

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE REPORT: KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Purpose of the Report

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

Information

2. **Nottingham Together and Vigil** – On the 15th of June I joined our Chairman and other representatives on the Market Square as we came together at an incredibly moving, unifying and emotional vigil following the heart breaking attacks in the city.
3. The incident in Nottingham was devastating, to see this kind of violence on our city's streets is unimaginable. We continue to work together locally with our colleagues at the City Council and the Police Department following the tragic events.
4. Seeing how the public came together, put their arms around each other and joined in unity at the vigils gives some hope and Nottingham will come out from this stronger.
5. **Highways Visit / Investment in the A38** – I recently joined Lee Anderson MP with officers from Via and NCC to look at a number of sites for road improvements. During the visit we were able to confirm a huge £1.8m investment in surface improvements to the A38 which will be rolled out in 3 stages. Works are due to start in September.
6. **Inspire Awards** – It was an absolute pleasure to join council colleagues from Mansfield and beyond at the Inspire Learning awards on Thursday 29th June, hosted at the Inspire Mansfield Central Library. We recognised the achievements of some amazing people, organisations and services who have made an outstanding contribution to our communities over the last couple of years.
7. **Armed Forces Day** – This is our opportunity to say a big thank you to all of the armed forces community for the vital work they do, from current serving troops to service families, Veterans and Cadets.
8. I had the honour of joining our Chairman as we raised a flag outside of County Hall to mark the beginning of Armed Forces Week which was recognised and celebrated across the county.

9. **Power of Partnerships** – On the 16th of June I was invited to join one of the panels at the Power of Partnerships event at the University of Nottingham. The discussion was focussed around ‘Supercharging our Economy’ and brought together both political and industry leaders for insights into the challenges and opportunities for businesses in our region.
10. During the session I spoke about our economic outlook, Devolution, and the huge opportunities for investments across the county. There is a real positive outlook for the future, with Nottinghamshire leading the way on several key projects, we need strong collaboration across all sectors to turn these opportunities into something really meaningful.
11. **Ministerial Visit / Levelling Up** – At the start of June I welcomed the Secretary of State for Levelling Up the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP to Mansfield to discuss a number of plans with local education providers and health service representatives. We visited the former Beales Store where £20m of Government funding is set to see the site reopened as a hub for public services, leisure, health, and education.
12. This is a chance to work on long term plans to deliver something big and meaningful in this part of the county. I really want us to use this funding to tackle entrenched social challenges working with others on something big.
13. **ADEPT Conference** – At the end of May I was invited to the Institute of Civil Engineering in Westminster to speak at the ADEPT Conference. Here I was again able to highlight to senior Local Government Directors of Place/Communities, Economy and Transport, our county’s great work on the regional economy, collaboration, and Devolution. There is huge interest in Nottinghamshire at the moment, and I am very excited at what opportunities lie ahead.
14. **Tour of Britain 2023** – I am delighted that the tour of Britain Cycle Race is due to return to the streets of Nottinghamshire for the fourth time in seven years. The stage will once again provide us with a great opportunity to showcase Nottinghamshire to a global television audience and help shine a light on why it is such a great place to live, work and visit.
15. This year’s stage will start a short distance away from the true home of Robin Hood, the major oak in the heart of Sherwood Forest, and finish in the historic town of Newark providing a stunning backdrop to the race.
16. Last years race saw an estimated 225,000 people lining the route from West Bridgford to Mansfield and boosted the local economy by more than £4m.
17. **IRP Conference** – Last week I spoke alongside colleagues at the Midlands Connect and Transport for East Midlands conference in Derby, about the impact of rail investment and the Integrated Rail Plan for our long-term economic prospects.
18. The Conference, which also featured Rail Minister Huw Merriman MP, focused on the opportunity of the HS2 links between Birmingham, Parkway and Nottingham/Derby, as well as the local links it unlocks and the opportunities for growth at hub stations, including those listed above (and Chesterfield).

Progress Report

19. **A614/A6097 Improvement Scheme Update** – Cabinet recently approved more than £10m worth of investment into the A614/A6097 highway improvements.
20. The extra funding will go towards upgrades to major junctions along the route such as the Ollerton Roundabout, the White Post roundabout, Warren Hill Junction, Lowdham roundabout and Kirkhill junction. The additional investment will also go towards improving the design of the scheme in response to the consultation feedback.
21. We will continue to push forward with this vitally important scheme to improve local and regional connectivity and support growth and investment in Nottinghamshire. Improving access to training and jobs, and helping businesses to move goods more efficiently, is central to making our local economy stronger.
22. **Nottinghamshire Healthy Families Programme: 2024 and beyond** – Following the recent call in and recommendations put forward by the Overview Committee, Cabinet have approved that the design and development of a new contract for delivery of the Nottinghamshire Healthy Families Programme, for a period of up to nine years, will be progressed via a co-operation arrangement between the Council and Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT).
23. As previously agreed, Overview Committee are in the process of establishing a joint scrutiny working group with members from the Adult Social Care and Public Health Select Committee, the Children and Families Select Committee and the Health Scrutiny Committee to undertake further scrutiny on the development of the approach. Subject to the satisfactory and affordable outcome of negotiation, the Council will enter a new contract with NHFT which will come to a future meeting of Cabinet for approval.
24. Cabinet also approved the extension of the current Nottinghamshire Healthy Families Programme contract until 30th September 2024 to enable the design and development work to be carried out.
25. **New Primary School at Gateford Park, Worksop** – Following the positive outcome of the recent consultation, Cabinet approved the running of the Free School Presumption relating to a new school at the Gateford Park housing development in Worksop.
26. Plans have since moved a significant step closer after planning approval was granted for the scheme. The new school will be built on land off Gatekeeper Way in Gateford in two phases as part of a major residential development on the northern fringes of the town.
27. It is expected to open for the new school year in September 2024 and will eventually have a capacity for 315 primary places plus a 26-place nursery – with the first phase of the scheme seeing capacity for a 210-place school.
28. **Household Support Fund – Phase Four** – Councillor John Cottee Cabinet Member for Communities recently approved the launch of Phase Four of the Household Support Fund which will offer support to those in immediate need across the County from 1 April 2023 until 31 March 2024. The Council will now continue its work with a range of partners to deploy the £11.3m of government funding as soon as is practical.

29. Data from previous phases of the fund suggests that we should expect approximately 18,000 Free School Meal Household applications, 16,000 Pensioner Household applications, 5,000 applications made by professional referral and 500 white goods applications for each tranche of Phase Four.
30. **Progress in Improving the Experiences and Outcomes for Children with SEND** – At the meeting of the June Cabinet, Members received an update on the progress made in responding to the findings of the Ofsted/Care Quality Commission local area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.
31. Dame Christine Lenehan has now been appointed to chair the Nottinghamshire SEND partnership improvement board which will meet for the first time on 23 June 2023. This will ensure the necessary improvements are made to respond to the outcome of the local area inspection and to ensure oversight by an independently chaired body.
32. **Devolution: Interim Roles to Progress the East Midlands Combined County Authority** – Cabinet approved the establishment of six temporary roles to prepare for and ensure government requirements are met for the creation of East Midlands Combined County Authority, subject to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill receiving royal assent.
33. **All decisions agreed at Cabinet are published online, you can find more details on the Council's Website - [Democratic Management System > Decisions \(nottinghamshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/DEM/Decisions)**

Decisions taken under Special Urgency procedures

34. None.

Other Options Considered

35. None

Reason for Recommendation

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

Statutory and Policy Implications

37. 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

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

RECOMMENDATION

1) That the contents of the report be noted.

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

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

Constitutional Comments (CEH)

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

Financial Comments (SES)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- None