

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE REPORT: KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Purpose of the Report

1. The report seeks to update Members on various matters relating to the Leader's portfolio and the work of the Executive.

Information

2. **Nottinghamshire Day** – On the 25th and 26th August we celebrated everything that's great about our county. More than two thousand people are estimated to have attended this year's Nottinghamshire Day celebrations at Sherwood Forest County Park which was a huge success despite the inclement weather.
3. The free-to-attend event was led by the County Council working with a range of partners such as RSPB, Notts Outdoors and Inspire, as part of the annual Robin Hood Festival. On lookers were treated to an array of Medieval melodies, historical re-enactments, storytellers and much more.
4. **The Tour of Britain 2023** – On Wednesday 6th September we welcomed back hundreds of the world's top cyclist as the county hosted stage 4 of the prestigious Tour of Britain cycle race. The riders made their way through a number of villages and towns to the north of Nottinghamshire including Worksop, Retford, Tuxford, Southwell and Collingham before reaching the finish line in Newark.
5. This is the fourth time since 2017 that the race has graced our county, it's always fantastic to see the thousands of residents and visitors lining our streets cheering on the cyclists as they make their way through the towns. Congratulations to the winner of stage 4, Olav Kooij, who equalled the record of four consecutive Tour of Britain stage victories.
6. **Appointment of Interim Chief Executive of the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA), Mark Rogers** – On the 9th August the EMCCA officially announced the appointment of the new Interim Chief Officer for the devolution programme, Mark Rogers.
7. Mark will be a key enabler to help partners prepare for a combined mayoral authority for the East Midlands. I look forward to working alongside him as we begin to navigate through the critical next steps to make sure the region is well placed to establish a mayoral combined county authority in 2024, if the legislation receives Royal Assent.

8. **Boots and Berets Military Awards** – It was a real privilege to be invited alongside Councillor Keith Girling to this year's Boots and Berets Military Awards night hosted at the world famous City Ground.
9. The event, organised by the County Council and sponsored by our partners Arc Partnership, Via and Scape, was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate those in Nottinghamshire who help and support our veterans and service men and women across the county. I was privileged to meet some amazing individuals and organisations who were all so deserving of this recognition.
10. **Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) Programme** – Across the county tens of thousands of children were able to access the HAF provision this summer. It was great to welcome the Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to Nottinghamshire where he joined Councillor Tracey Taylor in Gedling to take part in some of the activities coordinated by the County Council.
11. We are extremely proud of the support we offer in our communities, and we continue to invest in and expand these services. The Charities and community groups that step forward to deliver holiday activities via the HAF fund do an incredible job in supporting young people across Nottinghamshire.
12. I was invited to join the Mapperley All Stars, one of the fantastic sports clubs who delivered 600 sessions over a 5 week period to children entitled to a HAF place. Their programme not only helped keep children active but also educated on food and nutrition, confidence building and how to manage conflicts through a range of different activities. The HAF scheme itself has developed from the Covid School Holiday support grant which has now expanded from just food into an accessible provision that is available to all.
13. **Castle Meadow Campus Open Day** – At the end of July I was invited to the University of Nottingham's Castle Meadow Campus to look at their plans to bring together business and education across the area.
14. Strong collaboration is key as we look to find the right solutions to invest in across the county and get the most out of the Levelling up Partnership Funding to tackle some of the long-term local challenges in Nottinghamshire.
15. **Transport Minister Visit** – It was a pleasure to host Transport Minister Richard Holden MP at County Hall to talk about some key transport priorities in Nottinghamshire, including highway improvements and our public transport provision.
16. We discussed how more flexibility from Government in the short term could help us to improve our bus services and continue the roll out of our excellent Notts Bus OnDemand scheme which is replacing routes that are not commercially viable with a flexible service that ensures our rural areas stay connected to good public transport.
17. Longer term we talked about the huge potential benefits of devolved transport powers and additional funding for highways maintenance and repairs. The potential to remove the national ring-fencing that forces us to spend money on things that are not local priorities and being able to expand and equalise public transport across the region, such as an OnDemand bus service rolling out wider and faster.

18. **New Notts Highways Webpage** – Last month we launched our new website showing improvements to roads and pavements throughout Nottinghamshire. The site nottshighways.co.uk allows residents and road users to search across the county to find where resurfacing and patching schemes have taken place, with details of the works and images of what has been done.
19. Over 650 improvements, delivered since spring 2022 by Via East Midlands on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council, are mapped on site. They include full resurfacing works, the ongoing programme of county-wide mechanised patching and other road surface improvements such as microasphalt works.
20. The site is also accessible through the MyNotts app and is updated each week with the latest improvements on roads across Nottinghamshire.
21. **141 Bus Service** – At the start of August Councillor Neil Clarke, Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, was delighted to announce that thanks to the County Council the 141 bus service is able to continue to serve residents in Bestwood, Hucknall, Mansfield and Ashfield.
22. The council began subsidising the service in September 2022 and appointed Stagecoach as the new operator after Trentbarton announced they could no longer operate the service.
23. We have worked closely with Stagecoach to introduce a new operating model for the 141 which will see the cost of the subsidy for the taxpayer decrease over time as the operator implements new ideas to improve, develop and market the service. It's great to see that following the support from the council, passenger numbers continue to increase.
24. The route and the timetable of the 141 will remain the same, meaning local residents along the route will continue to benefit from a regular service.
25. **Meeting with the Chancellor** – Following the summer recess I met with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, along with colleagues from Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, to talk about the upcoming Autumn Statement and share some local priorities.
26. Collectively we spoke about Highways investment, about various cost of living challenges and business costs, about major regional investments and much more. It was really helpful to be able to speak directly to the Chancellor and feed these things in on behalf of the County.

Progress Report

27. **Outwood Grange Academies Trust – Extension of Worksop Portland School** – Councillor Keith Girling, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management, recently signed off a decision to invest in the extension of the Worksop Portland School. The works, due to commence over the coming months will take around 50 weeks to complete and accommodate a further 60 pupils making a total capacity increase of 300 places across 5 year groups.
28. This £10m investment will be funded from a combination of Basic Need funding and developer contributions.

29. **Nottinghamshire School Places Programme, New Primary School, Gateford Park, Worksop** – Councillor Keith Girling, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management, recently approved the latest estimated costs for the works to provide a new school at Gateford Park in Worksop, giving the green light for the project to proceed to the construction phase.
30. It was a pleasure to join Councillor Girling and Councillor Tracey Taylor, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, as we put the first spade in the ground on the site of what is our third new primary school in Nottinghamshire this year alone.
31. The school will be built on land off Gatekeeper Way in Gateford in two phases and is expected to open for the new school year in September 2024.
32. It will eventually have the capacity for 315 primary places plus a 26-place nursery – with the first phase of the scheme seeing capacity for a 210-place school – ensuring that there are enough places to meet the needs of families in the area.
33. The project is being delivered with Arc Partnership and Morgan Sindall Construction.
34. **School Building Improvement Programme (SBIP)** – The Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management has approved the latest list of projects to benefit from this year’s SBIP. This huge investment is funded annually by the Department of Education and provides capital improvements for our Maintained School estate.
35. The £9.2m investment will deliver improvements across several workstreams, focusing on the health and safety and maintenance issues which are most likely to result in a school closure if not addressed. We are committed to providing safe, compliant, and fit for purpose Schools. The SBIP is key programme for delivering this commitment.
36. **All decisions agreed at Cabinet are published online, you can find more details on the Council’s Website - [Democratic Management System > Decisions \(nottinghamshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/DEMOCRATIC-Management-System/Decisions)**

Decisions taken under Special Urgency procedures

37. None.

Other Options Considered

38. None

Reason for Recommendation

39. This is a noting report to update the Full Council on matters relating to the Leader’s portfolio and the work of the Executive since the last meeting, as required by the Constitution.

Statutory and Policy Implications

40. 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

41. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That the contents of the report be noted.

**COUNCILLOR BEN BRADLEY MP
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
Phil Rostance, Executive Officer

Constitutional Comments (CEH)

42. Full Council is required to receive this report, which is to note, as set out in the Constitution.

Financial Comments (SES)

43. There are no financial implications arising from this 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

- None