

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH FAMILIES AND CULTURE  
AND THE GROUP MANAGER, PLANNING****OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL REPORT****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of the report is to provide the Committee with an annual summary of the activities and outcomes of the following outside bodies to which councillors or officers have been appointed to represent the Council:
  - Creswell Heritage Trust
  - Greenwood Community Forest Partnership
  - Sherwood Forest Trust
  - Sherwood Forest Regional Park Board
  - Nottingham Playhouse Board.

**Information and Advice****Creswell Heritage Trust**

2. Creswell Heritage Trust is the body responsible for the operational management of facilities at Creswell Crags. The Crags sit on the border of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire and are recognised as one of Britain's most important cultural, archaeological and scientific sites. They are home to the country's only known Palaeolithic rock art, in Church Hole Cave in Nottinghamshire.
3. During 2012/13, the Trust has been included on the new UK Tentative List of future World Heritage nominations to UNESCO (United Nations Organisation for Education, Science and Culture). There is a challenging process of technical evaluation to be undertaken before a nomination can be confirmed by Government and, if successful, this would be the first World Heritage Site in Nottinghamshire. Submission of the technical evaluation is due in October 2013.
4. The Trust is well-supported by volunteers, both within the visitor centre and for projects and general site wardening, and runs a successful programme of events and exhibitions. In 2012/13 a Heritage Lottery funded exhibition was created to celebrate the Bolsover Dragonfly, a famous fossil discovered at Bolsover Colliery.
5. The Trust is also a partner in the five-year, £1.9million Limestone Journeys Landscape Partnership Scheme, supported by Heritage Lottery Fund which started in January 2011. The focus of the Scheme is the Magnesian Limestone landscape and the Trust is leading

on three projects to preserve and expand on the oral history archive associated with the area's mining heritage and to develop and deliver a community archaeology programme.

6. Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire County Councils have provided funding for the operational costs of the facilities, along with officer support, since the formation of the Trust in 1991. Reduced visitor income in 2012/13 however, in common with other outdoor attractions across the country, has had an impact on the Trust's budget. There is a risk that, without additional resources, the Creswell Heritage Trust would not be able to operate and manage the site to the standard expected of a potential World Heritage Site. To help mitigate this risk, the County Council agreed an increased award for 2013/14 of £50,000.

### **Greenwood Community Forest Partnership**

7. The County Council is a member of the Greenwood Community Forest, which aims "to work in partnership to enable Nottinghamshire's communities to create, improve and enjoy woodlands and other high quality accessible green spaces in a sustainable way that benefits the environment, landscape and the local economy." The County Council chairs the Greenwood Partnership Board and employs a small team of officers on behalf of the partnership. Other partners are the five district councils of Ashfield, Broxtowe, Gedling, Mansfield and Newark & Sherwood, together with environmental and community organisations.
8. The team work programme is agreed by the Greenwood Board. Over the last year, activities have included:
  - Vital help to the "Friends" groups that help to look after, improve and promote local woods, parks and green spaces. Achieved by supporting the Friends of Greenwood Community Forum and by offering help and guidance to individual groups.
  - The Greenwood Community Awards, when 140 people attended to celebrate achievements by individual volunteers and groups over the past year.
  - Community Tree Planting Grants, which enabled 11 local projects to plant 165 trees, involving 142 participants. Greenwood is encouraging the concept of "trees for shade", i.e. planting in community spaces to respond to climate change by providing cooler areas.
  - Access audits to improve physical access and information for two greenspace sites.
  - Delivering local events and activities, especially to introduce school children to the environment via arts, wildlife, story telling, even mathematics!
  - Chairing the Sherwood Funding Working Group, to deliver the LPS bid.
9. Officers from the Greenwood team also provide support to other NCC priorities, including delivery of LIS projects, community engagement with Country Parks, support to strategic projects including the Trent Vale Landscape Partnership and Chesterfield Canal Partnership.

## **Sherwood Forest Trust (SFT)**

10. SFT's mission is: "to make Sherwood Forest the best heritage forest in the world, by conserving and recreating its traditional landscapes, habitats and culture and respecting and involving its communities." The Trust is a non profit-making organisation, registered as a charity.
11. Activities are co-ordinated by a team based in Edwinstowe, however the Chief Executive resigned at the beginning of 2012 and this post has not yet been replaced. Delivery of a significant lottery-funded project also came to an end in 2012.
12. Over 2012/13, SFT has been reviewing its priorities and future direction. Some encouragement and support to carry out such a review was provided by NCC via the dedication of time from the Greenwood Senior Practitioner.
13. SFT now aspires to take a central role in helping to deliver the vision of the Sherwood Forest Regional Park, and has organised some internal and external workshops to help it to start developing proposals for consideration by the Regional Park Board. Work is ongoing to work up the detail of such proposals.

## **Sherwood Forest Regional Park Board**

14. The Regional Park vision is for "a future for the Sherwood Forest area where the outstanding natural and cultural heritage is locally, nationally and internationally recognised – where vibrant communities, economic regeneration and environmental enhancement thrive together in this inspiring natural setting". Objectives encompass enhancement of landscape and historic character, promotion of sustainable leisure and tourism and support for agricultural diversification, woodland and rural economy uses which respect local character.
15. The concept of the Regional Park is being driven by an informal partnership, led by a Board of 20 organisations including the County Council. The Board is currently chaired by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. Two working groups report to the Board:
  - Sherwood Funding Working Group – encourages shared funding bids that support the Regional Park aims. Over the last year, the main thrust has been a stage 1 bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to establish a Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) valued at £3.9million.
  - Sherwood Habitats Steering Group – provides technical support regarding biodiversity and landscape matters. Over the last year, the group has carried out Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping and started to investigate applications of the concept of Ecosystems Services.
16. Other work initiated by the Board has been to pursue recognition of the area within Local Development Frameworks and to look for opportunities to work with Experience Nottinghamshire in promoting Sherwood to visitors.

## Nottingham Playhouse Board

17. The County Council has a Service Level Agreement supporting its grant aid award of £94,500 to Nottingham Playhouse Theatre Trust Limited. The Playhouse delivers a programme of performances, events, learning and participation opportunities that secure benefits for the citizens of Nottinghamshire and supports the Council's Cultural Strategy 2011-2021 and the Strategic Plan.
18. The Playhouse is expected to deliver three priority actions:
- **Attendances:** The Playhouse should maintain audience numbers from residents of Nottinghamshire.  
  
In 2012/13 there were 64,920 attendances by County residents, an increase of 3,900 on the previous year.
  - **Leadership and active participation:** The Playhouse should increase the number of individuals from the County benefiting from leadership and volunteering opportunities.  
  
In 2012/13 99 volunteering opportunities were taken up by Nottinghamshire residents.
  - **Learning and Engagement:** The Playhouse should increase the number of individuals from the County benefiting from learning opportunities.  
  
In 2012/13 51 young people from the County joined the Youth Theatre, an increase of 60%.
19. The Playhouse is also asked to target the following groups of people, as they have been identified by Nottinghamshire County Council as priority groups:
- **Geographic areas of Nottinghamshire with the lowest rates of arts engagement**  
  
In 2012/13 there were 5,315 attendances from areas of least engagement, equating to 8% of total County attendances.
  - **Older people (over 50)**  
  
In 2012/13 123 older people took part in the over 50s theatre club, an increase of over 300%.
  - **Young people (under 19) and their families**  
  
In 2012/13 16,618 young people under 19 years attended Playhouse performances
20. The Playhouse continues to produce a programme of the highest artistic quality and is committed to providing access to those in our communities who are often excluded. In 2012/13 75% of the total ticket sales were at concession rates, available to retired, young people, disabled people and their carers, unemployed, students, school groups or teachers accompanying school groups.

21. The County Council has councillor representation on both the Strategic Board of the Playhouse and on the Board of Trustees.

### **Other Options Considered**

22. As this is a report for noting, it is not necessary to consider other options.

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

23. The report is for noting only.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

24. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Equalities Implications**

25. Due regard has been given to the Public Sector Equality Duty.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the annual summary of the activities and outcomes of the outside bodies listed in the report be noted.

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### **Constitutional Comments**

26. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

**Financial Comments (KLA 24/06/13)**

27. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

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

All.

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