



## An update from Mick Burrows, Chief Executive



“ Welcome to my first stakeholder bulletin. Its aim is to keep you informed of developments at the County Council that affect life in Nottinghamshire. Please feel free to share it with your colleagues and anyone who you think may find it useful. ”

### PCC elections

We will shortly have our own Police and Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire following the election on the 15th November. This marks a step change in the governance of policing in Nottinghamshire [<http://www.notts-pcc.org/>].

### Help us shape plans for the future

We have plenty of reasons to be proud of Nottinghamshire, but I think it is fair to say that we have not always developed a strong enough case for economic growth that can be used consistently and confidently.

Hence the reason for the Nottinghamshire Growth Plan [<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/living/business/growthplan/>], which will pull together all the catalysts for growth and investment. It has been shaped from the outset by a number of key business stakeholders and we will start full consultation on the plan this month.

One of our key selling points is that we are rapidly becoming one of the best connected counties in England, with an enviable central location and excellent air, road and rail links that are currently benefitting from significant improvement.

Some of the major schemes that are either complete or are under way include:

- A453 - now set for completion in 2015
- Midland Mainline upgrade and East Coast line improvements – to deliver journey times to London of under 90 minutes
- A46, M1 and A1 – major investment and improvements
- East Midlands and Robin Hood

airports – planned significant investments

- New bus stations in Mansfield and Worksop and other local transport improvements.

Another area where we are seeking to improve connectivity is superfast broadband. This is rapidly becoming business critical, so we are working hard to make it available to 90% of businesses and residents. However, to make it happen quickly we need you and your colleagues to pledge your support. [<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/broadband/>]

Along with good transport links, businesses also need access to a highly skilled and qualified workforce. I am pleased to say that the county is making excellent progress in this regard and is above the national average in many categories.

A total of 60.3% of pupils obtained five or more A\*-C grades at GCSE which is up by 2.7 percentage points on last year. This moves Nottinghamshire up to 51st from 79th in the national league table, placing the county above the national average for the first time ever.

Please take time to read the draft growth plan [<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/living/business/growthplan/>] and feed back any ideas and suggestions on how we can make this stronger.

## World class sport and culture

The success of the Olympics and Paralympics still resonates throughout Nottinghamshire. In order to ensure that this spirit and drive is captured, the Council has launched a £1m legacy fund [<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/legacyfund/>] to enable local sports clubs to meet the demand and interest which the Games have generated.

One of the sporting venues that enjoys a truly global stage is Trent Bridge. Ashes cricket is watched around the globe and

attracts thousands of fans to Nottinghamshire with a projected £30m injection into the local economy. To ensure that this exposure and investment in the local economy continues, we have

helped fund a new scoreboard, which was one of the conditions for securing the Ashes.

The legend of Robin Hood remains a link that is known throughout the world, but I think it is fair to say that the visitor offer has not always lived up to expectations. So I am pleased that our exciting new plans for Sherwood Forest [<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/enjoying/countryside/countryparks/sherwood/robinhood/>] have been unveiled which will deliver a truly world-class visitor centre. This will boost the local economy and create employment. It will safeguard our ancient forest for future generations and, most importantly, breathe new life into the Robin Hood legend.

## A better joined up approach to protecting the vulnerable

The quality of care for older people and those with disabilities has been subject to considerable debate in the media. Our primary concern is to the people receiving care. We work closely with public, private and third sectors to ensure that service users are treated with the right degree of respect and dignity.

An ageing population means that the issue is unlikely to go away and we will continue to work with the Care Quality Commission to ensure that any problems are exposed and rectified.

Another area where joined-up working will help protect the vulnerable in our society is the introduction of a new multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH). [<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/caring/childrenstrust/pathway-to-provision/mash/>] More than 60 professionals from the police, children's social care, adult

safeguarding and health will sit together in the same office and work together for the first time.

Often no single agency has all the pieces of the jigsaw when it comes to child and adult safeguarding concerns. This approach will help ensure that everyone is aware of each other's information and that any areas of concern are dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

Another important change is the transfer of public health to Local Government from April 2013. We have worked closely with the Primary Care Trusts and the six newly formed Clinical Commissioning Groups to ensure that a sensible and smooth transition takes place. This will mean better outcomes for local people, particularly around family interventions and preventative work.

## Keep in touch – on 0300 500 8080

Our reputation is often built on how we deal with our customers when they first contact us. Since 2009, the average number of enquiries dealt with through the Council's customer service centre has increased from just over 250,000 a year to 630,000. We have also driven down costs to the Council by almost half in the same period. Now we have introduced a new number (0300 500 8080) that will mean call costs for residents are even cheaper.

“ As a Council we are committed to working with you to improve Nottinghamshire as a place to live, visit, or do business. On our website [nottinghamshire.gov.uk](http://nottinghamshire.gov.uk) you can see all of the decisions we are taking, hear about our latest events and view all our committee papers..”

Finally, I hope you find this bulletin informative and would welcome any feedback on how useful you found it.



Mick Burrows  
Chief Executive