

Annual Performance Report

2011/12

Foreword

Welcome to our Annual Report 2011/12 on the progress that we have made against our priorities for the people of Nottinghamshire.

Our vision is for Nottinghamshire to be a place where people enjoy life, are healthy, safe and prosperous; and where business is able to thrive. We want Nottinghamshire to be a county where people have high aspirations; live as independently as possible and are empowered to have greater responsibility.

Our Strategic Plan 2010-2014 sets out our promises to the people of Nottinghamshire and explains what we will do to improve things for our residents over the four years of the plan.

When our Plan was published, we knew that it was ambitious. We knew that we would all face challenging financial times, and we also knew that we had an opportunity to promote and deliver a better future for Nottinghamshire.

Our progress towards that future has required us to take difficult decisions and to change the way that we work. Our efforts are helping us transform into an organisation that is modern and represents value for money.

From our annual report we hope that you will be able to see how our improvements have enabled us to strengthen key services, invest in Nottinghamshire and leave us well placed for delivering on more of our commitments in the future.

Councillor Kay Cutts
Leader of the Council

Mick Burrows
Chief Executive

Our promises to the people of Nottinghamshire

Lead Nottinghamshire

We will play a full part in leading Nottinghamshire to be a place where people want to live and feel safe; businesses want to invest and tourists want to visit and stay. These are our goals and we will work together with our partners to achieve them.

Our priorities are:

- **to foster aspiration, independence and personal responsibility**
- **to promote the economic prosperity of Nottinghamshire and safeguard our environment**
- **to make Nottinghamshire a safer place to live**

Provide good services

We will consult, listen and act on what the public tell us about the services they use. We will work with other organisations to make public sector services in Nottinghamshire as integrated as possible. We will ensure all our services are good quality and provide value for money.

- **to secure good quality, affordable services**

Be an efficient Council

We will be a cost effective and efficient council. Over the coming four years we will reduce our running costs substantially to allow more to be spent on delivery of services.

- **to be financially robust and sustainable**

Introduction

Our annual report tells you about our progress in 2011/12 made against our five priorities for Nottinghamshire as detailed in our [Strategic Plan 2010-2014](#).

It includes examples of the work that we have been doing and of our successes so far, as we work towards our four year goals. We also identify areas we need to continue our efforts to improve on.

Key to achieving our goals is our ability to evaluate our progress. We use over 70 measures or indicators to gauge the impact that we are making and our progress against our priorities and **78%** of these have improved during the last year.

Achieving our priorities and delivering on our promises is a four year challenge. Throughout the annual report we tell you more about our plans for next year, to deliver our commitments and to improve in the areas where we think that we could do better.

If you would like to know more about our priorities, the actions that we are taking or wish to follow our progress, you can find more information on our [website](#).

Key Achievements in 2011/12

- our work to be cost effective enabled us to **freeze council tax for the 3rd year running**
- we **secured funding for major improvements to the A453**
- we saved **£34 million to reinvest in Nottinghamshire** through good housekeeping and better ways of working
- we have **significantly improved our services to protect vulnerable children** in Nottinghamshire by investing savings made elsewhere across the council
- we **spent £20 million building and refurbishing schools** in 2011/12 and have **secured funding to rebuild or refurbish 15 more** of the County's schools from 2012/13
- we introduced a discretionary travel scheme which offers **free travel for pupils in year 7** to go to a preferred school supporting their parents to be able to choose the school best for their child
- we staged the **biggest celebration in the country of Robin Hood** in August with a third more visitors than last year.

Priority A – Fostering aspiration, independence and personal responsibility

Our priority is to raise the aspirations of local people by enabling them to achieve more both as individuals and as neighbours. We will encourage local people to take responsibility for how they live and the area in which they live. We are committed to enabling people to live as independently as possible throughout their lives.

In 2011/12 the majority of the key actions that we needed to take to deliver this priority were on schedule or complete. **71%** of the key indicators that show our progress in this priority improved compared to 2010/11.

We said we would... give more people greater choice and control over how they get the support they require to stay healthy and live independently for as long as possible.

More people managing their own care - people receiving care and support at home have now been given greater freedom and choice by switching to personal budgets. With our support there has been an **increase from 38% to 66%** in the number of adult social care clients and carers receiving community based services via a direct payment or personal budget from last year. We have also helped a number of small local providers to become established in the county to offer new services to people with personal budgets.

In 2012/13 we will build on this success and work to increase the take up of personal budgets further.

Over 2,800 people in Nottinghamshire have signed up to direct payments – a way to have a care package that puts them in control.

Doreen Burrows from Farnsfield receives direct payments for the care of her husband John who has vascular dementia.

Doreen said: “Direct payments give us more choice with how John is cared for. We have a really good carer who has similar interests to John and we were able to meet him before he started to make sure he was right for us.”

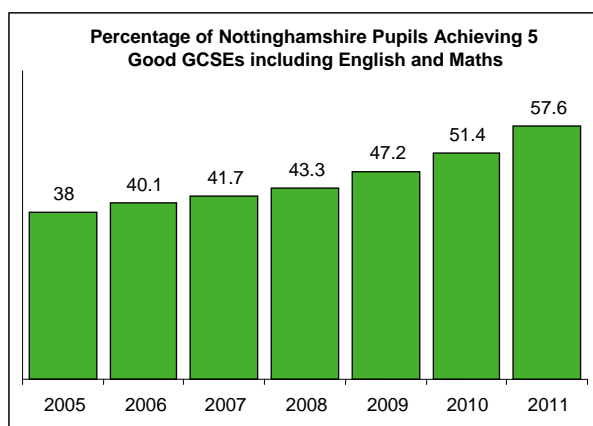
“Traditional day service activities such as bingo and card games are not for John so we have been able to use some of our money on short breaks to get us away from the four walls of our living room”.

Improving our Day Care Services - Day Care Services have also undergone a substantial modernisation programme to bring together our services for older people, people with learning disabilities and people with physical disabilities. Through a **£4 million investment** we are creating a network of modern, multi-purpose centres that offer a pleasant environment and meet the needs of our service users.

We said we would... improve the life chances and achievements of children and young people.

Continuing GCSE improvement – For the **8th consecutive year there has been an increase in the percentage of all pupils gaining five or more grade A*-C GCSEs.** This is down to the hard work and

dedication of young people in Nottinghamshire, their teachers and our staff supporting improvements in teaching standards.



The proportion of children who are eligible for free school meals achieving five or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and mathematics has also increased and at a faster rate than those who are not eligible for free school meals.

Next year, we will continue building on this success with increased focus on reducing the gap of educational attainment of our most vulnerable children.

We said we would... improve the quality of our school buildings

Building better schools - we spent £20 million building and refurbishing schools in 2011/12 and have secured funding to rebuild or refurbish 15 more of the County's schools in 2012/13.

This year we provided new state-of-the-art buildings for Ryton Park Primary School (£9 million), Greasley Beauvale Primary School (£6 million) and a new school in Eastwood - Springbank Primary (£5 million).

Springbank Primary provides a new building for the recently amalgamated

Eastwood Infant and Junior schools. The new school features a pond area and a playing field – the former schools which were over 100 years old never had any green space for games and sport.

In 2012/13 we will commence rebuilding or refurbishment of 15 more schools including the Grove School in Newark.

We said we would... embrace the 'localism' and 'big society' agendas by increasing community involvement in the way services are shaped and delivered

Embracing Localism – we are piloting a lengthsmen scheme to enable your community to employ a local person to carry out some of the work of the County Council to maintain your local environment such as clearing drains and ditches and cutting grass and vegetation.

We have worked with town and parish councils to explore how we can empower local communities so that they can achieve their ambitions for the place where they live. We have made it easier for you to do things outside your own home such as cutting grass verges and clearing snow without fear of reprisals. We have introduced a new approach that makes it **simpler for you to close your road for community use**. Over 150 applications for jubilee street parties were received using our straightforward application process.

In 2012/13 we will set out a detailed plan to meet our commitment to embrace Localism and to roll out new rights for your community.

We said we would... deliver services in ways which promote independence and empower people to make positive choices and decisions about their lives

Free travel to preferred schools - in September 2011, we introduced a Discretionary Travel Scheme which offers **free travel to pupils in year 7 to go to a preferred school** supporting their parents to be able to choose the school best for their child. Pupils who face journeys of more than three miles are eligible for the scheme. In its first year there have been 450 applicants.

By 2015 the scheme will be extended to all secondary school pupils in the county.

Some other key things we plan to do in 2012/13...

- continue our transformation of children's and adult social care through major projects such as the '*Putting People First*' programme – our agenda of personalisation for our adult social care users through changes to our processes, culture and practice
- increase the number of adults with learning disabilities in settled accommodation and/or work. One way this will be achieved is through the work of our **iWork** team. The iWork team offers direct support to help adults with learning difficulties to get the right job by analysing the applicants' skills, interests and qualifications, suggesting jobs that they might like to do, explaining what will happen with benefits, giving them the opportunity to try out jobs first and then providing ongoing support to help them remain in employment.

- increase the number of people either returned home or placed in a residential setting following a stay in hospital. This will be achieved, for example, through the work of START (Short Term Assessment and Reablement Teams) who provide six weeks of intensive support to service users including occupational therapy and social work
- continue our schools refurbishment programme which includes over £8 million at Carlton Digby Special School.

Recognition of our achievements

A number of our services were externally recognised for excellence. These included:

- an innovative web based system that enables people to search for care homes in the county and find how many vacancies are available at any one time won a national award for Innovation in the Public Sector
- Our Meals at Home service celebrated its 40th year and were recognised in two separate categories at the National Association of Care Catering Community Meals Awards
- Our Gedling Older People's Team was a finalist at the Team of the Year category of the Social Worker of the Year awards.

Priority B – Promoting the economic prosperity of Nottinghamshire and safeguarding our environment

Successful local businesses and a prosperous economy are key to our future. Our priority is to do all we can to help our local business community to thrive and to promote Nottinghamshire as a place to invest, do business and to visit and stay. While promoting the economic prosperity of the county we will defend our precious countryside, protect our environment and promote our cultural heritage.

In 2011/12 we had several significant achievements for Nottinghamshire, securing major investments in the infrastructure of our County.

We said we would... continue to develop our infrastructure (roads, public transport and employment sites) to enable long-term growth and improve employment opportunities

Improving the A453 - we have secured funding from the Government for major improvements to the A453. This important road between Nottingham and the M1 is currently considered the weakest link in the regional road network and is limiting the economic recovery and development of the local area. Our bold £20 million investment has unlocked further funding so that this improvement can be made, which could bring a boost to the local economy estimated in excess of £500 million.

Work will begin shortly on the project which is set to be completed in early 2015.

Helping to develop business - we have worked closely with developers and local councils to secure investment and to

bring forward new, quality employment land for business development.

We said we would... regenerate our market towns and rural areas

Regenerating our rural areas - we have successfully bid for £4.25 million from the Government to provide faster broadband speeds in rural areas. We have brought together local councils to ensure that this funding is matched in Nottinghamshire. This will be part of a **£17 million scheme to upgrade broadband** to over 100,000 premises across Nottinghamshire.

In 2012/13 we will start putting [the broadband plan](#) into action to make super-fast broadband available by 2015.

We recognise that people in rural areas can face additional challenges in securing work. We have provided help through **Wheels to Work** - [a project](#) which provides moped loans and advice on public transport. We have also developed Work Clubs offering help and support to those seeking work.

We said we would... promote Nottinghamshire as a place to do business and invest

Investing in Nottinghamshire – through the local enterprise partnership (D2N2), the County Council has worked with its partners in **securing £24.35 million** from the Growing Places Fund for capital projects across Derby City, Nottingham City, Derbyshire County and Nottinghamshire County.

We are currently exploring the feasibility of a number of projects and at this stage; we anticipate securing just under £10 million of this total towards key projects

within the County. This also includes the development of the Beeston 'Enterprise Zone'. In 2012/13, work is due to commence on the Alliance-Boots site ultimately seeing the creation of up to 5,000 jobs.

Supporting employment through our Innovation centres – this year our three Centres at Mansfield, Newark and Worksop **supported 400 jobs within 90 businesses** with a further **92 jobs** created in small, new start businesses.

***We said we would...** seek out opportunities to contribute to enhancing Nottinghamshire as a tourism destination and increased the number of visitors to the county*

It is currently estimated that tourism generates over £1.3 billion per year to the city and county's economy supporting 20,000 jobs.

Experience Nottinghamshire - we have promoted Nottinghamshire as a tourist destination to over 460,000 visitors through our support for the new '[Experience Nottinghamshire](#)' website which was launched in May 2011.

Further developments utilising the latest technology are proving popular such as the launch of an iPhone app and online booking for accommodation, tickets to attractions and events.

In 2012/13, we will work with Experience Nottinghamshire to develop a series of tourism campaigns aimed at attracting more visitors to our county.

Some other key things we plan to do in 2012/13...

- continue to implement our county wide strategy to reduce child poverty. Work will include further embedding the 'Think Family' approach into the delivery of core services across Nottinghamshire provided by ourselves and our partners
- continue to improve our Innovation Centres through more creative marketing and promotion to raise the centres' profile and improving the business support given to new and existing centre customers
- Further improve the condition of the County's road network by investing an additional £1 million in value for money treatment based on robust inspection regimes. Major carriageway resurfacing projects to be carried out include the A60 at Ravenshead and Nottingham Road, Radcliffe-on-Trent.
- Reduce reliance on landfill for waste disposal through campaigns such as 'Love Food, Hate Waste' and 'Are You Bin Smart?' and introducing new recyclable schemes such as for cooking oil.

Did you know?

Three quarters of the food in our schools is supplied locally so helping to support local businesses and to protect the environment.

Priority C – Making Nottinghamshire a safer place to live

It is important that people feel that the county is a safe place to live. Managing safety and having a co-ordinated approach to keeping people and places safe is vital. A greater sense of security helps to create confidence that feeds well-being and growth so it is one of the priorities for improvement that we must address. Our attention must be on the safety of those groups and communities that are more vulnerable and on reducing crime and disorder.

In 2011/12 all of the key actions that we needed to take to deliver this priority were either on schedule or already completed.

We said we would... improve our safeguarding arrangements and outcomes in protecting vulnerable children and adults in their communities

Safeguarding our children – we have significantly improved our services to protect Nottinghamshire’s most vulnerable children by investing savings made elsewhere across the council. The Council and our partners were complimented by the Government minister on our work to improve safeguarding services following a critical Ofsted inspection in 2010. This work has included improvements to the timeliness of assessments and reductions in re-referrals into children’s social care.

In 2012/13 we will establish a ‘Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub’ in Nottinghamshire along with the Police, Health, Education and other agencies. The Hub will deal with safeguarding concerns, where someone is worried about the safety or well-being of a child or adult, or think they might be being abused. There will be a greater emphasis on early intervention, supporting children,

families and adults before the situation deteriorates.

We said we would... have an integrated approach to improving community safety working with other organisations and holding each other accountable for improvements

Working towards a safer county - we have worked closely with the police and probation service through the Safer Nottinghamshire Board to make improvements in community safety. This working relationship enables us to share resources to tackle key issues in Nottinghamshire and contributed to the overall reduction in the county’s crime rate in 2011/12.

In 2012/13 we will continue building on the good working practices to make Nottinghamshire a safer place to live.

We said we would... look to increase public confidence in the county as a safe place to live in

Feeling safer day and night – our community safety work is helping residents to feel safe. Two thirds of residents currently feel safe when outside after dark and **nine out of ten residents feel safe when outside during the day.**

Working to reduce anti-social behaviour (ASB) - we have used new powers to implement a number of gating orders across the county to deal with crime and ASB in areas accessed by public paths or roads.

Our work with Registered Social Landlords has also helped reduce ASB and increase public confidence. ‘[The Four Walls](#)’ - a short film devised by tenants

and partners – has been integrated into a teaching pack used by several schools in the Newark and Sherwood and Bassetlaw districts. It tells the story of a young boy who becomes involved in ASB around his estate.

We also commissioned the “I Pledge Project” to **work with 1,000 pupils across 20 schools**. Pupils are asked to identify a “pledge” to their community not to commit crime or ASB.

In 2012/13 we will continue to improve public perception in promoting services for victims and witnesses of crime, hate crime and Domestic Violence. We will also support the delivery of the Neighbourhood Watch ‘Neighbourhood Alert’ system.

A court injunction has been granted to tackle the problem of car cruisers who have blighted the community around the Victoria Retail Park in Netherfield.

The action has been taken by the South Nottinghamshire Community Safety Partnership, which includes the County Council, Gedling Borough Council and Nottinghamshire Police.

Cllr Mick Murphy, Cabinet Member for Community Safety said: “We need to take a tough stance on car cruisers otherwise there will be a serious accident due to their dangerous driving and the noise they make is a significant disturbance to local residents.

“We set up a similar injunction at Junction 27 near Kirkby-in-Ashfield which was the first of its kind in the UK and stamped out the car cruising problem at this site.”

DCI Andrew Hall, Head of Road Crime Operations at Nottinghamshire Police, said:

“In policing the injunction, officers will stop vehicles taking part in car cruising, or any associated ASB within the specified area. Drivers and passengers will be warned about the consequences of their actions and, if they subsequently breach the warning, could face court action.

“We want young people to enjoy their vehicles safely, but not to the detriment of others.”

Some other key things we plan to do in 2012/13...

- continue to increase the speed by which children in need of protection or support are provided with the right services through our children’s safeguarding improvement programme
- strengthen early intervention work through the ‘I Pledge’ project and domestic violence awareness training
- reduce the re-referral rate for adults subject to safeguarding assessments through the development of improved internal processes to increase the percentage of assessments that lead to robust quality safeguarding plans
- further reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents. We will be undertaking a series of awareness and educational campaigns targeted at key groups such as moped riders, young people, cyclists etc. Our work will also include reviewing speed limits in key areas. We will also carry out physical road improvements such as the installation of new pedestrian crossings and

interactive speed signs across the county.

Recognition of our achievements

A number of our services were externally recognised for excellence. These included:

- 'Girls Group'; a local initiative to raise girls self esteem and confidence to keep them out of the youth justice system was

recognised at the national Youth Justice Board's Innovation Awards

- Trading Standards 'Scambusters' team was recognised by a national anti-counterfeiting body for their work on serious and complex cases across the East Midlands
- our 'Fatal 4' campaign was highly commended in the Prince Michael of Kent International Road Safety Awards.

Priority D – Securing good quality, affordable services

Our priority is to ensure that the county council provides good quality, affordable services for the people of Nottinghamshire. This means that we will involve citizens through consulting, listening and acting on what you tell us to ensure that our services meet your needs. We will measure and evaluate ourselves against the best and make improvements to reflect this. We will work collaboratively with our partners to ensure key services are delivered well.

In 2011/12 we consulted widely on our budget for the coming year, seeking your views on the services to prioritise with our limited funding.

We said we would... redirect our resources into our priority areas by releasing funding from other services

Investing in key services - In addition to the £71 million of planned savings already delivered, this year **we have saved a further £34 million from our projected spending** through good housekeeping and better ways of working. This money will be reinvested in a number of 'spend to save' schemes and major capital projects including our contribution towards improving the A453. Other schemes to benefit from this additional funding include:

- £5 million to support the schools capital programme
- £600,000 to refurbish six residential care homes for older people
- £450,000 towards bringing high speed broadband to homes and businesses
- £250,000 towards libraries refurbishment and new books

- £350,000 towards a Carbon reduction scheme in schools to cut emissions and energy costs.

In 2012/13, we need to ensure that our key frontline services such as adult and children safeguarding and social care remain effective and responsive to the increasing demands placed upon them by the public. Therefore we will be re-investing £20 million in these services which includes:

- £2.8 million on safeguarding vulnerable children in the County
- £2.7 million on care for older people
- £1.4 million on adults with physical disabilities
- £5.2 million on care for adults with learning and mental health needs
- £771,000 on the concessionary fare scheme for older people and residents with a disability.

We said we would... invest in new developments which meet emerging customer, community and economic needs

Improving customer care - we have **improved our handling of social care queries** reducing the need for community care assessments by 18% and occupational therapy assessments by a third. A dedicated team at the Council's Customer Service Centre assess calls, prioritise them and know exactly which calls they can handle themselves and which to pass on to a group of highly experienced social care employees who work to ensure the right decision is made and people get the help they need.

Introducing new technologies - we are investing in new technologies in our libraries which enable users to download e-books directly to their e-readers such as a Kindle. Over 1,000 popular titles will initially be available 24/7.

The Victoria Suite in Worksop is the first register office in the County to offer live web broadcasts of wedding ceremonies for people unable to attend the weddings of their friends and relatives.

In 2012/13 we will introduce 'Real Time' travel information at bus stops across north Nottinghamshire in a move that aims to boost the number of people using public transport in the area and help cut traffic congestion. Using satellite technology the Real Time system communicates bus information to a display at the bus stop, mobile phone or website. The times displayed will show when the bus is due to arrive, as well as its number and destination. The introduction of Real Time takes away uncertainty and enables people to make more informed travel decisions.

We said we would... create more and better opportunities for residents and visitors to take part in cultural activities

Continuing improvements in arts and culture – We staged **the biggest celebration in the country of Robin Hood in August with a third more visitors than last year.** 19,000 people attended the 27th Robin Hood Festival of medieval festivities from jugglers to jesters to living history re-enactments, which we provided for half the cost of previous years.

This year saw the opening of the impressively modernised library at Mansfield. We have also produced a

clear [cultural strategy](#) which sets out our continual development of our key cultural services such as libraries, archives and information and country parks.

In 2012/13 we will be looking to create a 'visitor experience for the 21st century' on land adjacent to the existing Sherwood Forest Visitors' Centre and National Nature Reserve and improve the way we manage the National Water Sports Centre. We will also complete a new library and young people's centre in West Bridgford at a cost of nearly £6 million.

Some other key things we plan to do in 2012/13...

- improve how we deal with our customers through a new customer strategy. This includes work such as implementing new customer service standards, re-launching of Customer Service training with more focus on front line employees and making better and wider use of customer feedback to inform our improvement work
- complete the redevelopment of Eastgate Day Services Centre in Worksop by autumn 2012.

Did you know?

- A recent survey of more than 8,000 parents showed 81% considered the service from our catering employees as good or very good. 74% were satisfied with value for money and 76% were satisfied with overall taste
- Mansfield library has seen an increase in members since its £3.4 million refurbishment. Numbers of new members in 2011 had almost trebled compared to 2010.

Priority E – To be financially robust and sustainable

Our priority is to be cost effective, run as one council-one business and provide value for money in all that we do. We need to reduce our running costs to protect spending on front line services.

The Council will need to change the way it operates including business transactions, procurement and organisational design.

In 2011/12 our work to be cost effective enabled us to freeze council tax for the 3rd year running.

***We said we would...** have excellent procurement and commissioning which secures best value for money and will have opened our services to new providers*

Improving value for your money through better buying of goods and services - we have improved the way the council buys goods and services to ensure that we pay the best price, achieving **savings in excess of £5 million.** We have actively encouraged the involvement of local companies to support local jobs and around half of the annual spend on goods and services is with suppliers based in Nottinghamshire.

During 2012/13 we will build on these achievements. Further improvements in how we do business with local suppliers and how they are paid will take place. Major projects to be completed include the identification of investment partners for both Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre and the National Water Sports Centre, improvements to Home Care and various Children's Centres.

***We said we would...** extract maximum value for money from all of our assets including our buildings*

Reducing our surplus land and buildings - we have received over £16 million from the sale of surplus land and property including a number of large office buildings in Rushcliffe and Bassetlaw.

In 2012/13 we will continue to rationalise and make best use of Council property and develop a scheme for giving some areas of surplus land to local communities.

Improving our vehicle management - we have **reduced the annual fuel cost for our vehicles by over £90,000** despite the increased price for petrol and diesel. The saving is part of a wider programme to save £900,000 on transport costs, including fleet and employee travel expenses.

In 2012/13, we will continue to lower our costs through further improvements to our fleet maintenance and usage.

***We said we would...** develop a workforce that is fit for purpose, skilled, able and empowered to make decisions and actively contributes to the improvement of services year on year*

Developing our workforce - we have introduced a *competency framework* – a standard set of skills and behaviours for employees. This helps to align individual employees' activities to the council's priorities, vision and values. The benefits of this framework are having a standardised approach, improving recruitment and career development.

Investing in our people - in May 2012, we will seek re-accreditation from Investors in People. A team of inspectors will spend three days visiting the Council to find out more about how we're investing in our people and what One Council – One Team means.

Investors in People is the UK's leading people management standard. The Council has a track record of maintaining the standard over the last 12 years.

***We said we would...** introduce new business processes and systems that are good and that maximise the use of new technology*

Using new systems to do our business better - we successfully went live with a new IT Business Management System (BMS) during 2011 to change the way that we manage our people and resources and to provide a clearer picture of how and where money is being spent.

BMS provides the Council with a single, integrated IT solution for managing our human resources, payroll, procurement, finance and estates processes.

In 2012/13 further development will enable the Council to include the payroll

for schools based employees and estates management.

Some other key things we plan to do in 2012/13...

- reduce how long we take to process invoices. This will be achieved through actions such as enforcing a 'no purchase order, no pay' policy and processing more invoicing electronically
- agree and implement a new workforce strategy across the Council in order to ensure that we have a flexible, responsive and engaged workforce with the necessary knowledge, skills and experience now and for the future
- Expand the services provided at the Customer Service Centre to cover other public services.

Recognition of our achievements

Our modern new highways depot at Bilsthorpe was commended in the large project category of the Institution of Civil Engineers East Midlands Merit Awards. This new depot replaces four old and out-dated buildings and brings them together on one site. The new depot is more energy efficient and cheaper to run with solar panels installed which expect to generate £14,000 in savings.