life.
- To actively target interventions to communities where outcomes are worse for children and families.
- To consider and respond to the effects of Covid-19 on outcomes for families with children under the age of 5.
- To agree reports on progress of the Action Plan for Local Authorities and key stakeholders
- To ensure any resources available are appropriately deployed in order to support activities in the Action Plan.

Role of group members

- To act as a champion for work to improve the health and well-being of expectant families and those with young children within their own organisation and networks they represent.
- To contribute to the Best Start Action Plan and wider Best Start Strategy.
- To commit resources where possible to support the delivery of the Best Start Strategy.
- To identify ways in which their organisation can contribute to emerging issues and challenges including the Covid-19 pandemic.
- To provide a communication channel between the Steering Group and their own organisation and through involvement at other strategic partnership groups and networks.
- To be aware of and respond in a timely manner to communications outside of Best Start Partnership Steering Group meetings.
- To share relevant reports, information and resources with other members of the group as well as their own organisation and networks which they represent.
- To contribute relevant items for discussion at meetings.

Governance

The Best Start Partnership Steering Group will report to the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board as well as member's own organisational governance routes. The Steering Group will ultimately report to the Health and Wellbeing Board and will work closely with the Children and Young People's Committee in Nottinghamshire County Council who will contribute to the Strategy development and champion effective service delivery.



Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Each workstream will be responsible for developing and monitoring a multi-agency action plan to deliver our ten ambitions, reporting to the Best Start Partnership Steering Group.

There are a range of overarching public health indicators which will be used to assess progress, including:

- Reducing infant mortality
- Increasing vaccination, immunisation and screening uptake
- More children achieving a good level of development at the end of reception
- More children achieving a good level of development at the 2-2.5 year health and development review
- Fewer low-income families (children under 16 years)
- Reducing family homelessness
- Reducing the numbers of children who need to be Looked After
- Reducing the number of babies born low birth weight

- Reducing childhood obesity (4-5 years)
- Improving oral health
- Reducing teenage pregnancy
- Reducing smoking in pregnancy
- Increasing the rates of breastfeeding
- Reducing avoidable injuries (0-4 years).

The Best Start Partnership Steering Group will review progress against these indicators, as well as comparing performance with Nottinghamshire's closest statistical neighbours.

Workstreams will also identify local indicators to monitor progress towards our ten ambitions.

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Marmot M (2010) Fair Society Healthy Lives Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England post 2010. Department of Health. <https://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/projects/fair-society-healthy-lives-the-marmot-review>

Ofsted (2016): Unknown Children – destined for disadvantage? <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/helping-disadvantaged-young-children-ofsted-thematic-report>

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WAVE Trust and DfE (2013) Conception to 2 years: The Age of Opportunity <https://www.wavetrust.org/conception-to-age-2-the-age-of-opportunity>

Key contacts:

Nottinghamshire County Council Early Childhood Service

E:earlychildhoodservices@nottscc.gov.uk
T:0115 977 2510

Nottinghamshire County Council Public Health
E:Childrens.Commissioning@nottscc.gov.uk

Appendix One – Building on previous successes– key achievements

Prospective parents are well prepared for parenthood

- There are examples of excellent working relationships across the education, early years and health sector.
- A wide range of activities and support are available
- Integrated wellbeing service works to improve health and wellbeing of local population
- Knowledge of the impact of adverse childhood experiences is increasing across all sectors
- Relationships and Sex Education in schools is good and expanding across Nottinghamshire
- Work of the Schools Health Hub is now embedded, supporting schools to plan and deliver effective age appropriate Personal Social Health Education programmes
- Services working with young people such as the Youth Service regularly deliver support and information about healthy relationships

Mothers and babies have positive pregnancy outcomes

- High quality support and valued services are in place e.g. maternity services, children's centre services, Healthy Family teams, Family Nurse Partnership for young parents.
- Improving antenatal outcomes is a local priority via the Local Maternity and Neonatal System (LMNS).
- Maternity clinics are available in many Children's Centre buildings across Nottinghamshire
- There is a local commitment to tackling smoking in pregnancy
- Maternity care is delivered in line with evidence base
- There are specialist midwives providing additional support for expectant parents affected by drug use and teenagers
- Development of 'Pregnancy Birth and Beyond' programme

Babies and parents/carers have good early relationships

- We have a well-established Family Nurse Partnership who are experts in attachment, bonding and the early parent-infant relationship
- Maternity and community health providers are accredited in the UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative
- Specialist perinatal mental health services support mothers with serious mental illness
- Ages and stages questionnaires help to assess children's social and emotional development
- The Children's Centre Service delivers a range of 1-2-1 and group support during the post-natal stages e.g. targeted baby massage which improves attachment

Parents are engaged and participate in home learning from birth

- Great expectations programme delivered
 - Home learning booklet developed by the Children's Centre Service and Healthy Family teams is routinely distributed
 - Parents Home Learning tile is developed on Notts Help Yourself Let's Play and other programmes delivered by the Children's Centre Service
-

Parents/carers experiencing emotional, mental health and wellbeing challenges are identified early and supported.

- Assessment of mental health and wellbeing takes places throughout pregnancy and after birth
 - A range of evidence based mental health support is available for parents
 - There are some excellent examples of collaborative working (including a hub model in Ashfield)
 - The Children's Centre Service delivers successful PHEW peer support groups for parents with low emotional wellbeing
 - Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services are well established in Nottinghamshire
 - Perinatal mental health is a local priority for commissioners and providers
-

Children and parents/carers have good health outcomes.

- Good breastfeeding support offer including peer support through Children's Centre Service volunteer led 'Babes' groups
- There is a Breastfeeding friendly places scheme
- Social prescribing, where available
- Healthy Family Teams and the Children's Centre Service promote health and have achieved UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative status
- Healthy Family Team services are available in many Children's Centre buildings across Nottinghamshire
- The Children's Centre Service provides extensive health promotion interventions and campaigns

Children and parents/carers are supported with early language, speech and communication.

- Little Talkers and Home-Talk programmes support children with emerging or targeted needs and are evidence-based and well-received
- There is now a single point of access for speech, language and communication needs services for all areas except for Bassetlaw
- There is an established Language Leads network for Early Years practitioners, with Language Lead accreditation previously provided
- There is a graduated response to emerging need and an aligned pathway of care
- There are high quality specialist speech and language therapy services in place
- There has been a strong partnership approach to address speech, language and communication needs through the previous Language for Life strategy
- There has been a wealth of training available in Nottinghamshire for those working with families with preschool children
- There is a wealth of information for families to assist them to improve their child's speech and language. These are available on Notts Help Yourself, various Facebook pages, with regular campaigns shared e.g. 'Hungry Little Minds'

Children are ready for nursery and school and demonstrate a good level of overall development

- There is a wealth of voluntary sector support to promote child development and school readiness
- There is a comprehensive Children's Centre Service offer and programmes to support child development and school readiness
- Healthy Family teams support development from pregnancy and beyond and deliver universal ages and stages assessment at key points
- The 2 year childcare entitlement and extended childcare offer is increasing access to high quality local childcare
- There are some examples of good links and partnership working between early years settings, the Children's Centre Service and Healthy Family teams
- Systems and processes are in place to monitor the take up and progress of the most vulnerable children (including the Early Years Better Start tracking tool)
- Transition arrangements are in place to support the most vulnerable children between early years provision and school
- The Schools Families Specialist Service works to support preschool children with SEND
- The Early Years Quality and Attainment team works with all early years settings to help track and support vulnerable children and those most at risk of poor outcomes

Children have access high quality early years provision.

- 78% of 2 year olds took up a funded childcare place (15 hours per week) in Spring 2020 and 93% of parents who applied took up an extended entitlement place (30 hours per week). These figures were adversely affected by Covid Summer 2020)
- The Book Start programme is offered universally
- 93% of Early Years Providers were rated as Good or Outstanding in the academic year 2019-20
- 44 Practitioners across Nottinghamshire have been supported to achieve a Nationally recognised Level 3 qualification in supporting Children with SEND
- 1,186 practitioners engaged in NCC led early years training in 2019/20
- Nottinghamshire settings have participated in the National Early Years Professional Development Programme which will reach over 45 settings to support Early Language and Numeracy.
- There is a well-established Early Years Quality and Attainment team which provides training, support and advice to all Early Years settings to help raise the quality of provision

Parents/carers are in secure employment.

- The number of children living in low income households has remained stable however the impact of Covid19 on employment and income have not been reflected in data
- The Children's Centre Service has over 200 active parent volunteers who are also being supported to be work ready
- The Department of Work and Pensions through Jobcentre Plus works closely with the Children's Centre Service to provide assistance to families
- The Chamber of Commerce and NCC Economic Regeneration are providing a range of services such as work coaches for parents with preschool children funded through D2N2
- Tackling Child Poverty remains a priority in Nottinghamshire through the 'Improving Life Chances for Children and Families Strategic Partnership Group'



REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Purpose of the Report

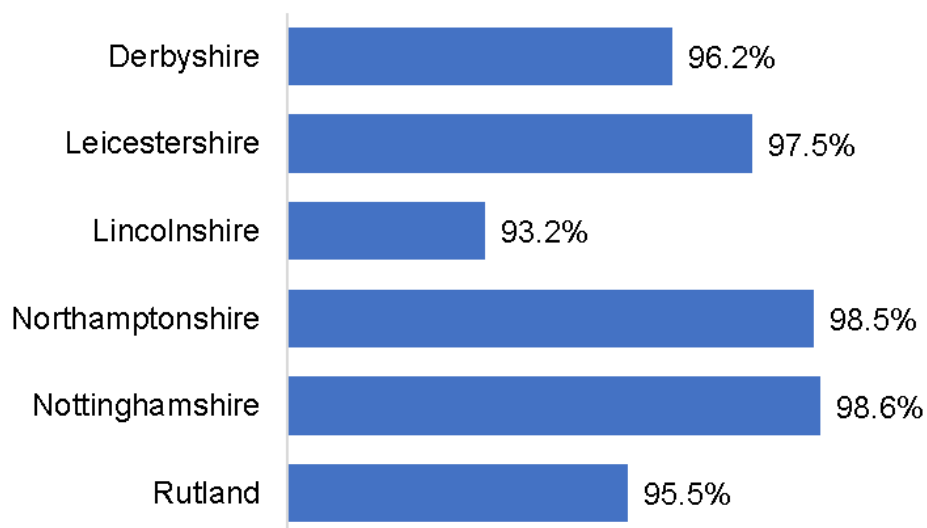
1. This report provides an update on the Council's continued success of delivering world-class digital infrastructure throughout Nottinghamshire, seeks approval for the Council to enter into a lease agreement for the Gateway Lodge and alerts Members to a new project opportunity.

Information

2. The Council Plan "Your Nottinghamshire, Your Future" 2017-2020 has improving fixed and mobile digital connectivity as one of its 12 commitments. Thanks to the buy-in to improving the digital infrastructure from the leadership of the council, Nottinghamshire has cemented its position in the top three most digitally connected counties in the United Kingdom (UK), through its range of strategies, policy initiatives, investment and funding.
3. The importance of digital infrastructure is widely acknowledged. As evidenced through the three COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns, the Nottinghamshire network has proved to be resilient and fast enough for most households and business use. Recently, the National Audit Office (NAO) reported internet use is rising by 40% a year, driven largely by video streaming. In response, the Council needs to focus on ensuring that Nottinghamshire has a broadband network that will meet this future demand.
4. In November 2018, Gedling was chosen to become the first area in the East Midlands selected by Openreach, to begin their commercial rollout of gigabit-capable broadband of speeds greater than 1,000 megabits per second (1000Mbps). In just 24 months, starting from zero coverage, 47.28% of Gedling premises (both business and residential) can now access gigabit-capable internet speeds (i.e. 10.48% better than the national average). Openreach's own investment through their 'Fibre First' programme, has so far covered 17,300 homes and business in Nottinghamshire. An independent report written by Regeneris, has concluded that British Telecom's (BT) 1,540 employees and contractors who work in the County, will generate an extra £199 million into the Nottinghamshire economy.
5. For ease of reading, the remainder of this report covers four specific items as the Council accelerates its digital ambitions: Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire, Gigabit Broadband, 5G and a new research and innovation proposal.

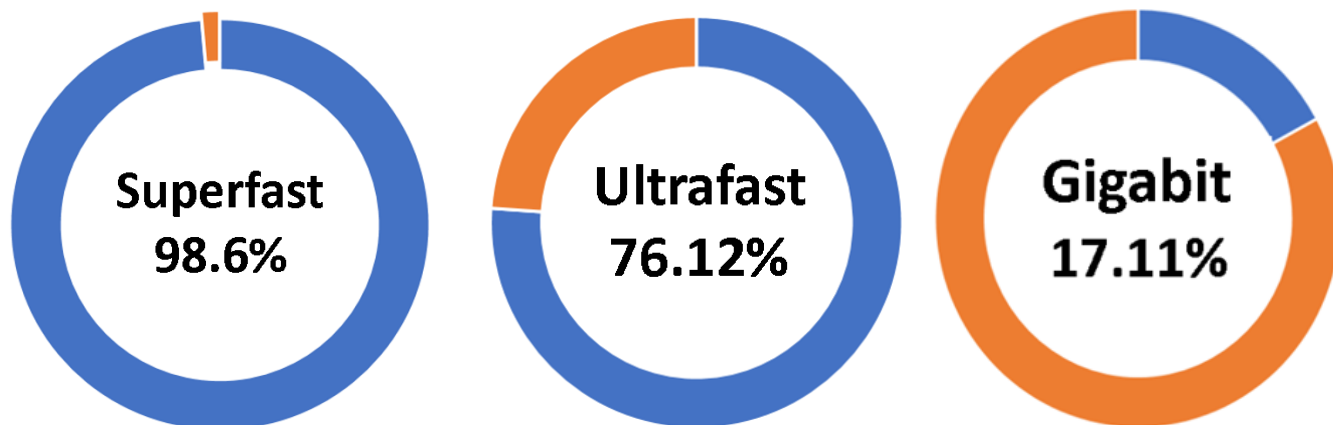
Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire

6. In just shy of a decade, through three separate contracts with BT and Openreach, Nottinghamshire County Council has taken the superfast digital infrastructure across Nottinghamshire (speeds greater than 24Mbps) from a baseline of 86% to over 98%. Nottinghamshire has maintained its position as the best served superfast broadband county in the East Midlands, as illustrated below:



7. This significant civil-engineering programme began with the first contract with BT, installing a hybrid network consisting of copper and fibre. Over 600 new green street cabinets are now a familiar sight across the County, with the Council's and its partners logos declaring the availability of superfast technology. The Council increased the team, employing a Broadband Engagement Officer to promote the availability of the service within local communities. The original contractual expectations were for 20% of homes and businesses to make the switch to the newly installed superfast connection. This target has been over achieved, with the take-up rate standing at 71.86% (i.e. 359.3% increase).
8. The latter stages of contract two saw the delivery of the first pure fibre connections to the County's homes and businesses. Take up figures for this contract stand at 59.12% against the target of 30% (i.e. 197.07% increase). Both contract one and two have now passed the Government's audit process and have been closed. This has triggered the contractual gainshare mechanism for the next seven years. This essentially means that any switching to the new digital service (referred to hereafter as 'take-up') by local Nottinghamshire homes and businesses above the contractual percentage, will result in BT/Openreach returning some of the public investment. As has happened already, the returned funding can then be reinvested into a further boost of network coverage and faster speeds.
9. The Council is currently midway through the third contract. Fibre optic cables are about as close to future proof as you can get today and this time (exclusively with Openreach), the technology deployed is pure fibre (i.e. no copper and no green street cabinets). The Council has not lost sight of its ambition to ensure every Nottinghamshire home and business has access to superfast speeds and is set to invest further to extend the digital network.
10. To do this, the Council needs to ensure planned further coverage continues to target areas where there is no known superfast coverage already, as well as in areas where the telecommunications market have no investment plans. To ensure continued compliance with State aid rules, the Council is undertaking a consultation exercise with the telecommunications market to establish existing and planned coverage of broadband infrastructure across Nottinghamshire over the next three years. The consultation has been published on the Council's website and can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/business-community/better-broadband-for-nottinghamshire-programme/about-the-programme>

11. To date, take-up for contract three stands at 14.4%. There is cautious optimism that as relaxations of COVID-19 restrictions commence, this figure will rise.
12. Illustrated below is the digital coverage across Nottinghamshire: superfast - greater than 24Mbps, ultrafast - greater than 100Mbps and gigabit - greater than 1,000Mbps.



13. The Council's open for business approach and strong partnership with Openreach continues to go from strength to strength. Most recently to support the Government's ambition for gigabit-capable broadband network to reach every corner of the UK, Openreach announced 140 new engineering jobs in the East Midlands, of which 35 will be in Nottinghamshire. In 2020, Openreach was placed 15th in The Sunday Times '25 Best Big Companies to Work For'. Those interested in joining Openreach can apply online via the following link:
<https://www.openreach.com/careers/trainee-engineer-roles>

Gigabit Broadband

14. To meet future demands of consumers and businesses, Government announced a new policy for the UK's telecoms industry to provide nationwide gigabit-capable infrastructure by 2025. £5 billion has been allocated for the UK gigabit programme (The Outside-In programme), to subsidise roll-out to the most difficult to reach 20% of premises. In September 2020, Policy Committee responded by giving approval to use all of the £750,000 remaining gainshare from the first superfast broadband contract with BT, to complement Government's proposal for a 'Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme - Top-up'. This was specifically aimed at targeting properties classified as rural, hamlets and isolated dwellings i.e. 1.3% of the County unable to access speeds greater than 24Mbps.
15. In the successive three months, 39 individual group schemes, spanning over 2,000 premises in Nottinghamshire, have been assisted with their application and are currently discussing options with their chosen internet service providers. In parallel, the Council's Engagement Officer continues to run demand stimulation activities by attending parish and community group meetings and via social media. This scheme is open until 31 March 2021.
16. Nottinghamshire County Council continues to work closely with the Government's broadband delivery arm - Building Digital UK (BDUK). In line with the levelling up agenda, Government want to become a world class leader in digital connectivity. To achieve this requires the delivery of reliable, long-lasting, gigabit-capable connections, and ensuring wide availability at pace.

17. The 2020 Spending Review set out the timeline for how the first tranche of the promised £5 billion will be made available to industry. The judgment of industry and the Government is that the initial phasing of the spending reflects the maximum that can be delivered in the period up to 2025.
18. As outlined in the 'Planning for Gigabit Delivery in 2021' document (details of which are contained in the background section of the report), the 'ask' of telecoms providers is to demonstrate how they can go faster, while maintaining value for public money. The aim is to work with a broad range of providers, making sure that the hardest to reach areas are provided for.
19. As Nottinghamshire County Council looks to accelerate future schemes, work will continue with BDUK to support communities and small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) through gigabit vouchers, providing access to better broadband to many more of the hardest-to-reach communities in rural areas.
20. Government intends to start the formal procurement process anytime now. Larger contracts will be designed to drive competition among network providers and give the supply chain enough certainty to scale-up. Targeted contracts will stimulate competition for smaller network providers and drive innovative solutions. The ambition is to fill a pipeline for these procurements full of opportunities, which target the areas of greatest need and where telecoms providers are best placed to move quickly.
21. The Council's newly appointed Digital Connectivity Manager will give their expertise and insights to help Government shape the first Nottinghamshire intervention areas for these procurements. This shared endeavour will mean working collaboratively and quickly through the provision of specific information to help providers deliver across Nottinghamshire.

5G

22. 5G is the 5th generation mobile network. It is a new global wireless standard and enables an innovative network that is designed to connect virtually everyone and everything together; including machines, objects and devices.
23. Commitment 5 of the Council Plan "Your Nottinghamshire, Your Future" 2017-2021 focusses on ensuring Nottinghamshire is a great place to live, work, visit and relax. Our intention is to become a low carbon, sustainable destination and support technical innovation that could affect change on a larger scale, allowing future generations to remain in the County. Both 5G Council-led projects pave the way for the future.
24. The 5G Connected Forest project received Member's approval in March 2020, seven months later, the Council secured funding to establish a 5G Enabled Digital Centre in North Nottinghamshire.
 - a) **5G Connected Forest project:** £5 million was secured from the Government's 5G Rural Connected Communities funding competition to establish the world's first 5G network in a forest setting. Through the establishment of a consortium, a further £5 million was aggregated to realise a 25-month test bed and trial programme. Since the Leader of the Council launched the project in Sherwood Forest, the project team have completed the network design and undertaken research and development activities. Despite the economic impact of COVID-19 and it being in their financial interests to furlough the staff, consortium partners took the decision to keep those intended to work the project on full pay and dedicated their resources to the project.

- An illustrative map of the testbed and its four trial locations (Sherwood Forest, Thoresby Vale, Rufford Park and the Council offices in Ollerton) can be found in the background section of the report as **Appendix A**. To date, all four sites have been surveyed for deployment and trial headsets purchased for development. Partners have commenced work on the Augmented and Virtual Reality (AR/VR) content to enhance the 5G-enabled visitor experience to bring the forest's rich history to life (both fact and legend), including a focus on legendary heroic outlaw Robin Hood. Using innovative technologies, visitors will:



Be immersed in the stories of Robin Hood



Solve puzzles to unlock rewards (the aim being to encourage visitors to return to unlock more secrets of Sherwood Forest)



Experience the magic of audio global position system (GPS) guided tours



Experience a mix of video, sound and three-dimensional (3D) models to bring the experience to life



Virtually find and collect wildlife



Re-create the Sherwood Forest of yesteryear



Take their virtual creations home

- In terms of other project innovations, the deployment of robots and drones will enable entry to inaccessible or restricted areas of the forest. Forestry management and conservation leads continue to play a pivotal role in the project to ensure the maintaining health of the forest and supporting the overall environmental protection and sustainability of ecosystems. Academic partners have been undertaking activities for robotic sensing requirements and consulted stakeholders (such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds - RSPB) and other consortium partners, in terms of the operational requirements and constraints.
 - The outdoor coverage for visitor attractions will be provided around the existing amphitheatre. To provide a year-round visitor experience, especially during inclement weather, a review of available options for an indoor digital hub concluded that the Gateway Lodge (located at Forest Corner close to the visitor centre) is the ideal location for trialling the new AR/VR applications. Subject to Member's approval, it is proposed that the Council will lease the Gateway Lodge from Newark & Sherwood District Council in order for this to be used as a digital visitor attraction from Summer 2021.
- b) **5G Digital Turbine Centre:** In June 2020, the £900 million Getting Building Fund was announced by the Prime Minister, aimed at investing in shovel-ready housing and infrastructure projects creating jobs and supporting economic recovery across the country. Seizing the opportunity, the Council was successful in bringing forward a range

of projects in a very short period of time. The 5G Digital Turbine Centre project will explicitly be creating not only high-quality office accommodation and employment space within the council-owned Turbine Centre (in Worksop) but also a programme of training and business support activities to engage, inspire and develop the skills of our current and future workforces.

- The expected outcomes of this project are illustrated as follows:



- Full technical site surveys and network design are completed. The upgraded fibre roll out to the Turbine Centre will commence once the national lockdown is lifted which will be swiftly followed by deployment of the 5G network. It is currently envisaged that by Autumn 2021, the Digital Innovation Centre will start its operation whereby the SME community on-site will be able to immediately access the support.

World Wide Wildfire Workforce Proposal (4Ws)

25. Nottinghamshire County Council has the opportunity to participate in a worldwide research activity which includes 12 pilots in 12 different European countries. The overall project cost is 20 Million Euros. The desired inclusion of Sherwood Forest would result in this being the only UK-based test site. Discussion amongst the 5G Connected Forest partners and consultation with RSPB, has concluded that this is an opportunity worthy or pursuing.
26. This European Union (EU) funding opportunity is being led by the University of Leicester and involves a team of European and global partners who will be conducting research, development and innovation actions to minimize the prevalence and negative effects of wildfires. The aim is to provide live monitoring of the health of Sherwood Forest to preserve the site for future generations. This project will support ambitions for net zero carbon by 2050 and contributes to implementing a Green Economic Recovery as part of the Council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
27. There is no financial contribution required from the authority. However if successful, the Council will receive up to 200,000 Euros to cover the cost of participation. In the time available, it was not possible to obtain formal Council approval to support this funding opportunity. However an informal support letter to this initiative was provided by the Service Director, Innovation and Growth. If the University of Leicester is successful in their application, formal Council approval will be sought to receive the circa 200,000 Euros at the next available opportunity.

Reason for recommendations

28. All monies related to the 5G Connected Forest project are required to be spent by March 2022. Any delay in signing the lease agreement for the Gateway Lodge compromises both the outcomes and end date of the project. Members approval for the lease agreement is therefore recommended as it will enable the Council to immediately lead the suite of new visitor attractions to be completed before summer. The Council's participation in digital interventions are specifically aimed at stimulating economic activity and supporting the visitor economy post COVID-19 recovery, the 'do nothing' option has therefore been discounted.

Statutory and Policy Implications

29. 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

30. Whilst there are no financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report, if the 4Ws proposal is successful, the Council will be a recipient of funds as outlined in paragraph 27.

31. Approval is not being sought for any additional funding. The lease agreement for the Gateway Lodge will incur rent, service charge and running costs, for which provision has already been made within the overall £10 million project funding envelope.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In noting the considerable progress made by the Council in both deploying a new digital network across Nottinghamshire and in bringing new innovations, it is recommended that Policy Committee:

- 1) Delegates authority to the Corporate Director for Place, subject to consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair and the Group Manager, Legal and Democratic Services and the Section 151 Officer, to agree the terms for the lease to be entered into with Newark & Sherwood District Council for the Gateway Lodge to be used as a location dedicated to offer a year-round immersive attraction at Sherwood Forest.
- 2) Agrees to receive a report to formalise the Council's participation in the World Wide Wildfire Workforce project, in the event of the University of Leicester's application being successful.
- 3) Considers whether there are any further actions required and agrees to receive further reports to future meetings should any further project opportunities aligned with the Council's digital priorities emerge; and

COUNCILLOR MRS KAY CUTTS MBE
Leader of the Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Nicola McCoy-Brown, Growth and Economic Development ext. 72580

Constitutional Comments (CEH 02.02.2021)

32. The recommendations fall within the remit of Policy Committee under its terms of reference. If the bid for the World Wide Wildfire Workforce project is successful, the Council will need to consider any funding conditions that may be attached to the funding, and any procurement issues and subsidy regime considerations if applicable. Advice on these points should be sought from Legal Services as early as possible to ensure all conditions and issues are known and evaluated so that they can be included in the future report to Policy Committee should the bid be successful.

Financial Comments (SES 15/01/2021)

33. The financial implications are set out in paragraphs 30 and 31 of the report. Whilst there are no financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report, if the 4Ws proposal is successful, the Council will be a recipient of funds as outlined in paragraph 27.

34. Approval is not being sought for any additional funding. The lease agreement for the Gateway Lodge will incur rent, service charge and running costs, for which provision has already been made within the overall £10 million project funding envelope.

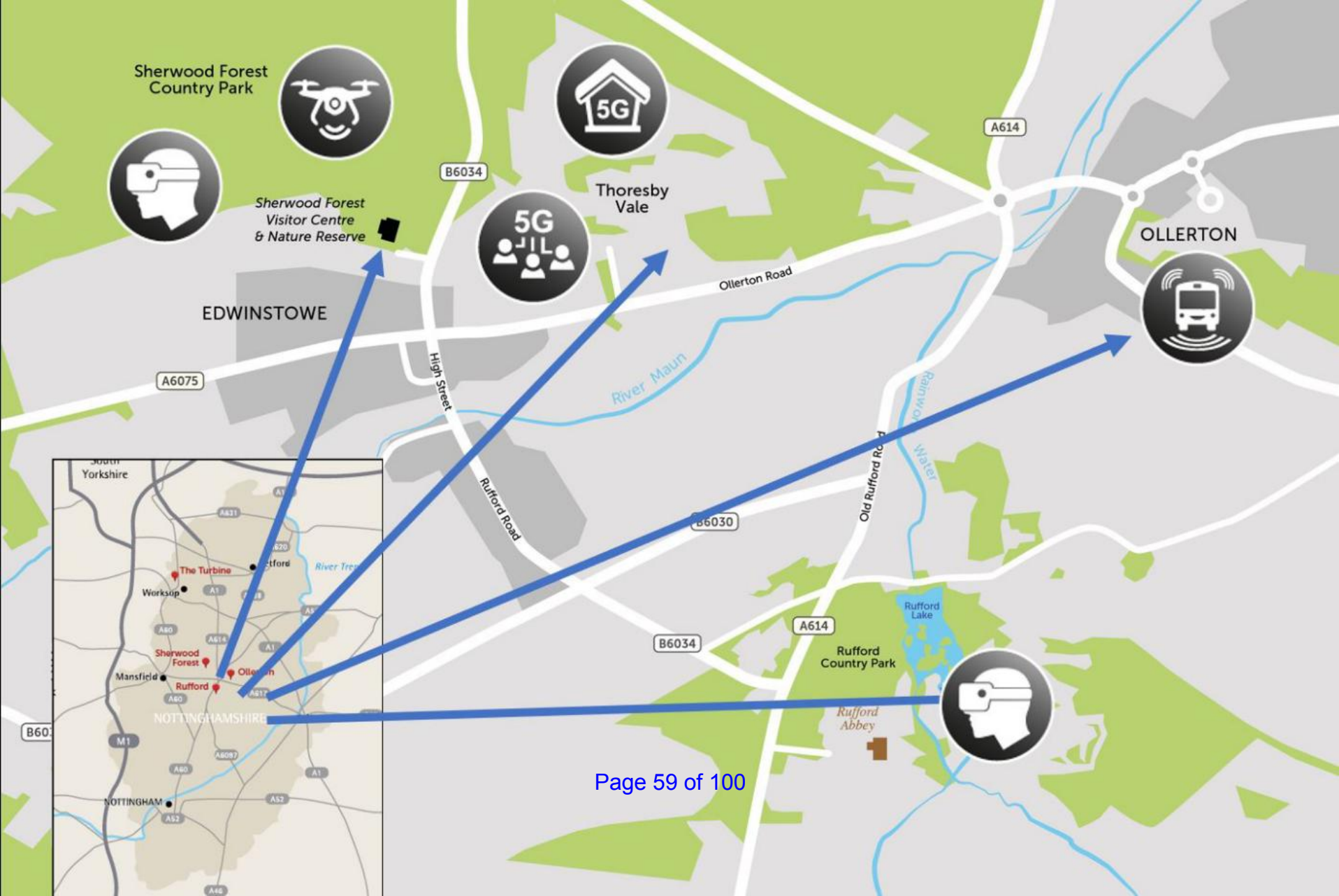
Background Papers and Published Documents

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.

- *Improving Broadband* - National Audit Office report, published on 16 October 2020, accessed online via: <https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Improving-broadband.pdf>
- [Planning for Gigabit Delivery in 2021 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)
- [Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme \(GBVS\) - UK - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
- [Building Digital UK - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
- *Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire – Resources to 31 March 2020* – Report to Policy Committee, published 13 November 2019
- *Getting Building Fund* - Report to Policy Committee, published 30 September 2020
- *Digital Connectivity in Nottinghamshire* - Report to Policy Committee, published 18 March 2020

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

- All



Sherwood Forest
Country Park



B6034

Thoresby
Vale



A614

OLLERTON



Sherwood Forest
Visitor Centre
& Nature Reserve

EDWINSTOWE

A6075

High Street

Ollerton Road

River Maun

Rufford Road

B6030

Old Rufford Road

Rainwater

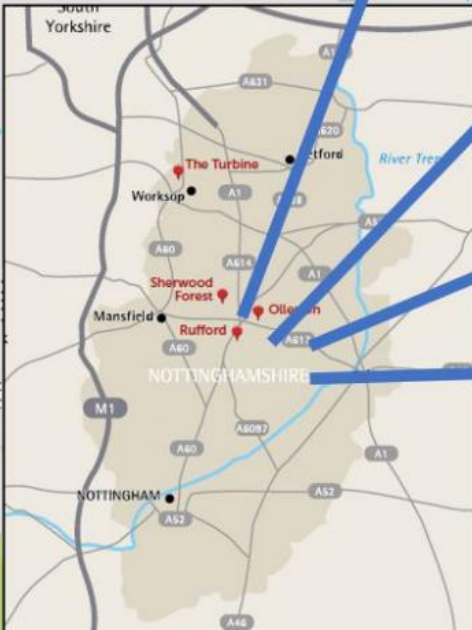
Rufford Lake

A614

Rufford Country Park

Rufford Abbey

B6034



REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS
BETWEEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to alert Members to a fully-funded grant opportunity and seek approval for the Council to lead a partnership aimed at strengthening relationships between economic development and health.

Information

2. In March 2020, Policy Committee approved the adoption of the Employment and Health Strategy 2020-30 which contains a series of actions to promote economic development whilst reducing health inequalities. The Strategy is aimed at having a positive impact on the employment opportunities and career progression of people in Nottinghamshire, especially those that are furthest from the labour market.
3. The Council recognises that mental health is important for people's ability to work, and for their productivity and impact on the wider economy. Work also plays a crucial role for people's mental health. Work provide opportunities for promoting dignity, equality and health. Strengthening people's ability to work in turn promotes economic growth and inclusion.
4. The Health Foundation is an independent charity committed to bringing about better health and health care for people in the United Kingdom (UK). The organisation's aim is a healthier population, supported by high quality health care that can be equitably accessed. A report published by them in September 2020 'Using economic development to improve health inequality', identified several case studies to help build more evidence around how economic policy can support health. The report contains six recommendations which can be found at **Appendix A**. The full report can be accessed online via the following link: <https://reader.health.org.uk/using-economic-development-to-improve-health-and-reduce-he>.
5. The Health Foundation are of the view that actions need to be driven forward and supported with strong system leadership across the various levels of government. This approach aligns with the Council's Employment and Health Strategy 2020-30.
6. To help local and regional partnerships to implement some of the ideas in their report, the Health Foundation launched a funding programme 'Economies for Healthier Lives'. Given the strong alignment to the Employment and Health Strategy 2020-2030 and as part of the Council's support to local economic recovery planning, a submission to the fund is felt to be worthy of consideration by Members.

7. The £1.72 million Economies for Healthier Lives funding programme aims to:
 - Improve the capacity and capability of economic development and public health professionals to take joint action to use economic development to improve health
 - Develop a better understanding of the mechanisms through which economic development interventions affect health outcomes
 - Support the development of metrics to monitor the health impacts of economic development interventions
 - Build understanding of how to translate the evidence base into practical action
 - Capture learning from the programme to be used to inform and change practice across the UK through wider dissemination by the Health Foundation
8. Partnerships must be led by a local authority (or a statutory regional body) and bring together a range of organisations including:
 - Public health bodies and leaders
 - An academic partner
 - A specialist partner that can provide additional topic or community engagement expertise (this could be a national representative body, a voluntary and community sector organisation or a business)
9. The programme will support up to four partnerships across the UK, with funding to a maximum of £500,000, for up to three years. A three-stage process is planned: Expression of Interest (Eol), full applications and interviews (as illustrated in **Appendix B**). Stage one of the process carries no obligation to proceed thereafter. To ensure the Council and its partners were in the running for this opportunity and to meet the immovable deadlines, Officers submitted an Eol on 29 January 2021.
10. From hereon, if successful, the expectation is that the partnership will be ready to start the funded aspect of the project within three months of securing the award, reporting on progress and the financial status throughout the award period. 10% of the award funding will be held back until the production of a final learning report.
11. From 8 March 2021, the Health Foundation expect to invite up to 15 partnerships from the Eol stage, to submit a full application for the programme. This is tentatively scheduled for 17.00 on 7 May 2021. However, the Health Foundation will be consulting with councils on the exact timeline in recognition of the pressures placed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
12. The Health Foundation aim to hold interviews (tentatively scheduled for June or July 2021) with shortlisted partnerships. Given the uncertainty around COVID-19, the interview stage process will be confirmed closer to the time. The assessment days will include a presentation and an interview. The interview panels will include external experts and Health Foundation staff.

The proposal

13. In understanding the local health and care needs of the population and through incorporating the wider determinants (employment, education, crime etc), a key outcome of this work is to identify both health inequality gaps and appropriate interventions.
14. Given its size, there are areas in Nottinghamshire of untapped potential stemming from a combination of social and economic factors (often referred to as a socio-economic challenge). The 'State of the Nation' report from the Social Mobility Commission (November 2017) ranked all English local authorities into hotspots and coldspots for every

life stage, from early years through to working lives. The East Midlands was the worst performing area in terms of social mobility in the country. Social mobility refers to the shift in an individual's social status from one status to another. The shift can either be higher, lower, inter-generational, or intra-generational, and it cannot necessarily be determined if the change is for good or bad. In Nottinghamshire, six of the seven districts were ranked as coldspots (i.e. worst social mobility outcomes). Ashfield, Newark and Sherwood, and Mansfield were ranked in the lowest 10 of the 324 local authority areas assessed.

15. It is well documented that the current COVID–19 pandemic has exacerbated challenges such as social mobility, educational attainment, mental health, health, employment and economic growth, creating a knock-on effect of reduced opportunities and resources. Along with the challenges of the pandemic, this assists us in considering our approach to recovering from COVID-19, restoring services in a way that also addresses inequity in existing health outcomes and minimises the disproportionate consequences of COVID-19 on marginalised groups. The selection of Mansfield and Ashfield as pilot areas for the grant funding opportunity is also supported by the epidemiological data on the current impact of the COVID-19 pandemic across Nottinghamshire County. As of 24 January 2021, both Mansfield and Ashfield remain the highest incidence areas within the County and both sit above the England mean and median rates of COVID cases per 100,000 population.
16. The pilot project intends to improve and address the stalled socioeconomic development and increasing health inequalities. As a result of discussions with key partners and as illustrated in the table above, it has been concluded that for the Economies for Healthier Lives funding, Ashfield and Mansfield should be the areas selected for the pilot project. The current COVID–19 pandemic has exacerbated challenges such as social mobility, educational attainment, mental health, health, employment and economic growth, creating a knock-on effect of reduced opportunities and resources.
17. This proposal shares the Council's ambition to enable everyone to achieve their potential for a healthy and productive life. Subject to Member approval to proceed, the project will build robust data intelligence of the local population and work to drive socioeconomic regeneration to increase interventions to some of Nottinghamshire's most disadvantaged groups. The primary focus will be on employment and mental wellness.
18. It is anticipated that this project will create additional resource and capacity to undertake thorough evaluations of the demography and wider determinants of this population, identify evidence-based impactful interventions and sustainably meet health and care outcomes, thereby reducing inequalities, as illustrated below:



- Gather and utilise data intelligence from several experts, internal and external sources and at a system level to identify where health inequalities lie



- Use academic partners to conduct evidence-based research to understand what the most impactable interventions are and how these can be applied to improve the health and care of this population at a localised level. This will include researching the wider determinants (transport, environment, accessibility etc) and offer targeted interventions that will address the diversity of the Ashfield and Mansfield population



- Building on the work already undertaken by the Integrated Care System Population Health Management team 'Mental Health COVID -19 Rapid Assessment', prioritise what and how to increase the socio-economic regeneration of Ashfield and Mansfield can be achieved



- Consider educational skills strategies that improve basic skill levels and enable people to access sustainable employment

19. Prior to the pandemic, Ashfield and Mansfield were already experiencing significant variations in financial inequalities and deprivation. COVID-19 has seen the working status of those within the population change negatively and with it brings challenges for families and communities. Those people who are self-employed have also been significantly affected. While furlough continues to support this cohort, redundancy rates are increasing, as is personal debt.

20. Place-based working is a person-centred, bottom-up approach used to meet the unique needs of people in one given location by working together to use the best available resources and collaborate to gain local knowledge and insight. The proposal builds on the Council's place-based work with Nottingham Trent University (NTU) and their vision and ambitions for the area. NTU have been a key academic partner, along with the following (initial) partners to bring forward the Eol:

Organisation	Role
Ashfield and Mansfield District Councils	District local authority partners
Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System	System wide partner
National Health Service Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Partnerships, Primary Care Partnerships	Local delivery partners
Mansfield Community and Voluntary Service	Specialist community partner

21. The Council (as project lead) and its partners may consider taking the learning from this project and replicating in other parts of the county at some point in the future.

Other Options Considered

22. Through this funding there is an opportunity to begin to improve both health and economic productivity in Nottinghamshire through a focus on the interaction between health and work. There is potential to develop a more joined up approach that enables everyone to enjoy health, wellbeing and economic prosperity. Given the many and significant challenges facing people, some of which has been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the 'do-nothing' option was discounted.

Reason for Recommendation

23. The proposed project supports the trio of Council strategic plans: Council Plan 2017-2021, the COVID-19 crisis Economic Recovery Action Plan 2020 to 2022 and the Employment and Health Strategy 2020-2030 objectives. The data and intelligence

provided by the project will lead to practical support and guidance for people of Ashfield and Mansfield who have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Statutory and Policy Implications

24. 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

25. This is a grant funding opportunity of up to £500,000, in-kind resources of staff time will be required. It is not expected that cash match funding is required.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Policy Committee:

- 1) Endorse the Expression of Interest submitted in line with the proposal detailed in the report.
- 2) Subject to the Expression of Interest being supported by the Health Foundation, a full application be developed and submitted to a future meeting in line with the proposed timetable detailed in Appendix B to the report.

COUNCILLOR MRS KAY CUTTS MBE
Leader of the Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Nicola McCoy-Brown, Growth and Economic Development ext. 72580

Constitutional Comments (KK 11/01/2021)

26. The proposals in this report are within the remit of Policy Committee.

Financial Comments (SES 12/01/2021)

27. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 25 of the report. This is a grant funding opportunity of up to £500,000, in-kind resources of staff time will be required. It is not expected that cash match funding is required.

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.

- *COVID-19 Crisis Economic Recovery Action Plan 2020 to 2022*, accessible online via: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/policy-library/78888/covid-19-crisis-economic-recovery-action-plan-2020-to-2022>
- *Nottinghamshire COVID-19 Economic Recovery Framework*, report to COVID-19 Resilience, Recovery and Renewal Committee, published on 16 July 2020
- *Nottinghamshire Employment and Health Strategy*, accessible online via <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/policy-library/72899/employment-and-health-strategy-2020-30>

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

- All

Appendix A: Using economic development to improve health inequality report recommendations

The research report recommends the government's priorities should be six-fold:

- Broadening the focus of economic policy beyond GDP to promote more inclusive and socially cohesive policies at a national level.
- Ensuring that the COVID-19 response measures do not lead to a widening of the attainment gap in educational outcomes, which could exacerbate existing inequalities and hold individuals and communities back in the future.
- Investing in lifelong education and skills development. Given the pandemic's unequal impact on jobs and workers, this should mean focused investment in employment support and career guidance for young people entering the workforce, those in sectors facing the most financial instability and those who may need to change jobs due to being at higher risk of complications from COVID-19.
- Introducing local and regional measures of equitable and sustainable economic development against which to assess progress in 'levelling up' opportunities across the country and between socioeconomic groups.
- Targeting growth incentives towards sectors that contribute to sustainable development and growth in high-quality jobs and, in parallel, promoting better quality of jobs for workers in low-paid and insecure roles.
- Devolving more investment funding for cities and local authorities, so that local strategic investments are fully informed by local context and investing in the capability and capacity of local enterprise partnerships to create inclusive economies.

Appendix B: Timetable

The Health Foundation will consult applicants on timings before confirming timelines for subsequent assessment stages. Given the uncertainty around COVID-19, the assessment day process will be confirmed closer to the time.

Expressions of interest open	9 November 2020
Deadline for expressions of interest	12.00 (midday) 29 January 2021
Invitation to submit full applications	From Monday 8 March 2021
Deadline for full applications	17.00 on Friday 7 May 2021 (tentative)
Invitation to attend an assessment day	June 2021 (tentative)
Assessment days	June/ July 2021 (tentative)
Teams notified of final decision	July 2021 (tentative)

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

HIGH SPEED 2 (HS2) ANNUAL UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an annual update on progress of delivery of HS2 growth proposals at Toton and Chetwynd Barracks.
2. To propose that future reporting be provided as part of updates on the East Midlands Development Corporation Programme, including progress relating to the Interim Vehicle (to be known as EM DevCo Limited and referred to as such throughout this report) and the wider initiative known as “The Alchemy Project”.

Information

3. Nottinghamshire County Council, working alongside our partners, has been at the forefront of plans to deliver an ambitious vision for the proposed East Midlands HS2 Hub Station at Toton. Specifically, the Leader of the Council and the Deputy Chief Executive continue to have a central role in providing essential support to the promotion of the HS2 Growth Strategy. Through sustained engagement with neighbouring councils and local stakeholders, the Leader of the Council and Deputy Chief Executive have been effective in mobilising significant regional support for the full delivery of the Eastern Leg of HS2, including the HS2 Station at Toton.
4. In recognition of the importance to the Nottinghamshire economy, the Council established a delivery team in 2018 to support partnership working through the delivery stage of the East Midlands HS2 Growth Strategy 2017. The Growth Strategy sets out how HS2 can be a catalyst for growth with Toton & Chetwynd Barracks at the centre of an East Midlands Growth Zone providing thousands of new jobs and quality homes. In addition to the County Council funding previously agreed by Policy Committee, the work undertaken by the delivery team in relation to the HS2 Hub Station at Toton is also supported by funding from the Department for Transport. It is overseen through Toton Delivery Board and in line with previous Policy Committee decisions, the work is subject to an annual report.
5. Previous reports presented to Policy Committee on 18 March 2020, 15 February 2019 and 14 February 2018 outline the importance of HS2 related growth to Nottinghamshire, and specifically how the development of an East Midlands hub at Toton is integral to this. The Council has already moved to secure future development commensurate with growth strategy ambitions through the acquisition of land in the vicinity of Toton Lane (approved at the Policy Committee held on 13 November 2019).

6. Building on the ambition outlined in the East Midlands HS2 Growth Strategy, in the summer of 2018, the Government invited the region to develop proposals for a dedicated delivery vehicle to be led through the Midlands Engine partnership. This work is also hosted by the Council and a programme team established that also incorporates the aforementioned delivery team including a Programme Director across both programmes of work to ensure an integrated approach.
7. Proposals for a Development Corporation in the area have since been developed with the potential to deliver 84,000 jobs and at least 4,500 homes. Toton and Chetwynd Barracks is a key site within the proposals with an exciting vision for it to be a new destination for knowledge-driven jobs and an exemplar zero carbon mixed use community, showcasing next generation living, with a HS2 hub station offering unrivalled connectivity. Two other strategic sites are within scope of the proposals, Ratcliffe Power Station and East Midlands Airport Area. Proposals to establish EM DevCo Limited were considered at Policy Committee in December 2020 at which the establishment of the vehicle was approved. Further background to the East Midlands Development Corporation (EMDC) programme was reported at Policy Committee in February 2020.
8. As highlighted above, the work supporting HS2 Growth Strategy delivery has been linked to the EMDC programme supported by the same team, but with its own governance arrangements. The programmes will become even more closely aligned with the establishment of EM DevCo Limited.
9. The Prime Minister announced on 11 February 2020 a commitment to delivering the “Y shaped” HS2 network in full. This followed the conclusion of the Oakervee Review into HS2. One of the Oakervee review’s recommendations was that Phase 2b of HS2 (the line proposed from Birmingham to Leeds including the new station at Toton) needed to be considered jointly with other plans for rail investment in the Midlands and the North, including Midlands Engine Rail, Northern Powerhouse Rail, the Midlands Mainline and other large-scale rail projects. This area of work will deliver an Integrated Rail Plan (IRP) for the Midlands and the North, which will seek to ensure that rail investment schemes in the Midlands and the North are scoped, designed, delivered and can be operated as an integrated network. The IRP will also identify opportunities to reduce costs and deliver early benefits from investments more quickly.
10. The National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) was appointed to undertake an assessment of proposed major rail schemes to inform the IRP. Their report was published on 15 December 2020. The NIC assessment sets out a range of packages to meet rail needs across the Midlands and the North for Ministers to consider. Some of the proposed packages would see the eastern leg of HS2 terminated at East Midlands Parkway. If selected, these options would mean there would be no HS2 station at Toton and no direct HS2 connectivity to Leeds and onward to York and Newcastle (via the East Coast Main Line) as currently proposed. Local leaders have made it clear that delivery in full of the eastern leg is required to enable the Government’s levelling up agenda to be achieved and unlock transformational economic growth. Failure to deliver a station at Toton and improved connectivity between the East Midlands and the North would deprive the region’s residents and communities of desperately needed new transport infrastructure and fail to address chronic underinvestment in the East Midlands.
11. At the time of writing the IRP is awaited and anticipated in early 2021. The NIC report is just one component of the evidence Ministers will review when preparing the IRP. Nottinghamshire County Council and its partners still have a major role to play in the finalisation of the IRP. In the meantime, the region’s Leaders continue to make the case

for delivery of the Eastern leg of HS2 in full, including the Hub Station at Toton. In addition to discussions and correspondence with the NIC and Government at all levels, representations have also been made direct to Government through the HS2 East and Connecting Britain partnerships; the Leader of the Council has met personally with the Secretary of State for Transport and the HS2 Minister on a number of occasions. Darren Henry MP also organised a Westminster Hall debate on the matter and is supported by the County

12. The IRP will outline the Government's policy response and decisions relating to the delivery of HS2. No final decisions will be made regarding HS2 delivery until that point.

Progress to Date and Future Work Programme

13. Significant progress has been made towards the objectives of HS2 Growth Strategy since the last update to Policy Committee in March 2020, including:

- Secured a further £900,000 of Department for Transport grant funding to progress key projects, in addition to the existing £900,000 already used to procure expert advice and deliver masterplanning and local connectivity commissions.
- Delivered an innovative virtual public consultation on the Toton & Chetwynd masterplan proposals. Despite the restrictions on face to face consultations, engagement was able to reach significant numbers of people with the consultation website receiving over 4,000 unique views. To maximise inclusivity, "manual" methods of engagement were used for people who were unable or did not wish to access the virtual room. Printed copies of materials were also sought and distributed to around 30 households.
- Commissioned work to develop a vision for environmental works and the "station in a park" concept alongside a wider strategy for how best to enhance and protect the environmental assets including canal and river in the vicinity. This work reflects the potential for the new station to be a gateway to the wider region.
- Close working with partners at HS2 Ltd and Department for Transport to ensure the region's voice is heard and important working relationships are maintained during the development of the IRP.
- Supported the progression of complementary work on the EMDC programme including coordinating a regional connectivity working group in support of the 'Access to Toton' initiative.
- Continued secretariat support for governance structures that ensure appropriate accountability and direction.

14. The future work programme will see the work to deliver the East Midlands HS2 Growth Strategy fully integrated with that of the EMDC programme and undertaken by the soon to be established EM DevCo Limited. The programme for Toton will need to be responsive to the outcome of the IRP but is anticipated to include:

- Further consultation and development of the Toton and Chetwynd Masterplan proposals, leading into the anticipated adoption of a supplementary planning document by Broxtowe Borough Council in Spring 2021.
- Finalising an environmental works strategy and a "station in a park" concept design in April 2021.
- Collaboration with local authority partners including Derbyshire, Broxtowe and Erewash Borough Councils on connectivity projects that support the objectives of both the HS2 Growth Strategy and Stapleford and Long Eaton Town Deals.

- Further developing proposals for the establishment of an “Innovation Campus” and Skills Academy at Toton and Chetwynd.
- Advancing proposals for Toton & Chetwynd Link Road and funding arrangements.
- Continuing to build strong links and relationships with Stapleford and Long Eaton Town Deals.
- Continuing to work collaboratively with key stakeholders such as Department for Transport and Highways England to deliver connectivity improvements needed. For example, those included in the Access to Toton May 2020 report, including improvements to the M1 and A52.

15. To date the HS2 Growth work has been subject to an annual report. The work of EM DevCo Limited will also be subject to annual review. It is proposed that future reports to the relevant Committee on the EMDC programme and HS2 Growth Strategy delivery are consolidated into a single reporting process to better reflect the integrated nature of the work programme(s).

Other Options Considered

16. Separate reports for the HS2 Growth Strategy delivery and EM DevCo Limited could be maintained. There is a risk that this would lead to duplication and a lack of clarity regarding the interdependent nature of the programmes.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

17. The EMDC programme will enable delivery of East Midlands HS2 Growth Strategy ambitions and take them even further. Fully consolidating the two programmes will provide a more efficient and coordinated delivery of the shared goals of the programmes. In previous years additional funding support has been requested for the work linked to the HS2 Growth Strategy. The request for funding has been subsumed into the proposals for the EM DevCo Limited as reported and agreed at the December 2020 meeting of this Committee.

Statutory and Policy Implications

18. 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

19. There are no financial implications arising from this report. As indicated in the 18 March 2020 Policy Committee paper, no further additional funds are required beyond 2020-21 to support the HS2 programme. The Policy Committee held on 9 December 2020 approved Council contributions of £0.5m annual funding for the EM DevCo Limited (2021-2024). This will be reviewed at the end of year 1 and 2 against progress and relevant milestones. Future HS2 programme work will be covered within this allocation.

Human Resources Implications

20. None directly arising from this report. Resourcing and staffing of this programme will now be considered as part of the establishment of EM DevCo Limited.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

21. Environmental considerations are integral to this work programme. The growth plans developed seek to safeguard and enhance the area's precious natural resources, reversing years of pollution and environmental degradation caused by industry and creating a new low carbon future, restoring the natural capital of the area for generations to come.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that Policy Committee:

- 1) Agrees to a single reporting process on the EMDC programme/ EM DevCo Limited and HS2 Growth Delivery.
- 2) Considers whether any actions are required in relation to the detail contained within this report.
- 3) Recognise the work of the Council in supporting and hosting the delivery of the East Midlands HS2 Growth Strategy ambitions, alongside our partners.

COUNCILLOR MRS KAY CUTTS MBE
Leader of the Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Adrian Smith, Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director Place, adrian.smith@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (CEH 11/01/2021)

22. The recommendations fall within the remit of Policy Committee under its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (RWK 14/01/2021)

23. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from the 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.

- [Policy Committee Report – 9 December 2020](#)
- [Policy Committee Report – 18 March 2020](#)
- [Policy Committee Report – 12 February 2020](#)

- [Policy Committee Report – 13 February 2019](#)
- [Policy Committee Report – 14 February 2018](#)
- [VirtualEngage Toton & Chetwynd Masterplan Proposals Consultation Website](#)
(Consultation ran 12 October – 22 November 2020; material still available to view)
- [Rail Needs Assessment for the Midlands and the North: Final report – 15 December 2020](#)
- [Access to Toton – May 2020](#)
- [Integrated Rail Plan for the Midlands and the North: Terms of Reference](#)
- [Oakervee Review](#)
- [East Midlands HS2 Growth Strategy – September 2017](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**SUPPORT TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BUSINESSES: POST-BREXIT TRANSITION
ON TRADE AND OTHER ISSUES****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval to allocate up to £26,250 from the Council's EU Transition funds, to cover a proposal to support Nottinghamshire businesses following the signing of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

Information

2. On 24 December 2020, the United Kingdom (UK) and the European Union (EU) signed off a Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) which came into place on 1 January 2021. The agreement will form the basis for UK-EU relations going forwards, with a review built in every 5 years; talks will continue about how to implement it most effectively. Online links to the UK-EU trade agreement and to supportive documentation, which contains new rules for living, working and trading together, can be found in the background section of this report.
3. New rules apply to travel and doing business with Europe. The UK and EU have agreed to some identical rules now. If one side takes exception to the changes, they can trigger a dispute, which could ultimately lead to tariffs (changes on imports) being imposed on some goods in the future. Many other details will follow the principles agreed in the TCA and at the time of writing this report, decisions are still to be made on data sharing and on financial services for example.
4. The Government's Brexit checker enables a personalised list of actions for individuals, businesses and families and is accessed on line at: <https://www.gov.uk/transition>. This 'checker tool' provides the facility to sign up to general alerts and updates.
5. Nottinghamshire County Council has supported businesses through the EU transition period, including the delivery of services, signposting residents, partners and businesses to any advice, guidance and information they may need. This has been facilitated through the Council's partnership with the D2N2 Growth Hub notably through the website at <https://www.d2n2growthhub.co.uk/international/brexit/> coupled with direct support in the form of resilience events, webinars and direct advice through the Council's Business Advisers within the Growth and Economic Development team.
6. Additionally, the Council's Trading Standards team have been advising on the transition from the EU and businesses products and services, including changes to new UK conformity marks <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/business-community/trading-standards/business-advice/commercial-services>
7. To support preparations for this, Nottinghamshire County Council received two lots of £87,500 from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in financial years

2018 to 2019 and 2019 to 2020. The allocations were intended to be spent on planning and strengthening the Council's resources. It is also understood that some additional funds were allocated to East Midlands Councils.

8. The money allocated was to be spent on resources to ensure the council had the capacity to provide timely and accurate information to businesses and residents who have questions on how Britain's exit from the EU affects them. Over the course of 2020, alongside partners and financed through this allocation, the Council supported a series of on-line events, designed to support businesses over preparations for EU Exit, in anticipation of the TCA. Facilitated by the East Midlands Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber), this culminated in a Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire-wide conference in late November 2020 when over 200 businesses participated in the sessions.
9. The strength of the long-standing relationship between the county council and the Chamber is built on improving outcomes to assist the people of Nottinghamshire to access more good jobs and feel the benefits of economic growth, coupled with a commitment to helping businesses thrive. Feedback from the on-line events was positive and offered insight into what additional support may be required. As the Council and the Chamber play a critical role in making a success of the transition from the EU, officers working in partnership with the Chamber have analysed the best ways to provide business support to help Nottinghamshire businesses and maximise the opportunities from international trade.
10. The outcome is the proposal to support businesses during 2021, presented at **Appendix A**. Three distinct areas are covered, offering: specialised workshops; a virtual Nottinghamshire International Trade Conference; and the establishment of a Nottinghamshire International Trade Forum. Member approval is sought on allocating up to £26,250 from the Council's Brexit funds to cover the interventions proposed.

Other Options Considered

11. Members have always remained steadfast in supporting Nottinghamshire businesses. As the transition period has now ended, this report proposes support to businesses as they continue to operate in the new trading arrangements with the EU. It is for that reason, the 'do nothing' option was discounted.

Reason for Recommendation

12. Many Nottinghamshire businesses employ people from EU countries or import and export goods and supplies. It is important that businesses are supported to avoid any potential disruption to their business and maximise the opportunities available.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. 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

14. The Council's Brexit fund balance of £151,000 is currently held in a reserve. There are enough funds to cover all three interventions outlined in this proposal.

RECOMMENDATION

1) To agree to the business support proposal as outlined in this report and in Appendix A and approve the appropriate allocation from the Council's Brexit reserve funds.

COUNCILLOR MRS KAY CUTTS MBE

Leader of the Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Nicola McCoy-Brown, Growth and Economic Development ext. 72580

Constitutional Comments (KK 08/01/2021)

15. The proposals in this report are within the remit of Policy Committee.

Financial Comments (DJK 23/12/2020)

16. The cost of running the workshops, conference and trade group will be funded from the Brexit reserve, as detailed in the financial implications within Paragraph 14.

Background Papers and Published Documents

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

- The UK-EU trade agreement:
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/948119/EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement 24.12.2020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/948119/EU-UK_Trade_and_Cooperation_Agreement_24.12.2020.pdf)
- The UK Government Summary Explainer:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/948093/TCA_SUMMARY_PDF.pdf
- EU Explanatory Materials incl FAQs
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2531
- *Planning for possible no-deal exit from the European Union*, Report to Policy Committee, published 18 September 2019

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

- All



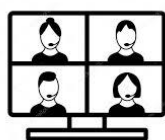
SPECIALISED WORKSHOPS

These workshops would be delivered to smaller groups of sector-based businesses who have very specific but important complex issues to contend with to allow them to continue to trade with the EU from 2021 onwards. Subjects will reflect the final trade deal with insight into emerging issues and requirements, including:

- Trading with Northern Ireland
- VAT treatment across EU borders
- Customs declarations / triangulation of goods from UK into / out of EU

The East Midlands Chamber of Commerce (EMCC) would deliver five of these workshops remotely, procure specialist speakers, provide the delivery platform and selectively promote the events.

The cost for delivering a programme of five workshops would be £5,250



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONFERENCE

This virtual Conference will focus on the recasting of trade relationships in a post-Brexit world and what it means for business, the role of trade in the economic recovery, and the importance of international cooperation in boosting global trade.

The Chamber would deliver this conference virtually, procure specialist keynote speakers, including from the Department of International Trade; provide the delivery platform and will widely promote the event in tandem with the Council.

This would seek to engage with 300 individual Nottinghamshire businesses.

The cost for delivering the conference would be £9,000



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE INTERNATIONAL TRADE FORUM

This group will come together virtually to share best practice from various sized businesses in different sectors, but all interested in increasing international trade in the post-Brexit world. The group will meet on a monthly basis for up to 12 months with a focus on 'live learning' via Action Learning Sets and experiential exchanges.

The Chamber would identify participants in collaboration with the Council and local business groups, provide the delivery platform, organise the meetings, provide facilitation and expertise and procure specialised speakers.

This would seek to engage with 150 individual businesses over the course of 12 months.

The cost for delivering the shared learning group for 12 months would be £12,000

REPORT OF LEADER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL**TRANSFORMING CITIES FUND – SCHEME UPDATE AND FUNDING AGREEMENTS****Purpose of the Report**

1. For the County Council to approve the acceptance of a grant for £7.910m from the local Transforming Cities Fund, vary the Capital Programme as appropriate and agree the planned next steps to develop and progress those public transport programme proposals affecting the County network.

Information

2. In March 2020 Government announced that Nottingham and Derby had been successful in securing £161million of grant funding to deliver the measures outlined in Tranche 2 of the Transforming Cities Fund bid, which is being funded in full.
3. The Transforming Cities Fund vision is to support sustainable growth and significantly contribute to the carbon neutral plan, local air quality plan objectives and support current local transport restart in response to Covid-19. Nottingham City Council led and developed the bids and is designated as the accountable body and lead contact with the Department for Transport (DfT).
4. The Transforming Cities Fund programme is focused on four key themes:
 - City Centre Connectivity (focused on rail/bus station, city centre public realm and interchange facilities at key transport nodes),
 - Strategic Derby – Nottingham – East Midlands Airport (EMA) connectivity,
 - Nottingham urban growth corridors, and
 - Derby urban growth corridors.
5. To ensure robust project management across the programme, delivery will be led across seven packages, as outlined in Appendix A.
6. Delivery of the Transforming Cities programme will take place over four years. Whilst at this stage it is unclear what the Government's longer-term recovery response will be, continued investment in infrastructure, will help the conurbation to maintain and grow its previously high levels of public transport usage and help support carbon reduction and local air quality improvements as well as improving health and reducing congestion.

Nottinghamshire Scheme Details and Objectives

7. The purpose of this section is to provide members with details of the scheme opportunities within Nottinghamshire. Nottingham City Council have approved their TCF programme report identifying the elements detailed in Appendix A as being those that they are willing

to fund through this programme. Nottinghamshire County Council was not eligible to bid to this funding stream, and most of the bid submission work was led by the City, however the fund presents an opportunity to fund works to the County network, at no cost to this authority.

8. Appendix B detail the packages of work being proposed to the County network. To manage the overall programme, including making any changes to the scope of individual programme elements or moving funds between existing approved budgets, Nottingham City Council has established a Board for which it is seeking representation ideally from all relevant parties, including Nottinghamshire County Council. They have requested a County Councillor nomination to this Board.

Construction Delivery / Next steps

9. It is proposed that the construction will be subject to a further Communities and Place Committee approval and confirmation of TCF budget availability. Works will be undertaken using a mixture of procurement routes through both Via EM and the Medium Schemes Framework 3 (MSF3) provided through the Midlands Highway Alliance (MHA), which Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council are part of.
10. Contact has yet to be made with stakeholders affected by the schemes, and meetings with various interested parties will need to be arranged.
11. Relevant local Members will be contacted to discuss the chosen options for each scheme and this dialogue with Members will continue as schemes progress. Members will also be given notice of any forthcoming consultation events. Subject to this Member consultation, public consultation will be scheduled in advance of any necessary planning application submission. Following this and detailed design and consultation, schemes will need to be taken to a future Communities and Place Committee for approval before scheme delivery.
12. Members are advised that some of the proposals that have been put forward in this report may be subject to review and/or not developed further in favour of more deliverable proposals contained within the bid. All proposals that impact on the County Council network will be brought back to Communities and Place Committee, before a decision is made to approve schemes to proceed. It is understood that there is flexibility within the funding awarded to transfer funds to other projects already detailed as part of the bid or more deliverable similar projects that are identified as further work is completed, but this is at the approval of the Board referenced in para 8.

Funding

13. Latest scheme cost estimates included in the TCF bid is shown in Table 1 below. Nottinghamshire County Council has not committed any funding to this programme and the entire budget is being provided by Nottingham City Council from its TCF award. As the bottom 4 elements in the table (shown in bold font) below are being delivered and managed by the County the programme manager will need to closely manage the programme to ensure the total expenditure on this programme does not exceed budget availability. Nottingham City Council has provided a draft 'Grant Offer Letter' to cover the budget for these four elements.
14. It is recognised that there is scope to move funds between projects within the programme, but where costs are known to need more than available budget then a report will need to

be taken to the Board to either approve the additional expenditure or remove that element from the overall programme. As detailed in this report, Nottinghamshire is not conditioned by acceptance to delivering all elements of the bid, as all of these projects are subject to further detailed design, consultation and any necessary statutory processes. It is anticipated that there will need to be variations between budget headings as further technical work is undertaken and some projects may not prove to be deliverable.

Table 1: TCF Current Scheme Cost Estimate Summary

New ped/cycle bridge	£9.275m
A453 / A6005 cycle corridors	£6.803m
A612 cycle corridor	£0.237m
DRT to EMA	£1.000m
Park and Ride facility	£2.400m
Bus priority to support P&R	£4.851m
PT signal priority area-wide	£0.359m
Extension of bus/ULEV on A612	£0.300m

Timescales

15. The indicative timetable for delivery of this programme is 2020/21 to 2022/23. The grant offer will provide the following funding profile:
 - 2020/21 - £1.394m
 - 2021/22 - £3.080m
 - 2022/23 - £3.436m.
16. It is recognised that there will need to be some flexibility to move funds between years, but there is a need to show progress to the Department of Transport on this programme.

Planning

17. Planning permission would be required to construct the park and ride scheme, this would be sought later in 2021 if an appropriate scheme can be agreed. An environmental screening assessment would be submitted to the LPA later this year seeking confirmation as to whether an Environment Statement would be needed for the package of works.
18. NCC would construct any Scheme pursuant to the planning permission granted and will be responsible for the discharge of planning obligations.

Further scheme/programme development, design and consultation

19. Each of the programmes and schemes detailed in this report is still subject to the necessary consultation, statutory undertakings and other issues arising from feasibility studies, detailed scheme investigation, planning and design; and value for money considerations. This will involve consultation and/or pro-active information provision on some of the larger schemes. For most individual schemes statutory or non-statutory consultation will be undertaken with affected households and businesses only (i.e. households or businesses along the route of a proposed scheme).
20. Formal consultation will be undertaken on all schemes that require statutory consultation. These include any schemes that require a formal Traffic Regulation Order. Non-statutory consultation, or information provision (i.e. informing people that works will take place) will

also be undertaken with households and businesses immediately adjacent to schemes that fall wholly within the highway boundary such as new cycleways.

21. The project manager responsible for the delivery of the scheme will ensure that County Council members are also advised of any proposed consultation prior to it occurring; and will liaise with communications and marketing colleagues where appropriate. All scheme elements will be subject to further independent business case justification works as well as requiring further formal Committee approval before any delivery within Nottinghamshire.

Other Options Considered

22. There have been numerous options considered through the development of this bid to assist in the decision-making process. A Business Case was submitted to the DfT as part of the bid process which outlines the process of option development throughout the preliminary design stage, as well as the schemes affordability and Value for Money.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

23. The package of scheme will unlock major developments sites throughout the Nottingham conurbation and enhance opportunities to travel by sustainable modes of transport. Encouraging an increase in journeys by low carbon, sustainable travel modes will contribute to provide wider air quality, health and climate change objectives.

Statutory and Policy Implications

24. 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.

Finance Implications

25. The bid was submitted by Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire has committed no match to this programme through the successful bid process. Some elements of the work in the County will be commissioned direct, with County approval, to Via but the public transport elements will be funded through a grant agreement with the City Council. A variation to the capital programme will be required to accept the award and deliver the programme.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is **RECOMMENDED** that:

1. The grant offer from the Transforming Cities Fund Bid be accepted and the capital programme be varied by £7.910m, in order to enable the delivery of those public transport programme elements which affect the County network.
2. The overall approach of the proposals and next steps in project delivery as detailed in paragraphs 9 to 12 be supported in principle.

3. The Transforming Cities Programme Steering Board be added to the Register of Outside Bodies and an appointment to the Board be arranged via the Ruling Group Business Manager.

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts
Leader of the County Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Kevin Sharman, Team Manager, Transport Planning and Programme Development, T – 0115 977 2970

Constitutional Comments (KK 18/01/20)

26. The proposals in this report are within the remit of the Policy Committee

Financial Comments (GB 15/01/2021)

27. It is proposed that the capital programme is varied to incorporate the £7.910m works to be delivered by Nottinghamshire County Council as set out in this report, funded fully from external funding.

Background Papers and Published Documents

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All wards and Members within Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe plus the Hucknall wards within Ashfield.

Nottingham Projects

Package 1

Schemes within this package include:

- Increasing the number of parking spaces at Tram Park & Ride sites.
- Improving access to the Nottingham Enterprise Zone via Thane Road.

Package 2

This package focuses on public transport technology improvements along key corridors to help reduce bus journey times and make them more reliable. Schemes to be delivered include:

- Bus lane priority.
- Upgrading the signals at key junctions to improve bus reliability on major routes.

Package 3

The package will help improve passenger information and make travel payment simpler and more convenient. Schemes to be delivered include:

- Improving real time information for public transport across the region.
- Upgrading the Robin Hood ticketing system, making it more flexible, and introducing contactless payment.

Package 4

These projects offer walking and cycling route improvements to encourage an increase in sustainable commuting. The package will deliver:

- Improvements along key routes to employment sites, potentially including a new bridge over the River Trent supporting the Waterside regeneration.
- Upgrading cycle links between Nottingham Derby and East Midlands Airport growth area.

Package 5

This package focuses on integrated transport measures to support the take up of electric vehicles and active travel:

- Expansion of the D2N2 chargepoint network.
- Development of Demand Responsive Transit options to serve the East Midlands Airport growth area, to provide better connections from the urban fringe and public transport interchange points to key employment sites.

Derby projects

Package 6

This package captures the projects included in the programme that will be managed and procured by Derby City Council.

Nottinghamshire Projects

Package 7

This package captures the projects included in the programme that will be project managed and procured by Nottinghamshire County Council. These include:

- a new bus based Park & Ride facility off Leapool roundabout to serve commuters from the A614 and A60, alongside bus priority and signal upgrades along the A60, subject to further conversations and negotiations with stakeholders – including landowners.
- Bestwood and Arnold Bus Lane improvements, to improve connectivity between and into the two district centres and the new Park & Ride site.
- Traffic light priority at junctions across the Greater Nottingham area.

Schemes on or impacting on Nottinghamshire network**Package 4**

A new pedestrian and cycle bridge over the Trent, probably between Lady Bay Bridge and Holme Pierrepont Watersports Centre. In addition, design work will be undertaken to enhance pedestrian and cycle facilities over Lady Bay Bridge as well as road junction improvements to improve access to the new and existing bridge. These works to be procured through a direct agreement between Nottingham City and the Midlands Highway Alliance or existing frameworks, depending on which bridge scheme is taken forward. All financial and commercial risks arising from the delivery of this scheme will sit with the City Council unless the chosen option is to upgrade the existing Lady Bay Bridge which is currently maintained and operated by the County Council.

Cycle corridors between Nottingham and Derby via the A6005 corridor (Long Eaton, Chilwell, and Beeston) and Nottingham and East Midlands Airport via the A453 old road with a spur to Sutton Bonington. These works are outside the City and in Nottinghamshire County Council's area. Works will therefore be delivered by the County Council's, highways company Via East Midlands, who will be procured through the City Council's framework. These facilities although of a high standard are additional and not intended to remove capacity from the existing network.

A612 cycle corridor extension into Nottinghamshire beyond Vale Road. These works are outside the City and in Nottinghamshire County Council's area. Works will therefore be delivered by the County Council's, highways company Via East Midlands, who will be procured through the City Council's framework. These facilities although of a high standard are additional and not intended to remove capacity from the existing network.

Package 5

Development of a Demand Responsive Transit system to serve the East Midlands Gateway, to provide better connection from the urban fringe to key employment sites. This is a procurement exercise for a public transport operator to provide a demand responsive transport solution to help workers and job seekers access the employment opportunities in this location. NCC will lead a procurement exercise in partnership with Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire County Councils, and East Midlands Airport.

Package 7

Provision of a bus based Park and Ride facility in the vicinity of Leapool roundabout on the A60 with supporting bus priority measures along the corridor to complement measures already in operation within the City. The package also includes more general bus priority measures by upgrading multiple signals across the conurbation to give priority to approaching public transport vehicles.

Any such facility will need, if approved, the full statutory and planning processes, as well as agreement from landowners affected by the proposal, including consultation to be completed before it is delivered. As such this package of work carries a significant amount of risk in terms of deliverability.

Extension of the existing Bus / ULEV lane between Private Road No. 1 and Victoria Park Way along the A612 Colwick Loop Road. This facility will not impact on existing traffic capacity and will improve the public transport offer to Netherfield and the existing retail park as well as to new development, like Teal Close, on that corridor.

All of the work undertaken within package 7 is to be commissioned and delivered by Nottinghamshire County Council through ViaEM. As there is a fixed budget, detailed in the City grant offer letter, this programme will need to be closely managed to ensure work is delivered within available resources.

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

DISPOSAL OF LAND AT WESTDALE ROAD, JACKSDALE

Purpose of the Report

1. To approve the disposal of the site at Westdale Road, Jacksdale in line with the proposed terms of the disposal outlined in the Exempt Appendix to this report.

Information

2. Some information relating to this report is not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Having regard to the circumstances, on balance the public interest in disclosing the information does not outweigh the reason for exemption because divulging the information would significantly damage the Council's commercial position. The exempt information is set out in the exempt appendix.
3. The site, as indicated on the attached plan, is 5.83 acres in area with just over 3 acres potentially available for development. The site benefits from a housing allocation for 56 units from the 2002 Ashfield Local Plan Review. The site also had an allocation for c. 60 residential units in the Ashfield District Council Emerging Local Plan (site 'RA2c') before it was previously withdrawn.
4. In the summer of 2018, an agent was appointed to market the site. A brochure was designed and sent to all the appropriate housing developers in the region. A final date for bids was set as the 31st January 2019. No bids were considered to be acceptable. Since the formal tender the site has remained available for sale on the market through the agents seeking bids.
5. While there has been continued sporadic interest which has not led to any sustainable offers, we now have an offer suitable to come forward for approval subject to the purchaser achieving a satisfactory planning consent for housing, on terms as outlined in the exempt report.

Other Options Considered

6. The following additional options have been considered:
 - (a) Retain the site: this site is vacant and has been declared surplus to the operational requirements of the County Council.
 - (b) Lease the site: this would be an alternative to outright sale, but the prospects to achieve long term and consistent rental income from the letting of the site are considered to be extremely poor. Any letting interest which might be generated is

likely to be short term or sporadic, with the likelihood of significant periods of vacancy. The expected rent for such a letting is minimal.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

7. To enable the sale of a surplus asset and to secure a capital receipt to the County Council.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. 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

- 1) That approval is given to the disposal of the site at Westdale Road, Jacksdale in accordance with the terms outlined in the Exempt Appendix to this report.

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts
Leader of the County Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Matthew Neal, Service Director – Investment and Growth Tel: 0115 977 3498

Constitutional Comments [EP 08/01/2021]

9. The recommendation falls within the remit of Policy Committee under its terms of reference. When disposing of land the Council is under a statutory obligation to obtain the best price reasonably obtainable on the open market and comply with s123 duties.

Financial Comments [GB 13/01/2021]

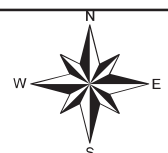
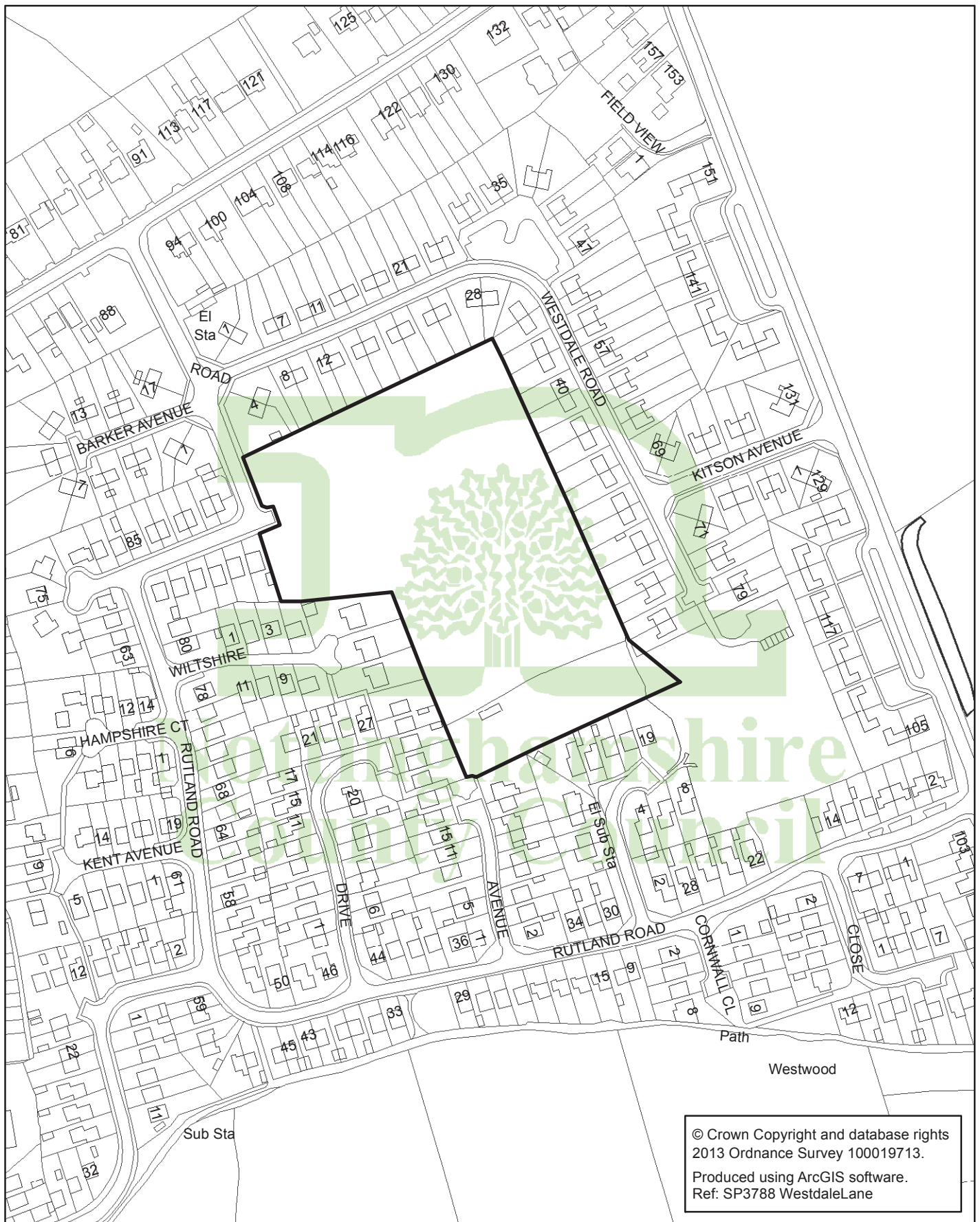
10. The report sets out that the disposal terms are in line with market values for this type of development land. In line with the Council's current policy, the capital receipts will be used to fund one-off costs of transformation or will be set against the principal of previous years' borrowing.

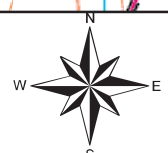
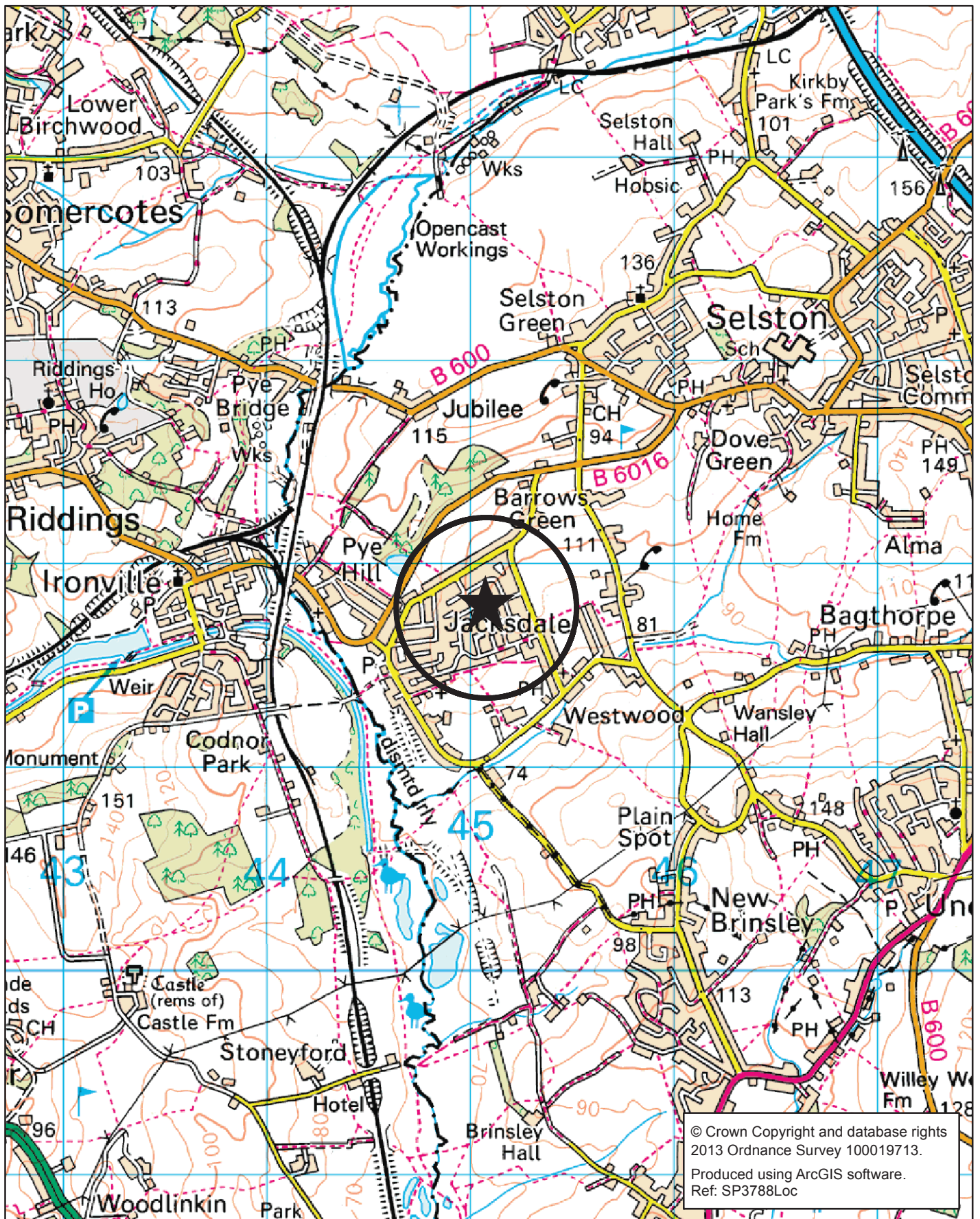
Background Papers and Published Documents

- None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- Electoral Division(s): Selston Member(s): Councillor David Martin





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

1. To review the Committee's work programme for 2021.

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. The meeting dates and agenda items are subject to review in light of the ongoing COVID-19 period.
4. The Policy Committee will be asked to determine policies, strategies and statutory plans developed or reviewed by other Committees of the Council. Committee Chairmen are invited to advise the Policy Committee of any additional policy reviews that are being considered.

Other Options Considered

5. None.

Reason for Recommendation

6. To assist the Committee in preparing and managing its work programme.

Statutory and Policy Implications

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

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)

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

Financial Comments (NS)

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

Background Papers

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

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

POLICY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME (AS AT 18 JANUARY 2021)

<u>Report Title</u>	<u>Brief summary of agenda item</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Report Author</u>
17 March 2021			
Major Projects Budget		Matt Neal	Matt Neal/Neil Gamble
Potential third secondary school in West Bridgford	To outline progress with site identification and feasibility works in seeking a site within the West Bridgford planning area for a new secondary school and relocated and enlarged Lady Bay Primary School and to seek approval to progress to the submission of a planning application to the Local Planning Authority.	Adrian Smith	Matt Neal/Neil Gamble
Proposed sale of land at Baileys Field, behind Highfields School in Newark, NG24 3AL		Adrian Smith	Matthew Neal /Neil Gamble
Working with Nottinghamshire's Universities	To update on the Council's work with Nottingham Trent University and University of Nottingham.	Anthony May	Nicola McCoy-Brown
Update on the work of East Midlands Councils	Stuart Young, Executive Director of East Midlands Councils to provide an update.	Anthony May	Stuart Young
Planned Maintenance 2021-22 – Latest Estimated Costs Report	Establishing the Planned Maintenance programme for 2021-22. Establishes programme and approves progression to feasibility / design stage.	Derek Highton	Phil Berrill
21 April 2021			
Property Operational Decisions Quarterly Update Report	To consider the latest update on operational decisions taken by officers.	Adrian Smith	Sue Blockley
16 June 2021			
Via East Midlands and Cheesecake Energy Partnership Limited	To receive an update on progress and financial implications of the emerging partnership.	Adrian Smith	Derek Highton
Update on the work of the Violence Reduction Unit	Dave Wakelin, Director of the Violence Reduction Unit, to provide a progress update.	Anthony May	Dave Wakelin
14 July 2021			
Adult Social Care and Public Health Digital Strategy 2021-24	To agree this departmental Digital Strategy	Melanie Brooks	
Property Operational Decisions Quarterly Update Report	To consider the latest update on operational decisions taken by officers. Page 99 of 100	Adrian Smith	Sue Blockley

Use of Urgency Procedures	Six Monthly Update report on the use of the Council's procedures for taking urgent decisions.	Marjorie Toward	Keith Ford
The National Rehabilitation Centre Update	Miriam Duffy, Programme Director to give an update on progress following the initial report to Policy Committee in January 2020.	Anthony May	Miriam Duffy
Outside Bodies - 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