

## Place Select Committee

**Wednesday, 22 January 2025 at 10:30**

County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP

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### AGENDA

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|---|--|---------|
| 1 | Minutes of the last meeting held on 11 December 2024                 | 3 - 10  |
| 2 | Apologies for Absence  |         |
| 3 | Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below) |         |
| 4 | Highways Update  | 11 - 16 |
| 5 | Outcomes of the Scrutiny Review of Flooding Response and Resilience  | 17 - 40 |
| 6 | Work Programme   | 41 - 50 |

### Notes

- (1) Councillors are advised to contact their Research Officer for details of any Group Meetings which are planned for this meeting.
- (2) Members of the public wishing to inspect "Background Papers" referred to in the reports on the agenda or Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act should contact:-

Customer Services Centre 0300 500 80 80

- (3) Persons making a declaration of interest should have regard to the Code of Conduct and the Council's Procedure Rules. Those declaring must indicate the nature of their interest and the reasons for the declaration.

Councillors or Officers requiring clarification on whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact Dom Monahan (Tel. 0115 977 4772) or a colleague in Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

- (4) Councillors are reminded that Committee and Sub-Committee papers, with the exception of those which contain Exempt or Confidential Information, may be recycled.

- (5) This agenda and its associated reports are available to view online via an online calendar - <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx>

Meeting: Place Select Committee

Date: Wednesday 11 December 2024 (commencing at 10:30 am)

**Membership:****County Councillors**

Mike Adams (Chairman)  
Tom Hollis (Vice-Chairman)

Matt Barney  
Richard Butler  
Anne Callaghan BEM  
Penny Gowland  
Kane Oliver  
John Ogle

Mrs Sue Saddington  
Roger Upton **Apologies**  
Elizabeth Williamson **Apologies**

**Substitute Members**

None

**Other County Councillors in attendance**

Councillor Scott Carlton - Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health  
Councillor John Cottee - Deputy Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment

**Officers and colleagues in attendance:**

Martin Elliott	Senior Scrutiny Officer
Kaj Ghattaora	Group Manager - Procurement & Contract Management
Derek Higton	Executive Director – Place
Gareth Johnson	Traffic Manager
Dom Monahan	Advanced Democratic Services Officer
Mark Walker	Interim Service Director - Place and Communities

**1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 18 September 2024, having been circulated previously, were confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Elizabeth Williamson (other reasons) and Councillor Roger Upton (other reasons).

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **4. PROCUREMENT EXERCISE UPDATE FOR THE CATERING AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT SERVICE**

Councillor Scott Carlton - Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health, Derek Higon - Executive Director - Place, and Mark Walker - Interim Service Director - Place and Communities attended the meeting to present a report that detailed the progress that was being made on the Procurement Exercise for the Catering and Facilities Management Service. Kaj Ghattaora - Group Manager, Procurement and Contracts Management also was also in attendance for this item.

It was noted that in order to ensure a flexible and responsive approach, key commercial parameters for the detailed design and delivery of the procurement process had been determined by the Executive Director, Place in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health. It was reported that work was being prioritised so that any new partnership could commence in Spring 2025 with a view to the partnership being fully operational for the 2025/26 academic year.

The Committee noted that the procurement exercise had commenced on 2 August 2024 with the deadline for initial submissions on 2 September 2024. Following evaluation of the submissions, a small number of credible and experienced bidders were shortlisted to participate in competitive dialogue. It was reported that the competitive dialogue process started on 4 October 2024 and ran until 26 November 2024, with 15 sessions with each bidder.

It was reported that on 27 November 2024, the bidders had been invited to submit final tenders, with a deadline, which had been moved to accommodate additional dialogue sessions, of 24 December. The Committee noted that the final submissions would be evaluated at the start of January 2025. It was reported that the outcome of the procurement exercise would be reported back to the Cabinet meeting in February 2025, for formal consideration and decision. This would include any proposed future operating model for the services involved, and the partner or partners that the process had identified as being the most suitable for the Council, by reference to tender criteria.

It was reported that a key requirement in determining the appropriate partner was the need to reduce/eliminate the financial risk to the Council. It was noted that this could be achieved with a partner through cost efficiencies, reduced overheads, and improved performance. The Committee noted that it was important for potential partners to demonstrate that they were able to develop a commercially sustainable model in the short, medium, and longer term.

It was noted that the Council would retain an ongoing interest in, and influence over, the operation of the partnership through appropriate commercial and governance documentation. The Council would also retain an ongoing interest in setting up any arrangements, allowing input on key strategic decisions, such as school meal

pricing, quality, and Meals at Home. The Committee noted that the Council would also expect to have an appropriate presence on the Board of Directors.

In discussion that followed, Members raised the following points and questions.

- Further information was requested regarding the continuity of service quality as part of the procurement exercise.
- Further information was requested on the meaning of partners with a 'public sector ethos'.
- Whether it was realistic to expect partners to deliver a high-quality service, at a profit, when the current contract was delivering a £2.7m deficit per-year.
- Would there be any break clauses placed into the contract if there was a successful bidder.
- Whether Trade Unions had been involved in the procurement process.
- Whether existing employees would continue their membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme.
- The Vice-Chairman noted that in their view that £2.7m was a reasonable loss for the Council to accept, to continue providing such a high-quality service.

In response to the points and questions raised by members, the Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health and officers provided the following responses:

- Service quality and continuity would be factored into the school's contract. There would be opportunities for the joint-venture partner to engage with schools in order to ensure continuity from the first day of the new service delivery.
- It was noted that 'public sector ethos' referred to operators that understood the social value and wider benefits of providing a high-quality service.
- Potential partners would be able to deliver an even more efficient service by benefitting from quantities of scale. It was noted that if there were no bids that could deliver a high-quality service, then the backup option was to continue the Catering and Facilities Management Service in its current form.
- When creating any potential contracts, standard break clauses would be included.
- Updates for the Trade Unions had been provided through the Joint Consultative and Negotiating Panel. Trade Union colleagues had been engaged in the scrutiny review and the redesign process and had also been involved in the dialogue sessions around workforce proposals and pensions. It was noted that further briefings had been provided to schools through the Early Years and Schools Forum and the Primary Education and Trust Board.

- Potential partners were expected to fully adhere to the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations, admitted body status to the Local Government Pension Scheme and to commit to the ongoing development of the workforce.
- It was reported that a smooth transfer and assurances for existing staff, including the Local Government Pension Scheme was a key requirement in determining the appropriate partner.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health, the Executive Director - Place, Interim Director of Place and Communities, and the Group Manager of Procurement and Contracts Management for attending the meeting and answering members' questions.

## **RESOLVED 2024/16**

- 1) That the considerations and comments of the Place Select Committee on the progress that has been made on the procurement exercise that is being carried out in order to identify a suitable partner for the delivery of the Catering and Facilities Management Service be noted.
- 2) That the following issues raised by the Committee in its consideration of the report be progressed:
  - a) That on a date to be agreed by the Chairman of the committee and in consultation with officers, members of Place Select Committee receive a briefing on the outcomes of the procurement exercise in advance of the report being considered by Cabinet.

## **5. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL LANE RENTAL SCHEME**

Councillor John Cottee – Deputy Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, and Gareth Johnson, Traffic Manager attended the meeting to present a report that detailed proposals for a Nottinghamshire County Council Lane Rental Scheme.

The Committee noted that the benefits of a lane rental scheme came from the significant financial disincentive for utility companies to undertake works on the identified lane rental network during the designated times of operation. It was reported that the financial disincentive of a lane rental scheme was a charge of up to £2,500 per-day. The Transport Manager informed the Committee that councils had been able to apply to the Secretary of State to introduce Lane Rental Schemes since 2018 and that so far, there were only four active schemes in England.

It was reported that monies collected from lane rental charges in the proposed scheme could be used to recover actual costs incurred by the Council to administer the scheme. It was noted that any surplus revenue should be applied to investment within areas of network and congestion management. Members of the Committee noted that if the Council was successful in its bid to implement a Lane Rental

Scheme, there would be a clear and open policy on the allocation of surplus money that would be developed in collaboration with the utility companies.

The Transport Manager informed the Committee that as the scheme would apply to all works on the identified network, careful consideration was being given on how this would impact upon schemes delivered by Via East Midlands on behalf of the Authority. It was noted that as the Council was already tasked wherever possible with reducing traffic impacts, and that works were already planned with high levels of detail to mitigate against causing any undue congestion.

It was reported that the Council was currently working with an external consultant on identifying the most congested roads across Nottinghamshire based on recent historical data. This work had been complicated by the significant changes to traffic flow caused by the pandemic which had led to two of the most recent years not reflecting typical traffic flows. It was expected that a feasibility study with a base map would be available late in 2024/early 2025.

The Transport Manager informed the Committee that the next steps in the development of a scheme were to consider the feasibility study in detail and to determine whether to start formal consultation with all utilities and other affected parties. This would be a comprehensive process as in the event of a bid for approval, the Council would need to demonstrate to the Secretary of State that it had actively considered all objections and other comments received. It was reported that, at this stage, the expectation was that the earliest likely bid date would be in the spring/summer of 2025 and that a lane rental scheme would not be introduced until 2026 at the earliest.

In the discussion that followed, Members raised the following points and questions:

- Concerns that busy roads in rural areas of the County could be overlooked by this scheme.
- Whether a lane rental scheme would encourage utilities companies to collaborate, and conduct works at the same time and did the Council inspect reinstatement works carried out by utility companies.
- Could the Council have applied for a Lane Rental Scheme in 2018 when they had first been introduced by the government.
- What had been the cost to the Council of working with an external consultant on identifying the most congested streets from recent historical data.
- Was there a risk that an unexpected consequence of this scheme would be that utility companies began to carry out more works on roads not covered by the scheme during daytime hours.
- Would the money recovered by this scheme be reinvested in to resurfacing roads in the County.

In relation to the points raised by members, the Deputy Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment and officers provided the following responses:

- Only around 10% of the County's roads could be covered by the scheme. The Council was currently working with an external consultant on identifying the most congested roads from recent historical data, these would be mostly 'A' roads. Roads in more urban areas of the County would not be prioritised. Councillors were invited to inform the Traffic Manager of any particular roads of concern.
- The Council had a team of reinstatement inspectors who inspected works carried out by utility companies. Some works were temporary for a period of up to six months. Long term reinstatements had a guarantee of two years, and the Council could request for problems to be rectified if the reinstatement works significantly deteriorated within this period. It was noted that in some circumstances the Council could also issue Section 58 notices which protected roads for up to five-years from having non-emergency works carried out on them.
- Utility companies were already encouraged to carry out works at the same time. It was expected that the financial disincentives from a lane rental scheme would present an additional reason for utility companies to work together and minimise roadworks.
- The Secretary of State's approval of any lane rental scheme bid was subject to the authority being able to demonstrate that it had a well-run Permit Scheme for managing all streetworks. Nottinghamshire County Council commenced a Permit Scheme in April 2020 and had recently completed a review of the third year of operation. The Committee noted that the review of the initial three years of the Permit Scheme had concluded that the Council operated an effective scheme which had delivered tangible benefits to all road users since commencement.
- Information on the costs incurred by the Council in using an external consultant to identify the most congested roads across Nottinghamshire would be circulated with members of the Committee.
- It was noted that the four local authorities that had already implemented a lane rental scheme had not reported that utility companies had begun to out more works on roads not covered by the scheme during daytime hours.
- If the scheme was approved, the scheme's board would determine where surplus revenue collected by the scheme was spent. It was noted that a significant portion of this would be spent on resurfacing roads in the County.

The Chairman thanked the Deputy Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, and the Traffic Manager for attending the meeting and answering Members' questions.



## **RESOLVED 2024/17**

- 1) That the considerations and comments of the Place Select Committee on the work that is being carried out to develop and consult upon a proposed lane rental scheme for Nottinghamshire be noted.
- 2) That the following issues raised by the Committee in its consideration of the report be progressed:
  - a) That information on the costs incurred by the Council in using an external consultant to identify the most congested roads across Nottinghamshire as part of the activity being carried out to develop a lane rental scheme is circulated to the members of the Place Select Committee.
  - b) That the Chairman, in consultation with officers, considers to how best share members considerations on the scope and remit of lane rental schemes with the Department for Transport.

## **6. WORK PROGRAMME**

Consideration was given to an updated outline programme of scrutiny work for the 2024/2025 Municipal Year.

A councillor proposed that the following two items were added to the work programme:

- Changes to the HWRC network
- Bus service improvement plans

## **RESOLVED 2024/18**

- 1) That the Work Programme be noted.
- 2) That the following items be considered for inclusion on the Work Programme:
  - Changes to the HWRC network
  - Bus service improvement plans
- 3) That Committee Members make any further suggestions for consideration by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for inclusion on the work programme, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s) and senior officers, and subject to the required approval by the Chairman of Overview Committee.

The meeting closed at 12:12pm.

**CHAIRMAN**



**22 January 2025**

**Agenda Item: 4**

## **REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT**

### **HIGHWAYS UPDATE**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. Provide an update on highway activities which have been undertaken since the beginning of the financial year.

#### **Background Information**

2. The Council is investing £66.5m into its Highways service during 2024/25 comprising of:
  - £33m allocated to structural capital maintenance schemes to improve local roads and other highway assets, including £4m additional County Council funding towards this work.
  - £5m allocated to integrated transport schemes (e.g., pedestrian crossings, capacity improvements, speed management schemes) which includes £0.35m of additional County Council funding for road safety schemes; as well as allocations to fund the development of major transport schemes.
  - £0.3m of County Council revenue funding to deliver the traffic management revenue programme.
  - £28m of external funding secured to deliver a range of schemes, including flood risk alleviation schemes, active travel programmes, potential electric vehicle infrastructure, and potential bus improvements through the Bus Service Improvement Plan.
3. Whilst the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) has not yet provided details of the amounts of structural capital maintenance funding to be made available to constituent highway authorities in 2025/26, EMCCA has asked each authority to provide information on what their funding needs are for 25/26. The County Council has therefore been in contact with EMCCA and has discussed the opportunity to significantly grow the investment levels in highways should EMCCA funding allow.

#### **Highways Activities Update**

4. Throughout 2024/25 Via EM Ltd (Via) has undertaken significant volumes of work across the wide variety Highway Services it delivers on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC). During quarters 1 and 2 of this financial year these included: -

- 918 Incidents attended
  - 25,202 Pothole repairs
  - 3983 Street Lights repaired and 444 columns replaced
  - 48,475 Gullies and Offlets cleansed
  - 27,986 Customer reports received
  - 398 Bridges inspected
  - 25,601m<sup>2</sup> of pothole patch repairs
  - 48,761 Highway inspections carried out (planned and ad hoc)
5. As of the end of November 2024, 141 of the 167 original capital maintenance schemes have been completed with 8 schemes on-site or due to start in December.
  6. Completed capital maintenance schemes include carriageway resurfacing, surface dressing, micro asphalt, footway improvements, highways drainage, street lighting replacements, intelligent transport systems renewals, and vehicle restraint systems repairs.
  7. The capital maintenance carriageway programme 2024/25 is the largest in many years. All 103 schemes have been completed before the New Year.
  8. 15,861 additional repairs have been delivered in 2024/2025 Q1 & Q2 compared with the previous year.
  9. The use of cold materials such as Viafix during this period has reduced by 28%.
  10. Via have exceeded their Key Performance Indicators targets in relation to pothole repair response times compared to Q1 & Q2 in 2023/24 with 2024/35 as follows: -
    - CAT 1 potholes 94.36% (+2.85%)
    - CAT 2 potholes 97.05% (+4.80%)
    - CAT 3 potholes 99.60% (+2.15%)

### **Additional Drainage Works & Winter Readiness**

11. During the winter greater numbers of highway defects tend to occur, however the winter of 2023-24 was particularly challenging. Roads and footways across the county were badly damaged in the flooding caused by Storm Babet in October and Storm Henk in January. These events were so severe that the County Council approved significant additional investment to help mitigate against the effects of future storms and prepare the highway network for the forthcoming winter period. This investment took two forms:
  - **£467,000 to undertake additional drainage works**
  - **£4,800,000 to support a programme of winter readiness**
  - a. **Additional Drainage Works**
12. Four additional external teams have been employed to deliver extra routine and reactive gulley cleansing. These teams have targeted sites which were particularly affected by flooding. A programme of over 25 ditch cleaning and culvert improvement schemes has also been

completed alongside the digging of 1,840 drainage grips compared to 696 drainage grips that were completed in the financial year 23/24.

This approach has been expanded upon during winter with resources deployed to:

- Accelerate the routine gully cleansing programme from a three-year frequency to a two-year frequency for areas that are not subject to flooding.
- Seven tankers working during days, nights and at weekends to target gulleys requiring dig-outs and minor repairs. During October 2024, 11,765 gulleys were emptied with a further 12,412 emptied in November.

### **b. Programme of Winter Readiness**

13. In addition to the carriageway schemes already identified in the County Council's capital programme, Via has 14 teams which are undertaking "*right first time*" patching repairs in line with the outcomes of the highway services review.
14. Additional resource is also delivering a programme of permanent in-lay patching repairs in place of Category 1 safety repairs or multiple defect repairs. This programme will carry on through until April 2025 and will improve the road network and provide greater responsiveness over the winter period. These works are being undertaken by two additional teams (*making 16 teams in total*) and ensure a further 20,000m<sup>2</sup> to 25,000m<sup>2</sup> of permanent in-lay repairs are completed.
15. A further seven large-scale structural patching schemes are also taking place across Nottinghamshire targeting areas of significant deterioration. These schemes will deliver approximately 15,000 m<sup>2</sup> of carriageway repairs.

### **Traffic Signals Obsolescent Grant Funding**

16. In March 2024 NCC were awarded £651,760 in Traffic Signals Obsolescence Grant funding following a successful bid, to be spent over the two financial years of 2024/25 & 2025/26
17. On behalf of NCC, Via is delivering the largest upgrade of traffic signal equipment ever undertaken in Nottinghamshire through two types of upgrades, Light Emitting Diode (LED) Retrofit and Extra Low Voltage (ELV) Controller Conversions.
18. 52 older traffic signals sites, predominantly pedestrian crossings, will be converted to LED lighting. Energy savings are predicted to be around £400 per year per site, which will save approximately £20,800 per year from NCC's energy bill
19. ELV Controller Conversions will take place at 11 locations across the county. This involves the replacement of the traffic light controller system to one that offers the benefits of being both safer to work on when future maintenance is required and is more energy efficient.
20. The change from halogen lamps to LED lamps during the retrofit and refurbishment of these traffic signals will significantly reduce the carbon emissions arising from each site. Typical

annual carbon savings are 448kg of CO2 for a retrofit installation and 630Kg of CO2 for a refurbishment installation.

## **Asset Management and Network Management Plans**

21. As part of the Highway Services Review, it was recommended that a number of core documents which set out the approaches underlying the provision of highway services were updated to reflect the current aims, objectives and pressures faced by NCC.
22. Following on from the approval of the strategic documents of the Highway Asset Management Strategy & Policy, which were approved at Cabinet on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022, the updated Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (HIAMP) and Highway Network Management Plan (HNMP) have been approved at the Transport and Environment Cabinet Member Briefing on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.
23. The HIAMP details the County Councils approach to maintaining the condition of all individual assets across these asset groups. It also demonstrates the method of inspection for all assets and outlines the various ways works are programmed into a maintenance regime, from reactive, to planned works and future programmes
24. This revised and updated HIAMP has been developed to consider the current and emerging priorities of NCC and the highway service, to improve the quality of the highway network and improve the customer satisfaction in the Highways Service.
25. Whilst the HIAMP sets out how the highway will be maintained and improved, The Highway Network Management Plan (HNMP), which is also a key service delivery document, sets out the framework for the management of the use of the highway network and describes how NCC, acting as the Highway Authority, manages the network and the activities upon it. It recognises that the council can take on several roles when managing the network working to manage congestion, highways infrastructure, streetworks and parking.
26. With the development of the HNMP, the highway network will continue to be managed to ensure that the Council works to achieve both national and local objectives regarding the environment, economy, and health

## **Communications**

27. The implementation and delivery of a joint communications and engagement plan between NCC and Via has continued this year, and this has built on previous initiatives and is aimed at pro-actively informing and engaging with residents about highways activities. Some of the improvements to communications have included: -
  - Better use of social media regarding on going works county wide to encourage awareness, build conversations, signpost the public to the correct information and to answer questions and dispel myths.
  - Ongoing review and redesign of NCC Website to improve accessibility and keep the public informed, with the latest information.
  - Increased traffic through the NottsHighways website following its promotion through social media and a banner on the foot of the NCC website.

- Proactive communications to promote increased drainage works through social media with a media opportunity with East Midlands Today
- New video explainers on a variety of subjects including drainage, utilities, MyNotts app reporting and emergency repairs.
- Improved automated email responses
- Advance signage boards on site for all schemes

## **Vaisala Road AI**

28. A new survey technique has been implemented that improves the way that NCC collects its highway safety, condition, and inventory data. Through Vaisala Road AI, which utilises Artificial Intelligence, surveys are carried out automatically by a windscreen mounted smartphone that collects high-definition video data, which through automated analysis, is turned into GIS mapping information of visible objects.

29. A trial of this Road AI system was successfully carried out with elements overseen by panel members of the Highway Services review. The implementation of this survey method replacing the current Scanner/Coarse Visual Inspection (CVI) method will provide efficiencies, cost savings and service improvements.

30. CVI data is collected on 33% of our unclassified roads per annum and SCANNER data on 100% of ABC roads in one direction per annum. Under the Road AI survey method, data will be collected by our Highway Inspectors as they carry out their planned inspections, which will produce 100% coverage per annum on our unclassified roads and enable our ABC roads to be surveyed up to 12 times per year.

## **Financial Implications**

31. The actions set out in this report will be funded from within existing Highway Budgets.

## **Implications for Service Users**

32. The delivery of the actions contained within this report will provide an improved Highway Service for the people of Nottinghamshire.

## **Implications for Sustainability and the Environment**

33. The actions contained in this report will enhance the sustainability of the Highways Service and assist the Council to comply with Ambition 9 of the Nottinghamshire Plan.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

It is recommended that:

1. Members consider and comment on the contents of this report

**Councillor Neil Clarke MBE**  
**Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

Mark Walker Interim Service Director, Place & Communities

**Constitutional Comments (JL 08/01/2025)**

34. Place Select Committee is the appropriate body to consider the contents of this report by virtue of its terms of reference set out in the Constitution of Nottinghamshire County Council

**Financial Comments (GB 02/01/2025)**

35. The works set out in this report will be funded from within existing revenue budgets and revenue resources that have already been approved within the Transport and Environment portfolio capital programme.

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

- None

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- All



## **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE**

### **OUTCOMES OF THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF FLOODING RESPONSE AND RESILIENCE**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To present for endorsement the findings and recommendations of the Place Select Committee's task and finish review of flooding response and resilience.

#### **Information**

2. At the meeting of Council held on 7 December 2023, and in view of the unprecedented flooding events that occurred during October 2023 as a result of Storm Babet, it was resolved:

*"That the Council agrees to:*

*Request that the Place Select committee carry out a full review of Nottinghamshire County Council's preparation for and response to the flooding caused by Storm Babet, including consideration of information and recommendations that are automatically brought forward in Section 19 reports and from reports of the Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Local Resilience Forum in response to all significant flooding incidents."*

*Request that the Place Select committee carry out a full review of gully cleaning across Nottinghamshire, including the role and responsibilities of other local councils (e.g.) in relation to street cleaning."*

3. Place Select Committee subsequently received the forty-nine Section 19 Reports that had been prepared by the County Council in accordance with the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 in response to the flooding caused by Storm Babet.

4. As a result of the discussion, it was resolved:

*"That the scope of the scheduled task and finish review of the Council's preparation for and response to the flooding caused by Storm Babet should be expanded to include the work that is being carried out to prepare for and mitigate against the impacts of future flooding events."*

#### **Scoping the Review**

5. The above areas members identified for further scrutiny were added to a draft document that set out the plan, or scope, for the review. The scope was then circulated in draft form to all members of Place Select Committee. All members of the committee were invited to express

their interest in taking part in the review group or to nominate another member of their Group to take their place. All members of the Committee were encouraged to suggest additions or amendments to the review plan.

6. As outlined in the scope, the key objectives that would guide the review were identified as being:
  - To review the Council's preparation for and response to the flooding caused by Storm Babet.
  - To obtain assurances that the County Council, as Lead Flood Authority for Nottinghamshire, takes the strongest possible approach to improving flood resilience and alleviation across Nottinghamshire.
  - To examine how County Council Services are working to lessen the devastating effects of future floods by coordinating the efforts of partners, communities, and stakeholders to prepare well for inevitable floods and respond effectively to flooding events.
  - To consider the impacts of climate change and increasing incidents of extreme weather on the County Council's current flood management approach and identify mitigations and adaptations to infrastructure and procedures which will help protect communities and services from further flooding incidents.

### **Link to Council Priorities**

7. Scrutiny focuses on supporting the delivery of the Council's strategic priorities, which ensures the Council provides the best possible services to Nottinghamshire residents. Part of planning the review involved identifying the specific strategic priorities that the review would support. This review supports these priorities by looking at the strategies and policies that underpin them.

### **The Nottinghamshire Plan 2021 - 2031**

8. The Nottinghamshire Plan 2021-31 sets out Council's strategic vision for the future of Nottinghamshire. The activity in the Nottinghamshire Plan is built around achieving a 10-year vision for a 'healthy, prosperous and greener future for everyone'. This vision is supported by the ambitions that act as a framework for all Council activity. The review scope identified that it would support the delivery of the following ambitions:
9. As part of Ambition 3, 'Keeping children, vulnerable adults and communities safe', the Council has pledged to protect communities most at risk from flooding through:
  - securing funding to develop flood protection schemes.
  - designing new developments with flood protection.
  - responding quickly to flood emergencies.
  - communicating with communities at risk.
  - supporting the most vulnerable.

10. As part of Ambition 9, 'Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint', the Council has pledged to manage the impact of climate change on Nottinghamshire's environment by:

- carrying out more Natural Flood Management schemes across the County.
- supporting watercourse owners with their responsibilities.
- working with partners to reduce the risk of flooding to homes and businesses.
- ensuring that the Council's work in reducing climate impact does not unintentionally cause a loss of biodiversity.

### **The review process.**

11. The members of the review group were:

- Councillor Mike Adams (Chairman)
- Councillor Anne Callaghan BEM
- Councillor Mrs. Sue Saddington
- Councillor Roger Upton

12. Representatives from Severn Trent Water, Via, as part of the ARC Partnership and the Environment Agency also attended the review meetings. These are the key partner organisations that work alongside the Council's Flood Risk, Highways and Transport, and Drainage teams to manage flood risk, respond to floods and alleviate future flood events. Representatives from these external organisations and teams within the Council were invited to attend the review because the collaborative efforts of these organisations are coordinated by the County Council as the Lead Flood Authority in Nottinghamshire.

13. The review was carried out using a variety of methods, including desktop research and the consideration of written evidence and casework, culminating in two informal meetings where further evidence was considered, and relevant partners were consulted.

14. The review group met on Wednesday, 10 July, to consider in retrospect the preparation by the Council for Storm Babet and the effectiveness of the Council's response and work with partners. At this meeting, Members also considered the challenges involved in coordinating communication and support to residents and partner organisations.

15. The review group met again on Monday, 15 July to consider the Council's gully clearance programmes and work with riparian owners who have responsibility for land that is located near watercourses. Members also considered how learning, good practice and adaptive approaches are shaping future flood management.

### **Storm Babet severe flooding event**

14. Members reviewed the preparation of the Council for Storm Babet and the effectiveness of the Council's response and work with partners. Storm Babet produced 80mm of rainfall between 18 and 21 October 2023, making it the third wettest three-day period on record since 1891. Unfortunately, the ground was already saturated before Storm Babet began.

15. On Thursday, 19 October 2023, the flood levels in the River Trent were within the normal range. Then Storm Babet inundated Nottinghamshire with 61.2mm of rainfall over a 26-hour

period from 20 to 21 October. The speed at which this rainfall occurred meant that there was very little warning that the water levels would rise as rapidly as they did. By this point, flood water could no longer flow into the River Trent because the river was already full. This created what are known as multi-mobile floods in which flood water flows into multiple areas and then recedes as it flows elsewhere. 13 new gauge records were set on the River Trent, some over ½ metre higher than the previous record. As a result of the flood conditions caused by Storm Babet, 1,236 properties were flooded internally, and 84 communities across the county were affected.

16. After the event, the Council reported on the impact of Storm Babet. Any time there is a serious flood event that involves five or more properties being flooded internally, the relevant local authority must publish a report describing the extent of the floods and the efforts to mitigate the impact of the floods. This type of report is known as a Section 19 report, in reference to the requirement that is set out in Section 19 of the Land and Water Management Act 1985.

### **Preparation by Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Resilience Forum**

17. The response to the Storm Babet flooding was managed by a partnership known as the Local Resilience Forum (LRF). The Council, the Districts/Borough Councils, Blue Light Emergency Services, Environment Agency, and many other key partners comprise the LRF. The LRF was established to ensure there is appropriate preparation to enable an effective multi-agency response. As stated in Section 3.2 of the LRF constitution, the purpose of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Resilience Forum is:

*“To establish and maintain effective multi-agency arrangements to respond to major incidents and emergencies, to minimise the impact of those incidents on the public, property and environment of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, and to satisfy fully the requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act.”*

### **Multi-Agency Preparations**

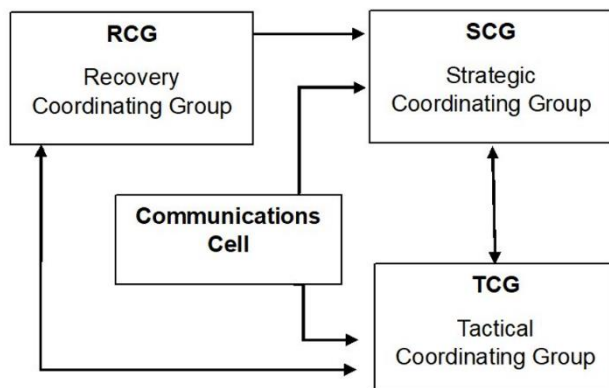
18. As part of the LRF, the County Council participates in a Flood Planning and Warning Group Chaired by the Environment Agency. The objectives of this group are:
- To promote community engagement and resilience within communities at risk from flooding.
  - To develop, review and update multi-agency flood plans, which are in keeping with national guidance.
  - To create, monitor and maintain a work plan.
  - To establish and consider learning points from recent incidents and exercise, as part of the debrief process.
  - To promote new policy on flood risk and flood incident management and provide information and guidance on local implementation.
  - To identify policies, priorities, strategies, structures, and processes to deliver and appropriate level of capability in all elements of the plans, and to agree these across relevant stakeholders.
  - To produce educational events for the purpose of local major flood incident planning across the LRF.
  - To train relevant staff and exercise the plans.

19. Preparation for Storm Babet involved plans, policies and coordinated expertise which had been put in place in case of significant flood events, such as the Council's Flood Response Plan, LRF Flood Response Plan, LRF Local Flood Response Plans for each District and Borough, Multi-agency training, and Community Emergency Plans. This range of documents, plans and policies have been designed for use by officers of the Council and its partner organisations as well as by trained volunteers as part of a coordinated response.
20. As set out in the LRF Constitution, the primary focus of the coordinated response is preservation of life during serious incidents and events such as floods. The secondary focus on limiting the impact of flooding events on property and the environment is also reflected in the plans, including specific policies such as the LRF Sandbag Policy.
21. Information is also available to members of the public who also have a role to play in preparing for emergencies. Public guidance for how to prepare for events like Storm Babet is published online through the Council's website as part of the Council's Flood Management Plan and through the websites of LRF partner organisations in an effort to ensure that good information and advice was available to communities wishing to be prepared. Although the previous LRF Risk Register, published in 2018, included some information around how to prepare for a flood, an updated 2024 version was shared with members which provides more detailed information and advice. Based on the above information, members agreed that there was strong evidence of in-depth preparation in place prior to Storm Babet.

### **Multi-agency response to Storm Babet**

22. Having examined the preparation that was in place prior to Storm Babet, Members considered the response to Storm Babet. An examination of the LRF response structure showed how real time data had informed decision-making during the coordinated multi-agency response. Decisions around where support is needed in a flooding event, and how to divert resources strategically, are taken by a Strategic Coordinating Group that is made up of Emergency Planning leads from the multiple organisations comprising the LRF.
23. Decisions are then communicated to the Tactical Coordinating Group and to wider stakeholders and communities as appropriate by a Central Communications Cell that sends out relevant flood warnings and other updates to the public. The Central Communications Cell also assists the recovery phase by bringing together communications experts from across the LRF Partnership to work out the appropriate communications messages and methods to get these messages out.
24. The Tactical Coordinating Group, comprised of staff from multiple organisations, is deployed to implement the operational response in areas that have active flood risk. This group shares information from the operations 'on the ground' back to the Strategic Coordinating Group to inform ongoing decision-making. The group also assists in the recovery phase in areas where flooding has receded by sharing information with the Recovery Coordinating Group. Learning from this group is also fed back to the Strategic Coordinating Group to inform the multi-agency response to future events. The response structure in use during Storm Babet is illustrated in the diagram below: Tactical Coordinating Group

## LRF Response Structure - Babet



25. The Risk Safety and Emergency Management Board, now called the Emergency Management Board, was stood up on 19 October, activating the 24/7 emergency response by the Council's Emergency Planning team and Via. From this point, the LRF response group's Strategic Coordinating Group, Tactical Coordinating Group and Recovery Coordinating Group along with the Communications Cell were being actively facilitated. Within communities throughout the county, teams of council staff across a range of services carried out road closures and provided sandbags to communities. Staff worked to identify and support vulnerable people and to coordinate emergency accommodation for residents who had had to evacuate their homes. Rest centres in Retford and Hucknall were also opened. Meanwhile, officers collected data and undertook Section 19-related investigations to assess the impact of the floods. Over 100 staff members worked through the weekend to provide emergency planning and incident response support to Districts and Boroughs across Nottinghamshire.
26. The activity required to respond to Storm Babet surpassed that of any previous single storm event. Between 20 and 24 October 2023, Via received 376 reports that required attendance. For comparison, the highest number of reports previously had been 193 over a two-day period. 121 road closures were carried out, considerably more than during any other single storm event.
27. 120 operational staff were involved in the response and recovery, which included placing flood signage on 85 roads, distributing 3,000 sandbags in response to 121 requests, and responding to 16 tree-related calls. Approximately 20 other staff, such as inspectors and liaison officers, alongside approximately 20 sub-contractor staff were also engaged in the response. 640 reports of blocked gullies were received from 20 October, with 2,000 customer reports received in total.
28. LRF partners declared a major incident on 21 October 2023, and continued to coordinate the response throughout the weekend. The response structure, including Strategic Coordinating Group, chaired by County and City Councils and Tactical Coordinating Group/Central Communications Cell/Recovery Coordinating Group, chaired by the Council, had been stood up on 19 October 2023. In total, 17 flood alerts and 57 flood warnings were issued. Two severe flood warnings were issued for Retford.

29. Based on this information, members agreed that, overall, the multi-agency response had been effective. In view of the unprecedented levels of activity, members considered that the contribution to the multi-agency response by Via and other delivery partners in particular had been excellent. Members expressed their gratitude to all the officers and partners who had been involved in the response to Storm Babet.

***Recommendation One:***

***That the gratitude of members to the Council officers and to the multi-agency partners who participated in the in-depth preparation for, and delivery of the effective response supporting the communities across Nottinghamshire impacted by Storm Babet, be noted.***

**Nottinghamshire County Council's role as Lead Local Flood Authority**

30. Having considered the LRF preparation and multi-agency response to Storm Babet, members next examined the performance of the Council in its duties as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) within the LRF. Since 2010 the Council as the LLFA has had powers and statutory duties to manage and co-ordinate local flood risk management activities. Local flood risk means flooding from surface water (overland runoff), groundwater and smaller watercourses (known as Ordinary Watercourses). The Council does this by working together with other organisations including the Environment Agency, who manage flooding from generally larger rivers (known as main rivers, such as the River Trent), Internal Drainage Boards managing low lying areas, District/Borough, Parish/Town Councils and infrastructure/utility providers, such as Severn Trent Water and the National Highways. This partnership work is overseen by a joint Strategic Flood Risk Management Board with Nottingham City Council which meets every six months.

31. As a LLFA, the Council upholds its statutory duties and obligations under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. A key duty is to develop, maintain, apply, monitor, and review a Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan that identifies key objectives to shape the delivery of the flood risk management services in Nottinghamshire. The Council's original strategy was formally adopted and published in 2016, revised in 2021 and updated in 2024. The revised strategy covers the period 2021-2027 and clarifies the Council's role, vision, and targets for flood risk management, integrating the Council's learning as LLFA into the Strategy and Action Plan.

32. The County Council participates in the development of regional and national policy through its collaboration with local and national network partners:

- The Environment Agency
- Canal and Rivers Trust
- Town, District and Parish Councils
- Local Flood Forums and Flood Action Groups
- Local Residents and Businesses
- Severn Trent Water
- Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board
- Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

- Association of Drainage Authorities
- Trent Rivers Trust
- National Flood Forum
- Nottingham Trent University
- Via East Midlands Ltd.
- Department for Food and Rural Affairs
- Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport
- Midland Service Improvement Group
- Specialist Service Providers

### **Communication with local councillors**

33. As a Lead Local Flood Authority, The Council is committed to ensuring that all residents, users and interested bodies can access a wealth of information to better understand the risk of flooding within Nottinghamshire. The Flood Risk Management Strategic Action Plan identifies a need to increase knowledge on the risks of flooding as well as providing guidance, support, and greater knowledge to those at risk and to those who have already suffered flooding. Currently the Flood Risk Management team are working with key partners within the Council to better understand how to update and present information in a clear and succinct manner to better disseminate that information to key users. The Flood Risk Management team are also working with other teams within the authority to ensure a level of continuity to the advice provided to our customers.
34. Members of the review group felt that flood response in future would benefit from additional clarification regarding a single point of contact for elected members as well as officers and volunteers on the ground. The review group felt that there could be greater confidence among members that requests for advice, information or assistance were reaching the correct officer team. There had been some concerns that key officer contacts may be busy responding to the live event and may not be the best officers to approach with additional requests. The review group agreed that additional clarification could be provided as to whether the best officer to contact was the Flood Risk Manager, as it was understood that the point of contact would be receiving many calls.
35. The review group heard that in normal circumstances, officers in the Flood Risk Management Team are available to provide information to members in response to requests. However, for staff to be fully informed of the latest flood situation they are required to be fully involved in the LRF meetings, and resilience within the team was required to enable this. It was understood that information received from multiple areas of the response could vary because different information was relevant in different contexts. Therefore, it was recommended that the relevant emergency plans be reviewed to ensure that there is direct and regular communication to councillors during a “live” flooding event and that the contact information for the relevant officers is recirculated to all members.
36. Members also considered the feasibility of live updates around road closures that could be viewable online. Members found that live updates might not be as helpful as desired due to the challenges involved in updating a map or list of road closures. The updates would be hard to verify as roads can go from open to closed very rapidly and sometimes are reopened and closed again within a short span of time. This reaffirmed to members that a designated single



point of contact within the Council offered the best solution for members to access live information that is relevant to the local area that they can then share within their wider local communities as appropriate.

**Recommendation Two:**

***That the relevant emergency plans be reviewed to ensure that there is direct and regular communication to Members during a “live” flooding event.***

**Recommendation Three:**

***That, to support members further in accessing the relevant advice, information or assistance during a flood event or other emergency, that the appropriate contacts at the Council be re-circulated to all members.***

**Communication with residents and communities**

37. Members of the review group heard additional information regarding the operation of the Central Communications Cell during Storm Babet. At these meetings a clear record of the decisions was recorded which were then used by the Central Communications Cell to formulate clear public messages. These messages were then broadcast through media outlets which were integrated into the LRF. The importance of sensitivity to the public reaction to the meeting content was agreed by members of the review group. It was also noteworthy that a public record is kept to enable scrutiny in retrospect.
38. Members of the public can access live flood updates online. Live information triggered by gauges is available to members of the public who sign up for flood alerts. Residents can also sign up for flood alerts at the EA website, or they can join the council’s Flood Email-me list. Further messages and updates to the public are communicated in line with the LRF Communications Plan. Messages are delivered in a considered and measured way to avoid having an adverse effect. This is because different kinds of information will be relevant at different points during a flood event in different communities across various areas of the County.
39. Therefore, it was felt to be important for local residents to have awareness of the LRF Flood Plan and how this is reinforced within local response plans. These plans are tailored for each district and borough within the County. As a result, these are very high quality, detailed resources. In areas that are susceptible to floods, there is information on critical infrastructure and properties at risk as well as actions local residents can take. The local response plans were developed with LRF partners and have been reviewed by DEFRA.

**Considering the needs of residents**

40. Members of the review group requested additional assurances that the needs of vulnerable residents had been considered within the preparation and response to Storm Babet and within the LRF emergency planning process for any future events. At the time of the review, the Emergency Management Board drove public messaging and linked all directorates within the County Council into the response activities of the Tactical Coordinating Group and Via/ARC colleagues. This allowed Risk, Safety and Emergency Management groups within Adults’ Services and Children’s Services to engage early regarding the needs of vulnerable

community members before an event. Business continuity plans were in place for care homes in case of events like flooding.

41. Members agreed that planning long before an event and timely flood alert information during an event were both key to care homes and residential settings being well prepared and empowered to make operational decisions that keep vulnerable residents safe during a flood event. For example, a care home was evacuated early on, prior to the worst Storm Babet floods. It was evident that significant work had gone on behind the scenes to ensure the evacuation was done with as little disruption as possible to care home residents and staff.
42. Implementation of technologies such as drones and automated telemetry also supported the network response to focus resource where people are most vulnerable. Telemetry systems automatically collect, transmit, and measure data from remote sources, using sensors and other devices to collect data before using communication systems to transmit the data back to a central location. Advice regarding where local resource should be focussed is included in Community Flood Emergency Plans, which provide detailed information regarding how best to identify and support community members who are at greatest personal risk during a flood emergency.
43. Community members who have not been trained as volunteer flood wardens or flood signage scheme volunteers may not have awareness of their local Community Flood Emergency Plans. Members felt that additional proactive communications work with residents and local organisations regarding the Community Flood Emergency Plans could help empower additional positive action at the community level during floods.

***Recommendation Four:***

***That consideration be given to how engagement with communities may be used to promote wider awareness of detailed local guidance that is available as part of Community Flood Emergency Plans.***

44. Members felt that there could be potential to work further with the district/borough councils as well as with town/parish councils to support community awareness and engagement of residents in local Flood Action Groups and Forums. Furthermore, members suggested that the Council's current engagement work with Flood forums and Flood Action Groups could link these disparate groups together. It was hoped that the Council could facilitate an expanded and joined-up Nottinghamshire wide-network with the potential to link with other regional or national networks with a view to sharing information and good practice.

***Recommendation Five:***

***That consideration be given to how the Council might facilitate the organisation of a Nottinghamshire-wide network of Flood Action Groups, and how this network might link to a wider network of Flood Action Groups.***

**Addressing challenges and capturing learning**

45. Members acknowledged the challenges in coordinating communication and support to residents and LRF Partners during the major incident. Members therefore sought additional assurances that learning had been captured and applied to strengthen the response to any

future flood incidents. Following the event, an internal debrief and a LRF multi-agency debrief were held to capture learning and outline recommendations and actions to strengthen preparedness for future flooding events.

46. Information and procedures that were relevant to the multi-agency response were reviewed with the goal of mitigating the challenges in coordinating complex response activity at scale. This involved updating the LRF Flood Response Plan to ensure learning is incorporated. The updates included refinements to the way the Flood Strategic Coordinating Groups and Tactical Coordinating Groups are chaired and facilitated, for example. There was also a need to ensure that the LRF Flood Response Plan and generic response plans for other types of events included clear and consistent guidance on the issuing of severe flood warnings and emergency alerts.
47. Work with LRF Partners was also reviewed with a view to applying learning to improve multi-agency response to any future events. Based on the observations of the behaviour of the River Trent during the floods, the way the Environment Agency takes river level measurements was also being reviewed to ensure real time data provides as accurate a picture of flood water levels as possible. A review of rest centre facilities had also provided additional insight into the potential to expand rest centre support to improve the experience for residents in time of need.

#### **Learning from the challenges that had been faced.**

48. As had been seen in multiple sectors nationally, in the periods following on from the pandemic, it had been more challenging to identify and train additional staff in flood and generic response roles. A campaign was underway to recruit and train flood and signage scheme wardens in additional communities. To enhance the training offer, an LRF flood training eLearning package was currently in development.
49. Coordinating support to residents affected by flooding was also an area of ongoing work. Although humanitarian assistance tends to be generic rather than flood specific, funding was secured for community resilience measures for communities which had been affected by the Storm. Flood warden training and community flood signage schemes were added as a result, and funding from DEFRA and the County Council facilitated Property Level Protection (PLP) measures.
50. Additional learning was implemented in the Strategic Coordinating Group, Tactical Coordinating Group and Recovery Coordinating Group response. For example, key transport operators were also included as standing members of the flood response LRF meetings. Staffing resources were arranged for a 24 hour prolonged response, along with additional health and safety procedures to support and protect staff delivering a prolonged response. A review of the emergency accommodation arrangements helped streamline support to evacuating residents. Coordination of visits to flooded communities and partners was identified as a further way to provide support to communities.
51. Further lessons were gleaned from community drop-in sessions which were held for several weeks after the event as part of the recovery work. The drop-in sessions enabled feedback to be received directly from communities which illustrated where additional resource would benefit residents. As part of the response, teams visited the 1,261 properties which had flooded internally to offer advice and collect data.

## **Flooding Resilience, Management and Alleviation**

52. The County Council and its partners have delivered a range of capital programme flood defence works throughout Nottinghamshire. The Council completed eight flood risk studies funded by DEFRA in 2022. These studies informed the design of multiple Flood Alleviation Schemes in various locations across the County. Whilst engineering and construction of flood defences encountered some delays due to the pandemic, the Council resumed progress across various schemes.
53. Accurate flood warnings and alerts are also key to community flood resilience. The behaviour of the River Trent during the event demonstrated that there is more to learn about how river levels react to unprecedented rainfall. This led the Environment Agency to review the way river levels are measured with the aim of improving flood modelling data. Updated data will enable LRF partners to predict with better accuracy how future floods will behave. This work ensures residents receive warnings and alerts that are as helpful as possible.
54. After the flooding events community drop-in sessions provided an opportunity for residents to process the emotions that come with the devastating experience of a flooded home or business. These public sessions are open to all residents, even those who have not had an experience of flooding but want to be better prepared. Drop-ins provide information to support residents to consider mitigations that could help improve the future flood resilience of their properties. The sessions also allowed Council officers to collect necessary data on flooded properties so that teams could visit each of the properties to offer advice and collect data.
55. The 43 drop-in events that were held following Storm Babet also created opportunities for Council officers to support local people to apply for flood grants from the County Council which supported residents who had been affected by floods with grants of £120 per household and £300 per business, with over 1,000 claims received.
56. Residents and businesses were also supported to apply for Government grants. Households and businesses significantly affected were eligible for 100% council tax and business rates relief for at least three months. Households received up to £500 to help with immediate costs, whilst small and medium-sized businesses were eligible for a Business Recovery Grant of £2,500 to help them return to business as quickly as possible. Flood Resilience Repair Grants of up to £5,000 were also available to property owners seeking to make their homes and businesses more resilient to future floods.
57. Some households in at-risk areas that have not flooded are not eligible for Council or Government grants. For this reason, the Council has implemented Property Flood Resilience measures which help to reduce the likelihood of overground water flowing, which work by forming a physical barrier to overground water flowing into properties. These measures include installation of defences such as flood walls and flood doors. The Council has installed these types of measures at over 130 properties and have developed a programme of protection measures for properties, including those affected by Storm Babet. It was understood that these interventions need to be installed prior to an event, based on a consistent prioritisation process due to limited resource. The Council is continually seeking to collaborate with stakeholders and partners and to bring in external funding to speed up this programme and broaden its reach within Nottinghamshire.
58. The Council has also facilitated over 50 Flood Resilience Stores which have helped protect some areas at risk of flooding. The Flood Resilience Stores are storage buildings within

communities where local supplies of sandbags, Aqua-Sacs and other equipment such as road closure signs and personal safety equipment can be kept until needed. Volunteers access the Flood Resilience Stores when assisting in coordination of the community level response to floods. The buildings which house the Flood Resilience Stores may range in size from modest sheds to full shipping containers based on the quantity of supplies required in the vicinity based on Community Emergency Flood Plans. Unlike traditional sandbags filled with sand, Aqua-Sacs self-inflating sandbags which are lightweight until soaked in water, when they expand and become water resistant. The Council distributes sandbags and Aqua-Sacs in line with the LRF Sandbags Policy. These interventions have limited ability to safeguard properties, however. Sandbags and Aqua-Sacs are not usually effective against high water or water that is moving quickly and forcefully. If flood water is present for a long period of time, water can permeate the sandbags and enter the property.

59. The efficacy of sandbags and Aqua-Sacs also relies upon whether they are deployed properly. Before a flood event, a sufficient quantity of sandbags must be arranged to overlap each other in order to form an effective barrier. Members noted that many sandbags can have a limited shelf-life if they are made of biodegradable materials that deteriorate over time. Aqua-Sacs, on the other hand, are accepted at Nottinghamshire's Household Waste Recycling Centres because they are not bio-degradable. Due to these limitations, members were in favour of prioritising the expansion of adaptive Natural Flood Management measures and PLP interventions.
60. The Council has also embraced innovative ways of working with technologies to promote flood resilience. For example, several community volunteers have been trained and certified as drone pilots to facilitate additional intelligence during flood events. Drone flights after a flood event give officers additional understanding of the impact of floods within the County and the ability to view how well flood alleviation schemes are working. Then more officers are available to assist the most vulnerable residents in the areas that are most at risk.
61. The Council is also releasing capacity and improving resilience by working with partners such as the EA on enhanced telemetry methods, which use technology to take water level measurements which can be used to predict floods. More accurate predictions could give residents and responders more advance notice to prepare for floods, which can make a big difference to flood resilience. Telemetry improvements release capacity during flood events by reducing the number of staff members involved in taking these measurements. Although the Council's primary focus during floods is protecting lives, homes and livelihoods, these technological innovations also reduce carbon emissions by limiting the number of officers that must be sent out to sites to assess the impact of floods and defences.
62. Flood Alleviation Schemes have also been completed in Southwell, Hucknall, Lowdham, Thurgarton, Shireoaks, Retford, Worksop, and Calverton, with further schemes in development. A hydrology study has been completed which will inform plans for further schemes in Arnold and in the Daybrook Upper Catchment Area. To deliver these capital schemes, the Council has worked with a range of partners including watercourse management, utilities providers, district, town and community representatives, engineering design and construction, and natural flood management partners. The completion of some schemes is governed by a project board made up of these partners.
63. Funding for these schemes has been secured largely from central government, with additional contributions from local businesses and other partners. Schemes are funded through additional partnership contributions from the County Council and district, borough, or

town/parish councils. The Flood Forum and Local Levy, as well as community grant contributions from a central government fund have also contributed significantly to funding these schemes.

64. Due to cost-benefit ratios, it can be very challenging to deliver large scale capital projects in smaller communities. Members of the review group were keen to understand what support is in place for these communities while funding is being sought. The Council works with the relevant drainage partners to understand the cause of the flooding and develop a management strategy for these areas. Smaller communities are supported with CCTV and flow monitoring to help provide timely information. The Council has also prioritised properties in smaller communities with a history of repeat flooding for installation of Property Level Protection measures.
65. These measures involve installing flood defences directly into properties. The Council has allocated funding for these installations because they can improve the flood resilience of properties, which means they become more able to withstand and recover from floods. Prioritising properties within these areas for the installation of these defences is designed to protect vulnerable residents and reduce the need for evacuations. The impact of these property-level resilience measures are described further in later sections of the report.

### **Natural Flood Management**

66. In line with the Flood Risk Management Strategy, the County Council implements Natural Flood Management schemes alongside Capital engineering projects. Natural Flood Management is an approach to flood alleviation that utilises natural processes to slow down and store water to reduce flood risk. Natural Flood Management can also benefit biodiversity, water quality and can complement local leisure offer.
67. As Lead Flood Authority, the County Council has led on the implementation of Natural Flood Management Schemes in Southwell, Claborough, Burton Joyce, and Retford. The Council was also a partner in the delivery of such schemes in Lowdham. The Council is currently implementing NFM schemes at Woodborough, Cropwell Butler, Gotham, Calverton and Costock. The council is also a steering group member for a natural flood management scheme in Worksop. Five further projects are currently in the scoping phase to determine feasibility.
68. The Council and LRF Partners including Severn Trent Water, the Environment Agency and District/Borough and Town/Parish Councils have also worked together to implement adaptive methods to slow down water on its way to watercourses. Slowing down the water is important so that during times of heavy rainfall, all the runoff does not rush into drains, sewers, gullies at the same time. If more properties can hold some of the rainwater temporarily, drainage systems are less likely to become overwhelmed. This also helps reduce river flooding down the line.
69. Communities can play a part in implementing adaptive solutions that have multiple benefits across Nottinghamshire's communities. More residents opting for permeable rather than impermeable paving on their properties would help more runoff to soak into the ground, with less water rushing straight into sewers. Installing a rain garden or soakaway is an adaptive method that can retain around 30 percent more water than a standard lawn. A rain garden gives the water more time to infiltrate naturally into the ground. The natural infiltration process prevents pollution, recharges natural groundwater supplies, and improves the quality of the water that reaches waterways, protecting and providing for biodiversity.

70. Further examples of adaptive approaches are bioswales, detention basins and bioretention ponds. Bioswales are adaptive features that collect and filter stormwater through soils before gradually conveying the runoff into the drainage system. Detention basins and bioretention ponds, which have recently been more frequently implemented as part of new developments, resemble landscaped depressions that can temporarily hold and filter stormwater through a bed of soils and reed beds. The stormwater then infiltrates into groundwater or flows downstream.
71. Adaptive methods such can require some engineering and maintenance to ensure the right soil type for drainage and ecological conditions for the plants, as shown in the rain garden in Figure 2, to ensure they do not become blocked by debris, and to ensure proper water management in the event that they become full. With these provisions in place, the benefits far outweigh risks.
72. *Figure 2* shows a series of rain gardens implemented in an urban area in Mansfield with blooming flowers growing in rectangular landscaped spaces beside a footpath. Photo credit: Martin Elliott



73. Because the small particles of plant material found in healthy soil and compost gives the ground the ability to hold much more water, runoff that slowly reaches garden soils rather than sewers can help reduce flood risk. Incorporating compost into the areas around developments mimics nature and helps lower the impact of urbanisation. For example, car parks and buildings with traditional roofs create impermeable areas that shed water rather than retaining or absorbing it.
74. Compost can dramatically reduce runoff volume by increasing water holding capacity and supporting the healthy vegetation that promotes infiltration. Therefore, paving over gardens and verges should be avoided wherever possible in favour of permeable solutions. Green roofs are a further adaptive approach designed to hold onto water that would otherwise be shed from an impermeable roof into the drainage system. Engaging with more home and property owners could help raise awareness of the important role permeable areas play in drainage system resilience.

**Recommendation Six:**

***That further engagement work should be undertaken with communities to raise awareness of the risks of paving over gardens, verges or other areas which naturally slow the travel of rainwater into watercourses.***

75. Greater awareness within communities could help boost the support for more adaptive approaches to be incorporated into the urban community landscape. For example, more residents would welcome the addition of a rain garden in their neighbourhoods if the benefits were better understood. More property owners may be willing to consider adaptive approaches within their own properties if they are aware of these options. The ethos among residents doing their part to reduce flood risk can appeal to community organisations and businesses. Many of these approaches can be aesthetically pleasing, with additional benefits for biodiversity and wildlife.

**Recommendation Seven:**

***That, in line with the objectives of the Flood Management Strategy 2021-2027, engagement work should promote the use and benefit of Natural Flood Management features.***

76. The Review group also considered how LRF Partners have also been using natural flood management approaches. A combination of nature, engineering, and data modelling is being used by Severn Trent Water to establish a model for sustainable drainage in urban settings. A total of 92 'nature hubs' are being created with advisers to support resilience through collaboration within communities. Nature-based solutions are being piloted in Mansfield in collaboration with a catchment-based partnership, including Mansfield District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council that aim to be able to store 58,000 cubic metres of water to alleviate flood risk. These solutions include new green spaces that have been designed to create a fresher aesthetic that also help to promote increased health and wellbeing and economic development, as well as alleviating flood risk.

**Maintaining clear gullies in preparedness for floods**

77. Members considered how the Council's gully maintenance programmes contribute to flood management plans. Gullies are large ditches that form where running water has eroded the land in the path of travelling water, giving the appearance of a small valley. Gullies play an important role in flood management because, during an active flood event, the primary drainage system operates above ground to channel water into ditches, gullies, and watercourses.
78. Under normal conditions, rainwater drains into sewers, but during high volume events, sewers can become overwhelmed with stormwater. When this happens, sewer systems are designed to route the additional flows overground in what are called Combined Sewer Outflows. Gravity carries all the stormwater into the closest ditches and gullies which empty into watercourses such as the River Trent. During Storm Babet, extremely high river levels meant that water in gullies had nowhere to go, so the water flowed into the surrounding low-lying areas.
79. The Council identifies gullies and drains which would benefit from clearance work through the routine gully emptying programme, from resident reports, and from highway inspections. There are approximately 141,000 gullies across the County. 11,500 of these in known flooding



areas are cleansed annually. The remainder are cleansed every three years. In addition to this regime, ad-hoc reports are investigated and addressed. The Service maintains a current workload and at the time of the review had 2,806 active works orders. Members expressed concerns that reduced street sweeping programmes by district councils had led to an increase in blockages in recent years.

***Recommendation Eight:***

***That consideration be given to engaging with the district and borough councils to review the impact of changes to street sweeping programmes on the drainage system.***

80. Engagement with communities and other County Councils also informs how the drainage programme is delivered. A Spring Clean event was held this year, with a public communications campaign to get the word out about the cleanup work. In comparison to the drainage teams of 50% of County Councils which responded, Nottinghamshire's cleaning frequencies at the time of Storm Babet were average. Frequencies have since been increased further, with over 100,000 gullies cleaned at the time of reporting. Further benchmarking regarding performance and best practice was being carried out to improve efficiencies and gain additional insights.
81. The Council's budget for the service at the time of Storm Babet was £551,000, with £100,000 for reactive drainage works and £90,000 for cutting verge grips that assist with water drainage off roads. As part of the response to Storms Babet and Henk, one-off funding from existing Nottinghamshire County Council and Via budgets was added. The Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment approved the additional funding of £467,000 on 3 April 2024, which was supported by a full communications plan designed to inform and reassure residents. This has meant that there are now seven gully emptiers in operation with a target to empty 100,00 gulleys in 2024/25. Members felt that gully cleaning schedules could be further publicised to provide additional reassurance to residents.

***Recommendation Nine:***

***That consideration be given to how the drainage clearance programme schedule, which is published on the Council's website, may be further publicised.***

82. LRF Partners also play a part in supporting the drainage system. For example, the Council is also working with utility providers to design short- and long-term solutions to support the prevention of localised flooding and watercourse pollution. Based on a framework developed by the Environment Agency, water companies, Water UK, Ofwat, DEFRA, Customer Council for Water, ADEPT, and Blueprint for Water, Severn Trent Water has developed Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans.
83. Published in 2023, these plans outline 25-year tactical planning by STW based on strategic area assessments and risk-based catchment screenings. These plans take into account the current baseline as well as projected future drainage risks across the region. Included in the plans are considerations of potential future risks such as those introduced by climate change, population growth, and impermeable area expansion. The plans acknowledge and prioritise a long-term need for the drainage system to be able to deal with rainwater, taking it away from homes and businesses and preventing flooding. It was understood that the Council will

continue to work with partners to identify and address potential long-term risks to the drainage system.

### **Working with landowners on riparian drainage**

84. Members then heard how the Council has been working to engage with riparian owners, which are owners of land that is located near watercourses. Riparian landowners are responsible for maintaining the watercourse/ditch running through or adjacent to their land, allowing water to flow unimpeded to prevent flooding. Riparian management plays an important functional role in increasing resilience across the drainage network during flood events. Good stewardship of riparian areas also improves the aesthetic appearance of local communities, especially if this is done with sensitivity to local wildlife habitats.
85. To maintain and strengthen rapport with landowners, engagement work regarding riparian management requires consideration and tact. Members sought assurances that landowners are engaged at an early stage to raise awareness of their legal responsibilities to remove silt, rubbish, and debris from gullies and ditches that can cause dams to form during high volume events. Engagement remains vital because failure to maintain ditches can result in the County Council taking legal action to require the relevant landowner to clear their land.
86. Rather than having to resorting to legal action in response to negligent riparian management, members agreed that the option to incentivise good riparian management should be explored further. In a particularly striking example, a Gloucestershire farmer was supported by a government grant to convert part of her farm into hay meadows which then become part of the floodplain during high river levels. Allowing 300 acres (121 hectares) of land to flood reduces downstream flooding along the River Severn. It was hoped that an outcome of conversations with riparian owners would be to identify landowners who are likewise willing to use their land to help relieve flood risk to their neighbours' properties. There may be examples of similar contributions to natural flood management in Nottinghamshire which could be financially incentivised, either by the Council or by government, in line with Objectives 1 and 2 of Nottinghamshire's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021-2027.
87. A variety of engagement methods were currently in use by the Council. In addition to face-to-face advice, 160 letters were sent to landowners as part of a comprehensive awareness campaign. Ongoing targeted communications included information shared in the Lengthsman newsletter, which reaches community members in parishes and towns throughout the County who are involved in proactive community maintenance works that can include drainage and ditch clearance.
88. Work had been done to clear key watercourses of silt and debris in partnership with local Parishes. Due to concerns raised by County Councillors in spring 2023, the Council had compiled a list of the County's riparian watercourses which were prioritised for urgent action. Engagement work followed. Although legal action was the last resort, the enforcement process was necessary at 21 key sites. 14 works had been completed, and seven were being pursued. The Council is currently examining how this process could be further streamlined in line with current legislation.
89. Further engagement with landowners was planned regarding the development of a community of all known owners of riparian watercourses. Building on the positive work on riparian

drainage, consideration was being given to incorporating a similar approach to overhanging vegetation and tree enforcement.

**Recommendation Ten:**

***That consideration be given to how the Council may support or lobby for the financial incentivisation of action by riparian owners to reduce flood risk.***

**Promoting flood resilience**

90. The components of the flood alleviation system, including capital programme flood defences, natural flood management schemes, and drainage networks, work together to reduce the severity of floods in Nottinghamshire. Meanwhile, the probability of floods continues to rise due to climate change. This is why, as part of the Flood Risk Management Strategy, the County Council has expanded schemes and initiatives which assist communities to improve how well properties withstand and recover from floods. The ability to withstand and recover from floods is known as flood resilience. Within communities, flood resilience is especially important because areas can quickly become surrounded by water, preventing road travel to and from the area during peak floods.
91. Training volunteers has played a crucial role in strengthening the system response to flooding events by releasing capacity within the operational teams to respond urgently elsewhere. Volunteers also coordinate Flood Resilience Stores as part of detailed Community Flood Emergency Plans. Each district and town within the County has its own plans in place to ensure support is available even if roads are closed.
92. Flood Wardens are members of local communities who are knowledgeable of their Community Flood Emergency Plan and have been trained as volunteers by the Environment Agency. Flood Wardens monitor developing flood conditions and provide updates to the Environment Agency. Wardens have valuable awareness of how floods affect local assets such as weirs, manholes, culverts, and sluice gates. This local knowledge helps wardens guide other responders to assist vulnerable residents more safely and efficiently. Over 160 flood wardens have been trained so far. Members noted that additional flood wardens were needed for full coverage across the county, therefore members were supportive of the development of plans for an additional publicity campaign to recruit new flood wardens.

**Recommendation Eleven:**

***That consideration be given to how a further publicity campaign might help the Council to recruit additional volunteer flood wardens to establish full coverage across Nottinghamshire.***

93. A Community Flood Signage Scheme has been implemented since 2011 in which officers from the Council, Via and Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service train members of the community to close roads that will become unsafe during a flooding event. Over 500 volunteer flood signage wardens have been trained and 10 additional community schemes have been added following Storm Babet. There are 34 active areas currently participating, and 8 further community schemes are in development. This Scheme earned the Council a Flood and Coast Excellence Award for Community Action in recognition of this successful engagement work.

94. Flood Wardens and Community Flood Signage Volunteers are making an impact by promoting road safety and reducing damage from waves caused by vehicles driving through deep water. These waves push flood water further into homes that have been flooded, and cause water to enter some homes which otherwise would not have flooded. Members agreed that additional work was needed to stop the bow waves. This issue had been flagged within the LRF, and it was hoped that additional enforcement action by the Police partners could accompany engagement efforts within communities to help raise awareness of the dangers.

**Recommendation Twelve:**

***That, with a view to limiting the damaging effects of vehicles travelling on roads that have been closed due to floods, raising awareness of the dangers of bow waves continues to be highlighted within the Council’s community engagement work.***

95. Members of the community who try to drive through high water may be unaware of the damaging consequences to their neighbours’ properties as well as to their own vehicles. A recent example, involving damage from a bow wave generated by a tractor in Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire during Storm Bert, resulted in enforcement action. Members of the review group felt that writing to Police partners in support of additional action against drivers who create damaging bow waves may help add extra weight to the Council’s engagement efforts.

**Recommendation Thirteen:**

***That the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment write to Nottinghamshire Police partners in support of the carrying out of enforcement action where avoidable bow waves had been responsible for the internal flooding of properties.***

**96. Summary of recommendations**

	<b>Recommendation</b>
1.	That the gratitude of members to the Council officers and to the multi-agency partners who participated in the in-depth preparation for, and delivery of the effective response supporting the communities across Nottinghamshire impacted by Storm Babet, be noted.
2.	That the relevant emergency plans be reviewed to ensure that there is direct and regular communication to Members during a “live” flooding event.
3.	That to support members further in accessing the relevant advice, information or assistance during a flood event or other emergency, that the appropriate contacts at the Council be re-circulated to all members.
4.	That consideration be given to how engagement with communities may be used to promote wider awareness of detailed local guidance that is available as part of Community Flood Emergency Plans.
5.	That consideration be given to how the Council might facilitate the organisation of a Nottinghamshire-wide network of Flood Action Groups, and how this network might link to a wider network of Flood Action Groups.

6.	That further engagement work should be undertaken with communities to raise awareness of the risks of paving over gardens, verges or other areas which naturally slow the travel of rainwater into watercourses.
7.	That, in line with the objectives of the Flood Management Strategy 2021-2027, engagement work should promote the use and benefit of Natural Flood Management features.
8.	That consideration be given to engaging with the district and borough councils to review the impact of changes to street sweeping programmes on the drainage system.
9.	That consideration be given to how the drainage clearance programme schedule, which is published on the Council's website, may be further publicised.
10.	That consideration be given to how the Council may support or lobby for the further incentivisation of action by riparian owners to reduce flood risk.
11.	That consideration be given to how a further publicity campaign might help the Council to recruit additional volunteer flood wardens to establish full coverage across Nottinghamshire.
12.	That, with a view to limiting the damaging effects of vehicles travelling on roads that have been closed due to floods, raising awareness of the dangers of bow waves continues to be highlighted within the Council's community engagement work.
13.	That the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment write to Nottinghamshire Police partners in support of the carrying out of enforcement action where avoidable bow waves had been responsible for the internal flooding of properties.

## **Acknowledgments**

97. The Chairman and members of the review group would like to record their thanks to Jamie Earls, Sue Jacques, Mark Walker and Gary Wood for their invaluable support during the review process and to partners at the Environment Agency and Severn Trent Water for attending and providing information in support of this review.

## **Other Options Considered**

98. None. In accordance with the Constitution of the Council, the recommendations will be submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

## **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

99. To comply with the requirements of the Constitution, the findings of a scrutiny review are submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

100. 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**

101. There are no direct financial implications relating to the recommendation of the report.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the recommendations from the scrutiny review of Flooding Response and Resilience, as set out in the report, be endorsed, and referred to Cabinet for consideration.

**Councillor Mike Adams**  
**Chairman, Place Select Committee**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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## **Constitutional Comments (SR 23/12/24)**

102. The report falls within the terms of reference of the Place Select Committee.

## **Financial Comments (PAA 24/12/2024)**

103. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from the report. Costs of future alleviation, protection and community support in respect of flooding will be met from existing revenue and capital budgets or be subject to further approval if additional funding is required. The 2024/25 revenue budget includes £0.415m for Flood Risk Management whilst the 2024/25 capital programme includes £1.611m for Flood Alleviation and Drainage Works and £0.709m for Southwell Flood projects.

## **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.

[Motion to the meeting of Full Council held on 7 December 2023.](#)

[Minute no. 13. Notice of Motions. Motion one – Nottinghamshire County Council’s response to the flooding caused by the Storm Babet.](#)

[Report to the meeting of Place Select Committee, 27 March 2024.](#)

[Minute no. 06. Section 19 Reports.](#)

[Flood and Water Management Act 2010](#)

[LRF. Nottingham & Nottinghamshire’s Community Risk Register](#)

[Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021-2027](#)

[Flooding help and advice | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

[BBC. “Man arrested over tractor drive through floods”](#)

[BBC. “Gloucester farmer allows land to flood to protect city”](#)

[USCC. Factsheet: Using Compost in Stormwater Management](#)

[STW, Plc. Drainage and wastewater management plan](#)

[EA. Delivering benefits through evidence: Literature review on an adaptive approach to flood and coastal risk management. April 2021.](#)

#### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- All





## **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE**

### **WORK PROGRAMME**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To present the work programme for consideration and endorsement.

#### **Information**

2. The attached work programme will assist the management of meeting agendas, the scheduling of business and forward planning.
3. The work programme has been developed using suggestions submitted by committee members, relevant Cabinet Member(s) and senior officers and has been approved by the Overview Committee. The work programme will be reviewed at each pre-agenda meeting and committee meeting, where any member of the committee will be able to suggest items for possible inclusion.
4. The Forward Plan is available online for members to consider:  
<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/ForwardPlans/tabid/68/FolderID/20/Current-Forward-Plan.aspx>

#### **Other Options Considered**

5. None

#### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

6. To assist in preparation and delivery of the work programme.

#### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

7. 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.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1) That the work programme be noted.
- 2) That committee members make any further suggestions for consideration by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for inclusion on the work programme, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s) and senior officers, and subject to the required approval by the Chairman of Overview Committee.

**Councillor Mike Adams**  
**Chairman, Place Select Committee**

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Martin Elliott, Senior Scrutiny Officer, martin.elliott@nottscc.gov.uk.

**Constitutional Comments (HD)**

8. The Committee has authority to consider the matters set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

**Financial Comments (NS)**

9. There are no direct financial implications arising from the contents of this report. Any future reports to Committee on operational activities and officer working groups, will contain relevant financial information and comments.

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

- None

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- All

## WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
18 September 2024	Access to Digital Services and Digital Inclusion	Cabinet Member – Economic Development and Asset Management	To receive a report on, and to scrutinise activity regarding the Council’s activity regarding access to superfast broadband and digital inclusion.	Work Programming 2022/23	Improving transport and digital connections
	Catering and Facilities Management Service	Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health	To receive a progress report on the work being carried out on changes to the service delivery model of the Catering and Facilities Management Service.	Committee meeting	A forward looking and resilient Council  Supporting communities and families
	Outcome of the review of residents’ parking schemes		To receive and consider the outcomes of the scrutiny review of residents’ parking schemes.	Committee meeting	Improving transport and digital connections

## WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
11 December 2024	Catering and Facilities Management Service	Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health	To receive a progress report on the work being carried out on changes to the service delivery model of the Catering and Facilities Management Service.	Committee meeting	A forward looking and resilient Council  Supporting communities and families
	Lane Rental Scheme	Cabinet Member – Transport and Environment	To receive a report on the development of the Lane Rental Scheme.	Work Programming session	Improving transport and digital connections

**WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Responsibility</b>	<b>Purpose of the report</b>	<b>Issue raised by</b>	<b>Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions</b>
<b>21 January 2025</b>	Highways Joint Innovation and Continuous Improvement Plan	Cabinet Member – Transport and Environment	To receive a progress report on the delivery of the outcomes of the Highways Joint Innovation and Continuous Improvement Plan.	Committee meeting	Improving transport and digital connections
	Outcomes of the review of flooding preparation and response		To receive and consider the outcomes of flooding preparation and response.	Council Motion December 2023	Supporting communities and families Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint

## WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
12 March 2025	Crime and Disorder	Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health	To sit as the Council's statutory Crime and Disorder committee to scrutinise delivery of crime and disorder strategies. To meet the requirements of the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009.	Annual item	Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe
	Rights of Way	Cabinet Member – Transport and Environment	To examine how the Council maintains rights of way across Nottinghamshire.	Work Programming session	Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint  Making Nottinghamshire somewhere people love to live, work and visit
	Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Cabinet Member – Transport and Environment	To consider the activity around the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	Department	Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint

## WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
16 July 2025	EV Charging	Cabinet Member – Transport and Environment	To receive a progress report on the delivery of the On-Street Low Emission Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Programme.	Committee meeting	Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint  Improving transport and digital connections
	Communication with communities and community resilience	Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health	To examine how the Council communicates with communities and supports the development of community resilience.	Work Programming session	Supporting communities and families
	20mph Speed limits	Cabinet Member – Transport and Environment	To examine the issues around the introduction and enforcement of 20mph speed limits.	Committee meeting	Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe  Improving transport and digital connections
	HWRCs	Cabinet Member – Transport and Environment	To receive a progress report on activity around the recommendations of the scrutiny review.	Committee meeting	Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint

## WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE

### Items pending scheduling or removal.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Responsibility</b>	<b>Purpose of the report</b>	<b>Issue raised by</b>	<b>Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions</b>
Waste and recycling .	Cabinet Member – Transport and Environment	To consider how the Council is suitably prepared for system changes required for simpler recycling. To be scheduled once approach required from Government is clearer.	Work Programming session	Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint



## WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE

### Reviews

<b>Project Start Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Responsibility</b>	<b>Purpose of Review</b>	<b>Issue raised by</b>	<b>Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions</b>
Spring 2025	Country Parks	Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health	To scrutinise the delivery of Country Parks.	Work Programming session	Making Nottinghamshire somewhere people love to live, work and visit.
TBC	Registration Services/Every Contact Counts	Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health	To review how the service delivering services and meeting challenges.	Work Programming session	Supporting communities and families
TBC	Inward investment Framework	Cabinet Member – Economic Development and Asset Management	To feed into the development of the framework that will allow inward investment activities to be coordinated and prioritised.	Work Programming 2022/23	A forward looking and resilient Council

## WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 – PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE

### Items to be scheduled for 2025/26

Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
Inspire	Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health	To examine how Inspire is delivering cultural, learning and library services across Nottinghamshire.	Committee meeting	Making Nottinghamshire somewhere people love to live, work and visit  Supporting communities and families
Added Social Value	Cabinet Member – Transport and Environment  Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health	To scrutinise how Arc/Via/Inspire deliver social value.	Work Programming session	Attracting investment in infrastructure, the economy, and green growth

### Items for information briefings for committee members

Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of the report	Issue raised by	Nottinghamshire Plan Ambitions
Visitor Economy Framework	Cabinet Member – Economic Development and Asset Management	To receive a briefing note on the delivery of the Visitor Economy Framework.	Committee meeting	Making Nottinghamshire somewhere people love to live, work and visit.
Lengthsman Scheme	Cabinet Member – Transport and Environment	To receive a briefing note on the delivery of the scheme.	Work Programming session	Improving transport and digital connections  Supporting communities and families