

Annual Delivery Plan 2014 – 2015, Quarter 2 Executive Summary

This appendix contains a detailed update on our progress against the actions and measures within the Annual Delivery Plan for the period up to 30 September 2014. Within the update information has been provided by the Service Director or Group Manager responsible for the action to enable Members to track the County Council's progress across a wide range of activity against the ambitions within the Delivery Plan. However, the information is comprehensive and wide ranging and therefore this Executive Summary seeks to provide a brief snapshot of specific activity within the five priority areas of the Strategic Plan.

Priority one – Supporting safe and thriving communities

The Delivery Plan for 2014-15 focusses on activity in relation to the operation of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), the integrated work of Trading Standards and Community Safety, reducing casualties on Nottinghamshire roads and protecting the health and safety of local people. This is a priority area where effective working with partners, such as Nottinghamshire Police is essential to achieve the outcomes for communities. Progress to date has been positive for all outcomes, with activity and improved coordination with partners a key feature. A key aspect of supporting safe communities is the ongoing review of the Safeguarding procedures around the MASH ensuring they are as robust and efficient as possible. Work is also underway to ensure that MASH, is better aligned with Early Help services and information is shared effectively between key partners, such as the police, health and schools, as seen within the Encompass Nottinghamshire project.

Priority two – Protecting the environment

For Priority Two the Delivery Plan focusses on activity in relation to our responsibilities to help protect and improve the environment and to encourage others to play their part. The service areas making specific contributions include Highways and Transport maintaining the road and transport infrastructure, Waste and Energy Management reducing the environment impact of providing our services and managing disposal of waste and Planning and Country Parks protecting and promoting Nottinghamshire's unique heritage. Work is progressing well for all outcomes, however the scale of these ambitions means that it is difficult to see an immediate improvement in performance. Investing in new technology or preventative work to combat invasive species in our rivers is an activity that we will benefit from in the longer term and lead to overall cost savings.

Priority three – Supporting economic growth and employment

Supporting economic growth and employment was a priority within the four year Strategic Plan and is therefore a key feature of the annual Delivery Plan. Activity in this area is not confined to the work of Economic Development, but includes how the County Council acts as a major employer, the increased availability and promotion of apprenticeships and training and capital investment schemes to improve our town centres and help remove the barriers to growth. We have implemented some actions immediately, such as the introduction of the Living Wage which over 2,000 centrally employed staff now benefit from. The capital schemes to increase the coverage of broadband and deliver integrated transport measures are on track to meet their targets. In this first year of the Strategic Plan work has been started on our longer term projects around ensuring our town centres remain vibrant and unlocking employment sites across the county.

Priority four – Providing care and promoting health

The provision of social care and support services represents the largest proportion of County Council expenditure and this importance is reflected within the Delivery Plan for 2014-15. The main areas of focus are helping people to remain living at home independently for as long as possible, helping people maintain a satisfactory quality of life and improving the integration of care services with health care to ensure people have a positive experience of support services. A number of new initiatives to provide alternatives to long-term care have been commenced, such as the building of Extra Care units throughout the County. Additional help and services are being developed to help support Carers and the people they care for, such as the funding of specialist 'Compass Workers'. Other ambitions are much more long-term, such as the work of Public Health and our strategic partners in helping to reduce the inequalities gap in health. Whilst good progress is being made, this remains a long-term objective which will require sustained investment and commitment.

Priority Five – Investing in our future

The drive to improve educational attainment and help people reach their potential has been a long standing commitment by the County Council. The current Delivery Plan reflects this commitment with a sustained focus on education for key age groups, providing sufficient school places, developing early help services and then ensuring young people are helped to reach their potential through learning and training opportunities. Existing strategies to help achieve these outcomes have been aligned and incorporated into the 2014-15 Delivery Plan, particularly around School Improvement and 'Closing the Gap' and work has progressed well, in line with these strategies. The innovative pilot scheme 'Together for Newark' has been externally evaluated and the benefits of this approach for joint working are being incorporated to sustain this learning and embed this new way of working. Vital preparatory work around School Places and Family Support has been completed during the first six months of the Delivery Plan, which will come into effect during the next academic year to help us achieve our stated ambitions.