

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

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

Information and Advice**Background**

2. Greenwood Community Forest was established in 1992, as one of 12 Community Forests created to improve the environment of urban fringe areas around England's major conurbations. Greenwood is managed by a partnership, which brings together Nottinghamshire County Council alongside five district and borough councils, plus a number of other organisations (see Appendix 1). The Partnership is steered by a Board, which is currently chaired by Councillor John Knight, representing Nottinghamshire County Council. The Greenwood team comprises three officers who are employed by Nottinghamshire County Council on behalf of the partnership.

Activities

3. The agreed "mission" for Greenwood is "to work in partnership to enable Nottinghamshire's communities to create, care for and to use woodlands and other high quality accessible green spaces in a sustainable way that benefits the environment, landscape and the local economy."
4. Greenwood's Annual Report for 2013/14 (attached) provides information about achievements over the past year, which include:
 - 4.1. Delivery of a community tree planting scheme that enabled 40 community groups to involve over 1,300 people in planting 2,684 trees.
 - 4.2. Support and implementation of 18 of the County Council's Local Improvement Scheme projects to benefit biodiversity, amenity and local community aspirations.
 - 4.3. Practical support and encouragement for over 50 "Friends" groups that help to improve, care for and promote use of local green spaces.

- 4.4. Promoting volunteer effort by organising the “Greenwood Awards” evening, when 12 Awards were made to recognise outstanding effort by volunteers of all ages.
 - 4.5. Organising a range of events to provide educational and other benefits.
5. The Greenwood team has also played a key role in supporting NCC’s development of the “miner to Major” Sherwood Landscape Partnership Scheme. The stage one bid for this project, and an offer of £119,000 funding, was approved by the Heritage Lottery Fund last year.

Links to NCC priorities

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

Looking forward

- 11. The team will work with Greenwood’s partners to confirm details of work for the year ahead; priorities will include further support to Friends groups and targeted local events.
- 12. The team will continue to develop external funding opportunities. Current work includes a grant bid for the Friends of Greenwood and consideration of potential health projects. Greenwood will also continue to support the miner to Major partnership as it develops its second-stage bid for a further £2.45million.

Other Options Considered

- 13. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

- 14. To note Greenwood Community Forest’s successes and its support of various NCC objectives (see paragraphs 6-10); to support the County Council’s representative on the Greenwood Board in providing guidance on future priorities.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

16. Nottinghamshire County Council's contribution of £76,376 to the Greenwood Partnership is contained within the budget of the Conservation team.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Committee note the contents of the report and the Annual Report.

Jayne Francis-Ward

Corporate Director Policy, Planning & Corporate Services

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (SES 06/05/15)

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.

General information on Greenwood Community Forest is available at:

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

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

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

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