

**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. 2nd 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 12th October 2021 at 2pm.

The meeting closed at 3.30 pm

CHAIRMAN