

17 December 2021

Agenda Item: 5

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CASE FOR DEVOLUTION: DEVELOPMENT OF PRIORITY THEMES

Purpose of the Report

1. Partner local authorities have been working to develop the scope of a potential Nottingham and Nottinghamshire County Deal. This paper reports on progress against this workstream in the context of six Priority Themes. The report also proposes how the present thematic scopes can be developed into formal business cases.

Information

2. Nottingham and Nottinghamshire's 'Case for Devolution' submission to government was approved at the 29 October 2021 meeting of this Committee. It included five 'Priority Themes' and a list of other areas to be further developed. Following a meeting on 10 November 2021 with Minister Neil O'Brien MP, a decision was taken to elevate one of these 'other areas', 'Support for Young People through early intervention', to become the sixth Priority Theme.
3. In programme management terms, each Priority Theme is led by one or more local authority Chief Executives/ Strategic Director and elected Leader/ Mayor, as follows:

Priority Theme	Chief Officer/ Strat Director	Lead Member
Enabling and supporting young people through their journey to adulthood	Ruth Hyde Anthony May	Cllr Ben Bradley
Economy and Infrastructure	Sajeeda Rose	Cllr John Clarke Cllr David Mellen Cllr Matthew Relf
Education and Skills	Hayley Barsby John Robinson	Cllr David Lloyd Mayor Andy Abrahams
Environment	Mike Hill Katherine Marriott	Cllr Simon Robinson Mayor Andy Abrahams

Priority Theme	Chief Officer/ Strat Director	Lead Member
		Cllr Steve Carr / Milan Radulovic Cllr John Clarke
Land and Housing	Theresa Hodgkinson Dave Armiger	Cllr Matthew Relf Cllr Simon Robinson Cllr Simon Greaves
Transport	Anthony May	Cllr Ben Bradley Cllr Matthew Relf Cllr Steve Carr / Milan Radulovic

Table 1: The six Priority Themes: Leadership

4. Progress has been made to scope each Priority Theme. This is summarised in Appendix 1.
5. Following completion of the scoping exercise, it will be necessary to create a clear Business Case for each Priority Theme. Each Business Case will be a logical framework, building a rational set of propositions for inclusion in an eventual proposal for government. The Business Cases will be created through a series of rational iterative steps, *viz*:
 - a) The strategic case (this will be a development of the scoping document)
 - b) The overall objective, specific goals and proposed activities
 - c) Evidence (what we understand about the issue)
 - d) Financial data and risk
 - e) What is the 'Ask' of Government?
 - f) What are the outcomes for the UK's economy as a whole (what is our 'Offer'?)
6. A detailed logical framework template has been produced to support the Priority Theme Leads. This is included as Appendix 2 to this report.
7. Presently, the Government's timescale for devolution is unclear. However, if Nottingham & Nottinghamshire is selected as a 'pathfinder' County Deal, it is prudent to assume that civil servants will require early clarity about the partnership's 'Ask' and 'Offer'. The Business Case template is complex and will require considerable time and technical input. Technical expertise is held by a variety of different officers and members and the eventual 'Ask' and 'Offer' will benefit from these varied inputs. For this reason, formal expert project teams will be created to support Officer Leads. Project team membership will be developed with reference to a mapping exercise of existing thematic networks (completed). The central Programme Team will support Lead Officers in creating their project teams and in managing the process. If time demands a further expedition of the development of business cases, it may be necessary to engage specialised consultancy support.

Other Options Considered

8. 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 'Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Case for Devolution', taken to the 29 October 2021 meeting of this Committee, from being achieved

and utilised. Not preparing businesses cases would considerably weaken the partnership's devolution proposal to government.

Reasons for Recommendations

9. 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

10. 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

11. The financial implications of producing a devolution proposal for government were considered at the 29 October 2021 meeting of this Committee. This report contains no further financial implications.

Implications for Service Users

12. 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. Business cases for Priority Themes will be developed with this primary objective in mind.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

13. 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that members note progress to develop Priority Theme Scopes and the proposed process for developing detailed business cases.

Councillor Ben Bradley MP
Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
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Constitutional Comments (LW 07/12/2021)

14. The recommendations set out in this report are matters which may be determined by 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 (SES 07/12/2021)

15. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee 29 October 2021, 'Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Case for Devolution'.

City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee 29 October 2021, 'Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Case for Devolution Resourcing Requirements'.

Electoral Divisions and Members affected

- All

Progress on Project Scopes against each of the six Priority Themes

1. Enabling and supporting young people through their journey to adulthood

Context
Building on a strong youth services offer across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, there is a need to bring provision across the area together, to better support young people, address gaps in local provision and build capacity in the voluntary sector.
Programme scope to include
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing together open access youth services in the city and county, including statutory, voluntary and community sector, districts and boroughs, plus other local partners together to develop our collective offer to young people. Complement existing preventative programmes such as Family Hubs • Strong participation and input from young people, recognising the strengths and invaluable insights they can bring across the joint working and devolution programme • Seek the expertise of the National Youth Agency to support us in this, advising on areas such as capacity building, maximising assets, funding streams and the potential powers we could draw down from central government to support our efforts. • Improved strategic coordination and partnership working, understanding the roles the statutory and voluntary sector will play in this in offering different types and levels of engagement/intervention. • Delivering an enhanced robust and consistent offer and ultimately delivering better outcomes for young people, addressing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Capacity building including high quality training and skills development – improving the effectiveness of interventions and reducing safeguarding risks ○ Maximising our Youth Services offer and existing pathway of support ○ Providing more safe spaces for young people and trusted and highly trained youth workers to deliver a wide range of activities ○ Incentivising youth work ○ Supporting the VCS sector ○ Maximising assets ○ Devolution of relevant powers/funding currently held by government to support our work ○ Creating opportunities at an early stage for young people to have meaningful conversations about their future aspirations, skills and employment

2. Economy & Infrastructure

Context
The East Midlands region (of which Nottingham and Nottinghamshire is such a significant part), is hugely and structurally underfunded relative to our UK comparators.
Programme scope to include
To create a strategic shift in our economy, this programme will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set out a new shared understanding of the economic and infrastructure strengths (that we will build upon) and weaknesses (that we will mitigate).• Seek out the best examples from around the world of areas with our scale that have transformed their economy and infrastructure for the better.• Understand the investment that our economy needs now, to make sure it is able to compete in a generation's time• Agree and prioritise the best interventions for making a step change in our economy – while never forgetting the requirement for a full understanding of the spatial element of public investment.
Workstreams may include
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical infrastructure• Digital infrastructure• Skills and employment• Our spatial economy - the regeneration of our city and market towns; suburbs; and rural areas.• Development Corporation• Our economic future - embedding robotics, AI & machine learning, green energy and fusion power

3. Education & Skills

Context
Skills excellence and high employment are mixed with low productivity and pockets of severe deprivation. Significant proportion of workforce is more concentrated in lower skilled occupations, in low growth sectors. Earnings are also below the national average. Strong School, Higher Education and Further Education provision.
Programme scope to include
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore Devolution of powers e.g. apprenticeship levy and powers, adult education budget and DFE funds• Work with our Higher Education and Further Education partners on a single plan, designed to address skills gaps• Support young people and those at risk of redundancy to develop the skills wanted/needed by business• Improve the uptake and supply of digital skills for people and business• Develop the long-term skills needs associated with those sectors that have the most growth potential• A renewed focus on early years literacy where this is a specific challenge• Addressing the disruptive impact of the pandemic on young people's access to education, training and support• Consideration of how to build on Nottingham Trent University's successful partnership with West Notts College, including pathways into social care and the NHS

4. Environment

Context
All Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Councils have declared or acknowledged a Climate Emergency and have targets to become Carbon Neutral or Net Zero by dates between 2028-2030.
Programme scope to include
(a) Service Delivery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste management improvements – e.g. food waste and recycling • Provision of charging infrastructure • Future fleet – joint procurement and innovation • Future energy consumption and creation – potential for collective council investment in e.g. solar or other renewables • Retrofitting housing stock and estate rationalisation • Land use – rewilding and carbon sequestration • Planning – improved minimum standards adopted in new builds • Improved flood alleviation schemes, building on innovative work taking place in partnership with Severn Trent • Focus on improving air and water quality
Programme scope to include
(b) Residents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of Green Rewards and other behaviour change projects • Access to improved waste collection and recycling • Access to retrofitting advice and grants to reduce carbon emissions from homes • Promotion of biodiversity projects with Notts Wildlife Trust • Improving access to green spaces and a wide range of biodiversity • Access to charging infrastructure • Improved community resilience plans
Programme scope to include
(c) Businesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Business carbon clubs to act as community leaders • Support for SMEs to decarbonise • Shop local campaigns to support sustainable living • Ambitious and sustainable procurement practices across the city and county

5. Land and Housing

Context
Need for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More affordable housing, • More development sites to be brought forward • More supported housing • Better use of public estate.
Programme scope to include
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory strategic planning and Homes England powers • Full control of right to buy receipts • Unblocking challenging sites through partnership working • Shared approach to net zero retrofit programmes and new housing standards • 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
- Delivery of Strategic Housing functions including homelessness
- Strategic Planning
- Development Management

6. Transport

Context

Need for more secure and multi year funding allocation to enhance long term strategic transport planning.

Transport improvements would respond to climate emergency and better connect people and businesses to improving productivity.

Programme scope to include

- Accelerated delivery and stewardship of small transport schemes
- Provisions to take on functions related to passenger transport, potentially through franchising
- The early rollout of our Smart Ticketing, as referenced in the Integrated Rail Plan, across all modes of public transport in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.
- A bid to incorporate concessionary fares for use on the Tram into the national concessionary fares system (linked to the above)
- Approval of the 2 Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs) with a 10 year investment plan deal in bus services.
- Introduction of future mobility zones around the City and principal urban areas across Nottinghamshire and around transport hubs.
- 5 year programme of Active Travel investments driven by the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs).
- Highways capital allocations move to a 5 year programme
- Moving towards secured allocations rather than bidding rounds for funding streams such as ZEBRA for emissions and Incentive Fund for Highway Maintenance
- Devolved powers under the Traffic Management Act for enhanced traffic enforcement to create a more free flowing highway network
- Greater influence in prioritising and programming improvements to the Strategic Road Network (SRN) and Major Road Network (MRN)

Priority Themes Business Case Template

Priority theme / Lead Chief Executive(s):
<p>1. Strategic Case:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What areas of activity does this theme encompass? What does it include and (if appropriate), what does it not include? Why is this theme important – why is it in the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire devolution prospectus? What is the problem or opportunity the theme will address? What existing programmes/ projects at an Nottingham and Nottinghamshire/ regional/ national level address this problem or opportunity? ('Interdependencies' from the Theme Scoping Document) Identify the Stakeholders, Final beneficiaries and Partners. What are the opportunities to collaborate and why will collaboration be beneficial to achieving Specific Goals (2, below)?
<p>2. Overall objective, Specific goals and Proposed activities</p> <p>What is the objective and goals of the theme (what are we trying to achieve)? These should be expressed in broad terms (say 1 objective and 3-5 goals). They will be honed through the answer to question 5. At least one of these should reference 'Levelling Up' or 'spatial inequalities', both within Nottingham and Nottinghamshire and between our area and better performing/ benchmark places.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Overall objective</u>: This is the Overall Objective that the Project will contribute to. So, under the Land & Housing theme, for example: 'To contribute to meeting demand for housing and employment-related investment in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire'. <u>Specific Goals</u>: Under the 'Land & Housing' theme, for example, these might be to do with enabling infrastructure, housing for specific needs groups, the development of serviced sites designed to attract employment-related investment, etc. <u>Activities</u>: These create a logical flow to the Asks and Offers (5 and 6, below). Activities are <u>what</u> we propose to do.
<p>3. Evidence (what do we understand about the issue):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data to illustrate scale (why these are important issues to tackle?) Data to illustrate lost opportunity or market failure or harm or similar.

- *Data to illustrate areas of greatest potential for intervention within the theme*
- *Data to illustrate potential for gain (comparing against similar places/ cohorts; comparing against best performers, etc)*
- *Data to illustrate inequalities within the theme between places ('Levelling Up'), within Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.*

4. Financial data and Risk:

- *Cost/ lost financial opportunity occasioned by the problem/ failure to optimise the opportunity.*
- *Quantum of financial intervention to achieve these gains.*
- *Financial and other risks.*

5. What is the 'Ask' of government?

- *What new funding/ powers/ responsibilities do we want from government? Please be as clear and specific as possible – including quantum, if appropriate. Ensure that there is a logical flow from the Strategic Case, Overall Objective/ Goals/ Activities and Evidence, through to the Ask (and Offer, below).*

6. What are the Outcomes for the UK's economy as a whole (What is our Offer)?

- *What is the promised improvement, efficiency and/ or impact (saving?)*
- *How would this activity be governed? For example, Require reform of existing boards to reflect new arrangements/propose additional boards where there are gaps/ Shadow officer structure.*