

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE REPORT: KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Purpose of the Report

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

Information

2. **Her Majesty the Queen** – On Thursday 8th September we received news of the passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, which marks the end of an era. She has been the one constant throughout many decades of immeasurable change and progress for the nation, and across Britain many of us looked to her as a truly great and inspirational leader, for security and for hope in difficult times.
3. My thoughts are with her family who have to bear the weight of both mourning the loss of their mother, their grandmother - the figurehead and mainstay of their family – but also now adhere to the sensibilities, the traditions and protocols of office, through their own grief. That must be incredibly challenging, and my heart goes out to them.
4. Well-rehearsed plans were rolled out across the county and on Friday 9th September I joined the Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, Sir John Peace, the High Sheriff, Paul Southby, our Chairman Councillor Roger Jackson, and our Chief Executive Adrian Smith as we each laid floral tributes to Her Majesty the Queen outside County Hall and signed a book of condolence. Members of the public were also invited to pay their respects.
5. The end of the Elizabethan age also marks the start of a new one. King Charles III is our new monarch and Head of State. I know and trust that King Charles, who has increasingly been acting for and supporting his mother in recent months and years, will continue to provide that constant presence and that sense of continuity for the country as we face many and complex challenges.
6. An event was held outside of County Hall on Sunday 11th September along with many others across the country, to proclaim the accession of King Charles III.

7. **Chief Executive** – On Wednesday 31st August we said farewell to our departing Chief Executive Anthony May after 18 years of service for the County Council. Anthony’s leaving event, which was held in the assembly hall, was extremely well attended by friends, colleagues, and partners, with many more sending their well wishes electronically which demonstrated the incredible impact Anthony has had during his time here.
8. There were memorable speeches from Sir John Peace and Anthony himself recounting some fantastic memories and achievements for which he should be highly commended. Again, I would like to thank Anthony for his dedication and commitment to his roles within the County Council and wish him every success in his future endeavours.
9. As outlined in agenda item 4, following a rigorous recruitment exercise I am pleased to report that Adrian Smith was selected by the Senior Staffing Committee as the new Chief Executive at Nottinghamshire County Council.
10. Adrian impressed members of the interview panel with his incisive grasp of the strategic issues we’re facing. I look forward to working alongside him as we continue to deliver against the priorities we have set out to improve the lives of residents in Nottinghamshire, attracting major investment and transforming our care services.
11. **Devolution** – On Tuesday 30th August 2022 the Leaders of the four City and County Councils representing Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, and Nottinghamshire signed up to a devolution deal worth £1.14 billion over the next 30 years.
12. The new East Midlands Mayoral Combined Authority will be one of the largest in the country (approximately 2.2million people) which means Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands will have a much greater influence at the highest levels to deliver a better quality of life for local people.
13. This is a huge opportunity for the East Midlands to get onto a similar footing as the West Midlands and Greater Manchester and will enable us to bring in significantly more regional funding. The £1.14 billion can be used to draw in new additional public sector investment meaning the true benefit of the deal could potentially be in the several billions.
14. Devolution will bring more funding, more control, and a brighter future for everyone in Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands. Some of the key benefits of devolution will be :
 - a. more investment in our area
 - b. economic growth
 - c. more and better jobs
 - d. better transport, skills training, infrastructure, and housing
 - e. an enhanced and greener environment
 - f. more power in local hands.
15. The deal is not about local government reorganisation, and no councils will be abolished or merged. Devolution will transfer powers from a national to a regional level, moving resources and decision-making powers which already exist from London to the East Midlands.

16. Devolution does not mean a rise in Council Tax. Of the nine existing mayoral combined authorities, eight have the power to raise money through Council Tax, but only two have ever actually used it. This Council has already made a commitment not to raise money through a Mayoral Precept.
17. The four councils will continue to work together and develop the details of the deal. Each council will then take a report through their respective council meetings, this will be followed by a public consultation later in the year to ensure that the views of residents, businesses and partners are taken fully into account.
18. **Tour of Britain** – On Thursday 8th September 2022 the 5th stage of the Tour of Britain graced the streets of Nottinghamshire once again after a four-year absence from the UK's leading race. Nottinghamshire previously hosted a stage in 2017 and again in 2018 which led to national and international interest in the county.
19. The Nottinghamshire stage of the famous cycle race took the world's best riders from Central Avenue in West Bridgford to Chesterfield Road South in Mansfield. Past events have attracted in the region of 250,000 people, making it one of the largest free to watch sporting events in Nottinghamshire's history.
20. There are countless benefits to the tour of Britain returning to Nottinghamshire, especially for our businesses and communities. In 2018 it is estimated that the economic windfall as a result of the tour was in the region of £3.9m, which was spent by participants and spectators on accommodation, food, drinks and shopping.
21. Live coverage of the event showcased our beautiful county as communities really engaged in the event. As a council we worked closely with schools, held art competitions, and partnered at a grassroots level with district, parishes and town councils who all took part in decorating our towns and villages. We developed a real sense of community involvement which was really great to see.
22. In a thrilling finish in Mansfield Belgian rider Jordi Meeus sprinted to the biggest victory of his career taking stage five of the tour in dramatic fashion. He praised the Nottinghamshire crowds, who despite the inclement weather were out in huge numbers to show their support.
23. **Nottinghamshire Day** – On Thursday the 25th of August we raised our county's flag at the historic Newark castle to celebrate our second annual Nottinghamshire Day. The event is a great opportunity to celebrate the identity, heritage, culture, and local traditions of our historic county. It is also an excellent platform to help promote and support many local businesses particularly in the visitor and tourism sector.
24. Councillor Roger Jackson led the commemorations, he was joined at the showpiece event by the Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, Sir John Peace, local MPs, representatives from the County, District, and Borough councils as well as Nottingham City Council plus other local organisations.
25. On Saturday 27th August we held our first ever Nottinghamshire Day festival to celebrate all things Notts. The free event was an opportunity to showcase the county's great music, fascinating history, world-famous legends, top sports teams and a reputation for being pioneers in technology and science.

26. Huge thanks to everyone who attended, the numbers were in the thousands. A special mention must go out to the Nottinghamshire Day Festival team who worked with RSPB, Notts Outdoors, Inspire Youth Arts and other partners to make the day a huge success.
27. Crowds were entertained by 13 of Notts most exciting young artist's and a variety of local acts which included the highly popular two-part combat show 'Lionheart' put on by Notts Outdoors, the council's outdoor and environmental education service, in partnership with the Sherwood Outlaws.
28. Hundreds of Nottinghamshire residents queued to get a selfie with Nottingham Forest's Robin Hood mascot and the European Cup, which they famously lifted twice in 1979 and 1980.
29. Festivalgoers also flocked to try out one of the world's first interactive holographic movies, starring Robin Hood, using multi-media headsets. It forms part of our council-led 5G Connected Forest project.
30. **County Hall Fire Update and Reinstatement** - On Thursday 28th July 2022 at 11.45am a fire broke out on the first floor Members Corridor at County Hall causing considerable damage to the building.
31. Huge praise must be given to our emergency services who were on the scene in under four minutes. At the height of the incident there were twelve fire engines plus two Aerial Ladder Platform's in attendance. The incident scaled down around three hours later, however crews remained on site to inspect the building. Thankfully there have been no reported injuries.
32. Watch Manager Tim Marston carried out the fire investigation alongside Station Manager Jim Dykes. The fire has been attributed to an accidental electrical cause, leading to the overheating of a lighting fixture and adjacent wiring within the ceiling void on the first floor of the building.
33. Our fire precaution arrangements and infrastructure worked effectively, with our automatic fire doors functioning correctly to contain the damage at County Hall and to ensure the safety of all those who were in the building at the time. This has been commended by the Watch Manager.
34. Since the fire was extinguished, we have worked well to ensure that any disruption to our services has been minimal, and I can confirm that our services are now fully operational.
35. I would like to thank the public and our staff, who I must stress followed our fire safety regulations correctly and without panic, for their continued patience during this challenging period for us.
36. Within days of the fire our NCC team in partnership with Arc began works on the decontamination and reinstatement of services back into County Hall.
37. Due to the hard work and flexibility of the NCC team, the Arc team and their supply chain, we have been able to formulate a 4-phase approach for the completion of the works. This has enabled certain areas of County Hall to be handed over far sooner than originally anticipated.

38. Phases 1,2 and 3 are now complete and have had an average of 70 people on-site, 7 days per week, including bank holidays to ensure the building has been fully cleansed, and any necessary repair works carried out to allow for safe reoccupation at the earliest opportunity.
39. The full re-occupation (excluding the members area on the first floor – phase 4) was originally programmed to be completed in 12 weeks. However, we have delivered this in under 8 weeks.

Progress Report

40. **Financial Monitoring Report - Period 2 2022-23** – A summary was provided to Cabinet on the budget monitoring position as at Period 2 and the contents of the report were noted.
41. **Draft Management Accounts 2021-22** – Cabinet noted the report which outlined the financial out-turn position of the Authority's 2021/22 accounts including treasury management activities, variations to the capital programme and approved the transfer of £3.1m to the General Fund Balance.
42. **Adult and Social Care Market Pressures** – Cabinet recently approved the proposed increase in fee rates to commissioned home care, and care support and enablement services, by a £1 per hour uplift from September 2022 to address current instability and support longer term sustainability in the social care market.
43. In order to help mitigate the risks raised in the report Cabinet agreed a full year effect of investment of £5 million to increase fee rates to commissioned home care, and care support and enablement services.
44. **Social Care Reform** – A decision has been taken by Cabinet to recognise the potential requirements, cost, and risks to the Council associated with the implementation of the reforms.
45. Cabinet agreed to make further representations to the Government about the issues and risks highlighted and endorsed continued work through the Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Health to raise the specific issues for Nottinghamshire to Government.
46. **All decisions agreed at Cabinet are published online, you can find more details on the Council's Website - [Democratic Management System > Decisions \(nottinghamshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/DEMOCRATIC-Management-System/Decisions)**

Decisions taken under Special Urgency procedures

47. None.

Other Options Considered

48. None

Reason for Recommendation

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

Statutory and Policy Implications

50. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

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

RECOMMENDATION

1) That the contents of the report be noted.

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

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

Constitutional Comments (CEH)

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

Financial Comments (SES)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

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

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All