

All Together Better

**Nottinghamshire County Council's Strategic Plan
2006 - 2010**

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All Together Better - Our Vision for Nottinghamshire

Nottinghamshire is a great place to live and work. Rolling countryside and friendly villages. Vibrant towns. A dynamic city. With Derbyshire and Leicestershire neighbours, we form the physical and cultural setting within which the cities of Nottingham, Leicester and Derby thrive. Our future is bound up with the whole of the East Midlands Region.

We are a changing community, built on great industries – coal, textiles, engineering and agriculture. Future economic success is also linked to services, professions, new technologies, knowledge and information. Change brings with it the exciting prospect of new opportunities. But it also brings challenges such as building an inclusive, connected and secure community which values everyone.

We want the county council to play an effective role in addressing these challenges and leading the community. We want to do this by:

- putting our customers at the heart of everything that we do
- delivering excellent but affordable public services
- being a civic leader, helping to develop strong communities across the county.

Nottinghamshire's Community Strategy is called "All together better". These words are at the heart of our vision for Nottinghamshire. When we **all** work **together**, the result is a **better** community.

All Together Better

Introduction

Nottinghamshire County Council's vision for the future is shaped by the needs of our community, local political choice, and the national policies established by Government.

Nottinghamshire's Community Strategy "All together better", sets out the aims of Nottinghamshire partners working together for the community. It is based on extensive consultation which includes a survey of 1,000 local people and a visioning conference which involved representatives from different sections of the Nottinghamshire community. From this work we identified, with our partners, five key objectives for our community:

- **Safer and stronger** - a safer place to live with a strong sense of community
- **Healthier** – improved health and wellbeing for people
- **Learning and earning** – help for everyone to reach their potential
- **Cleaner and greener** – protection and improvement for the environment
- **Travel and access** – help for people to travel more easily and safely and be able to access all the services they need.

Political priorities established following the May 2005 elections are:

- Placing **schools** at the centre of our local communities
- Renovating fifteen **libraries**
- Refurbishing or rebuilding **bus stations** in major towns
- Improving and expanding **community care** services
- Supporting the introduction of **Police Community Support Officers** and **Neighbourhood Wardens**

The national context for local government includes:

- The need to make significant **efficiency savings** and minimise council tax rises whilst coping with increased demand
- The re-shaping of services around **children and adults**
- Higher **performance** standards

- An expectation that public services will be more **accessible, responsive and able to offer greater choice**
- An ability for local government to **respond to and empower local communities** whilst establishing priorities at a strategic level.

Delivering our vision

In this plan, we have set out our part in delivering the five key objectives of our community strategy. For each of the objectives set out below we will agree, publish and monitor specific and measurable targets.

All together safer and stronger - a safer place to live with a strong sense of community

We will:

- Reduce the number of deaths and serious accidents on the Nottinghamshire's roads, particularly those involving children
- Safeguard the most vulnerable children and young people
- Strengthen community care to help more vulnerable, elderly or infirm people to live independently at home
- Improve the safety of communities by working with the police and partners to strengthen neighbourhood policing in our communities and tackling anti social behaviour
- Improve community facilities and resources
- Protect consumers from poor quality goods and services
- Enrich people's lives and our community's culture and heritage
- Encourage the involvement of all age groups in community activity and promote community cohesion

All together healthier - improved health and wellbeing for people

We will

- Work to ensure that all children and young people have opportunities to enjoy themselves, broaden their experience, and improve their health and wellbeing
- Help adults with mental health issues or learning disabilities to be more independent and to enrich their lives
- Promote greater choice and independence through community care services
- Increase participation of all age groups, particularly older people, in sport, leisure, culture and physical activity
- Reduce health inequalities and improve life expectancy

All together better learning and earning - help for everyone to reach their potential

We will

- Improve the educational attainment of children and their appreciation of learning
- Work to secure a significant improvement in GCSE results across Nottinghamshire
- Work to ensure that schools are at the centre of local communities
- Help people into work and increase the proportion of people in employment
- Promote economic growth, better quality jobs and increased prosperity
- Support learning and cultural enrichment through libraries and other community cultural activities
- Increase the number and range of opportunities for adult and community learning, including family learning

All together cleaner and greener - protection and improvement for the environment

We will

- Increase recycling and cut the increase in household waste
- Reduce CO2 emissions through energy conservation and buying green energy
- Improve the physical environment in local communities
- Conserve and enhance the County's outdoor environment, countryside and wildlife

All together better travel and access - help for people to travel more easily and safely and be able to access all the services they need

We will

- Work to tackle congestion and its associated pollution
- Widen transport choice in public transport, cycling and walking and improve the major bus stations that serve our communities
- Improve the condition of roads and footways
- Address the needs of children and young people in a holistic way and integrate and improve access to the services we provide to support this
- Help more older people to take up financial assistance or services they are entitled to

The county council's role

The County Council serves the whole community and carries a specific responsibility for ensuring that children, young people and vulnerable people are supported.

- **Children and young people**

The Council is leading the development of a more integrated approach to the needs of children and young people by working with them and the public, private and voluntary sector organisations that support them

- **Adults**

The Council is leading the integration of services that support older people and vulnerable adults and promotes health and independence together with other public services including the National Health Service, private and voluntary sector partners

- **Communities**

The Council organises a wide variety of services for communities and works with public, private and voluntary sector partners to improve the quality of life and physical, social and cultural infrastructure for our communities.

We recognise that councils must be more than service providers. We believe that strong local democracy is an asset to the community we serve. We have a responsibility to ensure that the voices of Nottinghamshire's communities are heard, that aspirations are understood and that we work together with partners to get the best for Nottinghamshire. We recognise that listening and responding to our communities means ensuring that all voices are heard, including those of minorities and the most disadvantaged. We want to strengthen the role we play as civic leaders, support councillors to work with the communities they represent, encourage people to play an active part in their community, and improve the way we work with partners. All together better.

Improving the way we work

Principles and Values

Three principles drive our efforts to improve:

- **Putting our customers at the heart of everything that we do**

We want to that we take into account the needs of the whole community, including our existing customers and those who do not currently use particular services, to shape the way we plan, deliver and change our services.

- **Being a civic leader, helping to develop strong communities across the county**

We want to help local communities and organisations to work together. We want to support councillors to give voice to the needs and aspirations of their communities. And we want to be a strong community leader determined to achieve the best for Nottinghamshire and to create a sustainable future.

- **Delivering excellent but affordable public services**

We have a strong performance record as a provider of public services. In 2005, the council was awarded the top 'four star' classification under the revised comprehensive performance assessment. We want to continue to ensure that excellent services are available to local people.

We want to build and reinforce common values through our work and the way we organise ourselves. As an organisation we want to be:

Just – to value fairness, equity, trust and respect

Enquiring – to value constructive questioning and challenge

Progressive – to value innovation and improvement

Smart – to value responsiveness and learning

We will continue to implement programmes of organisational development and improvement which help to achieve a better and more efficient approach to the way we work together. We will endeavour to be fair and open in the way we work with everyone in the community. We will treat our employees fairly and invest in their development to improve our performance.

Four improvement priorities for the way we work

Being civic leaders and good partners

- We are working with Nottinghamshire partners to deliver a **Local Area Agreement (LAA)** . We are committed to building strong strategic leadership of public services across Nottinghamshire through the Nottinghamshire Partnership. We will work together for better outcomes for Nottinghamshire people.
- We will strengthen the way we support **democratic governance** by supporting councillors in their roles in working on behalf of their communities and ensuring that proper standards are adhered to.

Being responsive

- We are **ensuring that we can be contacted** easily and that we respond quickly. We will make it easier to contact us about all of our services. We will ensure that we are accessible by phone, through our web site and face-to-face at different locations around the county.
- We are improving the way we **listen to the community**, consult and respond to members of the public and service users. We will use our knowledge about people's views to develop and improve the quality of services and strengthen the voice of our communities.
- We want to **build social cohesion** by ensuring that minority communities and those who are disadvantaged are heard and can play a full part in a strong and diverse community.

Designing the Future

- We are changing the way we organise ourselves to **integrate services** for children, adults and communities and become more responsive to the needs of Nottinghamshire people
- We are building **effective leadership** within the organisation and developing the **competences and flexibility** of our employees
- We are building a culture of **continuous improvement** and ability to change.

Working efficiently

- We are striving to achieve **good value for money** and to reduce costs. We are planning ahead through our medium term financial strategy to ensure that we direct our resources to meet our priorities.
- We are **modernising work practices** by making effective use of technology, working in partnership and simplifying business processes.