

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE GREEN ESTATE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND
PLAN 2013 - 2023****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek Committee approval for a new Development Strategy and Plan for 2013-2023, attached as **Appendix 1**, for Nottinghamshire County Council's Green Estate provision.

Information and Advice

2. Nottinghamshire is a vibrant County with a rich environmental heritage which is a fundamental part of the County's character. The County Council has a long track record of support for the development of its country parks and green spaces, which offer many opportunities for residents and other visitors and tourists to take part in and enjoy a wide range of positive outdoor activities.
3. The Green Estate Development Strategy and Plan reflects this track record, and also reflects the aims and aspirations of the Council's current Cultural Strategy, as approved by Council in December 2011.
4. The proposed Development Strategy and Plan will re-define the function, role and purpose of the Council's Green Estate provision by:
 - Re-stating the County Council's continued commitment to maintaining and developing a strong, sustainable Green Estate service offer;
 - Ensuring that the future development of the Green Estate provision is aligned to the developing strategic priorities of the County Council;
 - Setting out the contribution of the Green Estate provision to the delivery of the County Council's Cultural Strategy;
 - Acting as the strategic framework for the delivery of a high quality, community focused, future Green Estate offer.
 - Raising the profile and visibility of Nottinghamshire's Green Estate for the wider benefit of residents and visitors;

- Creating new links and collaborations with other service providers to promote the health, well-being and improved quality of life for Nottinghamshire residents.
 - Obtaining optimum value from the day to day management of the Green Estate sites.
5. More specifically, the Strategy and Plan will provide a coherent framework for the dedicated work of the Green Estate Team, which forms part of the wider Country Parks and Green Estate Service, and whose purpose is to manage and promote the Green Estate for the benefit of the people of Nottinghamshire, and improve the quality of the environment through sustainable management practices to enhance biodiversity and protect our cultural heritage for future generations.
 6. During the preparation of this Strategy internal discussions have been held with Corporate Property to assess its land holdings and management arrangements. It became apparent that there are pockets of land under Property management that might better fit within the Green Estate portfolio and vice versa. Further work needs to be completed to identify where best the Council's current holdings should be managed.
 7. The review of the Council's current green estate holdings proposed by the Strategy (pages 18-22), will take a site by site approach using three main criteria: landscape value, public access and nature conservation. Once the review is finished a report will be brought to Committee with an updated asset /status list of sites and recommendations for their future management/operation.
 8. Whilst the County Council has a significant role in managing the Green Estate across the County through direct provision and development, it does not work in isolation. There are many other local, regional, national agencies and organisations, together with the education, health and heritage sectors, whose work impacts on the Green Estate infrastructure and its role in our cultural life.
 9. Therefore, as part of improving our collaborative understanding and working, it is proposed that there is further consultation with partner organisations and stakeholders to ensure that our direct delivery complements provision in those sectors and that the whole Green Estate programme obtains optimum value and impact from County Council investment.
 10. The longer on-going progress on the Green Estate Development Strategy and Plan will be monitored and reviewed by the Culture Committee within its monitoring of the over-arching Cultural Strategy.

Other Options Considered

11. Though the County Council has managed its Green Estate for a number of years, there has been no long term rationale underpinning its work. This Development Strategy and Plan aims to provide the necessary support and operational context.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

12. The Development Strategy and Plan will demonstrate the Council's continuing strong commitment to Green Estate spaces and provision.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation will be undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

14. The commitment within the Strategy to continue to provide the same level of access to green spaces presents no negative implications for service users.

Equal Opportunities

15. An Equalities Impact Assessment will be carried out as part of the wider consultation arrangements for the Development Strategy and Plan.

Financial Implications

16. It is recognised that there are aspects of the Strategy that require longer term capital investment and these are highlighted within the action plans. Funding for such developments has still to be determined, but it is anticipated that external funding support will be required in order for them to be progressed.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Culture Committee:

- 1) approves the Development Strategy and Plan 2013-2023 for the Nottinghamshire County Council Green Estate service as set out in **Appendix 1**;
- 2) agrees to receive a further report in July 2014 to approve recommendations regarding the status of each site.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Steve Bradley
Group Manager, Country Park and Green Estate Services
T: 01623 821329
E: steve.bradley@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (SHB 11/09/13)

17. Committee have power to decide the recommendation.

Financial Comments (KLA 05/09/13)

18. The financial implications of the report are set out in paragraph 16 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Strategic Plan 2010 - 2014 - report to County Council on 30 June 2011

A Cultural Strategy for Nottinghamshire County Council 2011 - 2021 – report to County Council on 15 December 2011

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.

C0289