

**REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL****A MOTION OF CONGRATULATIONS TO NOTTINGHAM FOREST FOOTBALL CLUB****Purpose of the Report**

1. To congratulate Nottingham Forest Football Club on the Club's promotion to the Premier League.

**Information**

2. It is with great pleasure that this Council celebrates the magnificent achievement of Nottingham Forest Football Club in sealing a return to the Premier League for the first time in 23 years.
3. An important part of our County's local history and culture, Nottingham Forest is one of the world's oldest professional football clubs. Founded in 1865, the Club's first official football match took place on 22 March 1866 against Notts County, finishing 0-0. During the Club's long and distinguished history, Nottingham Forest has been 1977-78 English League Champion, winner of two FA Cups in 1898 and 1959, and four League Cups in 1978, 1979, 1989 and 1990, as well as attaining back-to-back European Cups in 1979 and 1980.
4. Nottingham Forest last played in the Premier League in 1999. The Club's recent promotion to the Premier League is a much sought-after prize in English football. The Club was bottom of the English Football League Championship Table in September 2021, when they announced the appointment of Steve Cooper as head coach. Mr Cooper inspired an unprecedented turnaround – by Christmas Nottingham Forest had risen to 7th place, achieving a 4th place finish at the end of the season and promotion to the Premier League through the end of season play-offs. This was after collecting a single point in their first seven games of the season, though by the end of the campaign Forest had amassed 80 points, playing 46 matches, winning 23, and drawing 11. It is particularly notable that the squad included homegrown players Joe Worrall, Ryan Yates and Brennan Johnson, all local to the area.
5. After an outstanding performance in the 2022 Championship play-off semi-final, Nottingham Forest defeated Sheffield United on penalties, largely due to goalkeeper Brice Samba, who denied three Sheffield United players in the penalty shootout. Forest then advanced to the final against Huddersfield Town, securing promotion to the Premier League for the first time since the 1998-99 season. At Wembley the team saw the strength of their fans' support, with over 36,000 fans making the journey to watch them play.

6. In a tense game, Forest secured a 1-0 victory thanks to a first-half own-goal from Huddersfield. The Championship play-off final is said to be football's most lucrative match, with promotion to the Premier League likely to be worth over £170m to the Club plus a further £120m to the local economy. The Premier League, the top level of the English football league system, consists of 20 clubs and is the most-watched sports league in the world, reaching a potential of 4.7 billion television viewers. Not only does the promotion fulfil the dreams of so many supporters, it will also boost the reputation of the area and provide many social and cultural benefits which we all hope to reap as a result of Nottingham Forest's achievement.
7. Following the victory, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire welcomed the Forest players and Club staff home on 30 May, where an estimated 25,000 fans gathered to celebrate their achievement. Nottinghamshire County Council's Leader, Chairman and Chief Executive attended the celebrations, enjoying a civic reception followed by a parade of the trophy to the crowd in Old Market Square. The strength of support and celebrations underlies the power of sporting success across our County and City.
8. Recognising the enormity of this achievement, this Council wants to express its sincere congratulations and gratitude to all associated with Nottingham Forest and the fans. Promotion is itself a noteworthy achievement, but the manner of Forest's promotion is outstanding.
9. Nottingham Forest has done the Club and Nottinghamshire proud this season, coming from the bottom of the table to promotion to the Premier League. This accomplishment represents not only an excellent sporting achievement but is also a source of pride for Nottinghamshire and local people. Nottinghamshire County Council is proud to congratulate the Club and to wish them luck for their return to the Premier League.
10. Nottinghamshire communities look forward to welcoming some of the best football teams in the world, with the Premier League season starting on 6 August. The fixtures have been announced, with highlights including receiving Liverpool at the City Ground on 22 October, facing Manchester United on 26 December, and welcoming Manchester City to Nottinghamshire on 18 February.

### **Other Options Considered**

11. None

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

12. The whole County Council should give support and congratulations to Nottingham Forest Football Club on their achievement.

### **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. There are no financial implications.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) This Council resolves to congratulate Nottingham Forest Football Club on its promotion to the Premier League and to thank all those who contributed to their success.
- 2) This Council resolves to wish Nottingham Forest Football Club luck for the season ahead and to thank the Club for all it does for Nottinghamshire.

**Councillor Ben Bradley MP**  
**Leader of the County Council**

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### **Constitutional Comments (LPW 15/06/2022)**

15. The recommendations fall within the remit of Full Council by virtue of its terms of reference.

### **Financial Comments (SES 14/06/2022)**

16. There are no specific 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.

- None

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- All