

THE CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 29 OCTOBER 2021 AT 9.00 AM AT NEWARK & SHERWOOD 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 - A

Councillor Simon Greaves – Bassetlaw District Council

Councillor David Lloyd – Newark and Sherwood District Council - A

Councillor David Mellen – Nottingham City Council

Councillor Matthew Relf – Ashfield District Council

Councillor Richard Robinson – Broxtowe Borough Council - A

Councillor Simon Robinson – Rushcliffe Borough Council

OFFICERS PRESENT

David Armiger – Chief Executive, Bassetlaw District Council

Hannah Barrett – Economic Development Officer, Nottinghamshire County Council

Luke Barrett – Head of Communications and Marketing, Nottinghamshire County Council

Mel Barrett – Chief Executive, Nottingham City Council - A

Hayley Barsby – Chief Executive, Mansfield District Council - A

Mike Hill – Chief Executive, Gedling Borough Council

Teresa Hodgkinson – Chief Executive, Ashfield District Council

Ruth Hyde – Chief Executive, Broxtowe Borough Council

Kath Marriott – Rushcliffe Borough Council - A

Anthony May – Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council

John Robinson – Chief Executive, Newark & Sherwood District Council

Jo Toomey – Advanced Democratic Services Officer, Nottinghamshire County Council

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillor Milan Radulovic for Councillor Richard Robinson

Michael Robinson – Strategic Director, Mansfield District Council for Hayley Barsby

Sajeeda Rose – Corporate Director for Growth and City Development for Mel Barrett

Peter Linfield – Director of Finance and Corporate Services, Rushcliffe Borough Council for Kath Marriott

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2021, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true and correct record and were confirmed for signing by the Chair of the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor John Clarke, Councillor David Lloyd and Councillor Richard Robinson.

Apologies were also received from Mel Barrett (Nottingham City Council), Hayley Barsby (Mansfield District Council) and Kath Marriott (Rushcliffe Borough Council).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4. NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE – CASE FOR DEVOLUTION

Nottinghamshire County Council Chief Executive, Anthony May, introduced the report which sought approval of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Case for Devolution, which was attached as Appendix 1 to the report, and to progress further work required on the identified themes. In doing so, he highlighted:

- The document set out the context and ambition for joint working, both from the Government's perspective in terms of its levelling up agenda, and from a local level with a view to reforming services and improving the lives of people who live and work in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.
- Within the document, five priorities were listed. These had been shortlisted by the Committee. Each priority was supported by several bullet points that would be further developed. The priorities were:
 - Education and skills
 - Transport
 - Environment
 - Economy and infrastructure
 - Land and housing
- Scoping documents were being prepared for each theme and would be developed into business cases for the Committee to consider.
- Also included within the document were five long listed priorities about which discussions had begun, or was planned, with relevant partners.
- Meetings with Ministers and senior civil servants were taking place to gain an understanding of the anticipated timing of the Levelling Up White Paper

and the government's intentions around pathfinder authorities and devolution deals.

Committee members made comments on the report, including the following:

- It was suggested that the skills section should be expanded to capture early years and literacy as it was felt the current focus was older young people.
- A suggestion was also made that the skills section should be expanded to provide an opportunity for linking in the universities as well as further education colleges.
- The environment section did not refer to clean air in the towns and cities and the health impacts of poor-quality air; it was noted reference to air quality was currently included within the transport section of the document.
- The commonality between Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire was highlighted and where possible that link should be maintained.
- Early feedback from the Minister and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities was that they were supportive of devolving powers to local leaders.
- Lobbying for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire needed to continue; of the funding for transport projects that the Government had recently announced, none were in Nottinghamshire, with funding instead going to devolved authorities, some of which had smaller populations than Nottinghamshire.
- The role of the planning function in supporting quality of life ambitions and the need for appropriate infrastructure to support sustainable development
- An announcement on the Integrated Rail Plan (IRP), including HS2, was expected within the next few weeks, the outcome of which would affect the scoping and delivery of the priorities.
- That an update on transport, including the implications of any announcement on the IRP, and those areas that sit around the Development Corporation be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.
- A report on budget requirements for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire could provide evidence and leverage with which to go to Ministers.
- The suggestion was made that productivity could be given greater emphasis in the Case for Devolution document.

RESOLVED 2021/004

- 1) That the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Case for Devolution, attached as Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

- 2) That authority is approved to carry out further work on the themes listed under paragraphs 6 and 7 of the report.

5. NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CASE FOR DEVOLUTION – RESOURCING REQUIREMENTS

The Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council introduced the report. He acknowledged pressures in capacity that Councils were experiencing and highlighted an opportunity to fund additional capacity to support the project through the rates pool surplus. It was expected that Nottingham City Council would provide support in kind since it was not a member of the rates pool.

The funding would be used to employ officers to deliver the work, with additional resource available to support commissioning of external advice, travel, subsistence, communications and marketing. Two further recommendations were put forward for the Committee's consideration; these were in addition to the three recommendations included in the report. These suggested oversight arrangements for the use of the funding.

During discussion of the report and the two additional recommendations, comments included:

- A recruitment strategy would be agreed at a forthcoming meeting of Chief Executives; the initial suggestion was that recruitment would include an internal and external strand.
- Job descriptions had been prepared and these would be circulated to members of the Committee for information.
- If required a briefing note could be produced that set out the arrangements for the non-domestic rates pool and how it could be used to support economic development.
- In considering communications arrangements, a view was expressed that a standardised approach with opportunities to adapt messages to make them more locally relevant.

RESOLVED 2021/005

- 1) That proposals to establish a cross-council team to support partnership working and the development of devolution proposals in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire be approved.
- 2) That the proposed structure for the team enclosed in the report and associated spend of £450,000 on an annual basis, funded through the NNDR Pool Reserve be approved 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) That proposals for Nottinghamshire County Council to act as the host organisation and employing body for the new team be endorsed and agrees that these proposals to Nottinghamshire County Council's relevant service committee for approval.
- 4) That authority is delegated to the Chief Executives group to oversee expenditure of the programme budget, the equipment, travel and subsistence budget and the communications budget.
- 5) That the Committee will receive quarterly reports on expenditure.

6. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Friday 17 December 2021	9.00am	Gedling Borough Council
Friday 25 February 2022	9.00am	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Friday 29 April 2022	9.00am	Broxtowe Borough Council
Friday 17 June 2022	9.00am	Nottinghamshire County Council

The meeting closed at 10.12am

CHAIRMAN