

SUMMONS TO COUNCIL

date Thursday, 23 September 2021 venue County Hall, West Bridgford,
commencing at 10:30 Nottingham

You are hereby requested to attend the above Meeting to be held at the time/place and on the date mentioned above for the purpose of transacting the business on the Agenda as under.



Chief Executive

- | | | |
|---|--|---------|
| 1 | Minutes of the last meeting held on 22 July 2021 | 9 - 36 |
| 2 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 3 | Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below) | |
| | (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests | |
| | (b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary) | |
| 4 | Chairman's Business | |
| | a) Presentation of Awards/Certificates (if any) | |
| 5 | Constituency Issues (see note 4) | |
| 6 | Presentation of Petitions (if any) (see note 5 below) | |
| 7 | Employee Recognition | 37 - 40 |
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9	Recognition of Members of Groups	71 - 76
10	Membership of Committees	77 - 80
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12	Questions	
	a) Questions to Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire Authority	
	b) Questions to Committee Chairmen	
13	NOTICE OF MOTIONS	

Motion One - carried over from 22nd July 2021 meeting

This Council wishes to express its sincere gratitude to all school teachers, teaching assistants and school support staff who have worked tirelessly alongside parents and carers during the Covid 19 pandemic to continue educating and caring for our children in Nottinghamshire. In addition, our thanks are extended to our nurseries, childminders and early years' providers, local charities and voluntary organisations, council officers and key workers who have all played their part in supporting our children and young people's health and well-being during this challenging period.

However the impact of Covid has been significant on our children's learning and on many of our children and young people's mental health.

This Council accepts the Government's own Education Recovery Commissioner Sir Kevan Collin's estimate that £15bn is needed to help our children catch up with their learning. On this basis this Council determines the current allocation of £1.4 bn to be wholly inadequate. The Education Policy Institute have calculated that this amounts to £50 per pupil per year. This contrasts with £1,600 per pupil in the USA and £2,500 in the Netherlands.

This Council wishes to emphasise that no child's education should be blighted by this pandemic: no child should be left behind.

Therefore this Council resolves to write to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Education to call on the Government to scale up its ambition for our children and young people in Nottinghamshire, ensuring that our education system has the resources it requires.

Councillor Michelle Welsh Councillor Kate Foale

ALTERED Motion Two - carried over from 22nd July 2021 meeting

This Council recognises the evidence base that exists demonstrating the significant health and safety benefits to the public from a reduction in vehicle speed to 20MPH.

This Council resolves therefore to task the Transport and Environment Committee with exploring the feasibility of implementing a 20MPH speed limit and any other new measures that could help improve road safety in all its residential conurbations.

Councillor Penny Gowland Councillor Neil Clarke MBE

Motion Three

This Council acknowledges that - prior to the unanimous declaration of a Climate Emergency by the County Council on 27 May 2021 - the Nottinghamshire Pension Fund Committee has had a long history of engagement on climate related issues as it seeks to manage the financial risks of climate change.

This Council further notes that, over the last year, the Nottinghamshire Pension Fund Committee has:

- implemented a Climate Risk Action Plan
- published a Climate Strategy, a Taskforce for Climate-related Financial Disclosure report and a Climate Stewardship Plan, and;
- continues through its partners, to work with companies to implement strategies aligned with the 2016 Paris Climate Accords.

This Council recognises that the Nottinghamshire Pension Fund's approach is in line with comments made last year by the Independent Chair of the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum: "Divestment: No. Engagement: Yes" - to proactively encourage investment in environmentally friendly research, technology, and approaches in order to transition to Net Zero. This was reinforced by the Pensions Minister, Guy Opperman MP, who said in March 2021 that "Merely selling your stocks that make you look bad from a fossil fuels standpoint is a reverse greenwashing because it doesn't actually fix the problem."

This Council endorses the Nottinghamshire Pension Fund's strategy to reduce the portfolio's carbon footprint through responsible investment and engagement with partners, ahead of their Climate

Risk Workshop to be held in the near future and any other work that they are undertaking on this topic.

Councillor Mike Adams Councillor Eric Kerry

Motion Four

Nottinghamshire County Council notes with regret that tens of thousands of families claiming Universal Credit and Working Tax Credits in the county will lose more than £1,000 a year when the uplift to the benefits is lifted. The Government plan to remove its £20 per week uplift - brought in to support struggling families through the pandemic from October 6.

It will mean a loss of £1,040 to the current, overall annual package received by claimants in Nottinghamshire, or around £86.66 per month. This Council believes that these plans mean the biggest overnight reduction to a basic rate of social security since the modern welfare state began more than 70 years ago.

This Council notes that families with children will be disproportionately impacted and six in 10 of all single-parent families in the UK will be impacted. In Nottinghamshire, this cut will adversely impact 58,770 families. This Council notes the figures released by Parliamentary Constituency of families currently in receipt of Universal Credit or Working Tax credits in our County by the Joseph Roundtree Foundation:

- Ashfield - 9150
- Bassetlaw - 8770
- Broxtowe - 5600
- Gedling - 6910
- Mansfield - 10380
- Newark - 6390
- Rushcliffe - 4040
- Sherwood - 7530

This Council believes:

1. That failing to maintain the recent uplift will have a devastating effect on 58,770 families in Nottinghamshire at a time when they need financial support the most and will increase hardship and poverty for people who are already struggling.
2. That reducing benefits will have an adverse impact on child poverty, other poverty levels and the financial health and well-being of people of the poorest in our County.

This Council therefore resolves to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer - The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions - Therese Coffey MP and to all

Nottinghamshire's Members of Parliament to ask for their support in reversing this decision and to strengthen the support offered by Universal Credit and Working Tax Credits.

Councillor Jason Zadrozny Councillor Samantha Deakin

Motion Five

This Council recognises the immediacy of the challenge of poor nutrition and the need to encourage healthy eating in Nottinghamshire and beyond. Without radical change, we risk failing to achieve our statutory goals of improving the health & wellbeing of our residents, supporting the NHS, and tackling longstanding inequalities in our communities.

This Council therefore wishes to see nutrition developed as a key part of our 2022-2026 Health & Wellbeing Strategy, and asks Health & Wellbeing Board to consider in detail with partners how best to include this element appropriately, including plans for how officers can actively engage with residents on this key issue.

This Council will further set out to make Nottinghamshire a "Healthy Food Sustainable Shire" and ensure that these principles are considered and reflected appropriately in the development of the forthcoming Council Plan, overseen by the Deputy Leader, with actions arising from it to ensure that our communities are empowered to make positive choices about their nutrition and health.

Councillor Dr John Doddy Councillor Bruce Laughton

Motion Six

Nottinghamshire County Council notes that Government plans to make it mandatory for voters to produce photo identification before they can cast their votes. It further notes a Cabinet Office impact assessment that estimates the policy will cost up to £180million. £180million would buy 15,316 hip operations, 5,986 new ventilators or 9.9million hours of tutoring in schools.

This Council acknowledges that there were 171 allegations of in-person voter fraud at polling stations in Local and Parliamentary elections from 2014 to 2019 - of which three led to a conviction. This Council believes that at a time when the country is facing huge financial challenges due to COVID-19, spending up to £180million over ten years on a Voter ID scheme to make it harder for people to vote in elections is wrong both morally and shows a lack of priorities.

This Council notes the views of charities including Save the Children, independent campaign groups such as Greenpeace, and the trades union movement, who have condemned the Election's Bill as "...an attack on the UK's proud democratic tradition and some of our most fundamental rights".

This Council believes that thousands of residents in Nottinghamshire do not own photo ID. These are often poorer residents, the elderly, the young and people with disabilities. According to a Cabinet Office study, around 4% of people in the UK - about 2.1 million - lack a recognisable form of voter ID.

This Council therefore agrees to write to the Secretary of State for Justice, who is responsible for constitutional affairs - the Right Honourable Richard Buckland QC MP and all Nottinghamshire MPs requesting that they oppose the photo identification element of the Elections Bill currently going through Parliament.

Councillor Helen-Ann Smith

Councillor David Shaw

NOTES:-

(A) For Councillors

- (1) Members will be informed of the date and time of their Group meeting for Council by their Group Researcher.
- (2) Lunch will usually be taken at approximately 12.30pm.
- (3)
 - (a) Persons making a declaration of interest should have regard to the Code of Conduct and the Procedure Rules for Meetings of the Full Council. Those declaring must indicate whether their interest is a disclosable pecuniary interest or a private interest and the reasons for the declaration.
 - (b) Any member or officer who declares a disclosable pecuniary interest in an item must withdraw from the meeting during discussion and voting upon it, unless a dispensation has been granted. Members or officers requiring clarification on whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact the Monitoring Officer or Democratic Services prior to the meeting.
 - (c) Declarations of interest will be recorded and included in the minutes of this meeting and it is therefore important that clear details are given by members and others in turn, to enable Democratic Services to record accurate information.

- (4) At any Full Council meeting except the budget meeting and an extraordinary meeting Members are given an opportunity to speak for up to three minutes on any issue which specifically relates to their division and is relevant to the services provided by the County Council. These speeches must relate specifically to the area the Member represents and should not be of a general nature. They are constituency speeches and therefore must relate to constituency issues only. This is an opportunity simply to air these issues in a Council meeting. It will not give rise to a debate on the issues or a question or answer session. There is a maximum time limit of 15 minutes for this item.
- (5) At any Full Council meeting except the budget meeting and an extraordinary meeting Members may present a petition to the Chairman of the County Council on any matter affecting the residents of their division, and in relation to which the County Council has powers or duties. The Member presenting the petition can introduce and speak about the petition for up to one minute. Members are reminded that there is a time limit of 15 minutes for the presentation of petitions, after which any petitions not yet presented will be received en bloc by the Chairman.
- (6) In relation to questions to the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire Authority and Committee Chairmen; after receiving an answer to their question, the Councillor asking the original question may ask one supplementary question on the same matter. There will be no additional supplementary questions.
- (7) Members' attention is drawn to the questions put to the Leader of the Council and the Chairmen of the Children and Young People's, Finance, Nottinghamshire Pension Fund and Transport and Environment Committees under paragraphs 42, 46 and 47 of the Procedure Rules, and the answers to which are included at the back of the Council book.
- (8) Members are reminded that these papers may be recycled. Appropriate containers are located in the respective secretariats.
- (9) Commonly used points of order
 - 26 – Constituency issues must be about issues which specifically relate to the Member's division and is relevant to the services provided by the County Council
 - 51 – Only 1 supplementary question per question is allowed from the Councillor who asked the original question and supplementary questions must be on the same matter
 - 61 – The Mover or Seconder has spoken for more than 10 minutes when moving the motion
 - 64 – The Member has spoken for more than 5 minutes
 - 66 – The Member is not speaking to the subject under discussion

67 – The Member has already spoken on the motion

86 – Points of Order and Personal Explanations

96 – Disorderly conduct

(10) Time limit of speeches

Motions

64 – no longer than 5 minutes (subject to any exceptions set out in the Constitution)

Constituency Issues

26 – up to 3 minutes per speech allowed

29 – up to 15 minutes for this item allowed

Petitions

33 – up to one minute per petition allowed

37 – up to 15 minutes for this item allowed

Questions

45 – up to 60 minutes for this item allowed

(B) For Members of the Public

- (1) 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.

- (2) The papers enclosed with this agenda are available in large print if required. Copies can be requested by contacting the Customer Services Centre on 0300 500 80 80. Certain documents (for example appendices and plans to reports) may not be available electronically. Hard copies can be requested from the above contact.
- (3) This agenda and its associated reports are available to view online via an online calendar –
<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx>



Meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

Date Thursday, 22 July 2021 (10.30 am – 5.31 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Mike Quigley MBE (Chairman)
Roger Jackson (Vice-Chairman)

Reg Adair
Mike Adams
Pauline Allan
Sinead Anderson
Callum Bailey
Matt Barney
Chris Barnfather
Ben Bradley
Richard Butler
Anne Callaghan BEM
André Camilleri
Scott Carlton
Steve Carr
John Clarke
Neil Clarke MBE
Robert Corden
John Cottee
Jim Creamer
Eddie Cubley
Sam Deakin
Maureen Dobson
Dr John Doddy
Bethan Eddy
Boyd Elliott
Sybil Fielding
Kate Foale
Stephen Garner
Glynn Gilfoyle
Keith Girling
Penny Gowland
Errol Henry JP
Paul Henshaw

Tom Hollis
Mike Intron
Richard Jackson
Eric Kerry
Bruce Laughton
John Lee
David Martin
John 'Maggie' McGrath
Andy Meakin
Nigel Moxon
John Ogle
Philip Owen
Michael Payne
Sheila Place
Mike Pringle
Francis Purdue-Horan
Mrs Sue Saddington
Dave Shaw
Helen-Ann Smith
Sam Smith
Tom Smith
Tracey Taylor
Nigel Turner
Roger Upton
Lee Waters
Michelle Welsh
Gordon Wheeler
Jonathan Wheeler
Daniel Williamson
Elizabeth Williamson
John Wilmott
Jason Zadrozny

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Anthony May	(Chief Executive)
Marjorie Toward	(Chief Executives)
Nigel Stevenson	(Chief Executives)
Sara Allmond	(Chief Executives)

Chief Officers and Group staff observed the meeting from the viewing gallery

OPENING PRAYER

Upon the Council convening, prayers were led by the Chairman's Chaplain.

PROCEDURAL MOTION TO SUSPEND FULL COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 21

It was moved by Councillor Mike Quigley MBE and seconded by Councillor Roger Jackson and

RESOLVED: 2021/026

That the Council suspends Full Council Procedure Rule 21 (absences of more than 10 minutes be recorded in the minutes of the meeting) for the duration of the meeting.

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED: 2021/027

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the County Council held on 27 May 2021 be agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman, with an amendment to the attendance list on page 1, to list Councillor Mike Quigley MBE as Chairman, not Councillor Mike Pringle, as printed.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:-

- Councillor Matt Barney (medical/illness)
- Councillor Steve Carr (other)
- Councillor John Clarke (other)
- Councillor Dr John Doddy (other)
- Councillor Boyd Elliott (medical/illness)
- Councillor Sybil Fielding (other)
- Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle (other)
- Councillor Errol Henry JP (medical/illness)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Dave Shaw declared a private interest in agenda item 12 motion 2 as a former miner. In response to a query from Members, the Chief Executive clarified that a declaration of interest in this item was only required if a Member was in receipt of a miner's pension.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

SHADOW EVENT

Councillor Tracey Taylor updated members on the upcoming Shadow Event for young people.

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

The Chairman updated members on the business he and the Vice-Chairman had carried out since the last meeting, including a number of flag flying events.

5. CONSTITUENCY ISSUES

The following Members spoke for up to three minutes on issues which specifically related to their division and were relevant to the services provided by the County Council.

Councillor Philip Owen – regarding cars racing on the A610 and the need for average speed cameras

Councillor Andy Meakin – regarding child poverty in Kirkby North

Councillor John Wilmott – regarding service provision at Hucknall Library

Councillor Tom Hollis – regarding consultation with Councillors in Huthwaite and West Sutton

Councillor Jason Zadrozny – regarding working with utility companies in Ashfield's Division

Councillor Elizabeth Williamson – regarding road safety in Brinsley and Moorgreen

Councillor Paul Henshaw – regarding care provision in Mansfield West

6a. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

The following petitions were presented to the Chairman as indicated below: -

- (1) Councillor Maureen Dobson, regarding North Clifton School
- (2) Councillor Bruce Laughton, request for a bridleway on A616 at Little Carlton and for interactive speed sign to work of horses crossing the road
- (3) Councillor Richard Butler, request for school parking safety measures near Ash Lea School, Cotgrave

RESOLVED: 2021/028

That the petitions be referred to the appropriate Committees for consideration in accordance with the Procedure Rules, with a report being brought back to Council in due course.

6b. RESPONSE TO PETITION PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

RESOLVED: 2021/029

That the contents and actions taken as set out in the report be noted.

7. MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS 2020/21

Councillor Richard Jackson introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of resolution 2021/030 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Roger Jackson.

Following a debate, the Chairman put the Motion to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman declared it was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2021/030

- 1) To note the provisional 2020/21 year-end revenue position.
- 2) To approve the level of County Fund Balances as set out in paragraph 32 and Appendix A of the report.
- 3) To note the movements in reserves as detailed in paragraphs 33 to 45 and Appendix B of the report.
- 4) To note the Capital Programme and its financing.
- 5) To approve capital variations as set out in paragraphs 50 to 54 of the report.
- 6) To note the Council's 2020/21 Prudential Indicators out-turn as detailed in Appendix D of the report.
- 7) To note the Treasury Management outturn report in Appendix E of the report.

8. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME – REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

Councillor Chris Barnfather introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of resolution 2021/031 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Kate Foale.

The Chairman put the Motion to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman declared it was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2021/031

- 1) That the recommendations of the IRP be noted.
- 2) That the proposed revised Councillors' Allowances Scheme, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the IRP report, be approved.

9. GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

Councillor Philip Owen introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of resolution 2021/032 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Bruce Laughton.

The Chairman put the Motion to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman declared it was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2021/032

That the achievements of the Governance and Ethics Committee be noted and the intended areas of focus for the current year be endorsed.

10. A COUNTY DAY FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (NOTTINGHAMSHIRE DAY)

Councillor Ben Bradley MP introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of resolution 2021/033 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor John Cottee.

Following a debate, the Chairman put the Motion to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman declared it was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2021/033

That the adoption of 25 August as Nottinghamshire Day be approved and that the Leader be authorised to write, on behalf of the Council, to the Secretary of State and Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire to confirm the Council's support.

11a. QUESTIONS TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE AUTHORITY

None

11b. QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Eighteen questions had been received as follows: -

Note questions one and two were taken together:-

- 1) from Councillor David Martin concerning work of the former Communities and Place Review and Development Committee (Councillor Neil Clarke MBE replied)
- 2) from Councillor Callum Bailey regarding update on the Highways Review Panel (Councillor Neil Clarke MBE replied)
- 3) from Councillor John Wilmott about Hucknall Library roof repairs (Councillor John Cottee replied)
- 4) from Councillor Penny Gowland concerning use of pesticides for weed killing (Councillor Mike Adams replied on behalf of Councillor Neil Clarke MBE)
- 5) from Councillor Tom Hollis concerning purchase of house for Looked After Children (Councillor Richard Jackson replied)
- 6) from Councillor John Wilmott about land on Titchfield Street (Councillor Neil Clarke MBE replied)

The Council adjourned from 12.35pm to 1.40pm for lunch.

- 7) from Councillor Elizabeth Williamson concerning reopening of local footpaths (Councillor Richard Butler replied)
- 8) from Councillor Helen-Ann Smith about adopting a proactive approach to speeding (Councillor Neil Clarke MBE replied)
- 9) from Councillor David Shaw about review of council estate following change of work practices (Councillor Keith Girling replied)
- 10) from Councillor Elizabeth Williamson concerning disabled access on footpaths (Councillor Neil Clarke MBE replied)
- 11) from Councillor Jason Zadrozny concerning setting up a Combined Authority (Councillor Ben Bradley MBE replied)
- 12) from Councillor David Shaw regarding poor street lighting and crime (Councillor Neil Clarke MBE replied)

The full responses to the questions above are set out in set out in Appendix A to these minutes.

The time limit of 60 minutes allowed for questions was reached before the following questions were asked. A written response to the questions would be provided to the Councillors who asked the questions within 15 working days of the meeting and be included in the papers for the next Full Council meeting.

- 13) from Councillor Samantha Deakin about number of free school meal claimants since March 2020 (Councillor Tracey Taylor to reply)
- 14) from Councillor Tom Hollis regarding use of COVID reserves (Councillor Richard Jackson to reply)
- 15) from Councillor Lee Waters regarding resurfacing Brookside, Hucknall (Councillor Neil Clarke MBE to reply)
- 16) from Councillor Lee Waters regarding fossil fuel investments (Councillor Eric Kerry to reply)
- 17) from Councillor Jason Zadrozny regarding racism in Nottinghamshire (Councillor Ben Bradley MP to reply)
- 18) from Councillor Mike Pringle about removal of the £20 Universal Credit uplift (Councillor Ben Bradley MP to reply)

12. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Motion One

A Motion as set out below was moved by Councillor Ben Bradley MP and seconded by Councillor Bruce Laughton:

“Nottinghamshire County Council has an ambitious plan for Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands. In recent times, by speaking with one voice, and with careful planning and preparation, we have secured success, including:

- establishing an interim Development Corporation, as a precursor to a statutory development vehicle for Toton, Chetwynd, the Ratcliffe-on-Soar Power Station and the area around the East Midlands Airport;
- working with partners to develop the UK’s only inland Freeport;
- leading the work to establish the UK’s most connected HS2 Hub Station at Toton;
- securing two sites on the long list for the STEP nuclear fusion demonstrator;
- securing £24.3 million to improve the A614/A6097;
- supporting our District and Borough Councils in securing Towns Fund grants totalling over £120 million;

- leading a world first 5G connected forest project – digitising the visitor economy and providing 5G network coverage to new communities in Edwinstowe through a £10 million Government-sponsored project, working with local businesses and national research institutes;
- working with Midlands Connect and Highways England to deliver the A46 improvements and upgrade the A1 to motorway standard, to improve connectivity and unlock development sites of national significance;
- working with Midlands Connect and our District Councils to explore a Levelling Up Fund bid to extend the Robin Hood Line and open the Maid Marion line, to transform connectivity in mid and north Nottinghamshire;
- being seen by Government as a credible and reliable partner – this is generating new opportunities for funding and to test and trial new initiatives – such as our success with the Social Housing Decarbonisation programme.

These successes are borne out of strong collaboration, across the County and with our regional partners. Regionally, this Council plays a leading role in the Midlands Engine and Midlands Connect, and we are a key player in East Midlands Councils and Transport for the East Midlands.

We stand on the cusp of significant levelling up opportunities – our Development Corporation alone would deliver 84,000 jobs, up to 10,000 homes and £4.8 billion of new GVA. With continued Government support and early decision making, we stand ready to deliver tangible outcomes and benefits, across our County and Region.

This Council calls upon the three political Group Leaders to write collectively to the Prime Minister, setting out this unique opportunity to support Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands’ levelling up agenda, and to make the decisions necessary to catalyse the following key elements of our plan:

- to confirm the HS2 Eastern leg will be constructed in full, with Toton as the Hub Station;
- to place our Development Corporation on a statutory footing, recognising the potential it brings for planned and sustainable development, jobs, skills and homes; and
- to prioritise the East Midlands for a devolution deal, off the back of the forthcoming Levelling Up White Paper, so we can accelerate growth and prosperity for the East Midlands and Nottinghamshire”

An amendment to the motion as set out below was moved by Councillor Jason Zadrozny and seconded by Councillor Tom Hollis:-

“Nottinghamshire County Council has an ambitious plan for Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands. ~~In recent times, by speaking with one voice, and with careful planning and preparation, we have secured success, including:~~ **This Council notes that according to the Government’s own figures on identifiable Government spending per head – the East Midlands has the lowest spend per head in the UK of £8,879. This compares unfavourably to the West Midlands at £9,570 per head, Yorkshire and the Humber at £9,401 per head. Spend per head in the East Midlands is £1,016 less per head a year than the UK average £9,895.**

Nottinghamshire County Council therefore welcomes:

- establishing an interim Development Corporation, as a precursor to a statutory development vehicle for Toton, Chetwynd, the Ratcliffe-on-Soar Power Station and the area around the East Midlands Airport;
- working with partners to develop the UK's only inland Freeport;
- leading the work to establish the UK's most connected HS2 Hub Station at Toton;
- securing two sites on the long list for the STEP nuclear fusion demonstrator;
- securing £24.3 million to improve the A614/A6097;
- ~~supporting our District and Borough Councils in securing Towns Fund grants totalling over £120 million;~~ **Ashfield District Council securing £62.6 million, Newark and Sherwood District Council securing £25 million, Broxtowe Borough Council receiving £21.1 million and Mansfield District Council securing £12.3 million in the Town's Fund bids;**
- leading a world first 5G connected forest project – digitising the visitor economy and providing 5G network coverage to new communities in Edwinstowe through a £10 million Government-sponsored project, working with local businesses and national research institutes;
- working with Midlands Connect and Highways England to deliver the A46 improvements and upgrade the A1 to motorway standard, to improve connectivity and unlock development sites of national significance;
- working with Midlands Connect and our **Borough and** District Councils to explore a Levelling Up Fund bid to extend the Robin Hood Line and open the Maid Marion line, to transform connectivity in mid and north Nottinghamshire;
- ~~being seen by Government as a credible and reliable partner – this is generating new opportunities for funding and to test and trial new initiatives – such as our success with the Social Housing Decarbonisation programme.~~

~~These successes are borne out of~~ **ambitions need** strong collaboration, across the County and with our regional partners. Regionally, this Council plays a leading role in the Midlands Engine and Midlands Connect, and we are a key player in East Midlands Councils and Transport for the East Midlands.

~~We stand on the cusp of significant levelling up opportunities – our Development Corporation alone would deliver 84,000 jobs, up to 10,000 homes and £4.8 billion of new GVA. With continued Government support and early decision making, we stand ready to deliver tangible outcomes and benefits, across our County and Region.~~

This Council calls upon the three political Group Leaders to write collectively to the Prime Minister, setting out this unique opportunity to support Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands' levelling up agenda, and to make the decisions necessary to catalyse the following key elements of our plan:

- to confirm the HS2 Eastern leg will be constructed in full, with Toton as the Hub Station;
- **to confirm the full electrification of the Midland's Mainline so that Nottinghamshire can realise the economic and environmental benefits;**

- to place our Development Corporation on a statutory footing, recognising the potential it brings for planned and sustainable development, jobs, skills and homes; and
- to prioritise the East Midlands for a devolution deal, off the back of the forthcoming Levelling Up White Paper, so we can accelerate growth and prosperity for the East Midlands and Nottinghamshire”

The Council adjourned from 2.26pm to 2.41pm to allow the amendment to be considered. The amendment was accepted by the mover of the motion and therefore the motion was altered.

Following the debate, the amended motion was put to the meeting. The requisite number of Members requested a recorded vote and it was ascertained that the following 46 members voted ‘**For**’ the motion:-

Reg Adair	Johnno Lee
Mike Adams	David Martin
Sinead Anderson	Andy Meakin
Callum Bailey	Nigel Moxon
Chris Barnfather	John Ogle
Ben Bradley MP	Philip Owen
Richard Butler	Francis Purdue-Horan
André Camilleri	Mike Quigley MBE
Scott Carlton	Mrs Sue Saddington
Neil Clarke MBE	Dave Shaw
Robert Corden	Helen-Ann Smith
John Cottee	Sam Smith
Eddie Cubley	Tom Smith
Samantha Deakin	Tracey Taylor
Bethan Eddy	Nigel Turner
Stephen Garner	Roger Upton
Keith Girling	Lee Waters
Tom Hollis	Gordon Wheeler
Mike Introna	Jonathan Wheeler
Richard Jackson	Daniel Williamson
Roger Jackson	Elizabeth Williamson
Eric Kerry	John Wilmott
Bruce Laughton	Jason Zadrozny

No members voted ‘**Against**’ the motion.

The following 12 Members ‘**Abstained**’ from the motion:-

Pauline Allan	Penny Gowland
Anne Callaghan	Paul Henshaw
Jim Creamer	John ‘Maggie’ McGrath
Maureen Dobson	Michael Payne
Kate Foale	Sheila Place

The Chairman declared it was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2021/034

Nottinghamshire County Council has an ambitious plan for Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands. This Council notes that according to the Government's own figures on identifiable Government spending per head – the East Midlands has the lowest spend per head in the UK of £8,879. This compares unfavourably to the West Midlands at £9,570 per head, Yorkshire and the Humber at £9,401 per head. Spend per head in the East Midlands is £1,016 less per head a year than the UK average £9,895.

Nottinghamshire County Council therefore welcomes:

- establishing an interim Development Corporation, as a precursor to a statutory development vehicle for Toton, Chetwynd, the Ratcliffe-on-Soar Power Station and the area around the East Midlands Airport;
- working with partners to develop the UK's only inland Freeport;
- leading the work to establish the UK's most connected HS2 Hub Station at Toton;
- securing two sites on the long list for the STEP nuclear fusion demonstrator;
- securing £24.3 million to improve the A614/A6097;
- Ashfield District Council securing £62.6 million, Newark and Sherwood District Council securing £25 million, Broxtowe Borough Council receiving £21.1 million and Mansfield District Council securing £12.3 million in the Town's Fund bids;
- leading a world first 5G connected forest project – digitising the visitor economy and providing 5G network coverage to new communities in Edwinstowe through a £10 million Government-sponsored project, working with local businesses and national research institutes;
- working with Midlands Connect and Highways England to deliver the A46 improvements and upgrade the A1 to motorway standard, to improve connectivity and unlock development sites of national significance;
- working with Midlands Connect and our Borough and District Councils to explore a Levelling Up Fund bid to extend the Robin Hood Line and open the Maid Marion line, to transform connectivity in mid and north Nottinghamshire.

These ambitions need strong collaboration, across the County and with our regional partners. Regionally, this Council plays a leading role in the Midlands Engine and Midlands Connect, and we are a key player in East Midlands Councils and Transport for the East Midlands.

With Government support and early decision making, we stand ready to deliver tangible outcomes and benefits, across our County and Region.

This Council calls upon the three political Group Leaders to write collectively to the Prime Minister, setting out this unique opportunity to support Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands' levelling up agenda, and to make the decisions necessary to catalyse the following key elements of our plan:

- to confirm the HS2 Eastern leg will be constructed in full, with Toton as the Hub Station;
- to confirm the full electrification of the Midland's Mainline so that Nottinghamshire can realise the economic and environmental benefits;
- to place our Development Corporation on a statutory footing, recognising the potential it brings for planned and sustainable development, jobs, skills and homes; and
- to prioritise the East Midlands for a devolution deal, off the back of the forthcoming Levelling Up White Paper, so we can accelerate growth and prosperity for the East Midlands and Nottinghamshire

Motion Two

An altered motion was moved by Councillor Jason Zadrozny and seconded by Councillor Daniel Williamson in terms of the resolution 2021/035 below.

Following a debate the Chairman put the altered motion to the meeting and after a roll call vote the Chairman declared the amendment was carried.

Following a debate, the Chairman put the Altered Motion to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman declared it was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2021/035

Nottinghamshire County Council notes the historical contribution that mining has played in our County, and will always be indebted to those miners and other mine workers who contributed to shaping our County.

This council welcomes the Inquiry of the House of Commons' Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Select Committee (BEIS) on the Mineworkers' Pension Scheme on 29 April 2020. This recommended that ministers tackle "historic injustice" in the scheme.

This Council notes with regret the response from the Minister of State for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change on 28 June 2021 which rejected the recommendations of MPs on this Select Committee.

Whether or not the government knew in 1994 that it would disproportionately benefit from the arrangement, and whether all parties thought it was fair at the time, it is clear today that the arrangements have unduly benefitted the government and it is untenable for the government to argue that the arrangements remain.

We therefore ask for a letter to be sent from all members on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council to the Chancellor of the Exchequer – The Rt. Hon. Rishi Sunak MP and all Nottinghamshire MPs outlining this Council's support for a fairer arrangement for mineworkers, including reconsideration of the Select Committee Report.

Motion Three

A Motion as set out below was moved by Councillor David Martin and seconded by Councillor Helen-Ann Smith:

“Nottinghamshire County Council notes that the Government is currently consulting on increasing the free prescription age to 66 and that tens of thousands of residents in Nottinghamshire aged 60-65 will be adversely impacted.

This Council further notes that residents aged between 60 and 65 receive free prescriptions when they turn 60 in England, whereas the State Pension Age is now 66.

This Council also notes the comments made by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) who said it was "deeply concerned" by the plan - and warned it could leave people without the important medications that they need.

This Council acknowledges that according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies - among older workers, 37% reported that their household income was now lower because of the impact of successive coronavirus lockdowns. These are the very residents who will be impacted if the age for free prescriptions is raised.

This Council therefore resolves to write a formal submission to the consultation opposing any plans to raise to free prescription age to 66. This Council further resolves to send a letter to Secretary of State for Health and Social Care - The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP from the leaders of the 3 groups on Nottinghamshire County Council formally opposing these plans.”

Following a debate, the Chairman put the motion to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman declared it was lost.

The requisite number of Members requested a recorded vote and it was ascertained that the following 22 members voted ‘**For**’ the motion:-

Pauline Allan	Michael Payne
Anne Callaghan	Sheila Place
Jim Creamer	Mike Pringle
Samantha Deakin	Dave Shaw
Kate Foale	Helen-Ann Smith
Penny Gowland	Lee Waters
Paul Henshaw	Michelle Welsh
Tom Hollis	Daniel Williamson
David Martin	Elizabeth Williamson
John ‘Maggie’ McGrath	John Wilmott
Andy Meakin	Jason Zadrozny

The following 33 members voted ‘**Against**’ the motion:-

Reg Adair	Callum Bailey
Sinead Anderson	Chris Barnfather

Ben Bradley MP
Richard Butler
André Camilleri
Scott Carlton
Neil Clarke MBE
Robert Corden
John Cottee
Eddie Cubley
Bethan Eddy
Keith Girling
Mike Introna
Richard Jackson
Roger Jackson
Eric Kerry
Bruce Laughton

Johno Lee
Nigel Moxon
John Ogle
Philip Owen
Francis Purdue-Horan
Mike Quigley MBE
Mrs Sue Saddington
Sam Smith
Tom Smith
Tracey Taylor
Nigel Turner
Roger Upton
Gordon Wheeler
Jonathan Wheeler

The following Member '**Abstained**' from the motion:-

Maureen Dobson

The Chairman declared it was lost.

As set out in the Constitution, the time limit of 5.30pm was reached and the remaining business would be carried over to the next meeting.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 5.31 pm.

CHAIRMAN

APPENDIX A

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22 JULY 2021 QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Note – Questions one and two were taken together

Question to the Chairman of the Transport and Environment Committee from Councillor David Martin

With the dissolving of the Communities and Place Development and Review Committee which excellently scrutinised this council's methodologies and processes for the highways improvements and maintenance. Will the Chairman of the new Transport and Environment Committee provide this Council with an assurance that the newly formed cross-party Highway's review Panel will fully explore the latest and most economic currently available methods available to repair Nottinghamshire's broken roads and also actually include PAVEMENTS?

Question to the Chairman of the Transport and Environment Committee from Councillor Callum Bailey

Would the Chairman of the Transport and Environment Committee update Members on progress so far regarding the Highways Review Panel?

Response from the Chairman of the Transport and Environment Committee, Councillor Neil Clarke MBE

Maybe it goes without saying, just to remind all members of the Council here that road safety and the Highways Review particularly are top priorities for this new administration. Roads maintenance was mentioned by the majority of people on the doorstep during the elections, and just to remind you that the reason this item now is coming to us, and we have this Highways Review Panel, is because that was one of the first motions in the first meeting of this Council, to set up this review. So, I think that does give a measure of the importance of this.

We have hit the ground running. We've already had the first meeting of the Review Panel and at this stage it is more fact-finding and information gathering, but then we will gradually move into seeing what actions can actually be taken. So, in the first meeting we have agreed the Terms of Reference; we've also agreed that we will be having an outside consultancy, WSP, who will be assisting us; we have asked the Local Government Association (LGA) to help us with a Peer Review, so they will be a critical friend helping us constructively to look in the mirror at how we perform; we will also be arranging to meet other county councils as well to assess and compare how they do things compared to us.

So, tomorrow, early morning, Mr Chairman, we start our second meeting, which is actually a visit, which will be combined with a depot visit and a meeting to Bilsthorpe Depot, Via's main depot, where we will be looking exactly at how they do things now and how can they possibly be done better or improved, looking at and exploring latest technology, innovation, different ways of working, so I think that is specific to Councillor

Martin's question. We are working on the basis that all options are open at the moment because we want this to be a thorough and comprehensive review, so we want to explore whatever questions we have. At the end of the day we want to make sure that the way that we maintain the roads is the most effective way, and that is what we will be exploring.

I want to make absolutely clear that pavements are included, Mr Chairman, so I don't think we need to have any further questions as things go on with regard to that, because the word 'highways' actually refers to both the carriageway and the footpaths, so it's a combined term. 'Highways' means the bits that you drive on or cycle on, and the bits that you walk on. It's an all-inclusive term.

And I did want – it's a shame he's not in the Chamber, maybe he's listening in the background – Councillor Zadrozny mentioned utilities, and I just wanted to confirm that's one of the things as well that I want to see looked at. In fact, I'm very familiar with that Heineken advert that he mentioned, because I've used that myself in past presentations. For those of you that haven't seen it, I suggest you look at it, because the punchline is 'different', shall we say, or rather interesting. I will leave you to look at that, but it does work on the basis and emphasise the need to ensure that where possible we encourage utilities to work together to minimise the disruption.

So, Chairman, the work is very much ongoing and in progress. We are already getting dates in the diary for September and October for future meetings, because we want to be coming to conclusions and recommendations that we can put to Policy Committee later on in the year.

Question to the Chairman of the Communities Committee from Councillor John Wilmott

The roof at Hucknall Library was repaired some time ago at considerable cost. Just months later it is being repaired again. Can he inform me of the cost of the initial work, the subsequent work and whether this Council is out of pocket as a result?

Response from the Chairman of the Communities Committee, Councillor John Cottee

Hucknall Library is a Grade 2 listed building and the roof was replaced in 2016 at a cost of £300,000 and is expected to last a minimum of 30 years.

Recent work on the building has concentrated on repairing internal ceilings, rather than the roof structure, and has cost £50,000. Whilst these costs are substantial, they are essential to maintain a Grade 2 listed building and fall within the Council's budget as owners of the site.

Question to the Chairman of the Transport and Environment Committee from Councillor Penny Gowland

Over the past month I've been contacted by many upset residents, who have witnessed what they describe as an excessive use of weed killer containing the herbicide glyphosate. Further investigation revealed that this had been used on

planters and areas which residents are encouraging as corridors for pollinators. Could the Chair please instigate a review of NCC's weed killing programme to try to minimize the use of weed killers generally and to cease the use of glyphosate in particular?

Response by the Vice Chairman of the Transport and Environment Committee, Councillor Mike Adams on behalf of the Chairman of the Transport and Environment Committee, Councillor Neil Clarke MBE

Here at Nottinghamshire County Council we only use weedkiller on kerbs, footways, cycleways, hardened verges and central reserves. This is done to enhance the visual appearance, and I'm sure you've all had reports fairly recently with the weather, how we've had a big uplift in the volume of weed growth. It's fundamental that we do this because it can cause structural damage to the fabric of the highway.

The authority would not normally use weedkiller on verges, planters or any other areas of soft landscaping. I would be grateful if Councillor Gowland could let me know of the specific locations to which she has been alerted, so that our officers can investigate further.

Glyphosate, which in case people don't know is the main ingredient in 'Round-Up' brand herbicides, is currently the only approved non-residual weedkiller for use on highway surfaces. It has been licenced by both the UK Government and EU and is considered safe when used according to the manufacturer's instructions. However, the authority does recognise Members' concerns regarding the product and its continued use. Consequently, our ongoing Highways Review will examine what alternatives may be available.

We all understand the importance of the highways to encourage and promote wildlife. Our rural grass cutting frequencies are already amongst the lowest in the region and our Notified Road Verge (NRV) scheme - which had been in abeyance for a number of years - was recently re-introduced.

NRVs receive a single meadow-grass cut in September, and clippings are collected and disposed of off-site. The best practice guide 'Managing Grassland Road Verges', produced by 'Plantlife', recognises that this technique is one the most effective for promoting wildflowers and providing corridors for pollinators. I'm incredibly excited to tell you that the NRV scheme is being extended and work with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, collaborating with them, goes on and we look to introduce some more in the future. I am also currently working on plans to see how much further and extended work we actually can do with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust as we all know that biodiversity is important for us all.

Question to the Chairman of the Finance Committee from Councillor Tom Hollis

The house prices on Sudbury Drive in Huthwaite are three times the average house price in Sutton-in-Ashfield. Despite this, the Council have purchased a house there. The property is one of the most expensive in the town and it has been bought to house just 2 looked after children at a time. The Council have bought this house without planning permission for its intended use. Does the chair believe taxpayers got

value for money purchasing a house on Sudbury Drive, Huthwaite without consultation with the divisional councillor?

Response from the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Councillor Richard Jackson

High quality accommodation for Looked After Children, for whom this Council and all of us as Elected Members are Corporate Parents, is one of our highest priorities.

For the majority of children in the care of this Council, keeping them close to their school, their friends and the community is extremely important. There are vulnerable children from Ashfield, as well as from the other six districts in the County, whose best interests will be served by achieving this aim, and we are continually looking for opportunities to improve our capacity to do so.

I find Councillor Hollis' question a little surprising to say the least. He seems to be pre-occupied with the relative cost of this purchase, rather than the benefit an additional Children's Home will bring to our Looked After Children if planning permission is granted.

I recall the days when Conservatives here were falsely accused of "knowing the cost of everything and the value of nothing", yet in this case, Councillor Hollis seems to be far more pre-occupied with the cost of the house in question, rather than the value that the additional, local, specialist accommodation could provide to our most vulnerable children.

Nevertheless, I seek to address his concerns.

When we need to expand our residential estate, a property search is undertaken within the geographical areas identified to find properties that meet, or that can be adapted to meet the need of the required specification.

The average price for an average size detached house in Huthwaite is currently £201,000 according to Right Move. The detached, above average size 4-bedroom property that we purchased on 12th July in Sudbury Drive was the only one in the area that met the specification that we need, and rather than the £300,000 that Councillor Hollis referred to in his three minute speech at the beginning of today's session, it cost us £265,000.

The property was purchased in advance of the planning application being considered, because anyone operating in the open housing market must act with speed to secure a purchase when their desired property becomes available. Planning processes take considerable time, and vendors cannot realistically be expected to wait for a prospective purchaser to obtain planning consent. In fact, it would be a waste of public money to pursue a lengthy planning application and hopefully gain approval for a target property, only to find that the property had since been sold.

There will be nothing done to the property in terms of establishing it as a children's home unless and until planning consent has been granted for this. Now I am aware that some local residents have witnessed activity taking place at the location, but I can

clarify that these visitors were staff from Arc, conducting routine assessments on behalf of the Council in line with our vacant property management regime.

The local member has had dialogue with a number of officers across the Council about the purchase of this property and made his concerns clear, all of which have been fully considered. He has also been invited to visit a children's home being run by the proposed provider, to better understand how some of his concerns would be addressed, should planning permission be granted.

As members are aware, all planning applications are required to follow a due legal process where the proposed use of a property is subject to rigorous and impartial examination, carried out by the Planning and Rights of Way Committee. If the proposed use of this property as a children's home does not pass these tests, then the Council will either have to identify another use for the property, or re-sell it in what remains an active and open market where it is highly unlikely to lose any value.

I am clear that the Council has followed the correct processes, and that our proposals for the property's future use will be examined and determined in the proper way. Any interested party with concerns about our proposals will have full opportunity to submit their evidence through the usual planning process.

I readily admit that nothing is more important to this administration than providing our Looked After Children with the most appropriate and suitable accommodation. I am sure I speak for the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee, just as much as myself and all of my colleagues on this side, in saying that we would not purchase a property or propose its use as a children's home unless we were confident that this would provide huge benefit to the children concerned, that we could deliver the service at best value, and that it would not have a detrimental impact on those living in the vicinity.

It is a compliment to the area that we have identified this property and this location as the most safe and suitable environment to locate such an important facility. Our judgement will now be tested through the planning process in a fair, impartial way.

Question to the Chairman of the Transport and Environment Committee from Councillor John Wilmott

Could the Chairman answer why Titchfield Street in Hucknall is so unkempt? Two years ago, this Council announced that it was going to be turned into a car park – could he provide an update on this?

Response by the Chairman of the Transport and Environment Committee, Councillor Neil Clarke MBE

The question talks about why a street, Titchfield Street, is so unkempt, and how do you judge, how do you define unkempt? I'm sure that we can all use different phrases to describe how a street is unkempt – is it the state of the road surface, is it litter, or is it even households? What does he mean by the street being "unkempt"?

So, I note that the question is about the street, initially, but I also note that a car park is mentioned, so perhaps if I just deal with the car park issue and then I'm going to return to the street issue in a little while.

In terms of the car park that was mentioned, this is part of our assets, not least looked after by the gentleman on my left-hand side, as part of our continuing review of property assets, the County Council did examine the potential for using the Titchfield Street site in Hucknall as a car park. That work has led to other options being identified by the property service, based on constructive engagement with the Chairmen of Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee and the Children and Young People's Committee. Several committees involved here, Mr Chairman, so it's obviously very comprehensive.

Under my Chairmanship, officers have been directed to work through these options to identify the most suitable use for the site, and this will be reported to Councillor Girling's Economic Development and Asset Management Committee in due course.

With regard to the site's current condition, I will however ask officers to ensure that it is regularly inspected and kept in a clean and safe state whilst the work is going on.

In terms of the condition of the street, Mr Chairman, Titchfield Street, I actually happen to know this street extremely well. Why do I know that, I hear you ask, Mr Chairman? Well, I was there only three or four weeks ago delivering leaflets to lots of the households, and in fact I know every letterbox, Mr Chairman, never mind about the street. Despite my bad hip I was grateful for having terraced streets – it wasn't just Titchfield Street, it was Co-Operative Avenue and Parker Avenue and a couple of other streets, but I remember noticing in what good condition Titchfield Street was. It is divided into two sections, and the bit with the car park is on the other side of the new link road, but even so, I am amazed that in actual fact the road surface and the pavements are in very, very good condition. I did actually encounter one or two of the residents and in fact I chatted to one and tried to hand this leaflet to him, Mr Chairman, but he said "I don't want any of that, I'm not interested, I have nothing to do with the local councillors!", so I just wonder who it is that they were referring to, Mr Chairman, but it's amazing how he should have chosen a particular street I've got myself very well acquainted with.

Question to the Chairman of the Planning and Rights of Way Committee from Councillor Elizabeth Williamson

Can the Chair please give an update on the status of the 2 footpaths off Main Street, near the Foresters Arms in Newthorpe leading to Greasley Church and the Moorgreen Reservoir? What can this Council do to reopen these footpaths that residents value so much as soon as possible?

Response from the Chairman of the Planning and Rights of Way Committee, Councillor Richard Butler

Officers are working hard to resolve the ongoing obstruction and reinstatement of these public paths and have spent a considerable amount of time and effort, including time in Court, to establish exactly where the paths run.

There are two main issues.

Firstly, the erection of a building in the 1960s that is partly situated on one of the paths. This issue wasn't apparent for many years because record keeping wasn't as detailed at the time. Therefore, over the years since, walkers have used the available footpath rather than the historically recorded path.

Secondly, in 2013, further obstructions were placed on the routes that people have been using since the 1960s. These things together mean that the routes are now unavailable.

Officers have been looking into ways of fitting these paths into the modern landscape to ensure that good, usable routes are in place as soon as possible. The Council has made a Legal Order to divert both footpaths onto a better, modern alignment. However, an objection has been received, and as a result, only the Secretary of State's Inspector can make the decision as to whether the paths can be diverted.

Therefore, the matter is currently with the Government's Planning Inspectorate, and unfortunately, we understand that consideration has been delayed by the impact of the pandemic. That said, the County Council is continuing to do everything it can to bring this case to a satisfactory conclusion as quickly as possible, for the benefit to both to users of the path and the relevant landowners.

Question to the Chairman of the Transport and Environment Committee from Councillor Helen-Ann Smith

Parts of Sutton-in-Ashfield resemble racetracks with no traffic enforcement whatsoever. Alfred Street and Howard Street are prime examples as they see a huge amount of traffic accessing the estate off Farndale Road. When will this Council adopt a proactive approach to speeding rather than the current reactive one where you wait for accidents to happen before taking any action?

Response from the Chairman of the Transport and Environment Committee, Councillor Neil Clarke MBE

I was a little bit surprised by this question from Councillor Smith because she has been on this Council long enough to know, I think, what the answer is going to be. She will be aware that speed limit enforcement is a matter for Nottinghamshire Police and not this Council. However, the County Council is proactive in trying to address speeding issues in a number of ways within the powers available to us, and within the limited resources available to us.

Where practical, we use road engineering measures ranging from traffic warning signs and road markings, through to higher cost installations such as interactive speed signs, assessing the need by measuring traffic flows and average speeds.

Pedestrian facilities are also prioritised on the basis of traffic flows and the number of pedestrians crossing who might potentially come into conflict with them.

It is a fact that the most intrusive and controversial measures, such as traffic calming and speed cameras, are reserved primarily for sites where accidents are involving serious and fatal injuries.

This ensures that the very high cost of these types of schemes is justified and only implemented as a last resort when other speed reduction techniques have been tried and failed.

We are very proactive in listening to public concerns about speeding and other traffic issues. Councillor Smith and indeed any member of the Council may wish to visit the County Council website, in particular the page specifically dedicated to speed limits, and she will see a statement there which I quote:

‘If you believe that traffic travels too fast along roads in your area, make a record of when and where the problem occurs. You can then report it online, using our ‘make a new highways request form’.

When such a problem is reported to us, it will be investigated to gauge the seriousness of the problem, and whether the powers we have at our disposal might provide a solution, or whether it is essentially an enforcement issue, then of course we will raise it and pass it on to the Police.

The measures that the County Council can take are dictated by national criteria and guidance, so for instance if the public request a change to a speed limit in an area, we cannot just do this arbitrarily or instantly. I’m sure we are all well aware we need to have a Traffic Regulation Order that takes time - a legal procedure – and it can be over a year for that to happen. That regulation order process I certainly would agree could be quicker, but we are governed by the national law as it stands.

We have to govern by consensus to a degree. The speed limit chosen for a particular road must be appropriate for the conditions, and most drivers must obey the limit without the need for constant Police enforcement. The purpose of the Police as speed limit enforcers is to identify and catch those who brazenly disregard what drivers and residents regard and respect as sensible speed limits.

Later today, we will discuss a motion seeking to explore the feasibility of implementing a 20mph speed limit in all of our conurbations. The motion is similar to one that was agreed towards the end of the last administration, and I intend to approach this one in a similarly constructive manner, by asking the Transport and Environment Committee to look carefully at what is practical, feasible and achievable.

As the new Chairman of the Transport and Environment Committee I welcome constructive ideas about how we can set the most appropriate speed limits to suit the needs of particular areas of the county, such as Alfred Street, Howard Street and Farndale Road, and address any particular problems which occur, but I do stress again, within the available resources.

Therefore, I reject the suggestion that we are not already proactive in our approach, within the confines of the powers that we have at our disposal.

Question to the Chairman of the Economic Development and Asset Management Committee from Councillor David Shaw

Spending £28 million on new council offices at Top Wighay Farm, Worksop and at County Hall and doing up others was agreed in February 2020 – just before the pandemic. Bearing in mind, the report on hybrid working practices agreed at the Policy Committee on 15th July and the ongoing review of the Council's Estates – does the chairman agree with me that now is the time to pause these plans until we have a clearer picture of whether new offices are actually needed?

Response by the Chairman of the Economic Development and Asset Management Committee, Councillor Keith Girling

I hope Councillor Shaw would not wish to mislead the public, so in the interests of openness and transparency I must point out that the £28 million he mentions is for investment in the whole Nottinghamshire County Council estate, not just Top Wighay.

The Top Wighay Farm and County Hall developments are all part of the wider 'Investing in Nottinghamshire' programme. The programme is currently under review to ensure it aligns with the Hybrid Working Model, and a report on the outcome of this review and next steps will be submitted to the Economic Development and Asset Management Committee in the Autumn.

I can assure Councillor Shaw that all Members of the Economic Development and Asset Management Committee will be able to consider the proposals at that time and provide constructive input to ensure we have an office estate that is fit for purpose, but it would be inappropriate to presume the outcome of this before members have had the chance to consider it fully.

Question to the Chairman of the Transport and Environment Committee from Councillor Elizabeth Williamson

I've raised my concerns with the footpath officer before on several occasions about the lack of disabled access at the north entrance on Cordy Lane of the mineral line that connects to the Brinsley Headstocks site. A circular route is not possible for people in wheelchairs, mobility scooters or with push chairs. They have to travel the length of the path then turn round and go back again because of the gate at the north entrance. The gate should be moved to allow a radar key gate to be installed. The Footpath Officer says the landowner doesn't want the gate to be changed. Surely a footpath should be accessible to all, not just people with 2 working legs. What can the Council do to ensure this footpath is accessible to all?

Response by the Chairman of the Transport and Environment Committee, Councillor Neil Clarke MBE

Nottinghamshire County Council is committed to maximising the accessibility of public rights of way wherever this is legally and physically possible, especially with consideration for people who have wheelchairs, mobility scooters and other equipment which requires suitable space and no insurmountable barriers.

I understand that the current gate at Brinsley is an authorised structure on the Public Highway, which means that the landowner is allowed to have the limitation on the public footpath.

The Council encourages landowners to replace structures which allow limited accessibility with alternative structures that are more accommodating for people with disabilities. The authority has been successful in persuading a number of different landowners to replace stiles with more accessible 'kissing gates', but we cannot impose the removal of an approved structure or force its replacement.

Regarding the particular gate that you mention, I am given to understand that due to physical constraints and topography of the location, it would not be possible to erect a larger Radar style kissing gate without moving it. The landowner wants to keep the existing gate, as I understand it, in its current location, but officers will continue to maintain a dialogue with a view of trying to resolve the matter and deliver improved access at this location.

Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor Jason Zadrozny

How much do you estimate setting up a Combined Authority will cost in the East Midlands? Will it, like other combined authorities across the country be funded by charging a levy to all 22 district and borough councils, the 3 unitary city councils and the 3 city councils and how much do you estimate this to be per Council, per year? Minister Luke Hall told you last week that any Local Government Reorganisation must have "...a good deal of support amongst the councils and stakeholders" – how does the Leader expect to demonstrate this public support? Does he envisage a referendum?

Response from Leader of the Council, Councillor Ben Bradley MP

The short answer in terms of how much will it cost is, I could not possibly say and nor could anybody else until we engage in a conversation with Government about the detail of what it might look like, because there are all sorts of options, but I'll start with going through your question piece by piece. If you'll indulge me, Mr Chairman, I want to go into this in some detail because it is an important part of the outcomes that we want to get as an administration from today.

I'll start with the benefits of a combined authority and a recent example: in the billion pound devolution deal for West Yorkshire, the new Mayoral Combined Authority was elected to oversee powers over transport, education, housing, regeneration, adult education budget. That means the authority will have access to over £1.1 billion of investment in the region. Every other region in England has a similar deal – Manchester in the North West, Teesside, West Midlands, West of England and of course London in the South East, and I wonder why we don't – it surely can't be for lack of ambition or leadership on our part. Right now, it certainly isn't for lack of opportunity because we're being asked directly by the Prime Minister to come forward with ideas. It seems to me that we are missing out on an opportunity currently.

So, bear in mind that any deal is for us to decide and so these are powers and resources coming down from Government, not up from local Councils. Any powers that might be pooled across Councils can only be done so by the choice and consent of those Councils, that's what's written in the legislation. At this stage all that we are asking, all that local councils need to do is to demonstrate a willingness to collaborate and put aside political differences to explore this opportunity.

I am happy to say, unashamedly, that I intend to push for an ambitious devolution deal for our County and our region because it seems to me we are missing out on significant investment and opportunity. It's early days, but we need to start at the beginning of that process, and the beginning is a conversation and an agreement to take that forward and to talk to Government about it. That's the only way we're going to get the detail to answer your questions.

I can set out the legal framework for the establishment of them because that will help me to answer the other parts of your question. Combined authorities are legal structures comprising two or more local authorities. They can be established with or without a Mayor depending on what scale we choose to go with. As I've said, the Prime Minister has offered a range of scales ranging from a county and a city working together on delivering better bus services, all the way up to huge multi-billion pound deals as in the West Midlands or as in Greater Manchester. The combined authorities that exist currently have been established under two pieces of legislation - the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, and the Cities and Local Government Act 2016. Under both of them there is a process which determines how it is set up and includes consultation with the public and local stakeholders.

Under the 2009 Act, local authorities were able to establish Combined Authorities through a "governance review" which included local public consultation. Under the 2016 Act, the Secretary of State can decide to establish a combined authority with the consent of councils, and in that case the Secretary of State undertakes public consultation.

In terms of funding, it seems self-evident to me that the constituent local councils would likely have to contribute to the upkeep of a Combined Authority. Frankly, if the Government is handing down multi-billion pound investment packages to our region, it is probably only right that our local authorities contribute to the management of that funding and we want to do that in order to be able to have an appropriate stake and an appropriate say in how it is spent. We already do it, of course, with things like East Midlands Councils, Midlands Engine and Local Enterprise Partnerships where local authorities contribute to those wider regional schemes. So, some of those things could actually be wrapped up in a Combined Authority if we chose to go by that route. The Local Enterprise Partnership, for example, could become part of that organisation, so how it works and how much it costs we can't possibly know because it depends whether we're doing 'two people looking at buses' or a multi-billion pound deal. In terms of examples that are out there, Councillor Zadrozny you will be as able as me to go online and search for some of those public budgets that are available for those authorities and there are countless examples as I said – every other region has one except us.

What I can tell you is that all councils in membership of these authorities will have made a basic value for money assumption – a calculation about the resources that need to go into it versus the benefits that they will receive from it, and they have clearly decided – because unanimity is required – they have clearly all decided that there is value in their involvement, and this includes two-tier structures. Cambridge District Council, Fenland, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire Council are all district councils in a two-tier structure involved in a devolution deal. If it is good enough for Peterborough and good enough for Cambridgeshire, I think it is potentially good enough for us as well and something worth reviewing.

Chairman, what I have explained today is the way the world works now. The Prime Minister laid out a speech last week that made very clear he sees devolution as a mechanism to deliver investment through this Levelling Up programme, with legislation, a White Paper to come in the Autumn spending review. He laid out that this was a key mechanism for us to be able to consider accessing that funding. I think it is important that we are involved in that conversation for that reason, and having spent the last couple of months consulting leaders around the district, borough and city councils and my colleagues Nottinghamshire Members of Parliament, I can tell you there is a sizeable appetite to review this. Councillor Foale asked at Policy Committee last week 'is this a plan that I am bringing forward and saying it must be 'X'? No, it is not. This is a case of me saying let's approach this conversation together, let's go in with as many stakeholders as we can, and discuss what the opportunities might be, then we can make that value for money decision on the basis of the detail that we can figure out.

Finally, I would just address your reference to local government reorganisation in the question and just reiterate what I've said, and I said it at the Annual General Meeting last time, I've no plans to visit local government reorganisation in terms of our two-tier structures, it is clear there is no agreement, and so it is not on the cards and not part of this discussion. I think this is about what powers and investment we can bring down and bring towards and more local to our region, and not to bring things up from parish and district councils. So, I want to work with you councillor Zadrozny, with leaders across the County, Ashfield District Council on an ambitious plan for our County and for our region. I am sure we are going to get more into this through the motion in a minute, but I am offering collaboration here, I want us to go talk about this openly in the right forum, not seeking an argument. I know you have many questions, as other leaders do, and quite rightly so, but I've said to you privately and I'll say publicly in the Chamber today, the way to answer that, in my view, is to start that initial discussion, to get into the detail to figure out what we can agree what it might look like, and then we can all make that judgement.

Question to the Chairman of the Transport and Environment Committee from Councillor David Shaw

Could the Chair please tell me whether he thinks that there is a correlation between poor street lighting and crime?

Response from the Chairman of the Transport and Environment Committee, Councillor Neil Clarke MBE

It's a matter of opinion, because asking me what I think about it is different to actually asking about facts etcetera.

It's a question of really trying to determine what does Councillor Shaw actually mean by poor street lighting? Does he mean to refer to the brightness, or the number of lights, or are there streetlights out of order, or insufficiency of streetlights? There are so many different ways of interpreting it.

Some people might even be asking whether streetlights should be switched on at all in certain areas in the dead of night burning energy when we've just, in this Council, at the last meeting, unanimously declared a Climate Emergency. So, we have these factors arguing or fighting with each other, if you like.

The problem, possibly, is that the public often perceive that poor or reduced lighting is an invitation to criminals, even though several studies have found this not to be true. There has been research, reported in the media, based on fourteen years of data from 62 local authorities across England and Wales, which found there was no evidence of a link between reduced streetlighting and increased crime, or indeed traffic accidents for that matter.

The study, which was led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in partnership with University College London, looked at councils that had implemented a range of reduced street light strategies including switching off lights permanently, reducing the number of hours that lamps are switched on at night, dimming lights, and replacing traditional orange lamps with energy-efficient white light LED lamps. They focused on offences more likely to occur at night, including burglary, vehicle theft, robbery, violence and sexual assault. Overall, there was no evidence of an association between reduced street lighting and increased crime.

I've heard comment from Police in the past saying that the criminals don't like the dark either because they can't see what they're doing, so how do you make that judgement? Another report by the Cambridge Research Group concluded that, and I quote, "the evidence pointing towards the limited benefit of streetlights in reducing crime cannot be reversed and used to argue that withdrawing lighting will result in an increase".

The Cambridge Research Group also concluded that: "There is a strong association in minds of the public between the presence of lighting and a feeling of safety", even if this is evidentially not proven.

This reminds me of the long-standing debate over "bobbies on the beat", where the evidence suggests that they are not necessarily the most efficient way to tackle crime, but the public perception was that they wanted a visible Police presence to feel safer.

The County Council eventually decided in 2014 to commit instead to a huge roll-out of LED lights, given that LED technology was advancing rapidly and the price of LEDs was falling. There was early consultation with the Police prior to the change to LEDs. White light has always been used near CCTV as it gives better colour definition, and our lighting teams have worked closely with the Police control rooms to enable this.

Chairman, I could go on a lot further, I'm conscious of time because I've actually got another page worth of facts, but I think it is probably best, because there's a lot of other business that you wish to conduct, so I think I should merely conclude by saying that other lighting also exists within town centres, housing estates and leisure centres that are often owned by district councils as well as county councils, and so it's an issue, I think, that is subject to a lot of opinion and research, and as I've indicated, probably not yet conclusive.

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Purpose of the Report

1. To approve a one-off additional day's annual leave to all of the Council's workforce in recognition of their significant and continued contribution to the Council's response and recovery to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Information

2. Elected Members have previously recognised the contributions made by the Council's workforce throughout the pandemic. Most notably, this appreciation was shown at the County Council meeting in March 2021, when Councillors passed a motion, unanimously, thanking employees for their commitment and dedication. During the meeting, the entire Council broke into spontaneous applause in recognition of these outstanding efforts.
3. The new Leader of the Council, placed on record his personal thanks to all employees in a video recorded on 12 May 2021 and expressed his appreciation for all that employees had done in the previous 14 months and continue to do to ensure that services for local residents continue. The Leader has also recorded a video thanking social care staff in particular for the support and care they have provided to local residents throughout the pandemic.
4. However, the COVID-19 emergency continues to have an impact on some of our most vulnerable residents. As the Council begins to build back and we are learning to live with COVID-19, the Council wants to provide a more tangible token of our appreciation to recognise the outstanding contribution of all our employees. The Council wants this to be something of real value, a benefit for our staff but also one that our residents will be supportive of.
5. The provision of an additional day's annual leave to all employees provides the opportunity for people to have a day to enjoy with their friends or family or simply to rest and recuperate from the demands they face every day. This one-off provision will be classified as "recognition leave" so employees will be reminded of why they have been given this when they book the time off.
6. It is recognised that many employees had to carry forward significant amounts of leave because they were unable to take it in the previous leave year when they were responding to the pandemic. Therefore, employees will be given flexibility around when

they can take this day off and will be able to take it up to 31st March 2024. This will maximise the opportunity for employees to take the leave whilst minimising any additional pressure on services which continue to face resourcing challenges.

7. It was considered important to take time to reflect on the efforts of the County Council, in responding to the pandemic, in order to determine the most appropriate and equitable way to recognise the efforts of the Council's employees. We continue to battle against COVID-19 and, regardless of the role people play in the Council, each and every one of our employees has contributed to this fight and continues to play their part as we move through recovery. It is hoped that this gesture goes some way to expressing the Council's gratitude to its workforce who have responded so well to the challenges presented.

Other options Considered

8. A key work strand of the officer Workforce Recovery and Resilience Group, chaired by the Service Director Customers, Governance and Employees, focusses on recognition and reward. Work is underway to relaunch the long service award scheme and to explore other ways to recognise the achievements and contribution of employees on a more regular basis. Employees will be given the opportunity to shape this work through a series of focus groups led by members of the Corporate Leadership Team. These options are over and above the award of an additional day's recognition leave as a one-off thank you to all our employees.

Reason for Recommendation

9. It is important to demonstrate in a tangible way the gratitude this Council has for the contribution of its entire workforce who have stepped up so impressively to the challenges presented over the last 18 months and who continue to do so.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. 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.

Data Protection and Information Governance

11. There are no data protection issues arising from the content of this report as no personal employee data is included.

Financial Implications

12. There are no direct costs arising from this proposal as annual leave is funded from within existing staffing budgets.

Human Resources Implications

13. The HR implications are contained within the body of the report. It is recognised that large successful organisations have well defined recognition schemes which build engagement and commitment across their workforce. This proposal is an initial step in developing a more overarching recognition scheme which will underpin a range of activity to develop a shared culture across the Council.
14. Trades Union colleagues have been consulted on the proposal and are very supportive of the award of an additional day's recognition leave to all employees of the Council.

Public Sector Equality Duty implications

15. The proposal will be applied across the Council's entire workforce ensuring it is applied in a fair, open, and transparent way. There are therefore no identified implications under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Full Council:

- 1) Agree to award one additional day's annual leave, known as "recognition leave", to all of the Council's employees to recognise the outstanding and ongoing contribution made by the Council's workforce since March 2020.

Councillor Ben Bradley MP
Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Marjorie Toward, Service Director, Customers, Governance and Employees on 0115 9774404 or Marjorie.toward@ottsc.gov.uk

Human Resources Comments (GME 14/09/2021)

The Council recognises that its workforce is its most valuable asset and that their commitment and collective contributions working throughout the last 18 months has enabled the Council to continue to support and provide services to our most vulnerable residents. The additional day's leave in recognition of their valuable contribution is an appropriate way to show appreciation to all the Council's employees.

Constitutional Comments (HD – 14/9/2021)

Full Council has the authority to approve the recommendation within this report.

Financial Comments (NS 15/09/2021)

As indicated in the report, due to the length of time this additional day can be taken it is anticipated the cost will be contained within existing budgetary provisions.

Background Papers

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S
COMMITTEE**

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE STRATEGY REVIEW
2021/22**

Purpose of the Report

1. This report presents the Youth Justice Service Strategy Review 2021/22 for approval by Full Council. An annual Youth Justice plan is a statutory requirement under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998). A copy of the full review is attached as **Appendix 1**.

Information

2. Youth Justice Services in Nottinghamshire are made up of three multi-agency Locality Teams and a county wide Interventions Team. The Service meets all the statutory requirements of a Youth Justice Service as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and includes seconded staff from Police, Probation, Health, and Futures (Education, Training and Employment).
3. The aims of the Youth Justice Service are to:
 - reduce the number of young people entering the criminal justice system
 - reduce the frequency and rate of re-offending by children and young people who are already within the youth justice system
 - keep the numbers of young people experiencing custody – either on remand or as a sentence of the court - to a minimum.
4. Details of Nottinghamshire's performance against these measures can be found at page 17 of the review (**Appendix 1**). Performance has been good across all measures with data showing that Nottinghamshire is performing better than the national average. First Time Entrants have again fallen, and Nottinghamshire has seen a 14% reduction on last year's figures. Rates of re-offending and numbers of re-offences committed by re-offenders has again reduced and figures show that Nottinghamshire is performing better than the national average. Numbers of young people remanded and sentenced to custody means that, both nationally and locally, fewer young people are experiencing a period of incarceration.

Locally, the total numbers of young people remanded/sentenced to custody is significantly reduced from last year and is currently lower than the national average.

5. In addition to the multi-agency make-up of the teams, the Service works closely with partners and commissioned providers at a strategic and operational level to try to ensure that the needs of children and young people are met and to achieve its outcomes and aims. Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Service has maintained its commitment to working with children and young people in need of help, on a non-statutory basis. It delivers a high-quality service in relation to diversion, outreach and detached services, thus keeping a focus on reducing the numbers of First Time Entrants.
6. In the three year plan published in 2020/21, the Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Service identified five key targets, which provide the focus for long term development work within the service:
 - to work with partners to promote a more holistic approach to meeting children and young people's needs in the Youth Justice System
 - to increase the number of children and young people who are accessing early intervention aimed at reducing the potential of them entering the criminal justice system
 - every child and young person in contact with Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Service has appropriate Education Training and Employment (ETE) provision in place
 - to ensure that children and young people have the best support available to meet their needs when leaving custody
 - to ensure that robust consultation processes are in place to enable all children and young people and parents and carers to have an opportunity to shape Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Service.
7. The review provides an overview of the progress that has been made so far in relation to these areas and outlines the work that the Youth Justice Service intends to deliver over the following year (2021/22). This year's plan includes streams of work which have emerged since the original document was published in relation to Disproportionality, Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation and responding to the COVID 19 pandemic.
8. As with last year, the strategy features artwork, photography, and poems which have been created by young people working with the service. Quotes from young people and parent/carers can be found throughout the document.

Other Options Considered

9. An annual Youth Justice Plan is a statutory requirement under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998).

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. The Annual Youth Justice Service Strategy Review requires the approval of Full Council.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, 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, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Crime and Disorder Implications

12. An annual Youth Justice Plan is a statutory requirement under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) which requires the local authority with its partners to prevent offending and reoffending by children and young people and to deliver an effective local youth justice system.

Financial Implications

13. Statutory Youth Justice plans must be fully costed; this year's plan has no additional costs associated with it.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Service Strategy Review 2021-22, attached as **Appendix 1**, is approved.

Councillor Tracey Taylor
Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (ELP 25/08/21)

14. It is appropriate for this report to be considered by Full Council in accordance with the constitution.

Financial Comments (JG 17/08/21)

15. Statutory Youth Justice plans must be fully costed and the total funding available from Nottinghamshire and partners is £2.031m for 2021-22.

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

All

C1502



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

**Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Service Strategy
Review 2021/22**



Executive Summary

The Youth Justice Service (YJS) in Nottinghamshire is made up of three multi-agency locality teams and a county-wide interventions team. The service meets all the statutory requirements of a YJS as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and includes seconded staff from Police, Probation, Health, and Futures (Education, Training and Employment).

The aims of the YJS are to:

- reduce the number of young people entering the criminal justice system
- reduce the frequency and rate of re-offending by children and young people who are already within the youth justice system
- keep the numbers of young people experiencing custody – either on remand or as a sentence of the court – to a minimum.

Over the past year, performance against these measures has been good with data showing that Nottinghamshire is performing better than the national average.

- The number of first-time entrants has, again, fallen and Nottinghamshire has seen a 14% reduction on last year's figures.
- Rates of re-offending and numbers of re-offences committed by re-offenders has again reduced and figures show that Nottinghamshire is performing better than the national average.
- Numbers of young people remanded and sentenced to custody means that, both nationally and locally, fewer young people are experiencing a period of incarceration. Locally, the total number of young people remanded/sentenced to custody is significantly reduced from last year.

In addition to the multi-agency teams, the service works with partners and commissioned providers to support children and young people, and to achieve the strategy's outcomes. The board works with partners to ensure that the health provision for young people who offend is equal to those of the general population. Partners also strive to work together to ensure that children are not criminalised or remanded unnecessarily.

Nottinghamshire YJS has maintained its commitment to working with children and young people in need of help, on a non-statutory basis. It delivers a high-quality service in relation to its youth prevention and diversion services, thus, keeping a focus on reducing the numbers of First Time Entrants (FTEs). The service links closely with the Supporting Families agenda and acts as the lead professional where the young person committing crime or anti-social behaviour requires a whole family approach.

The YJS continues to monitor its activities and progress with quality assurance processes that are closely linked with other areas of children's services in Nottinghamshire. The quality management framework is closely aligned to the standards adopted by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). This ensures that the standard of work with children and young people, assessments, and plans remains of high quality, regardless of their stage within the youth justice service.

Introduction

The Youth Justice Service (YJS) in Nottinghamshire meets all the statutory requirements of a YJS as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and includes seconded staff from Police, Probation, Health, and Futures (Education, Training and Employment advisers). It is made up of three multi-agency locality teams and a county wide interventions team, which provides support with interventions to the locality teams, in addition to carrying out early preventative intervention and targeted detached youth work in areas where there is identified anti-social behaviour.

In addition to the multi-agency teams, the service commissions specialist external providers to help it deliver key statutory functions, such as substance misuse, reparation and victim services and appropriate adult work.

The key aims of the YJS are to:

- reduce the number of young people entering the criminal justice system
- reduce the frequency and rate of re-offending by children and young people who are already within the youth justice system
- keep the numbers of young people experiencing custody – either on remand or as a sentence of the court – to a minimum.

Nottinghamshire YJS continues to monitor performance through its internal quality assurance processes and via quarterly case audits completed on a wide range of cases. Relevant learning is fully utilised across the service and actions are set and reviewed to improve service delivery.

Nottinghamshire YJS is part of the local authority's children and families service department. Line management of the service comes under the Corporate Director for Children's Services. The activities of the YJS are monitored and directed by the Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Partnership Board, which is chaired by the Service Director for Youth, Families and Social Work.

In addition to statutory partners, Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Partnership Board also benefits from having representatives from Education, Commissioning (Accommodation), the Community Safety Partnership and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). The Board reports to the Safer Nottinghamshire Board, which feeds into the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Partnership Board meets on a quarterly basis with good attendance from all key partners who are represented at a senior level.

Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Partnership Board holds the YJS to account, ensuring that it meets its statutory aims of reducing first time entrants, reducing re-offending, and reducing the numbers of young people experiencing custody or remand.

As part of YJ Diversion work, young people took part in a photo shoot, expressing their feelings with creative compositions. Their photos have been used throughout this strategy.

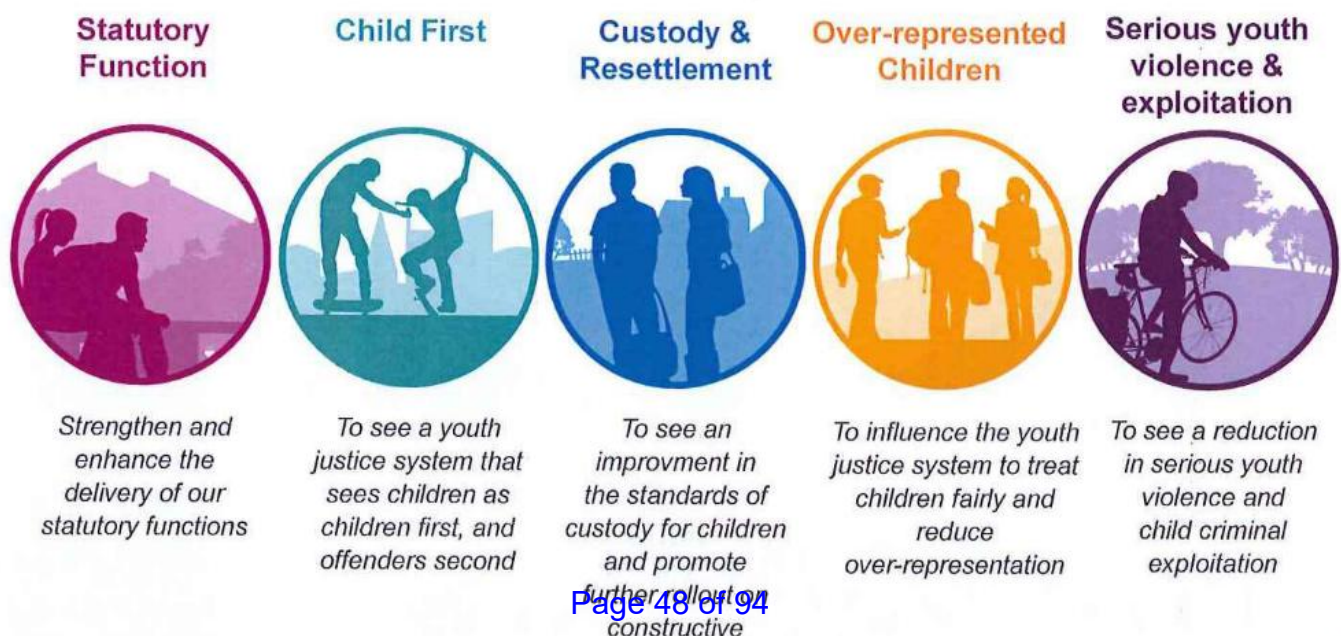
The board:

- ✓ receives quarterly performance reports, identifying areas of opportunity and actively discussing potential risks to future performance
- ✓ reviews every Youth Justice Incident Report along with details of any subsequent progress made against actions set
- ✓ is actively involved in the quality assurance processes embedded within the YJS; thus, assisting in increasing individual board members' understanding of the work of the YJS
- ✓ agrees improvement/action plans; actively monitoring progress against these plans
- ✓ has a forward plan in place to ensure that the agenda of the board is focused on strategic Youth Crime Issues which are specifically relevant to Nottinghamshire and have the potential to impact performance and resources
- ✓ receives regular service delivery updates from team managers, and other staff involved in operational service changes, which enables the board to retain oversight and monitor progress
- ✓ has strengthened how it connects with staff by a YJ staff representative being an active member of the board
- ✓ holds partner agencies to account for any deficits in their operations or practice which is impacting the YJS and hindering effective multi-agency working
- ✓ has consistent cross representation from the YJ Leadership Team, providing an effective link into the management board and supporting effective service delivery.

Nottinghamshire YJS identified five key areas to provide focus over a three-year period (2020-2023). There have also been ongoing streams of work in relation to Disproportionality, Transitions and Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation.

This plan provides an update on the work that the YJS has done over the past year and gives an indication of the work it intends to deliver over the following year (2021/22).

As well as supporting the YJS to carry out its statutory functions and meet its key aims, this plan also supports the work of the Youth Justice Board (YJB) in relation to their identified strategic objectives; these being:



Progress and priorities for 2021

Target 1

To work with partners to promote a more holistic approach to meeting children and young people's needs in the Youth Justice System

Working closely with other teams, departments and partners is key to ensuring that every child or young person can achieve the best outcomes regardless of their place within the criminal justice system. This applies whether they are a child on the cusp of offending, or a young person in youth custody. A case manager will work in collaboration with the child or young person to create an individual programme of intervention. They will identify ways to build on the child's strengths and capacities and develop their potential. They will also identify ways to reduce the negative factors in their life which may be pulling them into offending or increasing the risk of harm to either themselves or others. Nottinghamshire YJS is committed to working with a wide range of partners to provide a more holistic approach to meeting the needs of children and young people in the YJS.

The service benefits from a specialist YJ Nurse who offers a Health Needs Assessment to all children and young people on court orders and ensures that young people's health needs are transitioned into adult services. The YJ Nurse links to primary and secondary care and supports the role of all seconded health professionals working in the YJS.

Whilst improving outcomes for children and young people with speech language and communication needs (SLCN) and developing trauma informed practices are areas of priority; unfortunately, funding supporting the YJ Speech and Language Therapist and Clinical Psychologist has expired which presents risks to ongoing service development in these areas. Other funding streams are being explored to ensure ongoing development and ensure provision is available to meet the needs of children and young people who are known to the YJS.



Progress this year...

- ✓ Training and development opportunities have enabled staff to improve intervention planning for children and young people within the YJS.
- ✓ The service has continued to work closely with partners to ensure plans are co-created and meet the individual needs of our children and young people.
- ✓ Membership at Local Youth Crime Panels has been broadened to include representatives from Health, Education, Training and Employment (ETE), and the Family Service, ensuring a holistic approach to intervention planning.
- ✓ As part of Out Of Court Disposal (OOC) assessments, all children and young people have their health needs assessed incorporating contributions from various health professionals.
- ✓ All children and young people are screened in relation to their speech, language and communication needs and, where relevant, allocated within CAMHS or signposted to local support services.
- ✓ The YJ Nurse completes work in relation to siblings and parents of those involved in the YJS to ensure that all their health needs are met.
- ✓ Improved planning of interventions with children and young people evidenced with a 'Good' or 'Outstanding' rating in all cases audited.

Priorities for 2021

- To support the delivery of social skills training to children and young people within the YJS.
- To work in partnership with the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and other local funding initiatives to improve outcomes for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs.
- To work in partnership with Change Grow Live (CGL) to develop staff skills and interventions to address substance misuse with children and young people.



Target 2

To increase the number of children and young people who are accessing early intervention aimed at reducing the potential of them entering the criminal justice system

Nottinghamshire YJS outreach and interventions team has a preventative agenda. Staff work evenings, weekends and holiday periods targeting group work interventions to children and young people aged 10-18 who have been identified by agencies as being at risk of, or involved in, anti-social behaviour within their community. Using outreach and detached youth work they are working to divert young people into meaningful and sustainable activities, promoting children's individual strengths and capacities to develop their prosocial identity for sustainable desistance.

The service updated its prevention offer in 2020 to increase the number of children and young people accessing early intervention. The aim was that children and young people at risk of 'emerging threats' (including Child Criminal Exploitation) could be appropriately identified, supported and protected and more children and young people would be able to access preventative intervention. The YJ service offers a broad range of positive activities underpinned by general youth work principles. All work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children and young people to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society.

Efforts to reduce the criminalisation of young people at the Out of Court Disposal panels (OOC) has been successful and the YJS is now working with a greater proportion of children and young people on a voluntary basis. Nottinghamshire YJS remains committed to reducing the unnecessary criminalisation of children and the service has continued to work with partners to help divert children and young people away from the Youth Justice System.



Progress this year...

- ✓ There has been a wider cohort of children and young people receiving preventative intervention (My Futures: Youth Intervention Programme) and the level of support has been enhanced to ensure that it is able to meet the complex needs of these vulnerable individuals.
- ✓ Closer working practices have been established with community partners and a Youth Support Group; consisting of Youth Justice and Youth Service representatives; has been formed. Closer working relationships has enabled the service to ensure that children and young people are supported at the most appropriate level and have access to longer term youth support within their community.
- ✓ A pathway has been established for the youth mentor scheme, supporting young people who are at a high risk of engaging in violent crime beyond their involvement with the YJS.
- ✓ The service has been proactive in working with the police and children's social care; developing processes to identify children and young people who are at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation or Serious Youth Violence at the earliest opportunity. In the past year the service has screened over 330 children and young people who have been involved in a weapon/knife related incident (suspects and victims) with a view of offering intervention. It is hoped that this proactive approach will assist in preventing individuals from entering the criminal justice system.
- ✓ Quarterly audits of OOCs are taking place to review the effectiveness of local panels and ensure YP are appropriately diverted.

Priorities for 2021

- The YJS intends to work with partners to develop its diversionary work and increase opportunities for children and young people to receive YJ support at the earliest opportunity, including children entering police custody who may be bailed or released under investigation.
- To work with police colleagues to increase the use of outcome 22 for children and young people. Outcome 22 can be used when the police have decided to defer prosecution until the child/young person has been given the opportunity to engage with a diversionary, educational or intervention activity.
- Co-creating a youth diversion protocol with relevant statutory partners to provide clarity across the partnership.
- To increase the numbers of children and young people who are accessing preventative intervention and reduce FTEs.

Outcomes

- 14% reduction on the number of FTEs that were recorded last year.
- 115 children received intervention as part of a Community Resolution; only 8 became a FTE.
- 168 children were supported on a voluntary basis by YJ (My Futures: Youth Intervention Programme).

Target 3

Every child and young person in contact with Nottinghamshire YJS has appropriate education, training, and employment provision in place

Meaningful full-time engagement in education, training, and employment (ETE) remains one of the most significant protective factors to reduce re-offending for young people. Qualified specialist advisers, seconded from Futures Careers Service, provide a bespoke package of support for young people involved with the YJS who are not accessing full time ETE provision. The ETE team's policies and procedures are aligned with the wider council's Children Missing Education policy and they take an active role in the Vulnerable Children's Education Commissioning group, providing multi agency solutions in relation to the education provision of vulnerable groups.



Progress this year...

- ✓ As intended, the cohort of young people receiving support in relation to their ETE needs has been widened. All children and young people on a court order or OOCd are supported by an ETE adviser according to their individual need. There has also been an increase in resources to support children and young people accessing voluntary interventions. These developments will contribute towards improving the educational outcomes for vulnerable children and young people within Nottinghamshire.
- ✓ Strengthening the YJS relationships with educational providers has been a key focus this year and will hopefully assist in reducing school exclusions for children and young people who are involved with the YJS.
- ✓ A register of local employers who are willing to support young people gain meaningful employment has been established. Workshops have been delivered to potential employers and training providers around disclosure and the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act to try and increase this provision.

- ✓ New funding has enabled the service to increase its targeted ETE support. ETE guidance has been improved for 18-20-year olds, as has the level of support given to young people who are transitioning from custody to the community.
- ✓ In response to a rise in the number of young people who are recorded as electively home educated, new updated practices to share potential risk information with Fair Access are now in place. The Fair Access Team works in partnership with schools, other local authority agencies and families, to secure and maintain appropriate education for a range of vulnerable pupils who are, or might otherwise, become missing from education.

Priorities for 2021

- To increase the functional skills of children and young people who are known to the YJS.
- To reduce the number of children and young people in YJ not in education, employment, or training (NEET).
- To support the delivery of social skills training to children and young people within the YJS.

Target 4

To ensure that children and young people have the best support available to meet their needs when leaving custody

In April 2020 the YJS completed a National Standards Self-Assessment against the five domains as identified by the YJB (Out of Court Disposals, In the Community, At Court, In Secure and Transitions). Following this process, the areas of resettlement and transitions were identified for further targeted work. There was a focus on the support offered to children and young people whilst in custody and on the planning for when children and young people leave custody or transition between services.

Constructive Resettlement aims to support individuals in developing a pro-social identity and focusses on their journey towards a positive future; something Nottinghamshire is committed to achieving with its children and young people. Adopting the seven principles of Constructive Resettlement as a framework has presented an opportunity for the YJS to strive to achieve best practice when it comes to addressing the needs of children and young people who receive custodial sentences.



Progress this year...

resettlement

- ✓ The key principles of Constructive resettlement have been promoted across Nottinghamshire YJS and its key partners, with the service ensuring that service level agreements pay attention to the needs of children and young people who are in custody or transitioning to other services.
- ✓ All young people who have been released from custody have had suitable accommodation in place.
- ✓ The service has established contact with custodial partners to achieve a more coordinated approach to supporting young people in custody and upon their resettlement. Inviting the resettlement manager from a local YOI to join the local partnership board will also help forge these relations.
- ✓ The service has reviewed local practices and delivered training to assist staff in their approach to planning and resettlement to make sure it's constructive.
- ✓ Contact with children and young people within custody is improved and this continues to be monitored by the service lead.
- ✓ The service has made improvements to its work with families who have a child in youth detention, increasing the frequency and quality of contact and ensuring that their views are considered at every part of the process.
- ✓ Employing the support of parenting workers to support parents and encourage positive relationships whilst their child is in Youth Custody Secure (YCS), and upon transition, has also been achieved.

Transitions

- ✓ The YJS has continued to work closely with children's social care and the National Probation Service (NPS) to improve the experience of children and young people who have transitioned between these services.

- ✓ A local service protocol for transitions to NPS has been developed in conjunction with Nottingham City YJS.
- ✓ A tracking tool is now in place to identify all young people approaching 18 years of age so that a tailored transition plan can be created six months before their 18th birthday.
- ✓ The working relationship with NPS has been strengthened and there is evidence of early multi-agency working at key points of a young person sentence to develop a joint plan for transition.
- ✓ A passport to transition has been created, which can be undertaken with young people to prepare them for their transition to adulthood more generally.

Priorities for 2021

- Further developing staff's understanding of the theory of change and how they can use this knowledge to support children and young people.
- To work in partnership with the court and CPS to reduce the number of short remand periods.
- Continuing to strengthen our partnership working with custodial estates to improve constructive resettlement outcomes for our young people.
- To work with providers and leaving care workers to improve the accessibility of accommodation for those young people who turn 18 whilst in custody.
- To continue to assist partner services in the development of pathways / processes to support young people upon their transition across services / into adulthood.
- Improving the support that is available to support young people transitioning to adult services through non statutory organisations.
- To develop an audit process to be able to evaluate the longer-term progress of young people transitioned to adult services.

Target 5

To ensure that robust consultation processes are in place to enable all children and young people and parents and carers to have an opportunity to shape Nottinghamshire YJS

Nottinghamshire YJS strives to ensure that all intervention is part of a meaningful collaboration with children and their parents/carers, encouraging their active participation and engagement regardless of where they are in the criminal justice system.

Over the past year the YJS has continued with its commitment to strengthening its practice to involve children, young people and parents and carers.



**NO BALL GAMES
ALLOWED**

Progress this year...

- ✓ The service has appointed a participation Lead and, with the help of young people, a YJS Participation Policy has been created.
- ✓ The YJS have improved its processes to gather and collate feedback from children and young people at the start, during and after their involvement with the YJS.
- ✓ The service has improved how it gains feedback from parents/carers and children and young people in conjunction with cases that are chosen for audit. This feedback is then triangulated with findings and considered when making a judgment on the quality of the work that has taken place.
- ✓ Regular focus groups are being held with young people and seeking their views on how the YJS can improve its work with children and young people will be part of this group.
- ✓ Young people have been asked what they think should be a priority for service development.
- ✓ Feedback from young people has been heard by the YJ Partnership Board, providing additional reassurance to the board regarding the work of the service.

Commenting on the work that was completed, one young person said

"I liked the knife-crime videos the most. The work helped me to realise the consequences of my actions, if I was ever feeling the need to protect myself again, I would try and speak to my mum before in future".

Priorities for 2021

- Embedding consultation processes and ensuring that children, young people and parents and carers are given the opportunity to shape the service.

A mum stated that YJS involvement had supported her son in making a massive improvement,
"...he seems more grown up, is not losing temper, and not lashing out. Brilliant communication, I couldn't ask for a better team and although it has been remote it has been positive, thank you."

One young person fed back how the YJS helped her,
"It's helped me get secure and confident...It's helped me change my life around...I now have such a bright future".

Commenting on why consultation with young people is important, one young person said;

"It's important to capture young people's views because young people deal with the issues that professionals are trying to solve. How can you fully get an idea of the issues without addressing with the people who are dealing with it?"

Disproportionality

Deprivation levels for Nottinghamshire are comparable with England. However, within Nottinghamshire there are communities with both some of the highest levels of deprivation in the country and some of the lowest levels of deprivation **(IMD 2019)**.

In Nottinghamshire there are 31 areas, known as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs), in the 10% most deprived areas in England. The most deprived areas are concentrated in the districts of Ashfield, Mansfield, Bassetlaw, and Newark & Sherwood; all covered by Nottinghamshire's YJS.

People living within the more deprived areas of Nottinghamshire have higher levels of unemployment, lower levels of qualifications, less healthy lifestyle choices and poorer health and wellbeing outcomes compared with those in less deprived areas

Our young people

Total population of Nottinghamshire	828,200*
Total youth population of Nottinghamshire (10-17 years)	75,297

*2011 census

Demographics of children cautioned or sentenced (2020/21)

Demographics of children (cautioned 95, sentenced 157 =252 total)

Age	10-14 years	15-17 years	18+
Nottinghamshire YJS - cautioned	33% (31)	66% (63)	1
Nottinghamshire YJS - sentenced	6% (9)	74% (116)	20% (32)
Nottinghamshire YJS - total	16% (40)	71% (179)	13% (33)
National average	23%	77%	

** young people over 18 who were already involved with the YJS have been included.

Race/ethnicity	white	unknown	black/asian/ mixed ethnicity
Nottinghamshire YJS - cautioned	85.2% (81)	13% (12)	2% (2)
Nottinghamshire YJS - sentenced	79% (124)	15.2% (24)	6% (9)
Nottinghamshire YJS - total	81% (205)	14% (36)	4% (11)
National average	70%	26%	4%

Gender	Male	Female
Nottinghamshire YJS - cautioned	84% (80)	16% (15)
Nottinghamshire YJS - sentenced	91% (143)	9% (14)
Nottinghamshire YJS - total	88% (223)	12% (29)
National Average	85%	15%

What we know about children in Nottinghamshire...

- White children are the most likely to commit a serious offence and received the greatest number of cautions and court sentences.
- Children with mixed ethnicity are nearly three times more likely to be cautioned or sentenced for an offence.
- Children with mixed ethnicity are most likely to receive a sentence at court.
- Children from Asian, Black, Children with mixed ethnicity and other backgrounds are over-represented in the local YJ population.
- Young people from Black, Asian or minority ethnicities are disproportionately represented in Nottinghamshire's re-offending data. A similar statement can be made in relation to children who are looked after or involved with social care generally.

(ethnic disproportionality tool year ending March 2015-2020)

Progress this year...

- ✓ Progress against the services disproportionality action plan continues to be monitored by the YJ Partnership Board.
- ✓ Detailed disproportionality data is included within quarterly performance reporting which is presented to the board. Data for FTEs, re-offending, custodial remands/sentencing and OOOD is broken down according to gender, legal status, and ethnicity. Detailed data in relation to ETE and disproportionality is also presented to the board for consideration.
- ✓ All YJ staff have completed unconscious bias training and targeted reading in relation to diversity. Disproportionality training has also been rolled out across the courts. Data in relation to sentencing and disproportionality will be discussed within court user group meetings.
- ✓ Ensuring that staff pay attention to a child/young person's identity is seen as a key part of intervention delivery. To monitor how this is done, and help embed this within the service, this now forms a distinct part of all audit processes.
- ✓ The service has reviewed how it responds to females and has a specific plan to improve the service that is offered to girls and young women within Nottinghamshire YJS.
- ✓ Relevant research and interventions have been shared and are easily accessible to staff.
- ✓ A multi-agency task and finish group has been formed to look at unnecessary criminalisation of children who are looked after.

Priorities for 2021

- To review and evaluate Nottinghamshire YJS progress in tackling disproportionality.
- To monitor minority ethnic groups / young people who are looked after's experiences of custody and resettlement.
- To work in conjunction with Nottingham City YJS, the Police, CSC, and the Crown Prosecution Service to review local protocols in relation to children and young people who are looked after.

Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation

Locally, a significant proportion of knife crime offenders were identified as being under 25 years of age. In the period studied, 35% were found to be 18 years of age or under and nearly half of those were aged 16 or under. 2018 saw the publication of several key national and local documents highlighting the growing concern around contextual safeguarding risks affecting children and young people and tackling youth violence and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) continues to be a priority.

A Multi-Agency Serious Youth Violence and Criminal Exploitation Panel made up of senior colleagues from across the NSCP was established in January 2019 and has continued to meet on a monthly basis to consider those young people in the county seen as being at the greatest level of risk of committing, or being a victim, of knife related or violent crime. A 'cohort approach' has been developed with young people being tracked by the panel until agreed that the identified risks have been markedly reduced. The panel will ensure that all relevant information is known by agencies supporting the child, and will consider the existing plans for reducing risk, making recommendations for additional actions where gaps are identified. The panel also maps emerging themes and risks to inform service development. This is a significant step towards fulfilling the authority's obligations in meeting the demands of Nottinghamshire's overarching **Knife Crime Strategy**, and in assisting to protect children from criminal exploitation; as was identified in an **Ofsted Thematic Report** into the criminal exploitation of children; which called for partners to work together to plan how to respond to criminal exploitation and have a strong multi agency, whole council approach.

Progress this year...

- ✓ The YJS have continued working with the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) exploring ways to reduce Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation.
- ✓ Adherence with the knife crime referral policy in relation to OOCs has been closely monitored by the YJS and the police.
- ✓ Neighbourhood safety disruption meetings have been established in several areas which focuses on risk management and intervention delivery for those children and young people who are involved in serious youth violence. The YJS are an active part of these meetings.
- ✓ A multi-agency working group has been established exploring the different approaches to tackling CCE with a view to developing a more joined up approach to working with children and young people who are at risk.

Priorities for 2021

- To improve the YJS approach with respect to intervention delivery to effectively reduce weapon related violence.
- To complete a knife crime intervention and controls audit with key partners', reviewing local approaches and sharing good practice.
- To develop joint working approaches and develop a more co-ordinated approach to addressing CCE with identified children and young people across local services.
- To complete an audit of local practices in relation to Public Protection Notices to encourage consistency and avoid duplication of process.

Performance

Nottinghamshire YJS consistently performs well when compared to the national average against key indicators having a lower number of FTEs, a lower reoffending rate and a lower number of custodial sentences and remands.

Performance Measure	Nottinghamshire current or projected performance 2020/21	Target
First Time Entrants: Number per 100,000 of 10-17 population	147	Lower than the national average (224)
Re-offending – Binary (reported 3 months in arrears)	26.7	Lower than the national average (38.4%)
Re-offending – Frequency re-offences per offender (reported 3 months in arrears)	0.93	Lower than the national average (1.55)
Re-offending – Frequency re-offences per re-offender (reported 3 months in arrears)	3.50	Lower than the national average (4.05)
Custodial remands (actual numbers)	8	Lower than the national average (16)
Custodial sentences (actual numbers)	8	Lower than the national average (17)

** Dependent upon counting rules applied some statistics may vary

The YJS Quality Management Framework (QMF) is closely aligned with HMIP's inspection criteria. Closer alignment with more broadly recognised standards provides the service with an understanding of how Nottinghamshire YJS is performing against the standards set out in Domain 2 and 3 of HMIP's Inspection Criteria, highlighting areas where performance could be improved so that timely action can be taken.

In the past year cases have been subject to quarterly audit, or in-depth learning reviews, which has covered both statutory and non-statutory cases. All findings have fed into a quarterly report which has also formed part of the service's operational improvement plan. The service has focussed on specific themes and used the audit process as an opportunity to assess practice across specific areas. More recently audits have focussed on the case management of young females, black and minority ethnic young people and FTEs.

Findings in all five assessed areas (Assessment and Reports, Planning, Delivery and Review of Intervention, Initial Outcomes and Management Oversight) have demonstrated consistently good practice. Of the 15 cases audited, 100% had been rated 'overall' to be of Good or Outstanding quality. Planning is an area that has previously been identified as requiring improvement and was an area of service delivery which was given an increased focus by the YJ management team. Positively all 15 of these cases were rated as Good or Outstanding in this area, providing us with evidence that planning has been improved across the service.

To mitigate against the risks associated with the cessation of Complex Serious Public Protection Incidents (CSPPi) to the YJB, Nottinghamshire has implemented its own incident reporting and review guidance. Reporting arrangements are designed to promote learning within Nottinghamshire YJS and across partners, highlight cases that are likely to

attract a high level of media attention and enable a more proactive approach to senior management overseeing interagency risk management. Incident reviews are submitted to the YJ Partnership Board, along with details of any subsequent progress made against actions set.

As part of the YJS continual efforts to improve and learn from others, reviewing recommendations from HMIP inspection reports is a standard agenda item within monthly management meetings; ensuring that the YJS keep an active oversight or findings and recommendations from other YJ areas, as well as learning about the good practice of others. Improvement actions from HMIP thematic inspections are also reviewed against areas of service delivery and relevant actions are incorporated into operational and strategic improvement plans.



Responding to the pandemic and recovery from COVID-19

Over the past year there has been a slow-down in offending and reduced use of formal outcomes, including both OOC and statutory orders, which has created an opportunity to engage with a greater number of children and young people on a voluntary basis. There have been important lessons to learn from this in terms of the services understanding of effective alternatives to formal and more onerous disposals, and those universal measures which appear to have a positive impact on behaviour. Whilst it would be ambitious to emulate the performance figures of the past year, the service will strive to learn what was most effective and commit to retain practice which has proven to be successful as part of future service delivery.

During the height of the pandemic the service was unable to undertake some key elements (e.g. good quality SEND, speech, language and communication screenings and health assessments etc.), and had to adapt how it engaged with children and young people. There was a concern about the extent to which meaningful interventions could be undertaken remotely, however, workers have used a variety of methods to overcome barriers, maintain and build connections with all children, young people and families to ensure they continue to be effective in managing risk and keeping children and young people safe.

Interventions have involved delivering (physically) a variety of activities to children and young people and their families which workers have engaged families with; remotely discussing and working through together. Activities have included cake making packs, jigsaws, building remote control cars, mechanical clocks, and bike repair. These activities have been effective in encouraging families to connect in positive ways and to get a sense of achievement and empowerment to support desistance. Engaging with children and young people in this way has also assisted in building positive relationships which has been successful in terms of enhancing the YJS preventative and diversionary work. A consultation with children and families gave direct feedback to management regarding the impact on service delivery. The response was reassuring, showing that meaningful work can take place remotely, but also highlighted the need to return to face to face sessions when possible.

The service is now attempting to see all children and families for direct face to face contact, however, it expects to see the continued use of agile working practices and use of online platforms to engage with children/young people and parents/carers to access other benefits, including: more diverse engagement and methods.



For children and young people in custody there was a national framework imposed by the Youth Custody Service (YCS) which impacted on YJ activity in terms of face to face visits. Whilst anecdotal information has suggested improvements in wellbeing for young people within establishments, steps were taken within Nottinghamshire to try to mitigate concerns in relation to the inevitable impact of prolonged incarceration with limited time for socialisation, restricted contact with loved ones and trusted professionals, and increased confinement linked to Covid-19 movement restrictions. Nottinghamshire CAMHS wrote to all primary catchment secure providers outlining their offer and strengthening the links to encourage referral at the earliest stage; additionally, the YJ seconded Clinical Psychologist circulated guidance to guide practitioners in their support of children and young people on their release and resettlement. Additionally, minimum contact expectations were put in place in relation to telephone contacts with young people placed in the secure estate.

As the service moves further towards recovery there may be greater efficiencies in terms of staff time and service resources, with expected improved attendance at multi-agency meetings; reduced environmental footprint. Continued working from home arrangements when staff are completing office/desk-based work (assessments and reports) may well promote better home-work balance and see better use of staff's time via improved use of video conferencing with key partners. This could include supervision and opens the opportunity for joint supervisions with social workers when cases are being co-worked with YJS and social care. However, there is a risk that over-use of such approaches would lead to diminished service cohesion and integrity and this needs to be monitored to ensure an appropriate level of face to face contact and engagement, in line with individual contexts and circumstances.



Summary

Priority Area	Plan for 2021/22
<p>Partnership working</p> <p>To work with partners to promote a more holistic approach to meeting children and young people's needs in the Youth Justice System</p>	<p>To support the delivery of social skills training to children and young people with in the YJS.</p> <p>To work in partnership with the VRU and other local funding initiatives to improve outcomes for children and young people with Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN).</p> <p>To work in partnership with CGL to develop interventions to address substance use within children and young people</p>
<p>Prevention and diversion</p> <p>To increase the number of children and young people who are accessing early intervention aimed at reducing the potential of them entering the criminal justice system</p>	<p>The YJS intend to work with partners to develop its diversionary work and increase opportunities for children and young people to receive YJ support at the earliest opportunity, including children entering Police custody who may be bailed or released under investigation'.</p> <p>To work with police colleagues to increase the use of outcome 22 for children and young people. Outcome 22 can be used when the police have decided to defer prosecution until the child/young person has been given the opportunity to engage with a diversionary, educational or intervention activity.</p> <p>Co-creating a youth diversion protocol with relevant statutory partners to provide clarity across the partnership.</p> <p>To increase the numbers of children and young people who are accessing preventative intervention and reduce FTEs.</p>
<p>Education, training, and employment</p> <p>Every child and young person in contact with Nottinghamshire YJS has appropriate education, training, and employment provision in place</p>	<p>To increase the functional skills of children and young people who are known to the YJS.</p> <p>To reduce the number of children and young people in YJ not in education, employment, or training (NEET).</p> <p>To support the delivery of social skills training to children and young people within the YJ</p>
<p>Constructive resettlement</p> <p>To ensure that children and young people have the best support available to meet their needs when leaving custody</p>	<p>To develop further staff's understanding of the theory of change and how they can use this knowledge to support children and young people.</p> <p>To work in partnership with the court and CPS to reduce the number of short remand periods.</p> <p>To strengthening the YJS partnership working with custodial estates to improve constructive resettlement outcomes for young people in Nottinghamshire.</p> <p>To work with providers and leaving care workers to improve the accessibility of accommodation for those young people who turn 18 whilst in custody</p>

Priority Area	Plan for 2021/22
<p>Participation</p> <p>To ensure that robust consultation processes are in place to enable children and young people and parents and carers to have an opportunity to shape Nottinghamshire YJS.</p>	<p>To embed consultation processes and ensure that children, young people and parents and carers are given the opportunity to shape the service</p>
<p>Disproportionality</p> <p>Improve the services knowledge of over-representation and take positive action to address over representation</p>	<p>To review and evaluate Nottinghamshire YJS progress in tackling disproportionality.</p> <p>To monitor minority ethnic groups and young people who are looked after's experiences of custody and resettlement.</p> <p>To work in conjunction with Nottingham City YJS, the police, CSC, and the Crown Prosecution Service to review local protocols in relation to children and young people who are looked after.</p>
<p>Transitions</p> <p>To ensure that children and young people have the best support available to meet their needs at all points of transition</p>	<p>The YJS will continue to assist partner services in the development of pathways and processes to support young people upon their transition across services and into adult hood.</p> <p>To develop an audit process to be able to evaluate the longer-term progress of young people transitioned to adult services.</p> <p>Improving the support that is available to support young people transitioning to adult services through non statutory organisations.</p>
<p>Serious youth violence and exploitation</p> <p>To work with partners to address and prevent the harm arising from serious youth violence and exploitation of children</p>	<p>To improve the YJS approach with respect to intervention delivery to effectively reduce weapon related violence.</p> <p>To complete a knife crime intervention and controls audit with key partners, reviewing local approaches and sharing good practice.</p> <p>To develop joint working approaches and develop a more co-ordinated approach to addressing CCE with identified children and young people across local services.</p> <p>To complete an audit of local practices in relation to Public Protection Notices to encourage consistency and avoid duplication of process.</p>

Appendix 1

Nottinghamshire YJS is funded from a variety of funding streams, both direct monetary payments and seconded staff.

Income source	Staffing	Funding 2020-2021	Comment
Police	£78,000	£59,038	
PCCs Office/SNB		£109,000 *	
National Probation Service	£40,000	£5,000	
YJB Grants		£1,030,660	
YJ NCC revenue		£806,427	
Local Authority Public Health	£120,000	£12,500	
Clinical Commissioning Group	£173,000		
Total	£411,000	£2,022,625	TOTAL £2,433,625

*This funding has been agreed pro rata for the first 6 months of the year and is subject to a review of all youth crime prevention services funded by the OPCC

The YJS receive services from Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) in terms of infrastructure (e.g. accommodation) and assistance with quality and performance monitoring, IT, administration, and business support.

The service is using a vacancy within the YJ case management pool to increase the probation resource from 0.6 (funded by probation) to one full time post. This recognises the value placed on the embedded probation officer and the role they play in supporting the service's ambitions for successful transitions of our young people.



Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Partnership Risk Register

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Date added	Owner	Assessment and Mitigation
Budget reductions impact on service delivery	Low	High	15.09.17	Chair of Board	Risk reduced to low, with confirmation of partnership contribution to YJS remaining at current level for 21/22 and funding for Youth Violence Mentors and HSB contract identified for another year.
Looked after children placed by other local authorities have an impact on reoffending rates	Moderate	Moderate	30.11.16	Group Manager, Early Help	Placements team business support now alert YOT management and Police when an OOA YP is placed within our locality who had existing YOT involvement
Lack of contingencies for failure of case recording system	Low	High	30.11.16	Group Manager, Quality and Improvement	Service has moved over to Capita One which has improved back up system. The risk is reduced but if we were to suffer system failure the downtime would be significant with up to 3 days without access to data. Further mitigation is being explored.
Service reductions raise risks to children and communities.	Moderate	Moderate	30.11.16	Chair of Board	This risk relates to tracking impact on young people of introduction of minimum operating model. We are currently running at above the minimum ops model and Nottinghamshire is not seeing the progress that statistical neighbours are achieving with FTEs and reoffending.
National and local increase in incidents of youth violence and criminal exploitation	Moderate	High	13.6.19	Group Manager, Early Help	Youth Violence and Criminal Exploitation steering group established to oversee development in this area. Youth Violence and Criminal Exploitation risk assessment and management tool has been launched to YJ and CSC staff. YVCE panel established to share information and quality assure the vulnerability and risk management plans of the most high-risk young people. Nottinghamshire Police has now received surge funding and the OPCC has received EYIF and funding to establish a VRU.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Date added	Owner	Assessment and Mitigation
Young people whom are looked after are disproportionately represented in the YJ cohort	High	Moderate	13.6.19	Group Manager Early Help	Service Manager for looked after children is the CSC link on the YJ Board. CSC and Police have jointly funded a dedicated officer for children looked after. The cross-authority protocol to reduce criminalisation of young people looked after has been reviewed and signed up to again in light of national changes. Consideration has been given to the report "surviving incarceration" and plan in place to implement the 5 recommendations for reducing disproportional numbers of LAC receiving DTOs.
Young People whom pose a sexual risk to others do not receive therapeutic support because of the non-recurrent nature of the funding for the MHS HSB contract.	Low	High	11/12/19	Group Manager Early Help	Non recurrent funding has been identified to fund the therapeutic service in 2020/21. The service will put forward a budget pressure seeking to mainstream the funding for 2021 onwards.
<p>March 2020: Service Delivery impacted by an epidemic leaving low staffing numbers</p> <p>June 2020: Service delivery impacted by Covid 19 (impact on illness on staffing levels, impact on lockdown on policing, courts, offending, behaviours of young people, staff practice)</p>	High (was moderate)	Moderate (consider if escalate to high)	4.3.20	Group Manager Early Help	<p>March 2020: Business continuity plan has been updated to reflect increased risk from Covid-19. In the event of serious staff shortage, court duty, ISS and high risk clients will be prioritised, with non-statutory visits and youth outreach programmes being paired back and staff redeployed as required to meet the need.</p> <p>Update June 2020: Business continuity plan has been enacted as above, with extended measures to counter impact of government lockdown measures. Service now moves into the recovery planning phase, considering how and when to move back to business as usual, including modelling increased demand post lifting of lockdown measures (increased offending, increased cases coming through court etc).</p> <p>Update March 2021: Business continuity plan continues to be followed. Service delivery has largely been able to continue unhindered as staff have become used to remote/virtual and blended approaches to their role. PPE is available to staff and some frontline workers have had access to their first vaccine shot. Main concern at present is delays that lockdown has brought to the courts, with some young people now needing to wait over 2 years for their case to be heard. Work to mitigate this across the east midlands region is underway.</p>



REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS OF GROUPS

Purpose of the Report

1. To report the details of the revised membership of the political groups of the Council.

Information

2. At the annual meeting of the Council in May 2021 Members noted the composition of the political Groups as required by The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations made under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
3. There are currently three political Groups of the Council, which are:-
 - the Nottinghamshire County Council Conservative Group
 - the Nottinghamshire County Council Labour Group
 - the Independent Group
4. The memberships of the Groups are shown in the Appendix to this report. There has been no change to the Officers elected by the Groups reported at the annual meeting in May 2021. Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan is no longer a member of the Nottinghamshire County Council Conservative Group having been suspended by the Conservative Party.
5. In addition to the three Groups detailed in this report, there are therefore now four non-aligned County Councillors who are not part of any political Group of the Council. These are Councillor Steve Carr (Liberal Democrat), Councillor Maureen Dobson, Councillor Stephen Garner and Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan.
6. The membership of each Group is set out in Appendix A along with the officers of each Group (Leader, Deputy Leader and Business Manager). This means that the overall political balance of the Council is now as follows :-

	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
Conservative Group	36	54.55
Labour Group	15	22.73
Independent Group	11	16.67
Liberal Democrat	1	1.52

Councillor Maureen Dobson (Independent)	1	1.52
Councillor Stephen Garner (Independent)	1	1.52
Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan (Independent)	1	1.52

7. There is a statutory requirement for seats on Committees and Sub-Committees to be allocated to the political groups in a way which reflects the overall balance of the Council. Details of these are dealt with elsewhere in the agenda.

Other Options Considered

8. None, it is a requirement to report any changes to the political Groups to Full Council.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

9. It is necessary for Council to note the political Groups on the Council and their Officers.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. 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.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the membership of the political Groups be recognised.

Anthony May
Chief Executive

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
 Sara Allmond, Advanced Democratic Services Officer
 Tel: 0115 9773794 Email: sara.allmond@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (HD 7/9/2021)

11. The proposals in this report are within the remit of the Council.

Financial Comments (SES 14/05/2021)

12. There are no specific financial implications arising directly 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

- All

MEMBERS AND OFFICERS OF GROUPS

(A) Nottinghamshire County Council Conservative Group

36 Members

Reg Adair	Mike Introna
Mike Adams	Richard Jackson
Sinead Anderson	Roger Jackson
Callum Bailey	Eric Kerry
Matt Barney	Bruce Laughton
Chris Barnfather	Johnno Lee
Ben Bradley MP	Nigel Moxon
Richard Butler	John Ogle
André Camilleri	Philip Owen
Scott Carlton	Mike Quigley MBE
Neil Clarke MBE	Mrs Sue Saddington
Robert Corden	Sam Smith
John Cottee	Tom Smith
Eddie Cubley	Tracey Taylor
Dr John Doddy	Nigel Turner
Bethan Eddy	Roger Upton
Boyd Elliott	Gordon Wheeler
Keith Girling	Jonathan Wheeler

Officers

Leader:	Ben Bradley MP
Deputy Leader:	Bruce Laughton
Business Manager:	Chris Barnfather

(B) Nottinghamshire County Council Labour Group

15 Members

Pauline Allan	Errol Henry JP
Anne Callaghan	Paul Henshaw
John Clarke	Maggie McGrath
Jim Creamer	Michael Payne
Sybil Fielding	Sheila Place
Kate Foale	Mike Pringle
Glynn Gilfoyle	Michelle Welsh
Penny Gowland	

Officers

Leader:	Kate Foale
Deputy Leader:	Mike Pringle
Business Manager:	Errol Henry JP

(C) Independent Group

11 Members

Samantha Deakin
Tom Hollis
David Martin
Andy Meakin
Dave Shaw
Helen-Ann Smith

Lee Waters
Daniel Williamson
Elizabeth Williamson
John Wilmott
Jason Zadrozny

Officers

Leader: Jason Zadrozny
Deputy Leader: Helen-Ann Smith
Business Manager: Samantha Deakin

(D) Other Members

Councillor Steve Carr (Liberal Democrats)
Councillor Maureen Dobson (Independent)
Councillor Stephen Garner (Independent)
Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan (Independent)

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Purpose of the Report

1. To agree the revised allocation of committee seats following a recent change in political group membership to ensure political proportionality.

Information

2. The County Council is under a duty to review the allocation of seats to political groups where there is a change to the membership of political Groups. As detailed in a previous report, Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan is no longer a member of the Nottinghamshire County Council Conservative Group and this has changed the overall political balance of the Council.
3. In determining the composition of Committees, account must be taken of the requirements of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. This requires that seats on Committees and Sub-Committees are allocated to the political Groups of the Council in a way which reflects the overall balance on the Council. The advice of the Monitoring Officer is that to comply with legislative requirements the allocation of seats should be based on overall seat numbers rather than on individual committee numbers.
4. In order to comply with legislative requirements, changes are proposed to the composition and allocation of committee seats as set out in Appendix A.

Other Options Considered

5. It is possible to allocate the discretionary allocation of seats in a number of different permutations, but any allocation must still meet the principles set out in paragraph 3 above as far as is practical.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

6. To meet the Council's duty to review the allocation of seats to political groups on a change in political group membership, in order to ensure seat allocation is made in accordance with the principles of proportionality prescribed by law.

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.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Council confirm the revised composition and allocation of committee seats set out in Appendix A.

Anthony May
Chief Executive

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Marjorie Toward, Service Director, Customers, Governance and Employees and Monitoring Officer

Constitutional Comments (HD 8/9/2021)

8. The proposals set out in this report fall within the remit of Full Council.

Financial Comments (SES 8/9/2021)

9. There are no specific financial implications arising directly 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.

- Revised Committee System and Other Amendments to the Constitution report – Full Council 25th May 2017 (published)
- Appointment of Committees reports – Full Council 25th May 2017 and 11th June 2020 (published)
- LGPS Central Asset Pooling – Governance Arrangements – Full Council 12th January 2017 (published)
- Health and Wellbeing Board Governance and Management – Health and Wellbeing Board 7th March 2018 (published)
- Communities and Place Review and Development Committee report – Full Council 20th September 2018 (published)
- [Council Constitution](#) as amended on 1st October 2020 (published)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

APPENDIX A - Allocation of Committee Seats

Meeting	Number of County Cllrs	Conservatives	Labour	Independent Group	Liberal Democrat	Councillor Dobson	Councillor Garner	Councillor Purdue-Horan	Other
Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee	11	6	3	1	1				
Children and Young People's Committee	11	6	3	2					4 non-voting co-optees:
Communities Committee	11	6	2	2			1		
Economic Development and Asset Management Committee	11	6	3	2					
Finance Committee	11	6	3	2					
Governance & Ethics Committee	11	6	2	2	1				
Governance & Ethics Sub-Committee	5	3	1	1					
Greater Nott'm Light Rapid Transit Advisory Committee *	5	3	1	1					5 City Council Members
Health and Wellbeing Board **	5	3	1	1					
Health Scrutiny Committee	11	6	3	2					
Joint Committee on Strategic Planning & Transport *	4	2	1	1					4 City Council Members
Local Joint Resolutions Committee	6	3	2	1					
Nottinghamshire Pension Fund Committee	9	5	2	1			1		10 non-voting co-optees
Personnel Committee	11	6	2	2		1			
Planning & Rights of Way Committee	13	7	3	2				1	
Policy Committee	20	11	5	4					
Senior Staffing Sub-Committee	9	5	2	2					
Transport and Environment Committee	11	6	2	2		1			

* A joint committee between Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council

** In accordance with the decision of the Health and Wellbeing Board every other meeting will be a non-public workshop

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

CHANGE TO COUNCIL GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval to develop proposals to change the Council's governance arrangements from a committee system of governance to the executive system (Leader and Cabinet model).
2. To authorise the Chief Executive to develop proposals for how a change to an executive system of governance could operate in practice and to allocate appropriate officer resources to undertake that work with appropriate budgetary provision. During this time the Council will develop detailed proposals to place before Council at a later date.
3. To approve a member working group to work with officers to develop plans for later consideration by Council.
4. To inform the public and partners as appropriate of the Council's intentions.

Information and Advice

Background

5. From the year 2000, all but very small councils were required by the Local Government Act 2000 to operate as a Leader and cabinet model, which the County Council did until May 2012. At that time, the Localism Act 2011 gave all local authorities the power to decide for themselves which governance model best suited their local circumstances. The Council adopted a Committee system in May 2012, as the most appropriate governance arrangement at the time, and has continued with this governance model to date. Further background about the different systems of governance and the legislative requirements is set out in the Appendix to the report.
6. Most dual hatted Councillors within Nottinghamshire (i.e. those who are councillors at both County and District/Borough Councils) will be very familiar with executive arrangements. Of the 7 Nottinghamshire District and Borough Councils, all but Broxtowe and Newark and Sherwood District Councils operate that system of governance, as does the City Council. Interestingly, Newark and Sherwood resolved to return to executive arrangements in May of this year and expect the new arrangements to take effect in May 2022.

7. When executive forms of governance were first introduced, they were seen as a more appropriate mechanism to deliver identifiable, accountable corporate leadership for a local authority and the community it serves, together with efficient, transparent, and accountable decision making. Nationally, evidence suggests that the vast majority of Councils believe that executive arrangements under the Leader and Cabinet model are the most effective for local government, as most councils choose this as their form of governance. As far as the Council is aware there are relatively few upper tier authorities operating the Committee system in two tier areas. Other than Nottinghamshire it is understood that only Cambridgeshire has a committee system, Norfolk County Council having moved to Executive arrangements in May 2019 when it moved to a Leader and Cabinet system.
8. Comments were made as part of the LGA Peer Review in 2019 about the operation of the Committee arrangements in Nottinghamshire, including the time taken to make decisions, a lack of agility in the Committee structure to effectively drive and manage the process of change, insufficient time given to debating and scrutinising issues, unnecessary duplication with reports going to multiple committees and lack of opportunities for effective overview and scrutiny.
9. All governance systems have relative merits and flaws. The important thing is to choose a system of governance which most effectively meets the needs of the Council, its functions, and the public whom it serves and is appropriate for the circumstances of the time. Since May, when the new administration was returned following the County elections, the Council has been reconsidering how it does business, with an emphasis on efficiency and effectiveness of decision making. This moment is an ideal time to consider the Council's system of governance to ensure that it will enable the Council to deliver its key priorities.

Rationale/case for change

10. On 15 July 2021, the Prime Minister set out the Government's plan for a further round of devolution to local areas, as part of the Government's "levelling up" agenda. In his speech, the Prime Minister made reference to the Government's intention to "rewrite the (devolution) rule book with new deals for the counties". Also, on 15 July, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Robert Jenrick, wrote to all Local Authority Leaders and Chief Executives, saying that Government wants to "widen devolution beyond cities and provide strong local leadership for all of our places". The Secretary of State went on to say "counties, towns and villages are an essential part of the nation and should neither be excluded from the devolution enjoyed by many cities and suburbs, nor forced to wear a model which can seem ill-fitting".
11. In his letter of 15 July, the Secretary of State set out some key principles which will guide County Deals:
 - Strong local leadership, including models other than directly elected individual leaders. In the case of a County such as Nottinghamshire, from discussions with Civil Servants it is understood that powers would be devolved directly to the County Council, providing the test of "strong leadership" is met (see paragraph 12).
 - County devolution should operate on a sensible economic geography of a suitable scale and one based on local identity, bringing partners together and with powers

exercised at the right level to make a difference for local communities. Government will be looking to do county devolution, for example, with the county council and its nearby unitary, working with its districts as appropriate, or with the county council and its districts. In Nottinghamshire, civil servants advise the optimum configuration as the County Council, Nottingham City Council and our District and Borough Councils. As per the guiding principles, other configurations of Councils are available but early discussions (see paragraph 15) have erred towards the inclusion, if possible, of all councils.

- The nature and appropriateness of proposed governance structures will impact on the nature of the deal and the types of powers and flexibilities provided in the deal. Government will expect demonstrable improvements in governance, efficiency and local service join-up as part of the deal. In Nottinghamshire, we have our Economic Prosperity Committee (EPC), a formal joint committee established under local government legislation. The EPC brings all councils across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire together in pursuit of joint working. Initial discussions indicate the EPC is considered an appropriate vehicle for the partnership governance elements of a county deal, although it would be necessary to review its operating arrangements, subject to the eventual details of a deal. The current constitution for the EPC can be found here [EPC Constitution \(Revised Mar 2019\)](#)
 - Government expects deals to include significant reform proposals, including ways to achieve greater financial efficiency, administrative streamlining and/or more joined up services. This does not mean local government reorganisation is a prerequisite to participation. In Nottinghamshire, the EPC is considered an appropriate forum through which to drive and coordinate public service reform proposals, in areas such as waste and energy, housing, transport, use of the public estate, climate change, community safety and cohesion, and a programme of general efficiencies.
12. Since the publication of the Secretary of State's letter, there have been discussions with Civil Servants, so as to understand the details of county deals. Whilst the full details are likely to emerge in the weeks leading up to the publication of the Levelling Up White Paper, some clear guidance has been received in respect of the principles set out in paragraph 11 above, specifically in relation to the notion of "strong leadership" and "appropriate governance". In this regard, Civil Servants have made it clear that Government does not regard the County Council's current committee system as representing strong leadership and considers the leader and cabinet model to be a pre-requisite of the devolution of powers to a County Council. In essence, this means unless the Council changes its model of governance, it will be unable to negotiate a county deal under the terms of the emerging new model.
13. In other parts of the Country, devolution deals have brought significant new powers and resources. Most current devolution deals have a consistent core set of themes and priorities, built around the following powers:
- Economic development and regeneration powers
 - Transport powers
 - Finance powers
 - Planning and housing powers
 - Skills powers
 - Environment powers

- Health powers
- Culture powers
- Public safety powers

Whilst it is not yet known if all these powers are available (or desirable) in county deals, advice received so far is that they will not be available to a council operating the committee system.

14. In addition to powers, current devolution deals attract resources. For example, according to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), the devolution deal agreed with West Yorkshire in January 2021 will offer access to £1.1 billion investment into the region. Whilst it is not yet known if county deals will offer access to comparable investment, it seems clear they will not be available to councils with the committee system.
15. Locally, since the Secretary of State's letter, there have been meetings with all Nottingham and Nottinghamshire council leaders and chief executives, to begin discussions about a county deal. Agreement in principle has been reached on holding without prejudice discussions with Government officials and a meeting took place with civil servants on Tuesday 7 September, involving the Mayor of Mansfield, and the Leaders of Newark and Sherwood, Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Councils. At this meeting, Government officials reiterated they did not consider the County Council's committee system as representing strong leadership under the terms of the guiding principles for county deals.

Proposed approach and timelines

16. As members will know, under a Committee system, with the exception of day to day operational matters and some specific delegations, decisions are made by Committees comprised of councillors from all political groups to reflect the political balance of the Council. Under executive arrangements following the Leader and Cabinet model, a leader is elected by the Council for a term determined by the Council itself. Under this model some types of decision must be taken by Council, other decisions are taken by the Cabinet or individual cabinet members. Officers are also authorised to take a range of decisions.
17. However, under executive arrangements there must be overview and scrutiny arrangements put in place to enable effective scrutiny of decisions made by the executive. In addition to the above, it is usual under executive arrangements for a number of Committees to remain to discharge duties which cannot be undertaken by the executive. These usually cover things like Planning and Licensing functions, Pension Fund decisions, Audit functions, Standards and Ethics functions.
18. A change in formal governance arrangements must occur at a specified "change time" which is at the Council's annual meeting. Prior to the change time, the Council needs to have resolved formally to make the governance change and as soon as practicable after that resolution it must publish a notice and make documents available for inspection by the public which set out how the change will be brought into effect.
19. The documentation required will be detailed and will effectively need to set out the revisions to the Council's Constitution which would bring the new system of governance into effect. There are many detailed provisions requiring careful consideration with regard to how the executive arrangements may work and to ensure adequate provision for overview and scrutiny. These will result in the need for substantial work in reviewing and changing the

Council's Constitution and procedures and would depend on how the Council wanted to configure any new governance arrangements.

20. Issues requiring review within the Constitution would include such things as:
 - a. Responsibility for Functions – this would need to show clear distinctions between those matters which are executive functions and those which must be undertaken by Council or Committees such as for audit and planning/licensing, pensions etc.
 - b. Procedure rules for meetings of the executive and any sub-committees of the executive, and overview and scrutiny Committees.
 - c. Scheme of delegation for officers which will need changes to reflect the nature and scope of the executive arrangements.
 - d. Financial Regulations to link financial decision making to the executive where appropriate, whilst reserving budget setting to the Council.
 - e. A thorough review of all other aspects to ensure all cross referencing and detailed provisions are both legally compliant and reflect the desired governance model.
 - f. A risk and issues log to ensure that any risks/issues are captured, managed, and mitigated.

21. In order to develop proposals for consideration, a dedicated officer project team will be established which will comprise the following core members:
 - a. Monitoring Officer (Project Sponsor and Lead)
 - b. Group Manager, Legal, Democratic and Information Governance (Lead advice and drafting)
 - c. Advanced Democratic Services Officer (for detailed changes to the Constitution)
 - d. Senior Solicitor (Governance)
 - e. Project Manager
 - f. Finance Officer (Financial Regulations and scheme of delegation)

Further input will be provided by the Team Manager Democratic Services and other members of Democratic and Legal Services as necessary. As they develop, proposals will be shared with senior officers to ensure relevant issues affecting their service areas have been considered and addressed.

22. The project team, led by the Monitoring Officer, will work with members to understand the preferred approach, and begin detailed work on the design and development of all necessary documentation to effect a change of governance. Good practice recommends that a cross party member working group consider proposals once developed with the aim of achieving a broad consensus as to the way forward. It is recommended that this work be led by the Chair of Governance and Ethics Committee working through a cross party Governance Review Group.

23. Governance changes would also require training and development for both members and officers involved in the decision-making process to ensure understanding of and compliance with the relevant legal requirements as well as embedding cultural change in respect of the revised approach. This will need to be developed and delivered in parallel

with the new form of governance in order to ensure the revised model can be implemented directly after the changes have been agreed.

24. In order to ensure that both the public and other partners and stakeholders are aware of the proposals, an article will be placed on the Council's website informing the public of the intention to move to the executive system of governance and providing a mechanism to submit comments. Letters will also be sent to each of the District and Borough Councils in the County, the City Council, and other partners such as Health and the Police to inform them.
25. Once detailed proposals have been developed, a future meeting of Council (likely to be March 2022) would then be able to consider them and any views submitted and vote on whether to change to the executive system of governance.
26. If Council resolves to make a change, the system would then come into effect at the Council's annual meeting in May 2022.

Other Options Considered

27. A Mayor and Cabinet form of Executive is also available but that would involve significant costs of arranging elections to elect a Mayor and if required by the Secretary of State could involve the need for a referendum and would not appear to provide any additional benefits. The Council could decide that it wishes to retain the current model of governance but that would prevent the Council from accessing a County Devolution Deal and would not address the issues raised in the report.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

28. The principles for a county deal as set out by the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government and subsequent discussions with civil servants have clarified that the existing Committee system would not meet the Government's test of strong leadership. In order to meet this test and enable powers to be devolved directly to the County Council, the Council will require a strong form of executive governance such as a Leader and Cabinet model.
29. In addition, an executive system of governance would bring the County Council into line with all except one of the other councils across Nottinghamshire thereby creating greater consistency and ease of operation. It would also bring the Council more into line with the national picture for other upper tier authorities. The perceived benefits of the executive system are that it allows swifter and more decisive decision making, allocates clear lines of responsibility and accountability to identified lead members and collectively to an executive cabinet and that there are appropriate mechanisms to ensure transparency and to scrutinise decisions.

Statutory and Policy Implications

30. 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.

Data Protection and Information Governance Implications

31. None currently identified.

Financial Implications

32. It is envisaged that some backfilling of roles within Legal and Democratic Services will be required to free up officer time to undertake the work required to explore and develop proposals for change within the identified timescales. Where possible, this will be met from existing Chief Executive Departmental budgets. Any additional costs beyond current Departmental budgets are estimated at a maximum of up to £100k which will be met from reserves if required. This will include backfill to release existing staff to focus on developing the new proposals, additional specialist input and external legal advice to provide external challenge and review as necessary.
33. At this stage it is not envisaged that any change to the system of governance would create additional governance costs for the arrangements once implemented and the proposal is to effect change which is broadly cost neutral.
34. If the Council's governance arrangements were to be changed then it would be necessary to review Councillors' remuneration once more against those new arrangements. This would involve appointing and convening a meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) whose role it is to make recommendations to the Council on proposed remuneration, for consideration by the Council.
35. The IRP would focus on how many roles were eligible for SRAs in the same way as they have done recently for the revised Committee structure introduced after the May 2021 elections. The number of roles which may be likely to attract SRAs would depend on the design of the Executive arrangements but is envisaged that the design of the arrangements would create a similar number of eligible roles to the current position and would work within the existing cost envelope.
36. In addition to powers, current devolution deals have attracted significant additional resources as illustrated in the body of the report. It is difficult to say at this point what scale of additional investment county deals will attract.

Human Resources Implications

37. These are set out in paragraph 21 above and given the timescales and the current issues with the recruitment market it is envisaged these some of these roles and cover arrangements will be filled via agency/locum roles sourced via the Council's managed service arrangement with Reed recruitment. The longer-term implications of the proposed changes are not expected to alter the level of support required from colleagues in Democratic Services.

Public Sector Equality Duty implications

38. At this stage it is not envisaged that changes to the Council's governance arrangements would have a disproportionate impact on any particular individuals or groups. Accessibility arrangements for information about Council decision making would be largely the same as under current arrangements albeit within the new governance framework.

Smarter Working Implications

39. Council, Cabinet and Committee meetings would continue to be held in public and hybrid systems for broadcasting meetings could continue as appropriate under any system of governance.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

40. None currently identified.

Implications for Service Users

41. Any system of Council governance will continue to put the people the Council serves at its heart. The services which service users receive should be unaffected by any change in governance model that may be approved. Service users are more likely to benefit from swifter, clearer decision making with clear accountabilities.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

42. None currently identified.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That Council approves in principle the proposal to change the Council's governance arrangements from a committee system of governance to the executive system (Leader and Cabinet model) subject to the development of detailed proposals for consideration at a future Council meeting.
- 2) That the Chief Executive be authorised to develop proposals for how a change to an executive system of governance could operate in practice and to allocate appropriate officer resources and budgetary provision to undertake that work as set out in the report.
- 3) That a cross party member Governance Review Group be established to work with officers to develop detailed plans and proposals to place before Council for consideration at a later date with a view to implementation of any approved change at the Council's annual meeting in May 2022.
- 4) To inform the public and partners as appropriate of the Council's intentions by carrying out the public engagement as set out in the report.

Ben Bradley MP
Leader of the Council

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:
Marjorie Toward
Service Director Customers, Governance and Employees and Monitoring Officer
Tel: 0115 977 4404**

Constitutional Comments (HD 9/9/21)

43. Council has the authority to consider the recommendations set out in the report. The report sets out the broad legal requirements required for a change in governance arrangements, although at this stage the approval is to develop detailed proposals for later consideration. At the next stage, a formal resolution of the Council is required to effect a change in governance arrangements and such a report must be accompanied by relevant details regarding how the change would be brought into effect.
45. Appropriate engagement will take place by notifying the public and other stakeholders of the Council's intentions and inviting comments via the Council's website. Appropriate advice will be provided at each stage as the proposals are developed.

Financial Comments (NS 9/9/21)

44. The report indicates that any additional costs above that which can be contained within existing budgets will be met from reserves.

HR Comments (GME 9/9/21)]

45. The resources required for the dedicated officer project team will be met by existing employees initially with any required backfill sourced in accordance with agreed recruitment practices. There are no other HR implications arising from the contents of the 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.

- City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee Constitution(published)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

Background to legislation

1. The Local Government Act 2000 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) sets out the governance models that must be operated by local Authorities. These are:
 - a. A leader and cabinet executive
 - b. A mayor and cabinet executive
 - c. The committee system
 - d. The Secretary of State also has powers to prescribe other arrangements that may be permitted by regulations, (which may include the Council suggesting an approach of their own)

Certain hybrid versions of these systems are also permissible.

2. Briefly, the key components of the 3 main systems (a-c above) are as follows:

Leader and Cabinet Executive

This is the most common form of governance since the introduction of executive arrangements by the Local Government Act 2000. Cabinet is led by an Executive Leader who is elected by full Council for a term determined by the Council itself or on a four-yearly term (and will usually be the Leader of the largest party on the Council).

Up to ten members of the Cabinet are appointed by the Executive Leader. In many councils, individual members of the Cabinet have decision making powers and in others the decisions have to be made by the whole Cabinet. Some Committees are required for certain types of decisions such as regulatory matters, audit, and pensions. There are detailed regulations which set out which powers and functions are executive powers and those which may not be exercised by the executive.

Councils operating this model are required to have at least one overview and scrutiny Committee of which members of the Executive cannot be a part. A Forward Plan of certain significant "Key Decisions" which are due to be made by the Cabinet, individual Cabinet members or the Leader must be published in advance and may be "Called in" for scrutiny before they may be implemented and may involve being referred back to the decision maker for further consideration/to look at other options.

Mayor and Cabinet Executive

A mayor, directly elected by the people who live in the Local Authority area, with similar decision-making powers to the Executive Committee or Cabinet in the Leader and Cabinet model. The mayor then appoints their Cabinet of Councillors who may also have their own decision-making powers.

This system also requires at least one overview and scrutiny committee as well as the need for a Forward Plan of key decisions and call-in powers. Members of the Executive cannot be members of an overview and scrutiny Committee.

The Secretary of State may, by order, require a referendum to be held on whether a specified authority should operate a mayor and cabinet executive.

Committee System

Under this system councils are divided into politically balanced Committees that make the decisions. As a result, these councils are not required to have overview and scrutiny Committees, though some do have one or more.

Statutory Provisions/Requirements

3. Once a Council has passed a resolution to change its system of governance it may not do so again for a period of five years from the date of the last resolution taken to change its governance arrangements. The Council last passed a resolution to change its governance system (to the Committee system) on 29 March 2012, so it is quite lawful to now pass another resolution if the Council wishes to.
4. The legal and procedural requirements for making a change to Council governance arrangements are set out in the Local Government Act 2000, (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) (the Act).

Council Resolution

5. The Act requires that a local authority must make a formal resolution to make a change in its governance from Committee to an Executive (e.g. Leader and Cabinet) form of arrangements. If it did so, the Council may not pass another resolution changing its governance arrangements, (i.e. back to a committee system), for five years. However, the Council would have the power to vary or amend its executive arrangements, (whilst still providing for the same form of Executive decision making), during this period if it so wished.

Publicity

6. The law requires that as soon as practicable after passing a resolution to change the system of governance to a different model the Council must:
 - a. Make available for public inspection documents setting out the provisions for the arrangements which are to bring the resolution into effect, and
 - b. Publish a newspaper notice which:
 - i. States the Council has resolved to change its governance arrangements
 - ii. States the date on which the change is to take effect
 - iii. Describes the main features of the change
 - iv. States that copies of documents setting out the provisions of the arrangements are available for inspection at the Council's principal office by members of the public, and
 - v. Provides the address of the Council's principal office

7. The parts of the legislation regarding changes to the Council's governance arrangements do not require the Council to carry out any formal public consultation on the proposed changes but simply to take the steps set out in the paragraph above. However, public and stakeholder engagement is recommended to ensure the public and partner organisations are aware of the proposals in line with the Council's Public Engagement Policy and have an opportunity to comment.

Implementation

8. Where a resolution to change form of governance has been passed, section 9L of the Act requires that the Council must cease operating the old form of governance and start operating the new form of governance at a "relevant change time". That time must be at an annual meeting of the Council.

Nature of arrangements

9. The legislation gives the Council considerable discretion on how to shape any new Leader and Cabinet executive arrangements to suit its local requirements. However, the Act does set out some parameters that must be observed. The Executive must consist of at least two, but no more than ten Members. The Act also sets out the functions that are the responsibility of the full Council, (such as Council Tax and budget setting, determining the Council's Policy Framework, approving the Members Allowances Scheme etc.), and those that can be discharged by the Executive within a Leader and Cabinet Executive system. It allows for the discharge of functions within the responsibility of the Executive by individual portfolio holders who make up the Executive; by a 'committee' of the Executive, (i.e. Cabinet collectively); by an area committee(s); or by officers of the Council. The Executive Leader must be elected by the Council.
10. Whilst any retained committees would be required to reflect the political balance of the Council, there is no such requirement for Cabinet. Meetings and reports of the Council, Cabinet, and any committees would be open to members of the public just as they are under the Committee system in accordance with the Local Government Access to Information provisions and specific regulations relating to Executive Arrangements (S.I. 2012/2089).

Overview and Scrutiny

11. As touched on above, executive arrangements by a local authority must also include provision for one (or more) committees to exercise the role of overview and scrutiny committee (OSC). The membership of any such committees must reflect the political balance of the Council but must not contain members of the Executive. However, such committees may include people who are not members of the authority, although they will be non-voting members unless a specific scheme is put in place which allows them to vote. The authority must also designate a specific officer as a "scrutiny officer" to promote and support the OSC and its members.
12. The Act stipulates that the OSC must have within its remit the power to:

- a. review or scrutinise decisions made by portfolio holders/Cabinet and also those functions within the remit of Council or any of its other committees,
- b. make reports or recommendations to the Council or Cabinet with respect to any of the functions which are the responsibility of the Executive and also those functions within the remit of Council or any of its other committees, and
- c. make reports or recommendations to the Council or Cabinet on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of that area.