

Policy Committee

Thursday, 17 June 2021 at 10:30

County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence

- 2 Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below)
 - (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
 - (b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary)

- 3 To note the appointment by Full Council on 27 May 2021 of Councillor Ben Bradley MP and Councillor Bruce Laughton as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Policy Committee

- 4 Terms of Reference and Membership 1 - 4

- 5 Minutes of the last meeting of Policy Committee held on 21 April 2021 5 - 8

- 6 Minutes of the final meeting of Improvement and Change Sub-Committee held on 22 March 2021 9 - 12

- 7 The Council Plan and Resident and Stakeholder Engagement 13 - 16

- 8 Local Authority Remote Meetings - call for evidence 17 - 28

- 9 Levelling Up Fund Proposals 29 - 32

- 10 The UK Community Renewal Fund 33 - 40

- 11 Work Programme 41 - 44

12 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

The Committee will be invited to resolve:-

“That the public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the discussions are likely to involve disclosure of exempt information described in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.”

Note

If this is agreed, the public will have to leave the meeting during consideration of the following items.

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

13 The UK Community Renewal Fund - EXEMPT APPENDIX

- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information);

Notes

- (1) Councillors are advised to contact their Research Officer for details of any Group Meetings which are planned for this meeting.
- (2) Members of the public wishing to inspect "Background Papers" referred to in the reports on the agenda or Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act should contact:-

Customer Services Centre 0300 500 80 80

- (3) Persons making a declaration of interest should have regard to the Code of Conduct and the Council's Procedure Rules. Those declaring must indicate the nature of their interest and the reasons for the declaration.

Councillors or Officers requiring clarification on whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact Keith Ford (Tel. 0115 977 2590) or a colleague in Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

- (4) Councillors are reminded that Committee and Sub-Committee papers, with the exception of those which contain Exempt or Confidential Information, may be recycled.
- (5) This agenda and its associated reports are available to view online via an online calendar - <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx>

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CUSTOMERS, GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYEES**TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP****Purpose of the Report**

1. To set out the membership and terms of reference of the Policy Committee.

Information

2. The following Councillors have been appointed to the committee:

Chairman: Councillor Ben Bradley M.P.
Vice-Chairman: Councillor Bruce Laughton

Councillor Chris Barnfather
Councillor Richard Butler
Councillor Neil Clarke MBE
Councillor John Cottee
Councillor Jim Creamer
Councillor Boyd Elliott
Councillor Kate Foale
Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle
Councillor Keith Girling
Councillor Richard Jackson
Councillor Philip Owen
Councillor David Shaw
Councillor Helen-Ann Smith
Councillor Tracey Taylor
Councillor Michelle Welsh
Councillor Gordon Wheeler
Councillor Jason Zadrozny

3. At its meeting on Thursday 27 May 2021, the Council agreed to update the terms of reference for the Policy Committee, as set out below:

The powers and functions set out below are delegated to Policy Committee by the Full Council:

- a. All decisions within the control of the Council including but not limited to those listed in the Table below

- b. Policy development and approval in relation to matters within the remit of Policy Committee except on matters reserved for the Full Council
- c. Review of performance on a regular basis
- d. Review of day to day operational decisions taken by Officers
- e. Approval of consultation responses relating to the Committee's areas of responsibility except for responses to day-to-day technical consultations which will be agreed with the Chairman and reported to the next available Committee following their submission.
- f. Approval of relevant staffing structures as required
- g. Approving all Councillor attendance at conferences, seminars and training events within the UK mainland for which a fee is payable including any expenditure incurred, within the remit of this Committee and to receive quarterly reports from Corporate Directors on departmental officer travel outside the UK within the remit of this Committee.

If any report comes within the remit of more than one committee, to avoid the report being discussed at several committees, the report will be presented and determined at the most appropriate committee. If this is not clear, then the report will be discussed and determined by the Policy Committee.

As part of the detailed work programme the Committee will receive reports on the exercise of powers delegated to Officers.

The Committee will be responsible for its own projects and may establish steering groups to consider projects. Where it considers it appropriate, projects will be co-ordinated by a cross-committee project steering group that will report back to the relevant Committee.

Table
Responsibility for ensuring that committees operate under the policy direction of the County Council.
Responsibility for approving new policies, changes to existing policies with significant financial or other impacts, or where the policy falls within the remit of more than one Committee, subject to any necessary approval required by the Full Council
Responsibility for the discharge of all functions and exercise of all powers of the County Council not expressly reserved to the Full Council or to any other part of the County Council by statute or by this Constitution
Responsibility for monitoring and reviewing the overall performance of the Council
Responding to any consultations within the remit of more than one committee as and when required
Responsibility for those functions relating to elections and local democracy which are not reserved to the Full Council
Responsibility for the Council's external communications policy and its implementation
Responsibility for ensuring the Council meets its equalities duties
Responsibility for all remaining statutory overview and scrutiny powers except those delegated to a health scrutiny committee, Communities Committee and Transport and

Table
Environment Committee
Responsibility for reviewing annual reports and inspection reports not within the remit of another committee
Responsibility for authorising hospitality to be offered by the County Council except where the cost is to be covered by the Chairman of the County Council's individual budget
Responsibility for making changes to the organisations on the list of Outside Bodies
Responsibility for monitoring delivery of the Council Plan
Responsibility for monitoring and driving the Council's Transformation and Change Programme

Other Options Considered

4. None.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

5. To inform the committee of its membership and terms of reference.

Statutory and Policy Implications

6. 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.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Committee membership and terms of reference are noted.

Marjorie Toward

Service Director, Customers, Governance and Employees

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Keith Ford, Team Manager, Democratic Services

Email: keith.ford@nottsc.gov.uk

Tel: 0115 977 2590

Constitutional Comments (CEH 27/05/21)

7. The report is for information purposes for Members of the Committee.

Financial Comments (SES 26/05/2021)

8. 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.

- Report to full Council on 27 May 2021 (published)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

Meeting POLICY COMMITTEE

Date Wednesday 21 April 2021 (commencing at 10.30 am)

membership

Persons absent are marked with `A`

COUNCILLORS

Mrs Kay Cutts MBE (Chairman)

Reg Adair (Vice-Chairman)

Chris Barnfather
Richard Butler
John Cottee
Kate Foale
Stephen Garner
Glynn Gilfoyle
Tony Harper
Richard Jackson - **A**
John Knight

Bruce Laughton
Rachel Madden - **A**
David Martin - **A**
Philip Owen
John Peck JP
Mike Pringle
Alan Rhodes
Muriel Weisz

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillor Roger Jackson substituted for Councillor Richard Jackson.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Anthony May Chief Executive's Department
Marjorie Toward
Nigel Stevenson
Kaj Ghattaora
Angie Dilley
James Silverward
Jo Toomey

Colin Pettigrew Children & Families Department

Neil Gamble Place Department
Matthew Neal

1 MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 17 March 2021, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Richard Jackson (other County Council business) was substituted by Councillor Roger Jackson.

Apologies for absence were also received from:

- Councillor Rachel Madden (other reasons)
- Councillor David Martin (other reasons)

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS.

No interests were disclosed.

4 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL APPROACH TO THE PREVENTION OF MODERN SLAVERY

During discussion, reference was made to the County Council's role as a leader and influencer in fashioning a culture that challenged modern slavery and creating an environment where it could not persist, either as part of the Council's supply chain or within the broader community. To support this, there was consensus amongst Members that it was an appropriate time to refresh the Council's communications approach by producing an updated campaign to raise public awareness.

RESOLVED: 2021/034

That the Policy Committee:

- 1) Recognised work undertaken on the Council's good practice on modern slavery and contract management.
- 2) Supported the actions outlined in the report to develop a consistent approach to assurance against the Council's modern slavery values.
- 3) Agreed to refresh the communications approach and run a new campaign to raise public awareness about modern slavery.

5 THE UK COMMUNITY RENEWAL AND LEVELLING UP FUNDS

RESOLVED: 2021/034

That the Policy Committee agreed that:

- 1) The Council undertakes the UK Community Renewal Fund lead council role as set out by Government.
- 2) Council officers work with appropriate partners to prepare and accept potential projects for the UK Community Renewal Fund for inclusion within a bid to Government, for consideration at the next Policy Committee meeting.

- 3) Should the UK Community Renewal Fund bid to Government be successful, the Council receives and distributes funding in accordance with Government guidance.
- 4) Council officers work with Tier 1 District Council colleagues to develop and seek support for any appropriate potential Levelling Up Fund transport and highways bids, for consideration at the next Policy Committee meeting.

6 OPERATIONAL DECISIONS – QUARTERLY UPDATE REPORT
(DECEMBER 2020 TO FEBRUARY 2021)

RESOLVED: 2021/035

That Members had been updated on the Operational Decisions taken between December 2020 to February 2021.

7 WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED: 2021/036

That the work programme be updated as appropriate.

The meeting closed at 11.25 am.

CHAIRMAN

Meeting IMPROVEMENT AND CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE

Date 22 March 2021 (commencing at 10.30 am)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with an 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Reg Adair (Chairman)

John Cottee
Jim Creamer
Kate Foale
Tony Harper

Richard Jackson
David Martin
Diana Meale
Philip Owen

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mark Davies
Phil Cooper
Rob Disney
Keith Ford
Jo McCarthy
Sue Milburn
Marie Rowney
Marjorie Toward

Chief Executive's Department

Derek Higton
Adrian Smith

Place Department

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 4 January 2021, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

4. IMPROVEMENT AND CHANGE IN THE PLACE

Adrian Smith, Corporate Director, Place Department presented the report which gave an update on the approach to service improvement and transformation within the Department and on progress since the last report in November 2019.

RESOLVED 2021/04

That there were no actions required in relation to the report.

5. A NEW SMARTER WORKING VISION FOR THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Derek Higon, Service Director, Place and Communities introduced the report and Phil Cooper, Project Manager, gave a presentation on the new Smarter Working Vision, responding to Members' comments and queries.

RESOLVED 2021/05

- 1) That no actions arising from the report were required.
- 2) That an update report be scheduled within the work programme for consideration by the Sub-Committee within the next six months.

6. TRANSFORMATION AND CHANGE AND PERFORMANCE, INTELLIGENCE AND POLICY TEAMS

Sue Milburn, Group Manager, introduced the report which provided an update on progress with implementing the approved high level structures for the Transformation and Change and Business Intelligence functions and sought approval for the proposed full structures and funding arrangements and for a review of the new model and structures to be undertaken in early 2022.

RESOLVED 2021/06

- 1) That the proposed detailed structure for the Transformation and Change and Business Intelligence teams be approved.
- 2) That the funding arrangements as set out in paragraphs 29-33 of the report be approved and a request for permanent contingency of up to £0.27m, as set out in paragraph 33 of the report, be made to Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee
- 3) That further update reports on the implementation of the model and the definition, initiation and delivery of the cross-Council transformation programme be made to future meetings of the Sub-Committee.
- 4) That the new model and structures for transformation and change be reviewed in early 2022, with the outcome of the review and any consequent recommendations reported to the Sub-Committee.

7. PROGRESS REPORT ON DELIVERY OF IMPROVEMENT AND CHANGE PROGRAMMES, PROJECTS AND SAVINGS

Jo McCarthy, Portfolio Manager, introduced the report which provided an update, by exception, on departmental Improvement and Change portfolios and outlined progress towards delivery of the Council's current savings and strategically significant programmes and projects.

RESOLVED 2021/07

- 1) That no actions arising from the report were required.

8. TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Mark Davies, Interim Head of ICT, introduced the report which summarised ICT work being undertaken and planned for completion in the next 12 months.

In response to issues raised by Members during the debate, Mark Davies agreed to share with Members further information about the Coviz tracking application and any plans for including Members in the Partner Printing solution post-election.

RESOLVED 2021/08

- 1) That further updates on the work to improve service area delivery and efficiency, as detailed in the report, be submitted to future meetings of the sub-committee.

9. MY NOTTS APP – PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS AND PROGRESS UPDATE

Marie Rowney, Group Manager, introduced the report and gave a presentation around statistics, feedback, improvements and progress to date with the My Notts App.

During discussions, Members requested that a further tile about reporting drainage issues be added to the app.

RESOLVED 2021/09

- 1) That the details shared about current statistics, usability, proposed changes and options be noted.
- 2) That the My Notts app be updated in line with the request made by Members.

10. WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED 2021/10

That no amendments were required to the Work Programme

The meeting closed at 12.41 pm

CHAIRMAN

**REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
THE COUNCIL PLAN AND RESIDENT AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform the Committee of the development of the forthcoming Council Plan and proposed resident engagement exercise.

Information

2. The Council is currently developing a new Council Plan 2021-25. Through the Council Plan, the County Council will set out a long-term strategic vision for Nottinghamshire, and identify those priority actions over the next four years that will move the County forward towards achieving our ambition for a healthy, prosperous and greener Nottinghamshire.
3. The Plan will show how we will work together within the Council and with partners to secure the best for our residents and businesses, delivering high-quality, sustainable services which are responsive, efficient and forward-looking.
4. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a shift in the operating context for the Council. The Council's efforts to adapt services and protect the most vulnerable have led to many changes in the way staff work and services are delivered. The Council Plan will demonstrate how we will capture the learning from the pandemic, and where changes have led to better ways of working and improvements for residents and businesses, how we will embed this improvement into our future operating model. The Plan will be developed alongside the Medium-Term Financial Strategy ensuring that we can deliver our priorities in a financially sustainable way.
5. The strategic context for the Council has also changed as national policy develops to address the socio-economic impacts of the coronavirus. The priorities in the Council Plan will be based on an analysis of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on Nottinghamshire's communities, ensuring that we direct our resources towards those activities that will make the most difference to residents and businesses. The Plan will also be informed by the Council's COVID Recovery Framework, which is due to be considered by Policy Committee in July. The Recovery Framework will set out the factors influencing the Council's activities and priorities over the remainder of the current year.
6. Communities in Nottinghamshire have experienced huge changes to their way of life over the course of the pandemic. The Council is keen to take this opportunity to understand from communities what they consider to be the key challenges and opportunities as we recover from the pandemic as well as what changes they would like to see for future generations. Connecting with communities in this way will be key to developing a shared vision for the County and ensuring that our efforts to recover from the pandemic help us towards achieving

the Nottinghamshire we want in the future.

7. The Council will therefore be undertaking an engagement exercise with residents and stakeholders in summer 2021. The engagement exercise will give residents the opportunity to inform the Council of the key impacts of COVID for them, and the priorities that they see for Nottinghamshire as a consequence. The results of the exercise will therefore critically inform the content and emphasis of the Council Plan, which is due to be considered by Committee in early Autumn 2021.
8. Every resident will be able to take part through a survey that will be available online or by collecting a printed copy from any of Nottinghamshire's libraries. Additional engagement activities will be designed to ensure the Council has a good understanding of the needs and priorities of all of Nottinghamshire's communities.

Other Options Considered

9. There is an option not to engage on the Council Plan, however it is considered that engagement is important to ensure that the Council Plan reflects the needs and priorities of residents and businesses.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. To ensure that the long-term vision for the County and immediate recovery priorities in the Council Plan are informed by engagement with residents and stakeholders.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. 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

12. It is requested that contingency funding of £50,000 is made available to cover the cost of this engagement exercise.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that Policy Committee:

- 1) Agrees that an engagement exercise be undertaken with residents and stakeholders on the long-term vision and immediate recovery priorities for Nottinghamshire to inform the development of the Council Plan, with the costs of up to £50,000 to be met from the General Contingency budget subject to approval from the Finance Committee.

COUNCILLOR BEN BRADLEY, Leader of the Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

**Derek Higton
Service Director, Chief Executives Department
0115 9773498**

Constitutional Comments [CEH 24.05.2021]

13. The recommendations fall within the remit of Policy Committee under its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SES 25/05/2021)

14. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 12 of the report. The report proposes that contingency funding of £50,000 is made available to cover the cost of this engagement exercise. A request for an allocation from contingency is to be submitted to the Finance Committee.

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



**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – CUSTOMERS, GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYEES
LOCAL AUTHORITY REMOTE MEETINGS: CALL FOR EVIDENCE**

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the County Council's draft response to the Government's call for evidence regarding remote meetings of local authorities (**Appendix A**).

Information

2. In 2017 the Government consulted on proposals to allow joint committees and combined authorities to hold meetings by video conference. The Government concluded that, with appropriate safeguards to maintain transparency, there are clear benefits to giving local authorities operating joint committees and combined authorities the ability to hold formal meetings by video conference. Having reviewed the consultation feedback the Government published its response in July 2019 and committed to speak to the sector with a view to extending the use of video conferencing in formal meetings to other local authorities, before making a final decision on what to include in the legislation. There was no further consultation between July 2019 and March 2020 when the first COVID-19 lockdown was imposed.
3. The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (the Regulations) made provision for local authorities to hold meetings virtually or in a hybrid format. The Regulations were brought into force from 4 April 2020 until 6 May 2021.
4. As it became clear that restrictions that were a result of the pandemic were likely to be in place beyond 6 May 2021, and in light of the positive impacts that had been experienced as a result of the remote meeting provisions, the Government was asked to consider extending the Regulations. This Government response stated that this would not be possible as the Regulations had a sunset date and therefore primary legislation would be required for which there was no space in the legislative timetable.
5. A Judicial Review brought by the Association of Democratic Services Officers, Lawyers in Local Government and Hertfordshire County Council was heard in April 2021. The principal issue of the Judicial Review was to determine whether all or some members of the local authority should be physically present in the same place and whether the provision for public and press access to local authority meetings could be remote. The court was asked to focus on the interpretation of 'meeting', 'place', 'presence' and 'attend' as set out in the Local Government Act 1972.
6. The judgement concluded that the wording in the Local Government Act 1972 means that local authority meetings must take place at a single, specified geographical location and

attending a meeting meant being physically present at that location. An opinion was also issued which defined how the public had to be able to access and participate in local authority meetings. It also concluded that primary legislation would be required to allow local authority meetings to take place remotely.

7. On 25 March 2021 the Government published a call for evidence on local authority remote meetings. The call for evidence seeks views on the use of the arrangements in place during the coronavirus pandemic that enabled local authorities to hold meetings virtually or in a hybrid format. It also seeks to understand the experiences of local authorities across the UK, including Scotland and Wales, which already have provision for some form of remote or hybrid meeting. Scottish local authorities had provision to meet remotely prior to the pandemic. Legislation passed by the Welsh Government, which came into force on 1 May 2021, also made express provision for Welsh Local Authorities to meet remotely.
8. The draft response, which is attached as Appendix A to the report sets out the advantages and challenges of virtual meetings in the context of the County Council's experience. Where challenges were identified, the steps that the Council has taken to mitigate them have also been included.
9. The deadline for responses to the call for evidence is 17 June 2021.

Other Options Considered

10. The Council could choose not to submit a response to the call for evidence. Not submitting a response would mean that the County Council's views are not considered.
11. A further option would include the Governance and Ethics Committee considering the draft response however this has not been possible because the next meeting of the Governance and Ethics Committee falls after the deadline for submission.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

12. The draft response has been written to ask the Government to give Councils as much discretion as possible to determine their own arrangements, recognising that a universal response may not reflect local priorities and sensitivities, which local authorities are best placed to understand.
13. The proposed response highlights the Council's learning during the temporary Regulations as part of an assessment of the advantages of, and challenges imposed by, holding meetings virtually.
14. Submitting a response gives Nottinghamshire County Council the opportunity to influence the national agenda to bring democratic participation and engagement up to date. It recognises the changes in technology since the drafting of the Local Government Act 1972 and the changing ways business has been transacted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. 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.

Data Protection and Information Governance

16. Any arrangements the Council puts in place for virtual meetings would need assessing to ensure that any personal data and exempt information would be protected.

Financial Implications

17. The response recognises that holding virtual meetings has generated savings in the travel expenses that have been paid to Councillors. The annual figures for Members' travel claims between 2018 and 2021 are:

- 2018/19 - £58,447.90
- 2019/20 - £55,158.55
- 2020/21 - £7,385.80

18. While some of the reduction is attributable to reductions in permitted travel, a significant proportion of the reduction derives from Councillors not claiming travel expenses to attend meetings in person at County Hall.

19. The response does recognise the additional resource that has been made available to support virtual meetings, particularly in the early days of their use.

Human Rights Implications

20. Once any provision is made in legislation, the County Council will ensure that the arrangements it introduces protect people's human rights in the context of local authority decision making.

Public Sector Equality Duty implications

21. The impact of virtual meeting arrangements on people with different protected characteristics has been set out in the draft response. Once any proposals have been produced by the Government, Nottinghamshire County Council will be able to assess the impact on its communities and identify any measures to mitigate potential negative impacts.

Smarter Working Implications

22. Supporting permanent provision for virtual meetings aligns with smarter working objectives. It offers efficiencies both financially and in respect of time; these benefits can be realised by both Councillors and members of the public who seek to engage with democratic processes. It also offers opportunities to reach and engage the wider communities in Nottinghamshire more efficiently than meetings that are held in person only.

Implications for Service Users

23. Arrangements for virtual meetings should provide a more convenient solution for service users to participate in Council meetings. Any solution introduced by Nottinghamshire County Council would need to be designed so that they did not exclude any groups of service users.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

24. Introducing provision for virtual and hybrid meetings would bring positive environmental impacts by reducing the need for Councillors and interested members of the public to travel to County Hall. This will assist in meeting national carbon reduction targets agreed by the Government.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1) That Policy Committee approves the response at Appendix A to the Government's call for evidence on remote meetings.

Marjorie Toward

Service Director – Customers, Governance and Employees

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Jo Toomey, Advanced Democratic Services Officer (0115 977 4506 / jo.toomey@nottscc.gov.uk).

Constitutional Comments (HD- 20/5/2021)

25. The decision set out within the report falls within the remit of Policy Committee.

Financial Comments (SES 25/05/2021)

26. 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.

- [Local authority remote meetings: call for evidence - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

Local authority remote meetings: call for evidence

Q1. Generally speaking, how well do you feel the current remote meetings arrangements work?

- Very Well
- ~~Well~~
- ~~Neither well nor poorly~~
- ~~Poorly~~
- ~~Very Poorly~~
- Unsure

While the introduction of virtual meetings was resource-intensive with substantial demand for training, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a significant culture shift in the way people transact business and access services. It has also left Councils well-equipped with robust protocols for virtual participation and engagement. The flexibility and convenience have generated many benefits; these are explored later in this response.

Q2. Generally speaking, do you think local authorities in England should have the express ability to hold at least some meetings remotely on a permanent basis?

- Yes
- ~~No~~
- Unsure

Nottinghamshire County Council favours continuation of the powers to enable maximum flexibility.

Q3. What do you think are some of the benefits of the remote meetings arrangements? Please select all that apply.

- More accessible for local authority members
- Reduction in travel time for councillors
- Meetings more easily accessed by local residents
- Greater transparency for local authority meetings
- ~~Documents (e.g. minutes, agendas, supporting papers) are more accessible to local residents and others online~~
- ~~Easier to chair meetings in an orderly fashion~~
- ~~A virtual format promotes greater equality in speaking time during meetings~~
- ~~I do not think there are any benefits to remote meetings~~
- Other (please specify)

In addition to those advantages noted above, allowing Councils to meet virtually would provide the following benefits:

The risk of meetings being abandoned because they are inquorate would be reduced. As the time commitment required by Members would decrease, and the ability to attend wherever they are, Members could attend where they would otherwise have submitted their apologies, for example where Councillors work away from the locations at which their meetings are held.

This ties in with advantages around securing attendance in adverse weather. Decision-making meetings can be jeopardised where there are weather events that mean it is unsafe for members to travel or they are physically unable to reach the meeting venue. Safety of those attending meetings is of particular benefit where meetings run into or are held in the evening. On rare occasions in the past, the Council has had to cancel meetings or cut them short due to extreme weather conditions. By retaining a virtual meeting option, such scenarios, whilst rare, could hopefully be avoided all together.

Recent years have seen adverse weather events around the time at which Councils are required to set their budgets. Adverse weather events, which could stop make a meeting inquorate or skew the political balance (where political representation is locality based), could jeopardise a Council's ability to set its annual budget. It could also protect other key decisions that councils need to make. It also improves opportunities for members of the public to participate, regardless of where they live in the area and the prevailing conditions.

The size of some Council areas is so significant that travelling to a meeting venue can greatly impact the time commitment of those Councillors who live further away. For example, in a large rural county like Nottinghamshire, a Councillor living in the north can spend a minimum of two hours travelling, meaning a meeting that lasts half a day would require them to commit a full day's worth of time. This increased efficiency also benefits Councillors who are Members of more than one local authority; reduced travel times enable them to attend back-to-back meetings. It also helps them connect with their local parish Councils – reducing the time they need to spend on County Council business and associated journeys would increase their availability to attend meetings of other bodies.

By allowing greater flexibility in how Councils can hold their meetings, there is an opportunity to broaden the range of candidates who stand for election. A required physical presence at a meeting venue could deter prospective candidates.

During the period within which the Council has run virtual meetings, it has seen an increase in the number of people who have viewed its meetings. Recordings of Council meetings have enjoyed several hundred views, which exceeds not only the number of people who would typically attend a meeting, but the capacity within the public gallery. This carries the added advantage of reducing the burdens necessary for people to engage with Council meetings, particularly in areas where there are long distances to travel and limited public transport. Virtual participation also allows members of the public to engage more efficiently – they can hear debate and participate in any public speaking sessions without having to sit through long agendas until the item in which they are interested is considered.

Provision for Councils to choose the format of meetings would also be advantageous where unanticipated events occur, for instance, fire or flood. It is not always possible or cost effective to find an alternative venue of sufficient size and with appropriate

facilities, particularly at short notice. The alternative provision will allow democratic processes to continue with the minimum disruption. It would also allow Councils to react to any local pandemic (or other infectious disease) flare-ups.

One further advantage of remote meetings is the positive environmental impact. As stated previously, some Councils, covering large areas would require meeting attendees to travel significant distances. It is not always possible to use public transport to access meetings, meaning a wider reliance on private vehicles. It would have the added benefit of contributing to the national effort to cut carbon emissions from transportation in line with the Government's carbon change target of cutting emissions by 78% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels.

Q4. (For local authorities only) Have you seen a reduction in costs since implementing remote meetings in your authority?

- Yes
- ~~No~~
- ~~Unsure~~

The Council has made savings from holding remote meetings. The amount the Council has spent on Members' travel claims has reduced. The figures given below are the full year total; some reduction will be accounted for from the reduction in permitted travel however, a significant proportion is the result of Councillors not submitting travel claims for attending meetings.

- 2018/19 - £58,447.90
- 2019/20 - £55,158.55
- 2020/21 - £7,385.80

The Council acknowledges that increased officer resource is required to support virtual meetings, however this has reduced as both members and officers have become used to the approach. Some of the resourcing requirements stem from the livestreaming of meetings. This demand would continue if live broadcasting became a legal requirement, as it means that more people would be required to ensure the meeting is legal in terms of decision-making rather than, if the live broadcast was to fail, continuing with the meeting and uploading the recording afterwards.

Q5. What do you think are some of the disadvantages of the remote meetings arrangements, and do you have any suggestions for how they could be mitigated/overcome? Please select all that apply.

- It is harder for members to talk to one another informally
- Meetings are less accessible for local authority members or local residents who have a poor-quality internet connection
- Meetings are less accessible for local authority members or local residents who are unfamiliar with video conferencing/technology
- ~~There is less opportunity for local residents to speak or ask questions~~
- ~~Some find it more difficult to read documents online than in a physical format~~
- ~~Debate is restricted by the remote format~~
- ~~It is more difficult to provide effective opposition or scrutiny in a remote format~~
- ~~It is more difficult to chair meetings in an orderly fashion~~
- ~~Virtual meetings can be more easily dominated by individual speakers~~

- ~~It might enable democratically elected members to live and perform their duties outside their local area on a permanent basis, therefore detaching them from the communities they serve~~
- ~~It may create too substantial a division between the way national democracy (e.g. in the House of Commons) and local democracy is conducted~~
- ~~I do not think there are any disadvantages to remote meetings~~
- Other (please specify)

Of those potential disadvantages set out above, the following mitigations could apply:

- Members talking to one another informally: Local authorities could encourage group networking as well as organising non-political events that provide an opportunity for colleagues from different political groups to mix, including training events and drop-in sessions. There would also be the opportunity to develop relationships through those meetings that are held face-to-face or using a hybrid model.
- Meetings are less accessible for local authority members or local residents who have a poor-quality internet connection: Councils could explore options with councillors about whether there are ways their connectivity could be improved. However, a hybrid meeting offer would provide an in-person alternative for people with poor quality internet connections
- Meetings are less accessible for local authority members or local residents who are unfamiliar with video conferencing technology: A hybrid model would provide a non-technological means of participating for those Councillors and members of the public who are less familiar with video conferencing technology. The numbers of people who are less familiar with video conferencing technology will have significantly reduced from the position at the start of the pandemic out of necessity. It would also be incumbent on local authorities to provide a comprehensive training and support for Councillors to enable them to access remote meetings.

Nottinghamshire County Council has mitigated these disadvantages through:

- Its meeting on-boarding arrangements. The measures that the Council has put in place prior to the start of meetings, which have seen more Members chatting with one another across groups than would in the Council Chamber.
- Intensive training when virtual meetings began.
- The ICT support available to Members regarding both internet access and familiarity, with support available at every meeting and VIP support for Councillors combined with active call monitoring and response during meetings.

Q6. What do you think are some of the main advantages of holding face-to-face meetings, as opposed to remote meetings?

The main advantages of in-person meetings are the opportunities that are provided for building informal networks, both cross-party and with officers, in particular following local elections. Councils can ensure that there is a balance of in-person

activity to enable these relationships to be built, particularly if the Council has the flexibility to determine how it wishes to hold its meetings.

The other key disadvantage relates to the energy within a meeting, which is different in virtual meetings. Remote meetings remove the ability to read people's body language and detect nuance can be inhibited by virtual meetings, which means that skilful chairing is required.

Q7. If permanent arrangements were to be made for local authorities in England, for which meetings do you think they should have the option to hold remote meetings?

- For all meetings
- For most meetings with a few exceptions (please specify)
- Only for some meetings (please specify)
- I think local authorities should be able to decide for themselves which meetings should have the option to meet remotely
- I do not think local authorities should have the option to hold remote meetings for any meetings
- Unsure

Nottinghamshire County Council believes that provision should be made that would enable local authorities to determine for themselves which meetings to hold fully remotely, in a hybrid format or in-person.

Q8. If permanent arrangements were to be made for local authorities in England, in which circumstances do you think local authorities should have the option to hold remote meetings?

- In any circumstances
- Only in extenuating circumstances where a meeting cannot be held face-to-face or some members would be unable to attend (e.g. severe weather events, coronavirus restrictions)
- I think local authorities should be able to decide for themselves which circumstances they should have the option to meet remotely
- I do not think local authorities should have the option to hold remote meetings under any circumstances
- Other (please specify)
- Unsure

Nottinghamshire County Council believes that provision should be made to give local authorities the flexibility to determine, in accordance with arrangements defined within their Constitution, when it is more appropriate to hold fully remote meetings, hybrid meetings or in person meetings (see responses to questions 9 and 10).

Q9. Would you have any concerns if local authorities in England were given the power to decide for themselves which meetings, and in what circumstances, they have the option to hold remote meetings?

- Yes
- No

~~Unsure~~

Local authorities are best positioned to make these determinations; they understand their local communities and councillors. A nationally mandated approach would not reflect local concerns, priorities and infrastructure. For example, mandating that meetings must be held fully in person where matters heavily affect rural communities with poor public transport links could automatically disenfranchise them, reducing transparency and accountability (to be read in conjunction to the answers to questions 8 and 10).

Q10. If yes, do you have any suggestions for how your concerns could be mitigated/overcome?

Any risk of politicising decisions about the format in which meetings should take place can be mitigated by providing a framework that sits within Councils' Constitutions, with the format to be agreed with the Proper Officer.

Q11. In your view, would making express provision for English local authorities to meet remotely particularly benefit or disadvantage any individuals with protected characteristics e.g. those with disabilities or caring responsibilities?

- Yes
- ~~No~~
- Unsure

Provision for remote meetings could positively affect people with the following protected characteristics:

- Remote meetings can have a positive impact on people with disabilities. People with disabilities can be spared the need to travel, and with appropriate adaptive technologies, engage with democracy more independently than they might otherwise be able, or where they might not previously have been able to engage. This has advantages for both Councillors and members of the public and could reduce barriers that prevent people with this protected characteristic from standing for election.

People whose disabilities that may lead to their immune system being suppressed could also experience positive impacts. Allowing the continuation of remote meetings would allow them to reduce their personal contacts.

There is a potential for a negative impact on people with certain disabilities, for example visual impairment, if all meetings are held fully remotely and their disability meant that they would be unable to join the meeting remotely. Conversely, the use of remote meetings could have a positive impact for people with other disabilities. Thinking specifically of users with hearing impairments, there are tools within remote meetings systems that offer closed captioning, which can assist if a venue does not have an induction loop or no sign language interpreter is available.

Permitting remote access to meetings would also have a positive impact on those who care for people with disabilities, providing flexibility and preventing discrimination by association.

Given that remote meetings have operated successfully during the pandemic it could be argued that their continuation would constitute a reasonable adjustment.

- Remote meetings could have a positive impact on anyone with the protected characteristic pregnancy and maternity. As there are no formal provisions that allow Councillors to take maternity leave, remote meetings would enable any Councillor protected by virtue of this characteristic to continue their role with greater flexibility and reducing the risk that they would become disqualified if they are unable to attend meetings in person.
- Allowing for meetings to be held remotely could have a positive impact on younger people, who are more pre-disposed to transacting business digitally. The impact is also positive as it could increase both candidacy and participation by people of working age.

Provision for remote meetings has the potential to negatively affect people with the following protected characteristics:

- Holding remote meetings could have a negative impact on older people; this group can have lower levels of IT confidence and skill. This could be mitigated by providing comprehensive, tailored training for Members or by offering alternative methods through which Councillors and members of the public could engage, for example through hybrid meetings. It is also important to recognise that during the COVID-19 pandemic, digital participation has become widespread, increasing the likelihood that some of those people who had previously been reluctant to, or unable to engage digitally, have developed new skills and confidence.
- Fully remote meetings also have the potential to negatively impact people with disabilities, both Councillors and members of the public, who would find it easier to attend a meeting in person. This could be mitigated against by using a hybrid meeting format where there is an option for them to attend County Hall in addition to joining online.

Having considered the potential for positive and negative impacts on different protected characteristics, the ability to hold hybrid meetings would present a solution that would mitigate negative impacts while retaining the benefits of those positive impacts provided by the ability to hold remote meetings.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE

LEVELLING UP FUND PROPOSALS

Purpose of the Report

1. To agree that Nottinghamshire County Council provides its support as the Local Highways Authority, to the Newark and Sherwood District Council Southern Link Road Levelling Up Fund (LUF) bid.

Information

2. The Levelling Up Fund (LUF) will invest in local infrastructure that has a visible impact on people and their communities. At the Spending Review, the UK Government committed an initial £4 billion for the LUF for England over the next four years (up to 2024-25). In England, Scotland and Wales, funding will be delivered through local authorities. The amount of funding each area receives will be determined on a competitive basis to ensure value for money.
3. The Fund will focus investment in projects that require up to £20m of funding. However, there is also scope for investing in larger high value transport projects, by exception. Bids above £20m and below £50m will be accepted for transport projects only, such as road schemes, and can be submitted by any bidding local authority. They will be subject to a more detailed business case process and will need to score highly overall. All bids should have the approval of the relevant authority responsible for delivering them.
4. In the first round of funding, Government will prioritise projects which are able to demonstrate investment or begin delivery on the ground in the 2021-22 financial year. There will be future opportunities to bid in subsequent rounds. Government expects all funding provided from the Fund to be spent by 31 March 2024, and, exceptionally, into 2024-25 for larger schemes.
5. The first round of the Fund will focus on three themes: smaller transport projects that make a genuine difference to local areas; town centre and high street regeneration; and support for maintaining and expanding the UK's world-leading portfolio of cultural and heritage assets.

Local Planning Authorities

6. The Local Planning Authorities are also working on and looking to submit their own LUF bids. This report however focusses on Newark and Sherwood District Council's bid for transport investment in the Southern Link Road in Round 1, which this County Council has been working with Officers in the District Council to develop.
7. Newark and Sherwood District Council are looking to apply for up to £20m funding to complete the Newark Southern Link Road which will bring network benefits to the local highway in that area as well as the wider economic and regeneration benefits for Newark;

and so constitutes a smaller transport project that will make a genuine difference to the local area. Benefits will include allowing the growth at Newark to continue without putting further pressure on the already congested routes into the town centre, providing an invaluable release valve for traffic during the extended works period once the A46 works at Newark are underway by Highways England, and unlocking significant parcels of land for further redevelopment. An amount of funding has already been set aside for the delivery of the Link Road, however the bid to the LUF will provide additional gap funding to allow the final stage of the works to begin.

Next Steps

8. To apply for investment from the first round of the LUF, eligible local institutions must submit their bids to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government by noon on Friday 18 June 2021. The Nottinghamshire County Council will be required as the Local Highway Authority to provide its support to accompany the bid from Newark and Sherwood District Council to Government.

Other Options Considered

9. None.

Reason for Recommendation

10. The County Council's support for the bid, as the relevant Highway Authority, is required and the proposal will support the County Council's own aspirations for transport improvements in this locality.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. 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.

Finance Implications

12. As part of the bid process the County Council, in partnership with Newark and Sherwood District Council, has committed £27,000 from the initiatives budget, as discussed and agreed with the Leader, to develop a fully worked up bid.

RECOMMENDATION

It is **RECOMMENDED** that Committee:

- 1) approves the £27,000 development contribution and,
- 2) as the relevant Highway Authority, confirms its formal support for the Newark and Sherwood District Council Southern Link Road LUF Bid.

Adrian Smith
Corporate Director, Place

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Matthew Neal, Service Director, Investment & Growth, Tel: 0115 9773822

Constitutional Comments (SJE – 08/06/2021)

13. Policy Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (RWK 02/06/2021)

14. The report proposes the County Council support the Newark and Sherwood District Council Southern Link Road LUF. Supporting this bid is estimated to cost up to £27,000 and will be met from within the existing revenue budget.

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.

- *Delivering Major Programmes of Work and Bids for Funding – Place Department*, Report to Policy Committee, 17th March 2021, Agenda Item 6
- *The UK Community Renewal Fund and Levelling Up Funds*, Report to Policy Committee, 21st April 2021, Agenda Item 5

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

**REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
THE UK COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUND****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide an update on work undertaken to date to develop a submission to Government under the UK Community Renewal Fund (UKCRF), report on the outcome of the Council's CRF evaluation process and to seek approval of the recommended projects to be included in the Council's submission for the funding.

Information

2. This report summarises the proposed bids to be submitted by Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) to the Government's UKCRF. As a key pillar for levelling up and recovering from the impact Covid19 has had on businesses and communities, the submission will provide valuable investment. The projects to be include in the submission and referenced within this report will enable Nottinghamshire's priority places to unleash their potential, instil pride, have a positive impact on the County and support the Government's Levelling Up agenda.
3. Some information relating to this report is not for publication by virtue of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 because the information relates to the financial and business affairs of the bidders seeking to participate in the Council's submission for the UK Community Renewal Fund. Having regard to all the circumstances, on balance the public interest in disclosing the information does not outweigh the reason for exemption because divulging the information would add a limited amount to public understanding or the issues but would significantly damage the commercial position of the bidders. The exempt information is set out in Table 1 of the exempt appendix.
4. On the 21st April 2021, Policy Committee considered a report which set out the themes and expectations of the UKCRF and agreed that:
 - The Council undertake the UKCRF "Lead Authority" role as set out by Government; and
 - Council officers work with appropriate partners to prepare and accept potential projects for UKCRF for inclusion within a bid to Government, for consideration at the next Policy Committee meeting.
5. The UKCRF is governed by detailed guidance that requires the Council to put in place an open call for projects, with a focus on the 3 priority places of Bassetlaw, Mansfield and Newark and Sherwood. Maximum amounts of £3M of revenue funding per area were indicated as being available, giving a total potential submission to Government of £9M. The call for projects was launched on the 12th April with a deadline for applications of the 14th May 2021. In order to maximise the limited time available to applicants to prepare and develop their applications, a substantive package of support from the County Council was put in place, including:
 - A co-ordinated communications package, with press releases, promotion over social media and alerts to subscribers to business and community newsletters;
 - Engaging with partners and agencies likely to be interested in the UKCRF to maximise impact and to encourage partners to apply;
 - The establishment of a dedicated webpage confirming the full details of how to apply;

- A responsive Frequently Asked Questions tab offering additional insight into the local priorities and the Government’s expectations, as well as responding to all the questions asked by potential applicants;
- A live webinar offering a briefing on the UKCRF, recorded and made available on the webpage, offering additional insight into the Council’s approach and timetable. 74 organisations registered for the session.

The Assessment Evaluation Process

6. A total of 37 applications were received by the deadline, seeking a total of over £29.2M in UKCRF support. The UKCRF guidance sets out the following clear expectations for receiving applications, for undertaking their assessment and determining which projects should be included within the submission to Government. The guidance was followed closely with the process being summarised as follows :
- a) Gateway Check – assessed as a “pass or fail” process, with 5 applications having failed at this stage;
 - b) Formal Assessment – being a two-stage scoring process, designed firstly to look at the strategic fit of projects with the local and national themes and priorities and secondly, to review the deliverability and risks associated with applications. This resulted ultimately in the development of a final list of “appointable” projects out of the 32;
 - c) Project Ranking and Selection – where the “appointable” projects were graded, based on the combined scores across the two stages of assessment and their impact on the priority areas.
7. The above process was led by the County Council, facilitated with the support of the three district councils having been identified as priority places and by appointed consultants. The three councils supported the County Council with the strategic fit aspects and the consultants with the deliverability aspects. This process ensured that the key expectations of the process were met, being transparently and independently assessed. The Government guidance places great stress on how the UKCRF approach should be managed, seeking assurances and evidence within the submission as to how the open call and the assessment process were each facilitated. The Government guidance was followed closely throughout.

The UKCRF Opportunity for Nottinghamshire

8. Noting the notional amount of resources likely to be available for the Top Priority areas combined, of the 32 projects passing the Gateway Checks, a total of nine projects have been prioritised for inclusion within the submission to Government, comprising just over £12,559,985 of UKCRF investment. The details of the nine projects are referenced in the Exempt Appendix. The breakdown of geographical and thematic impact of the nine projects is summarised at Appendix A.
9. It is proposed that the projects submitted to Government exceeds the £9M of funding that has been notionally identified for the three priority places of Bassetlaw, Mansfield and Newark and Sherwood combined. This “over-bidding” approach demonstrates the extent of the healthy demand for support and also offers the Government a wider pool of projects from which it will select its final choices. Collectively, if approved, the proposed nine projects should deliver the following outputs:

Indicator	Total

Jobs Created or Safeguarded	2,228
No.s Engaged in Job Searching After Support	1,819
New Businesses Created	233
No. of Organisation's de-carbonisation plans	115
New Product Development within Businesses	607
Direct Business Support Sessions	660
No.s Receiving Life Skills Support	1,283
No.s Into Education and Training	2,271
No.s Gaining a Qualification After Support	1,690
No. of Increased Visitor Numbers	52,660
Amount of Sq M Buildings Renovated	5,000

Note: The above table is based on the cumulative contribution of the nine highest ranked projects to be included in the submission, spread across the respective themes, with reference to the Government's Core Outcome Indicators. A number of projects address multiple outcomes.

10. In preparing the bid, evaluations were undertaken in accordance with the the published guidance which will itself be used by the Government (with appropriate Ministerial discretion) to select the project(s) it wishes to support.
11. Subject to the approval of the recommendations made in this report, it is understood that a decision will be made by Government in late July 2021. Preparations will continue to ensure that the Council has the legal agreements prepared and the financial management and grant processes in place to manage those projects securing Government approval. Details of the grant agreements, the precise monitoring, reporting and evaluation arrangements and the capacity funding available to support this process are awaited. This report asks that £30,000 be set aside from the existing Major Programmes Delivery Budget for this purpose in the interim.
12. All UKCRF supported projects are expected to be fully completed by the end of March 2022.

Other Options Considered

13. Following the approval of the report to this Committee on the 21st April, the "Do Nothing" option was considered inappropriate and the Council has engaged fully with the UKCRF process to support the development of applications and to bring forward a submission to Government.

Reasons for Recommendations

14. The UKCRF offers opportunities to support further investment in the Nottinghamshire economy, its people and its communities. The Council and applicants have responded to the challenge to develop a submission and the projects proposed for inclusion will bring significant activity and positive outcomes to the County. In addition, with the County Council leading on the submission, working positively with its partners and being requested to manage the administration of the agreed funding programme, the submission presents an opportunity for the Council to demonstrate its credentials in managing future programmes, notably with the UKCRF being trailed as a forerunner to anticipated UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. 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

16. The previous report to this Committee noted that, if approved, the Council could be in receipt of up to £9 Million of UKCRF funding, approving its receipt and management as Lead Authority. The final submission as drafted proposes projects seeking over £12,559,985 in UKCRF grant; the final award being determined by Government.

17. Assuming the submission to Government attracts support, the timetable for project delivery will be tight over the remainder of this current financial year. The precise details regarding the liabilities facing the projects and in particular the Council as Lead Authority have yet to be shared by Government and in that light, it is proposed that the Committee approves the anticipated additional expenditure to approved projects and delegates consideration of any wider financial implications to the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Policy Committee:

- a) Approves the submission of a bid to Government for UKCRF support for Nottinghamshire, comprising the nine projects as referenced in the Exempt Appendix;
- b) Agrees to “overbid” to the UKCRF against the notional £9m that has been made available for the three Priority Places;
- c) Agrees to set aside a funding requirement of up to £30,000 from the Major Programmes delivery work budget to enable the submission of the bid;
- d) Approves the additional expenditure referred to in paragraph 16 and delegates authority to the Corporate Director, Place to approve the process and terms, including consideration of any wider financial implications of managing a successful bid, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

COUNCILLOR BEN BRADLEY MP
Leader of the Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Matthew Neal, Service Director, Investment & Growth ext. 73822

Constitutional Comments (SSR 08.06.2021)

18. The recommendations set out in the report are matter that may be determined by Policy Committee.

Financial Comments (KP 28.05.2021)

19. The financial implications are set out in the 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.

- *The UK Community Renewal Fund Prospectus* alongside wider technical and methodology notes and the *Assessment Criteria* are available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-community-renewal-fund-prospectus>
- The County Council's own webpage confirming the details of how to make applications and associated supportive information is available at:
<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/business-community/community-and-voluntary-sector/uk-community-renewal-fund>
- *Delivering Major Programmes of Work and Bids for Funding – Place Department*, Report to Policy Committee, 17th March 2021, Agenda Item 6
- *The UK Community Renewal Fund and Levelling Up Funds*, Report to Policy Committee, 21st April 2021, Agenda Item 5

Electoral Divisions and Members affected

- Principally members across the district areas of Bassetlaw, Mansfield, Newark & Sherwood

Appendix A UKCRF Submission Summary

1. CRF Summary by Value of Grant

The following table summarises the UK CRF grant requests by priority area for the nine top-ranked projects as well as totalising the project submissions that are proposed for inclusion in the submission.

	Total	Bassetlaw	Mansfield	Newark and Sherwood
Value of UKCRF requested within the Submission	£12,559,985	£3,898,408	£4,619,722	£4,041,855
By percentage	100%	31%	37%	32%

Note: The split is based on the spread across the respective areas as referenced by the applicants.

2. CRF Summary by Priority Theme

The following table summarises the UKCRF grant request by the priority theme for the proposed submission.

	Skills	Businesses	Community and Place	Supporting Employment
Value of UKCRF requested within the Submission	£3,364,367	£2,164,302	£4,108,401	£2,922,915
By percentage	27%	17%	33%	23%

Note: The split is based on the spread across the respective themes as referenced by the applicants



REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CUSTOMERS, GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYEES

Purpose of the Report

1. To review the Committee's work programme for 2021-22.

Information

2. The County Council requires each committee to maintain a work programme. The work programme will assist the management of the committee's agenda, the scheduling of the committee's business and forward planning. The work programme will be updated and reviewed at each pre-agenda meeting and committee meeting. Any member of the committee is able to suggest items for possible inclusion.
3. The attached work programme includes items which can be anticipated at the present time. Other items will be added to the programme as they are identified. The meeting dates and agenda items are subject to review in light of the ongoing COVID-19 period.
4. The work programme is currently being reviewed and a more comprehensive appendix will be prepared for the 15 July meeting.

Other Options Considered

5. None.

Reason for Recommendation

6. To assist the Committee in preparing and managing its work programme.

Statutory and Policy Implications

7. 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.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee considers whether any amendments are required to the Work Programme.

Marjorie Toward
Service Director, Customers, Governance and Employees

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Keith Ford, Team Manager, Democratic Services Services Officer, Tel: 0115 9772590

Constitutional Comments (EH)

8. The Committee has authority to consider the matters set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference

Financial Comments (NS)

9. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers

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

POLICY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME (AS AT 9 JUNE 2021)

Report Title	Brief summary of agenda item	Lead Officer	Report Author
14 July 2021			
Use of Urgency Procedures	Six Monthly Update report on the use of the Council's procedures for taking urgent decisions.	Marjorie Toward	Keith Ford
The National Rehabilitation Centre Update	Miriam Duffy, Programme Director to give an update on progress following the initial report to Policy Committee in January 2020.	Anthony May	Miriam Duffy
Outside Bodies - Update Report	To notify Committee, on a six monthly basis, of any changes to the Council's Outside Bodies Register and to seek approvals where appropriate.	Marjorie Toward	Keith Ford
Working with Nottinghamshire's Universities	To update on the Council's work with Nottingham Trent University and University of Nottingham.	Anthony May	Derek Higton / Katrina Crookdake
Hybrid Working Policy		Adrian Smith	Matthew Neal
September 2021 – Date TBC			
October 2021 – Date TBC			
Corporate Plan	To approve the Corporate Plan	Anthony May	Derek Higton

