

Jobs, skills and training

The priorities agreed under this theme are as follows:

- a. Ensuring the County's young people have the right skills and aspirations to deliver and benefit from economic growth;
- b. Promoting sustainable growth and good employers;
- c. Tackling the barriers faced by people in disadvantaged areas within the County and improving employment and wage rates

Actions to deliver these priorities are cross-cutting and involve various Council services and functions. Progress against these actions is outlined below.

Action	1 year progress update	Plan for next 12 months
<p>Promote apprenticeships as a key route to skilled work by increasing the number and quality of apprenticeships and companies that offer them. We will reduce the number of young people not in employment, education or training and support companies to 'home grow' the skills that they require.</p>	<p>At the end of October, 60 apprenticeship places have been created with SMEs who are recruiting an apprentice for the first time.</p> <p>The County Council's work with Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) and apprenticeships is promoted widely e.g. presentations to Business Clubs including Newark and Gedling; promotion at Jobs Fairs including Mansfield and Kirkby.</p> <p>The County Council's project to support young learners who have disabilities and/or learning difficulties (LLDD) is underway and the project co-ordinator is now in post. So far, 4 young people have benefited from work experience and 1 of these has progressed to a supported internship.</p>	<p>The apprenticeship project will continue over the next 12 months and until the full 166 apprenticeship grants have been allocated. We will maximise the use of promotional activities and case studies to show examples of good practise with local employers.</p> <p>Delivery of the LLDD project will continue over the next 12 months.</p> <p>Looking ahead to the new EU funds from 2014-2020, we are aiming to secure further funding to expand this area of work so that more young people from the LLDD group can benefit from work experience and supported internships.</p>

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Action	1 year progress update	Plan for next 12 months
<p>Improve educational attainment and strengthen links to the world of work. The County Council will work with partners to stimulate the demand from employers to offer work experience or traineeships to young people. This will mean that young people are leaving education with greater employability skills and a real understanding of the workplace.</p>	<p>The newly formed Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Skills and Employment Board (N2 SEB) has developed a 'Skills Framework' for 2014-2020. The SEB is employer led and aims to enable employers to influence the design and delivery of adult skills and employment activity across the County. The framework means that employment and skills interventions across N2 will be market led and there will be improved collaboration between employers, providers, and the workforce.</p> <p>Through the Nottinghamshire Business Engagement Group, a pilot project to offer work experience to under graduates is being delivered.</p>	<p>Looking ahead to the new EU funds from 2014-2020 and the proposed interventions within the Skills Framework, examples of best practise across N2 will be replicated. For example, the Mansfield Learning Partnership model for employability skills is under consideration.</p> <p>Depending on the outcome of the graduate pilot, the model could be rolled out more widely across N2.</p>
<p>Increase the number of good employers. We will promote the importance of good employment practices including the Living Wage to employers across the County. As a result, we will see an increase in the number and visibility of Nottinghamshire employers who invest in their workforce and who actively demonstrate a commitment to wider social responsibilities.</p>	<p>Regular meetings take place with 'Nottingham Citizens' on areas of common interest including the Living Wage.</p> <p>As a result of the first round of the Nottinghamshire Economic Development Capital Fund, 43 new jobs at the Living Wage will be created.</p>	<p>To increase PR activities in the area of the Living Wage and good employment practices.</p> <p>We will also continue to work with successful applicants to the Capital Fund and 'key accounts' to promote the benefits of the Living Wage.</p>

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<p>Promote participation in community learning. The Council invests in Adult and Community Learning Services (ACLS) throughout the County, utilising local infrastructure. This learning often represents the first step towards further training or employment for individuals and families and is important in breaking down perceived barriers to learning and earning.</p>	<p>Joint working with ACLS has increased, for example development of module content to improve employability skills for adults.</p> <p>The Work Clubs regularly refer people to ACLS for additional support.</p> <p>In academic year 2013/14 ACLS enrolled 9751 adults (19+) of which 73% came from the top 250 Super Output Areas in Nottinghamshire. This meets the requirements of the Department for Business Innovation and Skills to target those most in need and least able to access other learning.</p>	<p>To increase levels of joint working and referrals between the Work Clubs and ACLS.</p>
<p>Reduce the number of people who are economically inactive. We will increase the levels of participation in training and support services and this will ultimately lead to higher rates of employment in target areas.</p>	<p>The County Council delivers 9 Work Clubs in libraries across the county.</p> <p>The Work Clubs support local Jobs Fairs, promote local vacancies and invite local employers to present to members of the Work Clubs.</p>	<p>Looking ahead to the new EU funds from 2014-2020 and the proposed interventions within the Skills Framework, there will be further support available to enable more people to become economically active.</p>

Enabling business growth

This theme recognises the Council’s role as a champion for Nottinghamshire companies, large and small, and the work that the Council does to promote growth within indigenous companies. The priorities agreed in the strategy are as follows:

- a. Creating the conditions for business start-up and sustained growth;
- b. Focussing our work on identified areas of growth that align with the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership’s (LEP) priorities;
- c. Promoting the County’s assets and opportunities to potential investors

Most of the actions under this theme are delivered directly through the Council’s Economic Development Service, either through staff time or activities commissioned through the Economic Development Committee’s budget.

Action	1 year progress update	Plan for next 12 months
<p>Trial innovative financial products to increase access to finance for Nottinghamshire businesses. We will assess where there are gaps in the market and invest in some financial products to tests their viability for Nottinghamshire’s business community. We will ensure there is a diverse range of financial products for Nottinghamshire businesses and that Nottinghamshire gets its fair share of Government investment in firms.</p>	<p>Investments have continued in Nottinghamshire loans made via the Funding Circle platform. To date, a total of just under £37,000 has been invested in 25 Notts companies seeking to expand. The total value of the loans is £1.65M; the average loan being c. £133,000</p> <p>With the demise of existing Regional Growth Fund (RGF) Programmes impacting on the County, the County Council has worked with the remaining RGF Round 5 programme to encourage applications from Nottinghamshire businesses and worked with partners to submit a programme fund under RGF Round 6 which if successful will make further business funding available.</p> <p>The Foresight Nottinghamshire Fund (supported by the County Pension Fund) has invested over £4 million in 4 separate companies in Nottinghamshire since its launch in 2013.</p>	<p>The Economic Development Committee at its meeting in May 2014 agreed to continue support to the partnership with Funding Circle in 2014/15 until the initial agreed investment of £45,000 was exhausted While re-payments continue, there remains c. £7,000 to support another 4/5 companies.</p> <p>If the application is successful, the RGF6 Fund will commence from April 2015.</p> <p>The Foresight Fund continues to operate in Nottinghamshire and is widely promoted by the Council and its partners.</p>

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<p>Signpost businesses to quality advice and finance opportunities. We will utilise the key account management process to support businesses, which will enable the Council to take a proactive and long-term approach to identifying and meeting a range of business needs.</p>	<p>The Economic Development team has developed links with a number of Government and other providers delivering support and offering finance to businesses across the County and is making referrals and encouraging businesses to review the support available</p> <p>A report on the Council’s approach to key account management is scheduled for Economic Development Committee in January 2015.</p>	<p>Plans are being developed with partners which will see the creation of a more formalised one-stop shop arrangement via the D2N2 LEP. A Growth Hub is under development which will deliver seamless business advice and guidance across D2N2 in line with national objectives. The Council is supporting its development which should be running as a pilot from December 2014, prior to a more formal launch in April 2015.</p>
<p>Utilise our own procurement to drive local business growth and supply chain collaboration. We will aim to increase the number of local companies who secure contracts from the Council and seek to build ‘good employer’ clauses into new contracts.</p>	<p>The re-drafted corporate procurement strategy has a focus on Supporting Economic Growth and Employment through the embedding of the Social Value Act into all our procurements. It is intended to have the final strategy ready for the end of 2014.</p> <p>The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 sits alongside other procurement laws. Value for money is the over-riding factor that determines all public sector procurement decisions. However there is a growing understanding of how value for money is calculated, and how “the whole-life cycle requirements” can include social and economic requirements.</p> <p>In the reporting of the Small Business Procurement Index 2014 Nottinghamshire County Council was reported as one of one of the top 10 performing authorities in new small business procurement index, awarding just under 20 per cent of procurement to small firms. We want to retain the top ten status and improve our overall percentage spend with small firms.</p>	<p>Going forward into 2015, a working group has been set up within the Procurement function to focus on Social Value and how we can better implement this into our procurement activities and work along-side commissioners when writing specifications to ensure its inclusion. The group is working on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further developing weightings to be applied to contribute to the social value criteria in each specification and develop criteria to judge the most advantageous tender • Reviewing the implications of the EU Directives which allows and encourages the splitting of large contracts into smaller Lots that will be more appropriate to smaller suppliers. • Work with commissioners to manage the contract with the successful contractor in a way that enables the maximum social value to be realised from the contract - inevitably, this requires a partnering culture and approach

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Action	1 year progress update	Plan for next 12 months
<p>Develop sector plans to underpin investment priorities. Sector plans will be developed for Low Carbon, Advanced Manufacturing and Food and Drink. The County Council will work with the D2N2 LEP to influence sector planning with practical projects and explore funding opportunities for Nottinghamshire businesses.</p>	<p>The Low Carbon Plan has been completed and the Advanced Manufacturing Plan is being facilitated via collaboration with the D2N2 LEP, ensuring that a Nottinghamshire perspective is factored into its development.</p> <p>Economic Development Committee approved a report on sector development at its July meeting confirming the collaborative approach with the D2N2 LEP and agreeing a new additional focus on health and social care</p>	<p>For sectors prioritised by D2N2 that are also priorities for Nottinghamshire, the Council will work with D2N2 sector groups to secure investment in Nottinghamshire firms through both capital and revenue programmes and discrete sectoral business support and advice.</p> <p>The sector plan for social care will be developed by Nottinghamshire County Council. The sector plan for health will be developed in conjunction with the N2 Skills and Employment Board and Nottingham City Council.</p>
<p>Continue our support for new start-ups and the growth of small and micro firms through our Innovation Centre network and start-up business support commissioned by the Council. We expect to see business start-up and survival rates keeping pace with the national average.</p>	<p>Nottinghamshire’s Innovation Centre network continues to support a large number of small businesses to thrive and grow in the County. As at the end of October 2014, 92 businesses were housed in the centres in Mansfield, Newark and Worksop supporting a total of 614 jobs. Graduations from the centres are strong, running at an average of 5% of the tenant businesses per year.</p> <p>The Council supports start-up activity through a contract with Nottingham Business Venture. To date in 2014, 55 new start businesses have been established.</p>	<p>The County Council holds an out-sourced innovation centre management contract for the three Nottinghamshire centres with Oxford Innovation. This contract runs to March 2016, with the opportunity for two one-year extensions. Partners to the contract are currently considering options for the contract going forward. Support for start-up activity will be considered in the light of the D2N2 European programme which is due to be launched in the spring of 2015.</p>
<p>Consider approaches to place marketing (for visitors, investors and growing firms) with our partners. We will focus our energies on indigenous companies with growth potential, reflecting our aspiration to support ‘home grown’ talent and to sustain local jobs.</p>	<p>Work is underway to establish a single place marketing organisation for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire which will deliver on both visitor economy and inward investor activity. Economic Development Committee approved the Council’s in principle support for this in April 2014.</p> <p>Growth related support for indigenous companies is provided through a ‘key account’ approach which is led by the Council’s Economic Development Service.</p>	<p>Final decisions on the structure, governance and funding arrangements for the proposed place marketing organisation are expected to be taken in the early part of 2015. Transitional arrangements to the new organisation will be outlined at the same time.</p>

Infrastructure and assets

This theme recognises Nottinghamshire’s enviable location within the UK and the opportunities that this presents in terms of connectivity and access to markets. It also focuses on site development given that the County has a number of high profile brownfield sites that offer major opportunities for mixed-use development and contributions towards housing targets.

The priorities agreed under this thematic heading are:

- a. Releasing Nottinghamshire’s investment and growth potential
- b. Maximising opportunities provided by capital investment in digital infrastructure
- c. Creating more vibrant and sustainable town and service centres

All of the actions supporting this theme are led by the Economic Development Service.

Action	1 year progress update	Plan for next 12 months
<p>Establish a new long-term capital growth programme aligned to the D2N2 LEP and EU funds. Through this action we will deliver infrastructure improvements, new private sector jobs and the creation of new workspace</p>	<p>The Nottinghamshire Economic Development Capital Fund has been launched. £3 million over 3 years is available to projects which prioritise job creation and business growth.</p> <p>Following the opening of the Fund earlier this year, a total of 26 applications were received with 13 of those being progressed through a detailed assessment.</p> <p>Of the 5 awards made from these 13 applications to date, the impact may be summarised as follows:</p> <p>Grant awarded – £780,000 Jobs to be created – up to 80 Jobs sustained – 237 Investment leveraged as a consequence of the grant award – £8.39M</p> <p>Types of companies supported – engineering & metal fabrication; design & advanced engineering; packaging for the food industry; manufacture & supply of fluid transfer solutions; precision engineering for the aerospace industry.</p>	<p>The Economic Development Committee considered the initial outcome of the first round at its meeting in September 2014. Depending on the final outcome of the initial assessment process, a further £1.5M will be available to support business growth projects and the Committee agreed to re-open the Fund to new applications subject to certain amendments to the criteria and the process and in line with its initial objectives.</p>

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<p>Develop a collective approach to public sector property and land-holding assets which focuses on enabling growth and sustainable development. This will assist Nottinghamshire to secure a fair share of resources through the D2N2 / Sheffield City Region LEPs and related sources</p>		<p>This will be considered as part of the Work Programme of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee.</p>
<p>Launch the Nottinghamshire Business Investment Zones initiative, showcasing major development opportunities in the County to investors and funders</p>	<p>Arup has been commissioned to develop a review of the key development sites across the County, factoring in barriers to development and market assessments. This work has now secured contributions from the District Councils.</p>	<p>The review will be completed by February 2015. It will support local and inward investment decision-making and see a collaboration with developers in addressing need. It will also support the Councils in bringing forward funding plans to unlock new investments through D2N2 LEP and related external funding opportunities.</p>
<p>Deliver and promote improved broadband access to over 6,000 Nottinghamshire businesses and 50,000 homes and enable further roll-out of fibre broadband solutions and close the 'superfast gap' for the 5% of premises not covered by the existing programme</p>	<p>By the end of September 2014, a total of 11,312 premises had been passed by a fibre-based broadband network. This will rise to over 25,000 by the end of December 2014.</p>	<p>The programme is on track to deliver access to fibre broadband to over 52,000 premises in Nottinghamshire by the end of the 2015-16 financial year.</p> <p>In addition, the County Council is currently tendering for the second contract, which will target investment in rural parts of the County and will ensure that up to 20,000 additional premises will have access to fibre broadband.</p>

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Design and deliver a market stimulation programme to ensure Nottinghamshire maximises the benefits of new digital infrastructure and that it is reflected in the inward investment offer for the County	A demand stimulation package is being developed in conjunction with D2N2 and Derbyshire County Council. Funding has been secured from D2N2 to support this. Economic Development Committee will consider the demand stimulation package at a future meeting. A specific post to support broadband adoption has been created by the County Council and was recruited to during November.	Activity to support business engagement with broadband and the digital agenda will be designed and commissioned in conjunction with Derbyshire and part-financed by D2N2. In addition, a package of measures relating to take-up by residential customers will also be developed and rolled out, including a Digital Champions programme.
Continue to develop proposals and lobby for investment in Nottinghamshire's transport networks through D2N2 and the Government ensuring that key transport priorities are addressed	<p>The D2N2 Growth Deal, announced in July 2014, includes investment in the following Nottinghamshire transport projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newark Southern Relief Road • Rolls Royce, Hucknall • Harworth Access Road <p>This is in addition to previously agreed investment in the Gedling Access Road and Worksop A57/A60 improvements.</p>	Announcements on the D2N2 Enhanced Growth Deal are expected to be made in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement. Nottinghamshire projects put forward for consideration include the A46 Employment Corridor, Sherwood Growth Corridor and accelerated investment at Rolls Royce Hucknall. This is alongside a D2N2 wide package of investment in sustainable transport and connectivity.
Work with District and Borough Council partners to identify and prioritise town and service centres that would benefit from a master-planning approach. We will deliver a range of joint projects and investment proposals to enhance the viability of town and service centres.	<p>Relationships have been established with Mansfield Business Improvement District (BID) and Beeston BID.</p> <p>Scoping activities and an audit of Mansfield's 'industrial heritage assets' has taken place, with a view to submitting a bid for Heritage Lottery Funds in 2015.</p> <p>Quantitative economic base line data collection, undertaken by People and Places Consultancy is near completion in;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hucknall • Worksop • Retford • Westdale Lane - Gedling 	<p>As a result of the scoping activities in Mansfield, a review of next steps is underway and recommendations will be made on future project development to enhance the town centre.</p> <p>This data will result in effective monitoring of proposed integrated transport and local centre improvement schemes. It also facilitates measurement of economic impact and can assist in developing a business case and create an evidence base, for future external funding bids.</p>