

# THE CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY COMMITTEE

**Friday, 29 October 2021 at 09:00**

**Newark and Sherwood District Council, Castle House,  
Great North Road, Newark NG24 1BY,**

## **AGENDA**

- 1 Minutes of the Economic Prosperity Committee meeting held on 27 July 2021 3 - 10**
- 2 Apologies for Absence**
- 3 Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below)**
  - (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
  - (b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary)
- 4 Nottingham and Nottinghamshire - Case for Devolution 11 - 22**
- 5 Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Case for Devolution - Resourcing Requirements 23 - 28**
- 6 Dates of future meetings**

To agree the following dates of the public Committee meetings (venues to be confirmed):

  - Friday 17 December 2021 - 9.00am
  - Friday 25 February 2022 - 9.00am
  - Friday 29 April 2022 - 9.00am
  - Friday 17 June 2022 - 9.00am

## **Notes**

- (a) Members of the public are welcome to attend to observe meetings of the Economic Prosperity. Please note that there is no opportunity for the public to speak at these meetings.
- (b) Declarations of Interests – Persons making a declaration of interest should have regard to their own Council's Code of Conduct and the Committee's Procedural Rules.

Members or Officers requiring clarification on whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact Sara Allmond (Tel. 0115 9773794) or a colleague in Democratic Services at Nottinghamshire County Council prior to the meeting.

- (c) 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

**THE CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
ECONOMIC PROSPERITY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 27 JULY 2021  
AT 2.00 PM AT ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

(A denotes absent)

Chairman – Councillor Ben Bradley MP – Nottinghamshire County Council

Mayor Andy Abrahams – Mansfield District Council  
Councillor John Clarke – Gedling Borough Council  
Councillor David Lloyd – Newark and Sherwood District Council  
Councillor David Mellen – Nottingham City Council **A**  
Councillor Matthew Relf – Ashfield District Council  
Councillor Richard Robinson – Broxtowe Borough Council **A**  
Councillor Simon Robinson – Rushcliffe Borough Council  
Councillor Jo White – Bassetlaw District Council

**OFFICERS PRESENT**

Sara Allmond – Nottinghamshire County Council  
Mel Barrett – Chief Executive, Nottingham City Council  
Hayley Barsby – Chief Executive, Mansfield District Council **A**  
Ruth Hyde – Chief Executive, Broxtowe Borough Council  
Kath Marriott – Rushcliffe Borough Council **A**  
Anthony May – Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council **A**  
Teresa Hodgkinson – Chief Executive, Ashfield District Council  
John Robinson – Chief Executive, Newark & Sherwood District Council  
Mike Hill – Chief Executive, Gedling Borough Council  
Adrian Smith – Nottinghamshire County Council  
Neil Taylor – Chief Executive, Bassetlaw District Council

**SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

Councillor Sam Webster for Councillor David Mellen  
Councillor Milan Radulovic for Councillor Richard Robinson  
Catherine Evans for Kath Marriott

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Simon Greaves, Councillor David Mellen and Councillor Richard Robinson.

Apologies were also received from Anthony May (Nottinghamshire County Council), Hayley Barsby (Mansfield District Council) and Kath Marriott (Rushcliffe Borough Council).

## **2. APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE CHAIR**

### **RESOLVED: 2021/001**

To appoint Councillor Milan Radulovic (Broxtowe Borough Council) as Vice Chair for the ensuing year.

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

## **4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2021, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true and correct record and were confirmed and signed by the Chair of the meeting.

## **5. WORKING TOGETHER – NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNCILS**

Ruth Hyde introduced the report which updated the committee on activity to promote closer joint working arrangements between Councils in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire and highlighted the following points:

- a) The chief executives had recently met and discussed the paper. The government had helpfully reframed its devolution ambitions in terms of levelling up and had recently introduced the concept of County deals in addition to the option of combined authorities. These were felt to be helpful in reinvigorating partnership working across the tiers.
- b) There had recently been a particularly successful period of working together recently during the pandemic, such as successful use of business grants funds and successful bids from the town's funds and community renewal programmes.
- c) The amount of public funding coming to the East Midlands and Nottinghamshire lagged behind other parts of England.
- d) Chief Executives were keen to support the ambitions set out in the paper and hoped to be able to present a fresh agenda and programme of action at future meetings.

During discussions the following points were raised:-

- It was requested that housing be added to the list set out in paragraph 5 of the report including quality and standards for new housing, linking house building to access to jobs and services with a more joined up holistic approach to new housing.
- The exploratory work on what could be done would be vital. Health inequalities were also raised to be considered, including the fact that there were inequalities within areas.
- There was a need to examine areas that had worked well together during Covid, what could be learned and best practice to take forward.
- The need for a more collaborative working culture was required across the councils, to fully benefit from funding bids etc.
- Urgency on the work was requested.
- Place marketing should be added to the list set out in paragraph 5 of the report.

#### **RESOLVED 2021/002**

That further exploratory work be undertaken to be presented to a future meeting of the Committee to identify potential areas of strategic joint work between Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Councils, in the light of the developing local and national policy environment for local government.

#### **6. GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAMMES – LEVELLING UP AND UK COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUND**

Each Council provided an update on funding for their areas:

- a) Newark and Sherwood – was successful with the Towns Fund bid (£25 million) focussing on aviation, aerospace and space investment in terms of work with universities and colleges, that would hopefully lift aspirations. Also, investment in colleges around construction skills as there was a current market for these skills and they were currently absent in the local community. Local businesses were coming on board as the sponsors and advocates for the courses. The money was coming in and the apprenticeships were being signed up. On the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) a bid had been in to get the southern link road completed, which would have regional impact due to its connection to the A46. The Council were in the process of bringing forward proposals for the Sherwood LUF bid, which were former coalmining areas with villages and small towns. The Robin Hood line would open up opportunities along the line. Business skills development to enable more businesses to go online. Work on Newark Market and Butter Market including mobile network connectivity.
- b) Broxtowe – Stapleford had recently been awarded £21.1 million for the projects submitted to the Towns Fund bid, including funding for a new north / south cycle

way to make moving around Stapleford easier and more environmentally friendly. Stapleford is a gateway town to HS2, and an area of strategic growth. A project for a new indoor / outdoor market with a co-working space on top. A new leisure facility on one of the local parks. Skills was front and centre of the bid. Many people don't have the skills they need to access good quality work. Looking at HS2 project, there is some work to undertake some feasibility work for the skills academy which is envisaged as part of the HS2 project and partnership working with the County Council to build an extension to the library and a new opportunity for people to develop skills there. There was a new traffic management scheme proposal, linking that to the 15 minute neighbourhood concept. Stapleford has a great opportunity to realise the ambition of a 15 minute neighbourhood town. Quite a substantial amount for business recovery grants, particularly, geared towards the town centre, aimed at enabling the retail businesses in the town to come back from the hit they have undoubtedly felt through Covid.

The Development Corporation Project is tremendously important to Broxtowe and the Council have recently been developing a strategic planning document which has recently been approved for its next round of consultation, which is a major piece of master planning for the area. Exciting work had been carried out to identify a significant amount of environmental improvement work for the green and blue infrastructure, which could benefit a much wider area than Broxtowe and link up to other areas of green and blue infrastructure of regional significance.

Two Levelling Up bids were currently being worked on, for Eastwood and for Kimberley, neither area has had their fair share of investment over recent years, so looking at potential synergies between the 2 bids, but each town has its own distinctive needs. For Eastwood in particular, health is a significant issue with improvements needed to health services there particularly mental health and basic primary care services. There was also a real need to try and do something skills based to improved skills to be able to take advantage of job opportunities.

- c) Bassetlaw – received funding from the Building Back fund for a skills hub in Worksop town centre, which would work to raise local residents' skills, aspirations and opportunities and help employers to fill significant skills gaps in the local labour force, particularly at Bassetlaw Hospital where there were not enough nurses. When people leave the area they generally don't come back, so its about training the local workforce including older workers. The skills hub would work with local colleges and Derby University to provide the required courses. The hub would be based in the town centre, to change the footprint of how people use the town centre. This feeds into the levelling up fund to which a bid has been put in to change how people use Worksop town centre, which has a canal and a river flowing through it, both of which the town centre has turned it back on. The Council intends to purchase a shopping centre which is in decline to turn that around and also use it to create a canal basin, to be used by the canal users. There is also work being undertaken with highways to improve the congested and polluted main route into the town. This will all make the town centre a more pleasant place to be and will change how

businesses and residents use the town centre. Hopefully the bid will be successful.

- d) Rushcliffe – the Borough struggled with the funding bids as Rushcliffe is perceived as a wealthy area. Direct government funding isn't particularly open to Rushcliffe and Rushcliffe was the only level 3 area in the county when it came to the levelling up funding so the lowest priority. Very focussed on Radcliffe on Soar power station which is central to the Freeport and the Development Corporation. It would create investment in Rushcliffe mainly through private investors as well as hopefully some government investment. The new footbridge across the River Trent to the city, which had government funding allocated to the project was welcomed, the city had done an incredible job on the banks of the city in that area and it is going to be a tremendous project. A small pot of money had been received towards the new leisure centre in Bingham. The challenge was that it appears the levelling up programme is just to bring all areas of Nottinghamshire up to Rushcliffe, rather than the whole of the County levelling up. Very keen on HS2, would be benefits for Rushcliffe if it was at parkway, but there will be benefits from Toton as well.
- e) Mansfield – in relation to the future high streets fund, which was really concentrating on getting regeneration into areas that had been blighted for years and to build onto the pathway of getting Mansfield to become a university town, Mansfield was unsuccessful in the future high streets fund bid, which was a lot to do with land values. Slightly more successful with the Towns Fund bid, putting bids in for £26 million and received £12.3 million. Grateful of anything that is received, but there were £26 million of schemes that would have benefitted the town, including university accommodation. Private sector match funding is difficult to get for some areas. Schemes that Mansfield got funding for were skills and health, future tech knowledge and skills exchange to get skills for the future, to transform the skill set in Mansfield so employers know that there are high level skills in the area and so jobs and people remain local.

Funding was received for a Warsop Community Health Hub to try and replace the sports centre in Warsop that was no longer there and was desperately needed as there is a high health need in the area. A destination park, to be a fresh identity for Mansfield, using Markeaton Park as a benchmark. Lots of other small projects. Ambitious to take forward the ideas that didn't quite make it. It was hoped that the social benefit would be part of the consideration for the levelling up funding.

- f) Gedling – no future high street funding or towns fund funding so been struggling somewhat recently. Did receive over £1 million from the LEP a few years ago to buy the Arnold Market, which had been bought and the site was currently being developed. It was hoped to have that completed by March / April time. Gedling also received some small amounts of funding from the LEP to reinvigorate Carlton Square to modernise the site. Levelling Up fund, Gedling were in level 2 so more of a speculative bid of the maximum £20 million supported by £2.2 million of Council funding. Based around 3 main projects; bid of approximately £19 million for a leisure and cultural hub around Arnold North, to try and build a new cinema and a new leisure centre and regenerate

that part of the area. Keen to connect Arnold with 15 minute neighbourhood, connecting the green areas in the south, through to the retail high street in the middle and then to the leisure and cultural hub in the north. 2<sup>nd</sup> project is to reconnect Netherfield high street, linking the shopping centre with the main town centre. Also, a disused mineral railway line which used to run from Netherfield to Gedling country park which Gedling would like to develop via a £2 million bid. The final project is to repurpose vacant and under used shops across Gedling, to bring them back into use by thinking differently such as move on space and by being creative.

- g) Nottingham City – a lot of reasons for people to come into the city and they are doing so daily. Nottingham has recovered very well post Covid, however lots of businesses do have huge challenges, big issues for high streets and for retail. Nottingham is very strong for hospitality and the castle has just reopened a world class tourist centre and has been very busy. Things are starting to return to where they were before. Reliant somewhat on the universities, which bring both benefits and challenges. Both universities are growing well.

Bids wise, levelling up fund – Broadmarsh shopping centre a big focus after the operator went into administration during the first lockdown, successful for LEP funding to enable some further demolition over the next few weeks. Huge amount of development in the south side of the city and other parts of the city centre as well. Been through the big conversation about Broadmarsh, it's a key site that needs investment. Bid has been submitted for the maximum amount for that site. Also put in a maximum bid for the Nottingham East Constituency bid, the island quarter. Work is already underway in phase 1A and 1B will start soon. Phase 1A is a number of restaurants and leisure facilities. 1B is a hotel. There will be mixed housing, office accommodation and linear park on the site, and the Council are working with investors on the bid.

There is a transport funding bid for a package of improvements focussing on pedestrianisation, cycle improvements and connecting residential areas with local centres, right across Nottingham. Plus, the expansion of electric vehicle charging network. The Broadmarsh carpark will have the most electric charging points of any building in the country when it opens. The Council have been successful in the future high street fund with a bid of £12.5 million accepted for the Chapel Bar area, so that project will be able to move forward. A lot of other things happening, not least investment in Council housing, with 100s of new Council housing under development at the moment. Waterside, the newest community in Nottingham where there will be a primary school being built soon and the pedestrian and cycle bridge connecting West Bridgford with Waterside, which will benefit from the transforming cities funding.

- h) Ashfield – successful bid of £6.2 million from future high streets fund, for a number of projects including the renovation of a theatre that is currently attached to a school in Sutton, which will become a new public facing community theatre / music venue / cinema. Make a space and business hub where people can join and be a member and learn new skills which will be attached to flexible working spaces that people can rent. Repurposing of

vacant retail units in the town centre, so more residential accommodation above with units repurposed downstairs.

Towns Fund – bid of £62.6 million which the Council were fully successful with. The big centrepiece of that is a project called the automated distribution and manufacturing centre (ADMC) that in total with partner funding is a £30 million centre, to make automation a benefit for the area rather than a threat. Including space to build out sample scenario set ups without it disrupting their own business. This ties in very neatly with the Freeport as there will be lot of logistics businesses there and so having the facility locally will be of benefit. This fits with another D2N2 project at West Notts College to train students and then look at it with the universities to hopefully offer degrees. A great deal of interest in it already. A new construction centre is being built which will be bringing together Vision West Notts as well as Nottinghamshire County Council Inspire and another local college ATTFE offering courses there. Ashfield Civil Engineering Centre that is in partnership with Vision West Notts which is going to be about offering civil engineering courses as well as expanding their current offer around rail working as there will be a mock rail site there too.

Sherwood observatory project to build a brand new planetarium along with classroom spaces, so that will become a new centre for STEM learning which schools in the area will be able to go in and do trips there and learn all sorts of STEM learning, not just astronomy. Lots of sports activities, such as a cycle route from Sherwood business park to Hardwick Hall.

A lot of projects on the green agenda including improving the carbon footprint of the council buildings. A high street property fund, to rationalise the high streets and redevelop some business properties to make high quality residential accommodation. Projects with libraries at Sutton and Kirkby to create better digital learning spaces, to teach digital skills and access digital equipment as digital poverty is a big issue in the area. £15.5 million project to build a brand new leisure centre in Kirkby. £50,000 from restoring your railways fund to work on the reopening of the Maid Marion line for passenger trains, which would enable all the stations on the robin hood line north of Kirkby to have new route options, enabling connectivity to HS2, plus Derby and Leicester as well as other route options.

Levelling up funds, Ashfield is tier 2 and in very early stages of pulling together bids for that, such as transport.

- i) Nottinghamshire County Council – levelling up bid, can bid for up to £50 million around transport and infrastructure, looking at how to work with district and borough partner bids such as the Maid Marion line and looking at transport hubs. Working on 2 bids now. Also starting to push more nationally significant projects such as A1. Community Renewal fund, good collaborative working. Bid for £12 million and hopeful that will secure the funding and have laid the groundworks for more collaborative working to get the benefit of share prosperity fund and start to reverse the trend of Nottinghamshire being an outlier for government funding.

General themes of skills, transport and town centres for most bids were noted.

**RESOLVED 2021/003**

That the updates be noted.

**7. FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY COMMITTEE AND WORK PLAN**

Councillor Bradley MP advised that a more detailed report and proposals would be brought to a future meeting, including any recruitment and staffing requirements to manage the work.

Councillor Bradley MP advised that he has had conversations with the Leaders at Derbyshire and Leicestershire and are at early stages of conversations about what areas there may be the opportunity to collaborate regionally.

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 2pm.

The meeting closed at 3.30 pm

**CHAIRMAN**

**29 October 2021**

**Agenda Item: 4**

## **REPORT OF THE LEADER OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CASE FOR DEVOLUTION**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. This report seeks approval of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Case for Devolution, attached as **Appendix 1**, and to progress the further work required under the identified themes.

#### **Information**

2. Nottingham and Nottinghamshire councils have been working together to identify areas for greater collaboration and opportunities to make an even bigger difference for our residents. The “Case for Devolution”, attached as Appendix 1, sets out an ambitious joint vision for how councils could work in partnership to help boost economic investment, improve the environment, and tackle health and educational inequalities across the city and county
3. This new approach is in response to the Government’s call for local leaders to work jointly on the new “levelling up” agenda including devolution – a key initiative to ensure every area has the powers and resources needed to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and ensure economic growth and prosperity.
4. The Government’s Levelling Up White Paper is expected to set out plans for further rounds of local devolution. In readiness for this publication, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire councils are preparing the case for the city and county to hold greater powers - moving some of those currently controlled by central government in London. Holding powers and funding at a local level will help us to reform services for the better and improve the lives of people who live and work in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.
5. The ambition is to:
  - Attract significant inward investment, boosting economic growth and raising productivity, as well as growing the private sector
  - Raise living standards and achieve a demonstrable reduction in inequalities including in poverty, health and social care;
  - Deliver high quality places to live for all residents;
  - Regenerate our city and town centres, unlocking difficult sites for development;

- Tackle climate change and protect local people from its impacts;
  - Deliver better services for residents;
  - Secure better outcomes and value for money for local taxpayers through public sector reform and efficiencies;
  - See Nottingham and Nottinghamshire realise its true potential as a core city and county working together, restoring local pride.
6. Together Nottingham and Nottinghamshire councils have identified five priority themes, all supporting the core aim of changing things for the better for local people:
- Education and Skills
  - Transport
  - Environment
  - Economy and Infrastructure
  - Land and Housing

Scopes are currently being prepared for each priority theme and a verbal update on progress will be provided at the meeting.

7. A long list of other areas has also been prepared and will continue to be developed. These include:
- health and social care;
  - visitor economy, heritage and culture;
  - youth services and support to vulnerable adolescents;
  - community safety, cohesion and reducing reoffending;
  - public sector reform.

A verbal update will be provided at the meeting on progress developing the themes included on the long list.

8. It is proposed to use this committee to act as the governance vehicle for partnership discussions. Councils will come together under the Economic Prosperity Committee (EPC) to determine priorities and ensure distributed leadership across the priority themes and devolved power and resources. An initial review has indicated that the EPC has the potential to be the vehicle for devolution
9. Consideration needs to be given to new branding and a change of name of the committee to ensure that it truly reflects the collaborative approach and scale of ambition. Chief Executives will be asked to develop proposals for consideration.
10. To drive forward this work, it is proposed to establish a new cross-county team and programme budget. These proposals and associated financial implications are covered elsewhere on the agenda, with the costs met jointly by local councils from existing resources.

### **Other Options Considered**

11. Do Nothing - Nottingham and Nottinghamshire councils could choose not to respond to the devolution agenda and continue with existing arrangements. This option was rejected as all councils have agreed to explore joint working as a priority and to take no action would

prevent the benefits and opportunities outlined in the report and Appendix 1 from being achieved and utilised.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

12. The right devolution deal would enable all Nottingham and Nottinghamshire councils to deliver economic and social prosperity across the city and county. It is therefore important that councils continue to work together to develop the case for change.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

13. 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**

14. A report on resourcing implications is covered elsewhere on the agenda.

### **Implications for Service Users**

15. The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Case for Devolution is ultimately about changing things for the better for local people and giving all our residents and businesses the best possible opportunities and experiences.

### **Implications for Sustainability and the Environment**

16. Enhancing and protecting the local environment and addressing climate change is a priority theme under this programme of work. The intention is to support delivery of existing strategies and cooperation on policy development ahead of the Environment Bill. An ambition is included to accelerate net zero targets for some Councils and assist all to achieve the existing targets set.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

It is recommended that Committee:

- 1) Approve the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Case for Devolution, attached as **Appendix 1**
- 2) Approve further work on the themes listed under paragraphs 6 and 7.

**Councillor Ben Bradley MP**  
**Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**  
**Anthony May, Chief Executive Nottinghamshire County Council, Tel: 0115 9773582**

### **Constitutional Comments [SSR 20/10/2021]**

17. The recommendations set out in this report are matters which may be determined by the The City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee under the terms of reference for the Committee set out in the Committee's constitution.

### **Financial Comments [RWK 20/10/2021]**

18. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from 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.

- None

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- All

Nottingham & Nottinghamshire

# Case for Devolution

A summary of our vision for change



Page 15 of 28



Councils across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire are working together on a series of projects to tackle critical issues such as the economy and climate change.

Our intention is that this collaboration will bring much needed investment into our area.

Leaders from the nine councils, which cover a population of more than 1.1 million people, are also working on ways to make local government services more impactful and better for residents and businesses through collaboration.

## Context

This new approach is in response to the government's call for local leaders to work jointly on the new "levelling up" agenda including devolution – a key initiative to ensure every area has the powers and resources needed to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and ensure economic growth and prosperity.

Government are particularly keen to see this collaborative approach in areas which have been hard hit by Covid and which have missed out on public and private investment over the years.

The government's Levelling Up White Paper is expected to set out plans for further rounds of local devolution.

New devolution deals will take a more flexible approach and be bespoke to the needs of individual places.

In readiness for this publication, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire councils are preparing the case for the city and county to hold greater powers - moving some of those currently controlled by central government in London.

Holding powers and funding at a more local level gives us the opportunity to improve public services and enrich the lives of people who live and work in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

Local and bespoke solutions to the area's particular challenges are only possible with the requisite local decision-making powers.

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire are home to more than 1.1 million people and nearly **40,000** active enterprises.

The economy of the city and county has a diverse mix with a core city, historic market towns, countryside, and distinct culture and communities.

The county and city's economy generates more than **£26.5 billion** GVA yet has much untapped potential for growth.

Despite this potential, the area has historically received some of the lowest levels of government investment.

The resurgence of economies such as ours is critical for the renewal of the UK economy.

Devolution and joint working are important as we face complex financial, economic and social challenges in our region, which require an innovative and dynamic response – we cannot face them operating within the status quo and expect any significant change.

Nottingham city and three districts in North Nottinghamshire (Mansfield, Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood) are top priority areas for “levelling up” as recognised by government; whilst Ashfield similarly is among the most disadvantaged communities in the region.

We know there are problems in our city and county – comparable with many other areas nationally – of inequality in skills and health, in particular, of lower wages and less secure jobs. We want to improve the lives of all Nottingham and Nottinghamshire residents and ensure no one is left behind.

#### **Our ambition is to:**

- > Attract significant inward investment, boosting economic growth and raising productivity, as well as growing the private sector.
- > Raise living standards and achieve a demonstrable reduction in inequalities including in poverty, health and social care.
- > Deliver high quality places to live for all residents.
- > Regenerate our city and town centres, unlocking difficult sites for development.
- > Tackle climate change and protect local people from its impacts.
- > Deliver better services for residents.
- > Secure better outcomes and value for money for local taxpayers through public sector reform and efficiencies.
- > See Nottingham and Nottinghamshire realise its true potential as a core city and county working together, restoring local pride.

#### **We will build on our existing track record working together. A strong foundation is in place with recent successes including:**

- > Transforming Cities Fund was awarded **£99m** in investment in March 2020 for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire projects.
- > Local councils, with support from local public and private organisations, have been successful in securing funding up to **£121m** from the Towns Fund.
- > Our new Development Corporation, EMDevco, is working to generate **£4.8** billion of GVA for the region’s economy per year, as well as **4,500** homes and **84,000** net additional jobs.
- > Local councils are working in partnership with our D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership, universities, businesses and colleges to increase opportunities and access jobs, education and training for local people.
- > Partners are working across the region on our response to Covid-19 and the post-pandemic recovery, including delivering vital Covid-19 grants to businesses.

- > Our N2 Environmental Strategy group has brought local councils together with the Midlands Energy Hub and universities to coordinate our approach to delivering a zero carbon future and address the climate change emergency.
- > Transport for the East Midlands provides collective leadership on strategic transport issues, agreeing major investment priorities and providing collective input into the work of Midlands Connect and the Department for Transport.
- > Nottingham City Council is spearheading a blueprint for the future of cities through the Broadmarsh re-development, working jointly with the Greater Broadmarsh Advisory Group and supported by Heatherwick Studio and Stories.
- > Collaborative work to deliver the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System, improving health outcomes and tackling inequality.
- > There is joint work and a strong political consensus across the region on the development of a coherent vision for HS2, the electrification of the Midland Mainline and wider Midlands Engine Rail.
- > Partners across the region are working on a business case for an inland Freeport, centred on a port of entry at East Midlands Airport.
- > Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station has made the shortlist of what is hoped to be the world's first prototype fusion energy plant.
- > Partners are working together on "Tomorrow's NUH", part of the government's billion-pound hospital building programme.

**These examples demonstrate the potential of collaboration across the city and county, as well as with our neighbouring counties – but the current system is constraining.**

**A devolution deal and working more collaboratively would change this, providing local determination of strategic priorities and a stronger unified voice for the city and county's priorities in discussions with government.**

## The Ambition

Securing a Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Deal is ultimately about changing things for the better for local people and giving all our residents and businesses the best possible opportunities and experiences.

Together we have identified a wide range of priorities where we think we can make a real difference for residents. The five priority themes are:

**Education and Skills**



**Transport**



**Environment**



**Economy and Infrastructure**



**Land and Housing**



## Priority Theme

### Education and Skills



#### Benefits we're seeking to achieve

- > Increased skills levels and a better equipped workforce.
- > Better support into employment, particularly for those furthest away from the labour market.
- > Accelerated delivery of the government's Skills for Jobs White Paper.

## Priority Theme

### Transport



#### Benefits we're seeking to achieve

- > Improved infrastructure and connectivity.
- > Better public transport, walking and cycling.
- > Cleaner air.

## Priority Theme

### Environment



#### Benefits we're seeking to achieve

- > Engagement of local people, with a focus on improving the environment for those most in need.
- > Maximise public sector investment in areas such as: Public service estate; domestic homes refit; vehicle replacement; air quality measures.
- > Improved waste management services for local people.
- > Accelerate delivery of existing strategies and cooperation on policy development ahead of the Environment Bill.
- > Enhanced and protected green and blue infrastructure: increased woodland cover, cleaner rivers, increased biodiversity.
- > Improved flood alleviation.
- > Accelerate net zero targets for some and assist all to achieve existing targets.

## Priority Theme

### Economy and Infrastructure



#### Benefits we're seeking to achieve

- > More and better coordinated investment in infrastructure.
- > Regenerated city and town centres, and communities: increased occupancy rates, improved public realm.
- > Accelerated delivery of full fibre and 5G connectivity, improving people's quality of life and equipping businesses to compete on a global scale, working faster and more efficiently.
- > Achieving benefits of Smart Cities approach for all of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.
- > A dedicated statutory delivery vehicle – East Midlands Development Corporation – enabling more inward investment.

## Priority Theme

### Land and Housing



#### Benefits we're seeking to achieve

- > Unblocking challenging sites through partnership working.
- > More affordable housing.
- > Improved health outcomes and reduced social isolation through enabling people to stay in their communities.
- > Reduced health and social care costs.
- > Accelerated work on One Public Estate.

#### **We have created a long list of other areas which we will continue to develop.**

##### **These include:**

- > Health and social care.
- > Visitor economy, heritage and culture.
- > Youth services and support to vulnerable adolescents.
- > Community safety, cohesion and reducing reoffending.
- > Public sector reform.

## How we will work together

We already have a joint City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee (EPC), which we propose to use as the governance vehicle for partnership discussions.

All councils will come together under the EPC to determine priorities and ensure distributed leadership across priority themes and devolved powers and resources.

We have already completed initial legal checks to confirm that the EPC has the potential to be a vehicle for devolution and identified the necessary steps we need to take to make this a reality.

**The following workstreams have been identified as key areas of focus in the coming months:**

- The content of a devolution deal (ask, offer, benefits) with sponsorship by leaders and leadership by chief executives.
- Implementation plan to deliver the deal.
- Building our Levelling Up team.
- Governance.
- Mapping communications and engagement of delivery partners and stakeholders. Nottingham and Nottinghamshire would seek to work with a wide range of partners across industry, higher and further education and the wider public sector.

## Next Steps

As part of this approach, leaders from nine councils in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire have been meeting to formulate a plan for joint actions.

Although it is early days, themes and priorities are emerging, with a focus on transport and infrastructure, skills and employment, and climate change.

Detailed programmes of activity will be formulated in the coming months, and early conversations are being held with government, to seek devolved powers and resources to drive the ambition of local leaders.

In return, leaders are in discussions about joining up local services.

Potential examples include joint working to deliver the new waste collection duties contained in the Environment Bill; areas where there are currently skill shortages, for example planning, and some back office functions which could be provided in a more streamlined way.

If this initiative is successful, there would be tangible outcomes and the public would notice the difference in the short and medium term.

For clarity, this approach does not require the creation of additional tiers of government or the creation of a regional or local Mayor.

**To move our work forward, we will take the following action:**

- Leader sponsors have been identified and scopes are being prepared for each priority theme.
- Work to develop those theme areas on the longer list.
- Agree resources to drive forward the work at the next EPC meeting, with the costs met jointly by local councils from existing resources.

The involvement of a wide range of partners including Nottinghamshire Police, the D2N2 local enterprise partnership, our local universities and our integrated care system will be crucial to the success of this programme and work and early conversations are starting to happen as plans take shape.

We are focussed on a devolution deal for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

That said, we want to work with our partners across the East Midlands to track their progress and work in a complementary way. We are in conversation with Derby and Derbyshire to consider synergies and ensure maximum benefit. For the wider region, we support a refreshed Alchemy project, which has been central to regional collaboration on our Development Corporation and Freeport – and is core to continued partnership working across the East Midlands, in the Midlands Engine.

This pre-existing regional vehicle could potentially facilitate the kind of inter-county cooperation that you might otherwise achieve through a Combined Authority, allowing us to draw on our individual devolved powers and put them to use together where it's beneficial, subject to our neighbours being able to bring forward similar deals in the future.

The early signs of this joint working are positive, with leaders recognising they are stronger together.

Crucially, leaders know the challenges we face are greater than any one organisation and that partnership and collaboration are critical to improving both the long-term future of communities, and the day to day lives and prospects of local people.



29 October 2021

Agenda Item: 5

## **REPORT OF THE LEADER OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CASE FOR DEVOLUTION RESOURCING REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. Nottingham and Nottinghamshire councils are exploring the potential of a devolution deal and greater joint working. The ambition is to deliver better services for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire residents and make a demonstrable difference to the lives of city and county residents. This report summarises work to date and highlights the resourcing requirements needed to deliver at pace on this programme of work.

#### **Information**

##### Background

2. Nottingham and Nottinghamshire councils have been working together to identify areas for greater collaboration and opportunities to make an even bigger difference for our residents. The national policy context has acted as a driver for these discussions, with the Levelling Up White Paper due to be published later this year. The White Paper presents an opportunity to reset the relationship between central and local government and put councils at the heart of delivering the Government's programme to improve opportunities in all parts of the country, including the opportunity for new devolution deals. Following the Prime Minister's Levelling Up speech on 15 July 2021, the then Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government wrote on the same day to all local authority leaders, chief executives and mayors outlining initial details of new devolution deals. Government are currently in discussions with local authorities across the country and it is expected that the government will invite a small number of these to be pilot "pathfinder" areas.
3. Early discussions between Nottingham and Nottinghamshire councils have been positive with the following progress made to date:
  - An expression of interest was submitted to Government in September 2021 for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire to be selected as one of the new devolution deal "pathfinders";
  - We are developing our ask to government, offer and benefits;

- A mapping exercise is underway on the needs of each area and the interface with other programmes of work;
  - Initial legal advice has been received that suggests that the Economic Prosperity Committee (EPC), subject to reform and agreement on key issues, may be capable of acting as a partnership vehicle for future devolution and joint working discussions;
  - Early work has started on the potential model for programme management, leadership and delivery.
4. Whilst much progress has been made, there is a significant amount of work to progress including:
- Developing the detailed proposals that will be required for a devolution deal with sponsorship from Leaders and leadership from Chief Executives;
  - Creating an implementation plan for how we would deliver an agreed deal;
  - Ensuring the necessary governance arrangements are in place and fit for purpose;
  - Mapping, communications and engagement of delivery partners and stakeholders;
  - Continued engagement with central government to make our case for change.
5. The ability to progress joint working proposals is currently limited due to a lack of capacity. In recognition of this, the complexity of many of the issues set out above, and the fact that agreed ways forward will take time to both agree and deliver, it is proposed that a new programme team should be established to drive forward the work programme.

### Resourcing Proposals

6. Proposals to adequately resource ambitions and plans, initially for a twelve month period, are set out below and create the following programme resource:
- Programme team – comprising a combination of team members to facilitate delivery;
  - Programme budget – funding to support the buy in of specialist expertise and support the operation of the EPC and other associated costs;
  - Communications budget – funding to support branding, design, campaigns and social media activity;
  - Equipment, travel and subsistence – to support activities of the programme team;
  - Accommodation – in kind support from host agency/agencies.
7. Proposals for the Programme Team include the creation of the following roles on a 12 month fixed term basis. The job descriptions and grades of the recently reviewed central programme and projects team will be utilised and the posts filled initially on a secondment basis:
- 1 x Hay Band D Programme Manager
  - 4 x Hay Band A Project Officers
  - 1 x Hay Band C Senior Communications Officer
  - 1 X NJE Grade 2 Business Support Administrator.
8. These resourcing proposals seek to provide a programme delivery mechanism specifically aimed at achieving better outcomes for local people and places across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. The new team would deliver the following:
- Accelerating and supporting the implementation of delivery plans and proposals;

- Further extend and deepen engagement and involvement of elected members, senior managers and partner organisations through agreed implementation and delivery proposals;
- Develop appropriate and strong governance arrangements through reform of the EPC;
- Develop and deliver an agreed clear communications strategy;
- Build a broader longer term delivery programme to meet agreed ambitions.

9. The estimated total cost of taking forward resourcing proposals per annum is £450,000.

<b>Resource</b>	<b>£</b>
Programme Team	310,000
Programme Budget	100,000
Equipment, Travel and Subsistence	10,000
Communications Budget	30,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>450,000</b>

10. Subject to approval of proposals, the costs of preparing for and taking forward proposals, could be shared across Councils using the following split:

<b>Council</b>	<b>£</b>
County Council 40% split	180,000
District and Borough Councils 60% split	270,000 (38,571 per council if seven councils) (45,000 per council if six councils) (54,000 per council if five councils)

11. It is proposed to fund the programme from the Nottinghamshire Councils Rates Pool. £200,000 has already been agreed from the 2021/22 pool to provide start-up funding. It is estimated that posts could be filled from January 2022 at the earliest, with the total spend for this financial year estimated as £150,000. This assumes three months' of salary costs and six months' budget provision October 2021 to March 2022.

12. Nottingham City Council are currently exploring options for in kind contributions, as they are not part of the Nottinghamshire Councils Rates Pool.

13. It is recognised that these proposals have a significant financial cost. To ensure best use of resources we also propose to:

- Utilise existing partnership groups;
- Develop and strengthen expertise of existing staff where possible through use of secondments;
- Minimise the use of external consultants, relying on the wealth of existing expertise across partners wherever possible.

14. The programme does provide the potential to deliver significant savings and efficiencies in the future and these will be scoped as the programme progresses.
15. Whilst the new team would work to the direction of all Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Councils, it is proposed that Nottinghamshire County Council would act as the host organisation and employing body and the team will report to the newly appointed Group Manager, Transformation and Change.
16. These resourcing proposals represent the anticipated requirements over the next twelve months. However, as proposals are developed, it may be necessary to review arrangements to ensure they are still fit for purpose.
17. If approved, it is expected that it could be January 2022 at the earliest before the new team is in place. There is a significant amount of work that will need to be progressed ahead of this. Given the importance of this programme of work, it is suggested that Leaders and Chief Executives, supported by Lead Officers from across the range of participating Councils, sponsor identified thematic programmes of work. This arrangement will continue once the programme team is in place. Existing partnership groups are in the process of being mapped to identify what resource is available in this interim period to drive progress.

### **Other Options Considered**

18. Do nothing - Nottingham and Nottinghamshire councils could continue with current resourcing levels. However, this option is not sustainable in the short and medium term because resources and capacity to deliver identified programmes of work are not sufficient. This option was therefore rejected as all councils have agreed to explore joint working as a priority and the programme would not be able to continue to deliver at pace.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

19. To ensure that sufficient resource is made available to effectively drive forward ambitious joint working proposals. Agreeing to fund additional resource will give Nottingham and Nottinghamshire councils collectively the best chance of success in achieving these shared ambitions:
  - Delivering on the Levelling Up agenda with economic growth boosted alongside a demonstrable reduction in inequalities including in poverty, health, and social care;
  - Attracting significant inward investment ;
  - Delivering high quality places to live for all residents;
  - Regenerating our city and town centres and unlocking difficult sites for development;
  - Tackling climate change and protecting local people from its impacts;
  - Achieving optimum public value for people and places through public sector reform, securing better outcomes and value for money for residents and businesses.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

20. 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**

21. The financial implications are detailed in paragraphs 10 to 15. The report is seeking approval to resource a programme team and budget at a cost of up to £150,000 in 2021/22 and £450,000 over the full 12 month period. This would be funded through the National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) Pool Reserve, which is assessed each December. An in kind contribution is being explored by Nottingham City Council.

## **Human Resources Implications**

22. Seven fixed term roles would be created hosted by Nottinghamshire County Council and utilising existing job descriptions from the centralised Projects and Programmes team. The roles will initially be filled on a secondment basis with any vacancies being subject to the normal recruitment process.

## **Public Sector Equality Duty implications**

23. The recruitment to the new roles will be carried out in accordance with Nottinghamshire County Council's employment and equalities policies.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

It is recommended that Committee:

- 1) Approve proposals to establish a cross-council team to support partnership working and the development of devolution proposals in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.
- 2) Approve the proposed structure for the team enclosed in this report and associated spend of £450,000 on an annual basis, funded through the NNDR Pool Reserve subject to Nottinghamshire County Council's relevant service committee's approval to establish the posts and the staffing structure changes set out in this report.
- 3) Endorses proposals for Nottinghamshire County Council to act as the host organisation and employing body for the new team and recommends these proposals to Nottinghamshire County Council's relevant service committee for approval.

**Councillor Ben Bradley MP**  
**Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:  
Anthony May, Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council Tel: 0115 9773582**

### **Constitutional Comments (SSR 20.10.2021)**

24. The recommendations set out in this report falls within the scope of the terms of reference for the City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee under its constitution. Approvals to establish posts and amend Nottinghamshire County Council's staffing structures are matter which fall within the scope of decisions that may be made by the Council's relevant service committee.

### **Financial Comments (RWK 20/10/2021)**

25. The report proposes the creation of a programme team and budget to support partnership working and the development of devolution proposals in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire at an estimated cost of £450,000 for a 12-month period. These costs will be funded from the National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) Pool Reserve.

**HR Comments ([GME 20/10/21])** The hosting arrangement utilising fixed term secondments is in line with previous interim structures such as the Development Corporation. It enables the flexibility required whilst the proposals are developed and the decision taken regarding a devolution deal. This model may require further consideration should the 12 month fixed term roles be extended to reflect more specialist work required in this area. If this is the case, the extended roles may need to be reviewed and evaluated using the existing policies and procedures of the Council.

27. The detailed terms of the secondment arrangements will be discussed and agreed with the successful candidates at the time of appointment.

### **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.

- Letter from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government dated 15 July 2021: [https://www.emcouncils.gov.uk/write/150721\\_SoS\\_MHCLG\\_letter\\_-\\_County\\_Deals.pdf](https://www.emcouncils.gov.uk/write/150721_SoS_MHCLG_letter_-_County_Deals.pdf)

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- All