

**REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR POLICY, PLANNING AND
CORPORATE SERVICES****GREENWOOD COMMUNITY FOREST****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide members with an update on the work of the Greenwood Community Forest Partnership and how this supports NCC priorities.

Information and Advice**Background**

2. Greenwood Community Forest was established in 1992, as one of 12 Community Forests created to improve the environment of urban fringe areas around England's major conurbations. Greenwood is managed by a partnership, which brings together Nottinghamshire County Council alongside five district and borough councils, plus a number of other organisations (see appendix). The Partnership is steered by a Board, which is currently chaired by Councillor John Knight, representing Nottinghamshire County Council. The Greenwood team comprises three officers who are employed by Nottinghamshire County Council on behalf of the partnership.

Activities

3. The agreed "mission" for Greenwood is "to work in partnership to enable Nottinghamshire's communities to create, care for and to use woodlands and other high quality accessible green spaces in a sustainable way that benefits the environment, landscape and the local economy."
4. Greenwood's Annual Report for 2012-13 (attached) provides information about achievements over the past year, which include:
 - 4.1. Delivery of a community tree planting scheme that resulted in 165 trees being planted by 142 participants, including a number of projects to support climate change adaptation via larger "trees for shade".
 - 4.2. Support and implementation of 11 of the County Council's Local Improvement Scheme projects to benefit biodiversity, amenity and local community aspirations.
 - 4.3. Practical support and encouragement for 39 "Friends" groups that help to improve, care for and promote use of local green spaces.
 - 4.4. Working with the Friends of Greenwood Community Forum to provide an even better network for the individual groups to share information and mutual support.
 - 4.5. Recognising the value of volunteer effort by organising the Greenwood Awards evening, attended by 140 people.

- 4.6. Organising a range of events, including support to two significant public events, “Time Travel Trent Vale” and “Thynghowe and the Forgotten Heritage of Sherwood”.

Links to NCC priorities

5. Greenwood’s activities support a number of the priorities set out within the County Council’s Strategic Plan:
6. The network of “Friends” groups contributes towards the “Supporting Safe and Thriving Communities” priority, by encouraging partnership working and helping people to feel safer within their local parks. It also supports “Protecting the Environment”, by encouraging more people from local communities to become involved in improving their environment and by improving the quality of country parks and open spaces and so increasing public satisfaction.
7. A more attractive environment represents good quality “green infrastructure” that makes Nottinghamshire more attractive for investment and so indirectly helps to “Support Economic Growth”. Greenwood’s organisation of public events can also provide new attractions for the visitor economy.
8. Good quality green spaces also help in “Promoting Health”. Many studies have now confirmed their value in encouraging recreational activity that benefits mental well-being as well as better physical health. Greenwood has promoted walking for health and carried out audits to ensure sites are accessible to everyone.

Looking forward

9. The Greenwood Partnership is currently discussing its work priorities for the year ahead. Partners have indicated their wish to support both strategic effort to regenerate the landscape and community-based work to stimulate local engagement.
10. The team will seek external funding for projects to provide financial sustainability. One way of doing this is likely to be by working more closely with the network of Friends groups. The team has already supported the Friends of Greenwood Community Forum to bid for funds for further promotion and development of the Forum.

Other Options Considered

11. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

12. To note Greenwood Community Forest’s successes and its support of various NCC objectives (see paragraphs 6-8); to support the County Council’s representative on the Greenwood Board in providing guidance on future priorities.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults,

service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working 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. Nottinghamshire County Council's contribution of £75,689.00 to the Greenwood Partnership is contained within the salary budget of the Conservation team.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

15. Greenwood Community Forest helps to create a better environment and by involving local communities and volunteers, to do so in a sustainable way.

RECOMMENDATION/S

To note the report and the attached Annual Report.

Jayne Francis-Ward

Corporate Director Policy, Planning & Corporate Services

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Malcolm Hackett

Senior Practitioner Greenwood

0115 9696530

Constitutional Comments

As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (SEM 16/04/14)]

The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

General information on Greenwood Community Forest is available at:

<http://www.greenwoodforest.org.uk>

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.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All divisions within the districts of Ashfield, Broxtowe, Gedling, Mansfield and Newark & Sherwood:

Arnold North	Pauline Allan/Michael Payne
Arnold South	Roy Allen/Muriel Weisz
Balderton	Keith Walker
Beauvale	John Handley
Beeston North	Steve Carr
Beeston South and Attenborough	Kate Foale
Blidworth	Yvonne Woodhead
Bramcote and Stapleford	Stan Heptinstall/Jacky Williams
Calverton	Boyd Elliott
Carlton East	Nikki Brooks/John Clarke
Carlton West	Jim Creamer/Darrel Pulk
Chilwell and Toton	Richard Jackson/John Doddy
Collingham	Maureen Dobson
Eastwood	Keith Longdon
Farndon and Muskham	Sue Saddington
Farnsfield and Lowdham	Roger Jackson
Hucknall	Alice Grice/John Wilkinson/John Wilmott
Kimberley and Trowell	Ken Rigby
Kirkby in Ashfield North	John Knight
Kirkby in Ashfield South	Rachel Madden
Mansfield East	Alan Bell/Colleen Harwood
Mansfield North	Joyce Bosnjak/Parry Tsimbirdis
Mansfield South	Stephen Garner/Andy Sissons
Mansfield West	Diana Meale/Darren Langton
Newark East	Stuart Wallace
Newark West	Tony Roberts
Newstead	Chris Barnfather
Nuthall	Philip Owen
Ollerton and Boughton	Stella Smedley
Rufford	John Peck
Selston	Gail Turner
Southwell and Caunton	Bruce Laughton
Sutton in Ashfield Central	David Kirkham
Sutton in Ashfield East	Steve Carroll
Sutton in Ashfield North	Jason Zadrozny
Sutton in Ashfield West	Tom Hollis
Warsop	John Allin

Appendix 1: Members of Greenwood Community Forest Partnership

The partnership is made up of:

Local authorities (voting members)

- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Ashfield District
- Broxtowe Borough
- Gedling Borough
- Mansfield District
- Newark & Sherwood

Others (advisory, non-voting)

- Friends of Greenwood Community Forum
- Groundwork
- The Forestry Commission
- Natural England