



meeting

COUNTY COUNCIL

date

17th May 2007

agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE AND REGENERATION

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD TO MAY 2007

1. The following are summaries of work relating to my portfolio since my last report to Council.

Regeneration

Creswell Crags

2. I am delighted to report that the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has recently formally agreed a £4.2 million contribution towards the development of the Creswell Crags Museum, Learning Centre and Archaeology Park. Staff in Economic Regeneration have worked with the Creswell Crags Trust to secure a European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) contribution to the project of £0.75 million which itself has levered an additional £0.75 million investment from the East Midlands Development Agency (emda).
3. I have provisionally agreed to an increase in County Council contributions to Creswell Crags during the initial operating phase of the new facilities from April 2009, after which it will become self-financing. The scale of the HLF/ERDF/emda award is very significant and will transform Creswell Crags into a key visitor attraction. It, along with Sherwood: The Living Legend, will add to the critical mass of attractors within North Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire and build upon the area's potential as a vibrant and forward looking visitor destination.

Social Enterprise

4. I continue to support social enterprise activity across Nottinghamshire and in particular some of our most disadvantaged communities. Most recently I have supported the start-up costs of a new social enterprise providing care services to the elderly and vulnerable.
5. The service is increasingly well-respected and I would wish to offer my particular congratulations to Simon Taylor who is now accredited under the nationally recognised Small Firms Enterprise Development Initiative (SFEDI)

for offering advice to social enterprises and to Bob Wyatt who has become a fellow of the Institute of Financial Accountants. These achievements bring an added credibility to the service we provide to social enterprises.

Sherwood Growth Zone

6. I am pleased to report that my involvement on the Sherwood Growth Zone Partnership is continuing to result in positive outcomes for the Mansfield/Ashfield area. Specifically, progress is being made regarding the development of County Council-owned land at Rushley Farm, alongside the Mansfield Ashfield Regeneration Route (MARR). Joint applications for outline planning permission were registered in March for the relocation and redevelopment of an enlarged West Nottinghamshire College and the development of an adjoining technology park. The application is subject to the normal scrutiny and consultation processes, with formal responses from Ashfield and Mansfield District Councils expected in June.
7. If successful, the application will result in a new college by September 2010. I am working with the college and the Alliance Sub-Regional Strategic Partnership to ensure that maximum added value results from the development of the technology park by establishing strong links across the two sites. We will also be considering a range of options for the delivery and management of the technology park, with a view to ensuring that our vision for high-quality employment opportunities is delivered.

Adult Learners Week

8. I am pleased to inform you that a celebration is planned by the Adult and Community Learning Service as part of Adult Learners' Week 2007. The Adult Learners' event will be held in the Assembly Rooms at County Hall during the evening of May 24th and will provide the opportunity to recognise and applaud the achievements of the services learners, tutors and, for the first time, the efforts and commitment of learning support staff. We anticipate attracting about 100 learners, tutors and support staff altogether, with approximately 150 participants attending the event.

Culture

Nottinghamshire Archives

9. Nottinghamshire Archives has offered to purchase a 14th century Nottingham Guild roll. An application for an export licence was deferred by the Culture Minister David Lammy which has enabled the Archives to raise sufficient funds to prevent this important medieval document from leaving the country. The purchase will be supported by grants from Museums, Libraries and Archives/Victoria & Albert Museum Purchase Grant Fund, the Friends of the National Libraries and from the Archives budget.
10. The guild roll is a list of the members of the Guild of St Mary, dating from 1371 and is the earliest known record of a religious guild in Nottingham. It is of outstanding significance for the study of the mediaeval borough of

Nottingham. It is most unusual for an export ban to be obtained for local archives and the guild roll has been the feature of articles in the local and national press.

Libraries

Collingham Library

11. Collingham Library was redecorated and re-carpeted in April. The staff took the opportunity to rethink the internal layout of the library, and improve the area for young people.

Arnold Library

12. The Reading Café at Arnold Library is a weekly event where anyone can drop in for a coffee and chat about books based on monthly themes. The theme for May was Daphne du Maurier to celebrate the centenary of her birth. On 16th May there was a discussion about Daphne du Maurier, focusing on her life and family background as well as reading some extracts from her novels and discussing her work.

Arnold Trail Walks

13. A walk was held on 8th May, with a further two planned on 19th and 23rd May, based on a trail from a booklet produced in memory of Ken Negus, former librarian and local historian in Arnold, whose idea the trail was. The walk was led by members of the newly formed Arnold Local History Group and comprised: the 14th century parish church of St Mary; Bonington House, the birthplace of the 19th century watercolourist, Richard Parkes Bonington; and finished at Arnot Hill Park.

Retford Library

Wargaming Club

14. A Wargaming Club is held in the community room at Retford Library every third Saturday for 10-19 year olds. The club is relatively new and is slowly building up its membership and resources. There are also a number of dedicated parents who like to come along to watch and support their children. The club is open to all within the age range as long as they have the materials; the atmosphere at the sessions is of friendly competition. Sessions are also an opportunity to promote the library to club members and their parents and all members are encouraged to join the library.

World Storytelling and Craft Sessions

15. Joy Pitt is running 6 consecutive weeks of storytelling events for 5 to 13 year olds at Retford Library which started on 28th April. Joy has an excellent reputation and has worked with the County Council numerous times. The stories and crafts are from around the world.

16. The events include an hour of storytelling followed by an hour of crafts. All participants have something to take home with them at the end of each session. This is a family learning event and parents and carers stay with their children and participate in the sessions.

Charter Day - Monday 7th May

17. This year we took the mobile library plus the Library Service's gazebo to the heart of Retford's Charter Day. There was fun and information, and quizzes for children and adults. The day promoted not only Retford Library but also the mobile service as many people attending the event were from the surrounding villages. Staff also worked in partnership with staff at Retford Museum by holding a local studies event at the museum to encourage more local people into the library to access our resources.

Country Parks & Open Spaces

BBCTV filming at Sherwood Forest Country Park

18. A team from BBCTV Manchester, who produce the BBC1 programme 'Street Doctor' were filming at Sherwood Forest country park on 15th April as part of a programme they are making based around Nottingham for their 2008 series.
19. 'Street Doctor' is a health programme, first shown earlier this year, in which four GPs take to the streets of Britain offering their skills and expertise to people they meet. The first series started in Liverpool, then made stops in Glasgow, Belfast, Newcastle, Southampton, Birmingham Leeds and Cardiff. No date for the broadcast of the Nottingham programme is yet available, but it is likely to be early next year.

Improvement works at Rufford Country Park

20. The resurfacing of Lime Tree Avenue and the Abbey turning circle has now been completed. Coloured top dressing will be added later in the year so that the new surface blends in with its surroundings. A ramp has now been installed in the Abbey courtyard to provide improved access to the Orangery, Formal Gardens and Savile restaurant for wheelchairs, electric buggies and pushchairs.

Trent Vale Landscape Partnership

21. A bid for £1.75 million has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Landscape Partnership Project in the Trent Vale. The partnership includes British Waterways, Nottinghamshire County Council, Lincolnshire County Council, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trusts, Natural England, English Heritage, community representatives and the Environment Agency. The project covers the tidal River Trent from Newark to Gainsborough and aims to deliver heritage and habitat conservation projects, community heritage projects, community development projects, improved access and interpretation, schools projects, learning and training in traditional skills, arts development, recreation and tourism development and a long term

sustainable development strategy for the Trent Vale area. Conservation staff have provided support and technical expertise for the bid.

Waterways Renaissance Award

22. The Chesterfield Canal Partnership has been awarded a Waterways Renaissance Award for its Partnership working at a ceremony attended by Councillors Mick Storey and Sheila Place.
23. The British Urban Regeneration Association (BURA) and The Waterways Trust celebrate best practice in regeneration on UK waterways each year through the Waterways Renaissance awards. This is the fifth year that the awards programme has been run. Entries are invited across ten separate award categories including that of Partnership.
24. These awards are at the forefront of identifying and celebrating best practice in delivering sustainable waterway-focused regeneration, successful environmental schemes and innovative community initiatives that are contributing to the continuing renaissance of the UK's inland waterways.
25. Nottinghamshire County Council is a key member of the partnership and Councillor Storey has recently taken over as Chair of the Partnership for a two year period.

Rufford Study Day

26. On 15th May, national delegates from the Association of Historic Gardens Trust convened at Rufford Country Park for a study day, with eminent speakers from, for example, English Heritage. Country Parks and Conservation staff acted as guides to the Park.

Archaeological Events Day

27. Archaeologists from Nottinghamshire County Council supported an open day for the re-launch of Northfield Focus Point, Mansfield Woodhouse on 28th April. They provided a series of hands-on archaeological activities for young people including pottery reconstruction, writing with quills and skeleton jigsaws.

Sports

Beacon Peer Support Funding Application

28. As part of our Beacon status, the County Council has been successful in securing £200,000 to continue our role within the 'Culture and Sport for Hard to Reach' theme.
29. The funding has been granted to support the eight Beacon authorities to continue joint working and in particular will fund the following three strands of work:

- The creation of a National Panel – consisting of the eight Beacon authorities – to advise both the Department for Culture and Sport and local authorities across the country in need of mentoring support.
- The development and publishing of Beacon ‘toolkits’ outlining and advocating the successful projects that each Beacon authority has delivered.
- A major national research programme, using projects from each Beacon authority as case studies, investigating the contribution sport and cultural programmes make to cost savings in other public sector budgets.

30. This news confirms our role as a national leader in this field and will further support the Sports Service on its performance improvement journey.

Regional Sports Board investment into Nottinghamshire sport

31. On 16th April Sport England announced a £3.1 million investment into sport across the East Midlands. Awards have been made to nineteen sports to support the development of stronger clubs and better coaches.
32. Due in no small part to the support offered over many years by the County Council to National Governing bodies of sport in the county, many sports have chosen to prioritise Nottinghamshire. Although detailed breakdowns of the regional awards have yet to be produced, early inspection suggests that Nottinghamshire will receive the benefit of approximately £1 million of the funds available, making the county the chief beneficiary.
33. The Sports Service, in its lead role of supporting the National Governing Bodies of sport in the county, has an important part to play in working alongside each National Governing Body to ensure the effective and efficient roll-out of the plans.

Play Sport

34. The Play Sport project, developing fundamental movement skills and physical literacy in young children across the county, has completed its second year. During the financial year 2006/07 the project delivered 81,162 units of participation, and provided training and support to 528 coaches, leaders and teachers. The project’s instructional CD-ROM has been distributed widely locally and has been sold to all parts of the United Kingdom. The project, which is exceeding all targets and is partly funded by the Active England lottery fund, has recently applied to the National Lottery annual awards.

School of Sport

35. The nineteenth School of Sport took place in the first week of April. The event continues to be truly unique, comprising of a sports week of fun, training and competition for approximately eighty young disabled people. The School of Sport is a residential event enabling participants to enjoy the chance to gain independence, confidence and life skills.

36. As part of our Beacon work, the Service also took the opportunity to share our knowledge and expertise with other local authorities, sports organisations and coaches in a unique conference experience. The 2007 Nottinghamshire Disability Sport Conference provided an opportunity for people working in sport to gain qualifications, attend training workshops and best practice seminars and gain experience through observing and coaching disability sport. Delegates were drawn from across Nottinghamshire, the United Kingdom and even from as far as Saudi Arabia. The blend of theory and practice proved to be highly effective.

Councillor Steve Carroll
Cabinet Member for Culture and Regeneration