

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. **Anthony May** – As already outlined in Agenda item 7, I have recently accepted the resignation of our Chief Executive, Anthony May, and can confirm that his final date of employment at Nottinghamshire County Council is Wednesday 31st August. I would like to thank Anthony for his dedication and commitment to his roles within the County Council over the last 18 years and wish him every success in his future endeavours.
3. The recruitment process is now well underway for Anthony's replacement, a shortlisting panel was held on Monday 4th July, and we will begin the interview process on Monday 11th July.
4. **Household Support Fund** – Our Cabinet Member for Communities Councillor John Cottee recently approved the allocation of the remaining £4.1m of Household Support Fund. This Council will now work with a range of partners to deploy this Government funding to those in immediate need across the county as soon as possible.
5. **Levelling Up Fund Submission** - The Council has now submitted its bid which could see an investment of around £38m to fund the planned Toton Link Road as part of the Governments 'Levelling Up' agenda. The project will play a vital role in Nottinghamshire's economic future unlocking job, housing and investment opportunities in the years to come.
6. Major transport projects such as this are critical to Levelling Up and it is hoped that our plans for the Link Road will fit the Government's Agenda.
7. I am also actively engaging with Government on the Levelling Up Bill which saw its first reading in the House of Commons in May 2022.
8. **Multiply – Adult Numeracy Funding** – Our investment plan for Multiply has now been submitted to Government, once approved this will see over £4.2m allocated across the County over the next three years.

9. Inspire will be the main provider of the Multiply activities which will be aimed at anyone 19 and over who is working towards a maths GCSE, a Functional Skills Qualification or need specific numeracy skills for their work or progression.
10. **LGA Conference** – I recently attended the Local Government Association Annual Conference in Harrogate. It is always a worthwhile event and a chance to discuss the latest issues that are affecting local government across the country.
11. **Tour of Britain** – The fifth stage of the Tour of Britain will again be gracing the streets of Nottinghamshire on Thursday 8th September 2022. The famous cycle race will begin on Central Avenue in West Bridgford and finish on Chesterfield Road South in Mansfield.
12. Our interactive map is now live where you can see all the streets and neighbourhoods the race will go through, as well as a series of competitions in the lead up to the big race.
13. **Nottinghamshire Day** – On the 25th of August we look forward to celebrating Nottinghamshire's second annual County Day. This 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.
14. This year, Nottinghamshire Day will be celebrated in a number of ways that we hope will offer something for everyone.

Progress Report

15. **East Midlands Freeport** – Progress of the East Midlands Freeport is ongoing, following the approval of the full business case in April. A further report is due to be presented at Cabinet on the 14th of July 2022. The paper outlines the final governance arrangements and the County Council's involvement in the East Midlands Freeport. Further details can be found in the Cabinet papers.
16. **Devolution** – I continue to meet fortnightly with Leaders and Chief Executives of Nottingham City, Derby and Derbyshire. Discussions are ongoing regarding the structure of the Mayoral County Combined Authority and the inclusion of the District and Borough Councils.
17. We aim to have a deal formally agreed and announced in the Autumn of 2022. A Government negotiation timetable has now been agreed which sets out several themes to be discussed in the lead up to a potential Mayoral election in May 2024. Further details can be found in the Cabinet papers.
18. **Children and Young People's Transformation and Change** – As you will be aware we have now appointed Lucy Peel to the role of Group Manager for Service Improvement within Children and Family Services. There is a lot of work ongoing addressing the challenges within the department and dealing with the Government announcements in both the White and Green papers.
19. The Whole Family Safeguarding and other transformation programmes are looking to accelerate opportunities for cost avoidance whilst also addressing the current recruitment and retention challenges within the sector.

20. **Social Care Reform** – The Council is continuing its work on Adult and Social Care reform to reduce the financial risk it is facing through improving outcomes for people and reducing their costs.
21. A programme of work has been implemented with a reform programme now in place. Adult Social Care Reform has been identified as one of the Corporate Transformation Programmes and we have recently launched a quality assurance framework. Further details can be found in the Cabinet papers.
22. **Investing for Improved Public Health Outcomes** – A decision has been taken by Cabinet to invest forecasted uncommitted Public Health Grant funding to sustain and improve health and wellbeing outcomes for people in Nottinghamshire County. This includes approval for the establishment of staffing posts and tender processes, in line with Nottinghamshire County Council financial regulations, to enable relevant services to be commissioned.
23. **Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy** – A decision has been taken by Cabinet to approve the new Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2022 – 2026 for Nottinghamshire. The strategy sets out the Council's aspirations to enable everyone in Nottinghamshire to live healthier and happier lives, to prosper in their communities and remain independent in later life. Further details can be found in the Cabinet papers.
24. **Annual Report 2021/22** – Our 2021/22 Annual Report was brought to the May Cabinet meeting, here we were able to look back and celebrate some of our achievements over the last year as we continue to work towards the Council's vision set out in the Nottinghamshire Plan 2021-2031.
25. We remain committed to improving the quality of life in Nottinghamshire and levelling up chances across the County. We've made a great start by launching a major overhaul to the way we fix and maintain our highways, working with partners to draw down more investment and powers from the Government for Nottinghamshire, and continuing to work hard to strengthen our social care services for adults and children.
26. **Nottinghamshire Plan – Annual Delivery Plan 2022/23** – Cabinet recently approved the annual delivery plan for 2022/23. The Nottinghamshire Plan was approved by Full Council in November 2021 and sets out our 10-year vision for a healthy prosperous and greener Nottinghamshire for everyone. Our Annual Delivery Plan outlines the actions we intend to take over the coming year to deliver on the commitments we have made in the Nottinghamshire Plan and how we will measure our successes.
27. **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%20MANAGEMENT%20SYSTEM%20-%20DECISIONS)**

Decisions taken under Special Urgency procedures

28. None.

Other Options Considered

29. None

Reason for Recommendation

30. 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

31. 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

32. 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)

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

Financial Comments (SES)

34. 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